

March 2024 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

VISIT US ONLINE fumcrockport.org

www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

We are in the middle of the season of Lent and what a joy it is to take this time to prepare ourselves for the salvation found through Christ. The season of Lent is a time for us to assess ourselves and make adjustments. It's a time for us to recalibrate to God's way of living and loving. The purpose of repentance and reflection is not to lay ourselves under condemnation, but to offer ourselves up for salvation. This is very important. "God did not send his Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him" (John 3:17). Jesus did not come to condemn us but to save us. He wants to set us free. In Christ, we can let go of the sin and shame that seek to enslave us.

I pray that you are getting something from our "Letting Go" series. That you may be freed through your time of reflection, prayer and recalibration remembering that Jesus did not come merely to set us free from the consequences of our sins by only offering forgiveness. He came to set us free from the power of sin that can be detrimental to our lives. He came to set us free from the power of sin and death. My goal in this Lenten season is to share with your ways to have a more healthy, sustainable, and enjoyable experience of faith as a result of "Letting Go." That by "Letting Go" you will be able to build stronger relationships with Christ that will reflect and overflow into the relationships in the world around you.

I hope that you are taking this time to let go of all that may be holding you back from a closer relationship with Christ.

Please join us as we walk together this Holy Week.

Blessings,
Pastor Mel

Mar 24 Palm Sunday
8:00am & 10:45am Service—Sanctuary
Mar 28 Maundy Thursday:
5:30pm Seder Pot Luck—FH
Mar 29th Good Friday:
5:30pm Service—Sanctuary

Mar 31 Easter:
7:00am Sunrise Service
Festival Grounds
9:00am Potluck Brunch—FH
10:45am Service—Sanctuary



This monthly newsletter is published by
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Like us on Facebook!

Rev Melissa Lind, Senior Pastor.....x2248
Patty Impens, Business Manager.....x2574
Paul Klemm, Director of Music Ministry.....x2577
Alfredo Gonzales, Custodian.....x2501
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584
Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Sarah Melton, Director of Children and Youth.....x2575

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Lent is a special church season where we spend the 40 days (not counting Sundays) from Ash Wednesday, to Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, remembering Jesus' suffering and death.

Almsgiving, which is traditionally practiced during Lent by those of the Catholic faith, is an act of giving food or money to the poor. You can do this with your child quite easily by letting them put money in the offering plate at church.

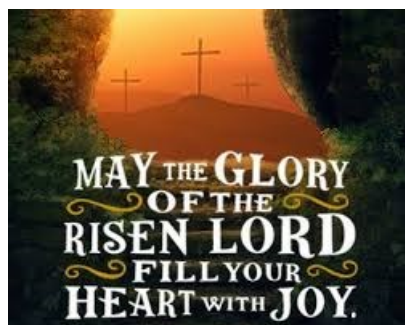
God reached down to us through Christ, so we can take the chance to reach out to others and show them the love of Jesus! Have a friend over for coffee or a family over for supper.

Hospitality can be on the go, too. Bring something to someone: a meal to someone who is sick or a mom with a new baby or go and visit someone in a nursing home or care facility (if you're not sick!).

You can also show your child how they can share what they have with others through an act of service. Some ideas would be:

- Sending a card to a loved one with a picture or verse about Jesus
- Sending a video message to a far-away family member
- Helping a sibling or parent at home with a chore
- Shopping with your child for gifts for a children's home

Easter Sunday will have a brunch in place of Sunday school classes. We encourage fellowship not only with your immediate family, but with the whole church family.



HAPPY ST PADDY'S DAY

March 17th

St Patrick demonstrated the meaning of the **Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit** - by showing the public that the shamrock is one leaf with three parts.



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Mike Mclaughlin will be presenting ERT Training at the church on March 23rd 8am – 2pm.

ABOUT ERT TRAINING

Early Response Teams (ERT) are specially trained teams that offer assistance soon after the disaster strikes. They generally do cleanup work and tasks required to stop further damage from being done, e.g. putting tarps on damaged roofs and removing damaged sheet rock and the flooded contents of a home. They might do minor repairs that help make homes habitable, but they do not do extensive repairs or reconstruction (that is the job for Long Term Recovery). Although the majority of ERT volunteers are in their 50s or 60s (those are the people who have time to volunteer), the work is physically demanding and may require working around mold and other allergens. ERTs may be asked to work on roofs or in hot spaces without air conditioning.

All members of an Early Response Team are required to complete the eight-hour training course and must have a current background check. The ERT training is done according to UMCOR guidelines and policies. The background check is completed upon completion of training through UMCOR. This background check is mandatory and is covered in the cost of training. Persons completing the training and passing the background check are issued a badge indicating they are approved by the Rio Texas Conference and credentialed by UMCOR for three years. ERTs will also comply with Rio Texas Conference Trusted con Confianza guidelines when they deploy. This is in addition to the UMCOR background check. As such, all **ERTs are encouraged to complete the Trusted con Confianza training as soon as possible (feel free to do it before the class!). To begin the process or for more information, go to <https://riotexas.org/safe>**

An Early Response Team is a special type of VIM Team

An Early Response Team has a very narrow function and has no management or administrative responsibility for the overall disaster response. An “Early Response Team” should not be confused with a Disaster Recovery Team. An Early Response Team is a specially trained and certified team called to do early response. A Disaster Recovery Team is a type of UMCOR VIM Team that comes to assist in the long-term recovery, AFTER early response is completed. Each Early Response Team member must be trained and carry an identification badge reissued by UMCOR following successful completion of Early Response Team Training.

Hybrid Training - Is conducted in (2) 4-hour sessions over two separate days. It consists of a four-hour remote (online via Zoom) session and a four-hour “practical” session done in-person.

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How to sign up for the ERT training.

ON YOUR PHONE

1. Go to <https://riotexasresponse.org>
2. Click on the picture below where it says "Training".
3. Click on the picture that says "ERT Basic Training".
4. Scroll down to where it says, "Hybrid Training".
5. Scroll down to where it says, "Register for the Class".
6. Scroll down to where it says, "Desired Date of Training".
7. Select Zoom-Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6pm-9pm.
8. Fill out the required information. Our church is First United Methodist Church, Rockport, Texas, our district is Coastal Bend and our conference is Rio Texas.
9. Select a shirt size and hit Submit.

ON YOUR COMPUTER

1. <https://riotexasresponse.org>
2. On the left side under training select "Hybrid Training".
3. Scroll down to where it says, "Register for the Class".
4. Scroll down to where it says, "Desired Date of Training".
5. Select Zoom-Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6pm-9pm.
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MUSIC NEWS



Many times when I write my newsletter article I focus on the Choir. This month, I'd like to focus more on the band.

Our praise band began roughly 4 years ago when we decided to have a "Contemporary" Service.

I've gone back and listened to some of those old recordings. Boy, have we come a long way!

Our Praise Band plays at the 8:00 service. Many of you don't get the chance to hear them play except in the summer when the choir takes off. More and more, we are going to find a way to change that.

If you're not a fan of Contemporary Christian Music (as I wasn't), I encourage you to give it a chance. Before too long, you'll be singing along.

We are looking for some instrumentalists. Specifically on our wish list is a lead guitarist and a bass player (that would allow me to play Saxophone with the group). If you know of anyone that may be interested, please send them my way!



Ever wonder if you could make more of a positive difference in our Rockport community? The answer is a resounding "yes." Simply volunteer to help out with Community Table. All it takes is a food handler's license. Joyce Palmer (512.716.9973) and Khris Stumpf (210.268.6855) can answer all of your questions and even share a web sight where you can take the test on line. Passing is guaranteed!

Paul



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Sunday March 24th

Palm Sunday Services at 8:00am and 10:45am in the Sanctuary



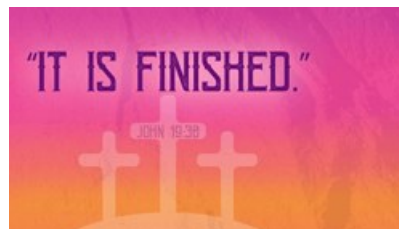
Thursday March 28th

Maundy Thursday Potluck Seder Passover Dinner at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall
A list of needed foods will be posted soon.



Friday March 29th

Good Friday Service at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary



Sunday March 31st

Sunrise Service at Festival Grounds at 7:00am
Potluck Brunch at 9:00am at the Church in Fellowship Hall
Easter Service at 10:45am in the Sanctuary



FIRST LEARNING TREE

March Events

Spring is in the air, and we have so many fun events planned! We would love to have your involvement if you are interested.

Join us on March 1st for our annual “Dr. Seuss Parade” in our FLT parking lot at 9:30 a.m.. Each classroom has a Dr. Seuss theme they will represent, and we will have a special appearance from the Cat In the Hat!

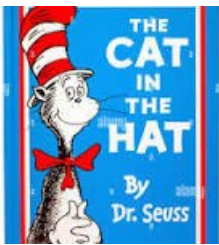
A few weeks later, we will have Spring Break from March 11th-15th. This week we will learn about safety, so if you would like to come speak on the subject, we would love to have guest speakers.

Our annual St. Jude’s Trike-a-Thon fundraiser is on March 14th, so we would love to have help monitoring the students and parking lot.

March 15th will be Field Day for our older students, and we are always looking for fun ideas to make this a wonderful event.

Finally, Easter is coming at the end of March, and we cannot wait to teach our students about Jesus Christ and how he saved us.

With so much fun coming up, we can’t wait for March, and we hope to see you at some of our fun events.



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—



BIRTHDAYS

Rachel Dominguez (2)
Abbi Busack (3)
Manning Chapman (3)
Jennifer Day (4)
Jane Lechlitner (4)
Pat Best (6)
Adeline Dunlap (7)
Ashley Armstrong (9)

Virginia Crockett (9)
Derrick Jamison (10)
Steve Johnson (14)
Marcus Phillips (14)
Taeko Zeidler (19)
Evelyn Jamison (20)
Jane Willard (28)
Janet Carrick (29)
Jo Durham (30)

ANNIVERSARIES

Dale & Deloris Motsinger (18)
Ted & Kathy Norland (23)
Ty & Peggy Brisgill (24)



Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches

Last month I participated in the Men's Walk to Emmaus. The walk was a huge success! We had 30 pilgrims that made this "journey". My take-away from this experience is that no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you will walk away with a

closer relation to God.

In June, there will be a Women's Walk to Emmaus. We need pilgrims. Our goal is to have 30 ladies take this same journey that the men just completed. Do you know of someone that might benefit from Going on a walk? Have you never been on a walk? Please let me know. I have applications on my desk, I would be delighted to help you prepare for this event.

Let me be clear the Walk to Emmaus does not involve any actual walking! The walk refers to Luke 24:13-35 when Jesus walks with a couple of the Disciples on their walk to Emmaus. You will listen to 15 talks on a variety of subjects and given by a variety of people. You will worship together, sing together, share with each other and grow spiritually together.

This is not a Methodist program. This is a truly ecumenical program. You will share this experience with people from across denominations. When you enter, there are no expectations put on you. The only thing we ask is that you listen and follow along.

Please reach out to me if you have ANY questions. I am always happy to talk.

De Colores,

Paul



United Methodist Men

All males that attend this church are automatically members of this group. ***This means you!*** Welcome.

The Men's Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoy sharing a light breakfast (unless someone contributes a hearty breakfast. LOL). There are many roles that men play in the church. We want to increase our presence and ignite our fellowship within the church and the outside community. **We are Proud to be Methodists.** Let's be visible and active.



Wednesday Rehearsals
Praise Band 5:30pm
&
Choir 6:30pm

Seniorcize Exercise Class

Mondays - 10:00 am
Tuesdays - 10:00 am
Thursdays - 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall 1
Bring small hand weights
Water and a Friend

Small Group Study Opportunities

In person:

Sunday

Cross Talk
Truth Seekers
Children & Youth

Monday

Disciple 1
Disciple 3

Wednesday

Lively Bible Study
Women in the Word

Thursday

The Thursday Disciple Group

Online:

Bible in One Year
App by Nicky Gumbel

What Bible stories are linked to Lent?

Today, Lent is connected with the 40-day fast that Jesus undergoes

(Mark 1:13; Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 4:1–13).

Mark tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan, but it is in Matthew and Luke that the details of the temptation are fleshed out.

All three accounts say that Jesus went without food for the 40 days.



WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a 40(ish)-day season of the Christian Year that is a time of preparation for Easter. It is typically observed as a time of simple living, prayer and fasting. In 2024, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday [February 14, 2024]. Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, as they become invitations to refrain from fasting in celebration of "little Easters".

What is Lent about?

Many spend the time in self-examination and reflection as modeled by Jesus in Matthew 4: 1-11 where he prayed and fasted for 40 days before beginning his ministry.

What happened during those 40 days of fasting and praying in the wilderness? Our friends at the [Upper Room](#) say that maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed a break from family, friends and his regular routine in order to see God [and himself] more clearly. Maybe he sought more time with God as he searched for direction and answers to the question that we, too have from time to time: "Who am I called to be?"

We, too are invited into this time of introspection.

What is a Lent devotional?

Any Lent devotional is simply an invitation to reflect on God's presence and movement in our personal lives through the season.

Giving for His Glory

JANUARY 2024 FINANCE

Church

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| *Giving: | \$ 50,153.34 |
| Castaway's: | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Total Income: | \$ 60,153.34 |
| Total Expenses | <u>-\$ 34,308.52</u> |
| Jan Net Income (Loss) | \$ 25,844.82 |

**Identified giving, Sunday School offerings and unidentified giving (cash received when we pass the offering plates).*

First Learning Tree

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Income/Tuition | \$87,567.64 |
| Regular Expenses | <u>-\$97,683.70</u> |
| Grant Applied | \$ 0.00 |
| Jan Net Income (Loss) | -\$10,116.06 |

Church & FLT Combined through January
Year-to-date Net Income (Loss) \$15,728.76

If you are traveling please consider going to our church website to give online at www.fumcrokport.org.

Thank you for participating in the work for Christ! Your gifts are honored and you are blessed by celebrating the gifts you have been given. Please contact the church office if you have any questions in regards to Stewardship or your offerings.

Blessings,

Patty Impens



CASTAWAYS METHODIST VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU UNITED Methodist Volunteers!! Your hard work and commitment are a huge support to the ministries of FUMC Rockport...help by joining this team and be blessed as you work together for God!

January 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sales Total | \$ 17,813.13 |
| Admin Fee to Castaways | <u>-\$ 2,564.15</u> |
| Total deposit to FUMC | \$ 15,248.85 |

These funds were distributed as follows:

\$ 10,000 to the FUMC General Fund
\$ 3,049.77 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund
\$ 2,199.08 to the FUMC Capital Reserve Fund

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CASTAWAYS VOLUNTEERS!!

2023 BENEVOLENT BUCKET OFFERINGS

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| January | Wesley Health Nurse | 2,939.00 |
| February | Church Emergency Assistance Fund | 471.00 |
| March | UMCOR Relief Fund | |
| April | Habitat for Humanity | |
| May | Community Table | |
| June | Peace with Justice Sunday | |
| July | Undie Sunday | |
| August | Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans | |
| September | Prescription Assistance | |
| October | World Communion | |
| November | Community in Schools | |
| December | Children's Coalition | |

March 2024 Newsletter

**YOUR CHURCH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS
WISH EVERYONE
A JOYOUS AND BLESSED EASTER!**

HE IS RISEN





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

- 8:00am Contemporary Worship Service—Communion Every Sunday
- 9:15am Small Group Studies
- 10:45am Traditional Worship Service - Communion Monthly on First Sundays



Serving the Rockport Community since 1870

- www.fumcrookport.org/worship
- Facebook: First United Methodist Church Rockport Tx
- Instagram: FUMCrockport

PRAYER:

- PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to www.fumcrookport.org/prayer

SMALL GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES:

Sun: Cross Talk, 9:15am, Rec Room

Truth Seekers 9:15am, FH 1

Children & Youth 9:15, Classroom next to Nursery

Mon: Disciple #1 with Maggie Allen, 10:00am Banner Room

Disciple #2 with Stephanie Clark, 1:00-3:00pm, Rec Room

Wed: Women In the Word Bible Study Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm, FH 2 & 3

Lively Bible Study, 4:30 pm, FH 2

Thu: The Thursday Disciple Group 1:00 pm, Banner Room

Sign up for Small Group Bible Studies @ www.fumcrookport.org/bible-study



GIVING:

- Give online at fumcrookport.org/give
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78381

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY APRIL 15TH

HAS GOD DONE SOMETHING AMAZING IN YOUR LIFE?

Others would benefit from reading about it—You can share your testimony in the newsletter!

Email to: admin@fumcrookport.org

HIRING

Someone who...

- LOVES JESUS
- LOVES CHILDREN
- MOTIVATED
- 18+ YEARS OLD

EMAIL
CHILDRENANDYOUTH
@FUMCROCKPORT.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION



Spring has Sprung



A great place to see Texas Wildflowers is at our own Rockport Cemetery! Check it out!

First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff

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