

May 2024 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

We all have wondered from time to time about what the future holds for us as a church and denomination. As I am writing this article the United Methodist General Conference is taking place. This year's General Conference has been a long-awaited gathering filled with anticipation of what changes may lie ahead and how these changes may affect our church. As we look to our future, I pray that we can stand firm in Christ with love, mercy, patients, understanding and respect for our church family and fellow Christians. I am also asking that we not feed into the gossip or negative information being fueled by divisiveness.

Worrying about the future does not have any positive effects and feeds divisive behavior and only causes us to become paralyzed by fear or to overreact out of fear. But the key point here is worrying fosters fear and anxiety, which is very destructive. Instead, we must live in a place filled with God's love. God's love gives us promise for our present and future.

As a congregation we can make choices that create healthier patterns in our personal and church lives. In doing so we will open ourselves up renewing our minds to live in obedience to God. Through this renewal we will be able to make sound and well thought out decisions for our church that will be fostered in God's grace and love allowing us to step into Christ's will for all of us in our small corner of God's Kingdom.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Melissa Lind



This monthly newsletter is published by
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Send address changes to:
P.O. Box 1045, Rockport, TX 78381



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First United Methodist Church of Rockport
FUMC Phone No. 361.729.1659

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

***The Castaways Volunteer Team is in need
of another cashier***

Every Thursday for the 1:00pm to 3:00pm
shift.

The learning curve is easy, and it's great fun
interacting with customers and other
volunteers.

Please consider helping out!

**Call or Text Annette
(361-790-6217)
and say,**



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As our school year wraps up, and our Summer starts we might be feeling overwhelmed, but did you know that Jesus taught his disciples that it was important for them to take a vacation? Jesus' disciples traveled from town to town telling others about God and His love for them. They traveled everyday preaching, teaching, and healing the sick. They worked so hard that they often didn't even have time to stop to eat or sleep. They became very tired.

When Jesus saw how tired they were, he said to them, "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest." The Bible then says, "So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place." I think it is important to notice a couple of things about what the Bible says.

First, Jesus said, "Come with me." When we take a vacation, we need to remember to take Jesus with us. Some people never give Jesus a thought when they go on vacation. We should include Jesus in all that we do, even when we are on vacation.

Second, the Bible says the disciples went away to a quiet place. Their main purpose was to rest and renew their strength. Some people plan a vacation that is so full of activities that when they come home, they are more tired than when they left!

I hope that you have a great summer vacation. Don't forget to take Jesus with you, and don't forget to set aside some time for rest and relaxation. Then come back home refreshed and renewed!

Lord, we ask for your guidance and provision
As your children begin their summer vacation.
May you bring them joy in all they do,
And remind them to point to you.
May they enjoy time with family and friends
From the start to the very end.

Be with your children throughout each day,
In their down time and in their play.
Be their protector and guide
When they choose an exciting ride.
Encourage your kids throughout the season
Whether they are with friends or alone.
Lord, be with your children everywhere they go.

Amen.



MUSIC NEWS



The choir desperately needs some new voices. Regardless of your musical background (or lack of it), we need you! Don't feel as if you have a good enough voice? You do.

It's a much smaller commitment than you might think. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and are usually out before 7:30. On Sunday Mornings we sit together in the chancel area. However, if you would prefer to sit with someone in the congregation, that's

okay too! I have no problem with members of the choir coming up for the Anthem and sitting back in the congregation afterward. We will teach you everything you need to know. Please come and join us!

I have heard people say that they are not a big fan of Contemporary Christian Music. I get it. I really wasn't either until a couple of years ago. There really is some good music out there. I ran across this story that really explains the difference between the two.

Old Farmer Joe went to the big city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer. "It was good. They did something different, though. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses," she said. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're OK," said the farmer. "They're sort of like hymns," he said, "only different."

"What's the difference?" said his wife.

"Well," said the farmer, "If I said, 'the cows are in the corn,' that would be a hymn. But if I were to say to you,

'Martha Martha MARTHA,

O Martha MARTHA MARTHA,

The cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows,

The black and white cows,

The COWS COWS COWS,



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 Kris 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!



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Are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn,

CORN, CORN, CORN,'

...then if I were to repeat the whole thing four or five times, then that would be a praise chorus."

The next weekend his nephew, a young Christian from the big city, came to visit his Uncle Joe and Aunt Martha. He attended their local church in the small town. When he went home his mother asked him how it was.

"Well," he said, "it was good. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of praise choruses."

"Hymns," asked his mother. "What are those?"

The young man said, "Well, it's like this." If Uncle Joe were to say to Aunt Martha, 'the cows are in the corn,' then that would be a praise chorus. But if he were to say:

'Oh Martha, dear Martha, Hear thou my cry,

Inclinst thine ear to the words of my mouth,

Turn thou thine whole wondrous ear by and by,

To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.

Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight,

Have broke free from their shackles, their warm pens eschewed,

Then goaded by minions of darkness and night,

They all my mild Chilliwak sweet corn have chewed.'

Then if he were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change in the last verse, that would be a hymn."



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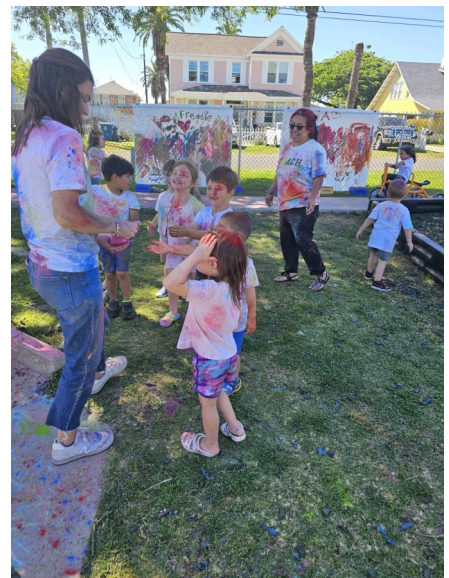
FIRST LEARNING TREE

“Week Of the Young Child”

Happy National “Week Of the Young Child”! Every year, the nation declares “Week Of the Young Child” that celebrates the developmental stages of our students ages 0-8 years. This year, we chose our theme to be “Every Child Is an Artist”- Pablo Picasso. Our students created masterpieces on canvas, sidewalks and each other! We had so much fun, and are thankful for our wonderful students.



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FIRST LEARNING TREE

MAY EVENTS

2nd—Field Trip to Live Oak for future Kinders!



3rd—Lunch Lady Appreciation Day!



6th—10th—Teacher Appreciation Week!



10th—Muffins with Mom



**MUFFINS
WITH MOMS**

10th—FLT Graduation in the Sanctuary!



23rd—Last day of school for RFISD



27th—First Learning Tree closed for Memorial Day



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES—



BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Sanchez (1)
Kim Hall (3)
Debbie Chapman (6)
Victoria Jamison (6)
Robert Gummer (7)
Kaitlyn Carruth (12)
Kathy Abbott (18)

Sophia Norland (18)
Rob Coe (19)
Nathan Freund (19)
Chuck Naiser (21)
Mary John Hoffman (22)
Tony Jaschke (22)
Emi Norland (22)
Judith Herndon (24)
Jay Tarkington (30)
Susie Black (31)
Lee Jamison DuBose (31)

ANNIVERSARIES

Walter & Kathy Abbott (5)
John & Sherry Peirce (12)
Dale & Norma Vickers (13)



Coastal Bend Emmaus



Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches



Mother's Day—Second Sunday in May

Who “Invented” the Modern Mother's Day?

In the United States, three women were most instrumental in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day: Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julia Ward Howe, and Ann's daughter, Anna M. Jarvis. What might surprise you is that the great women being honored as mothers were activists who fought for children's welfare, health, and peace.

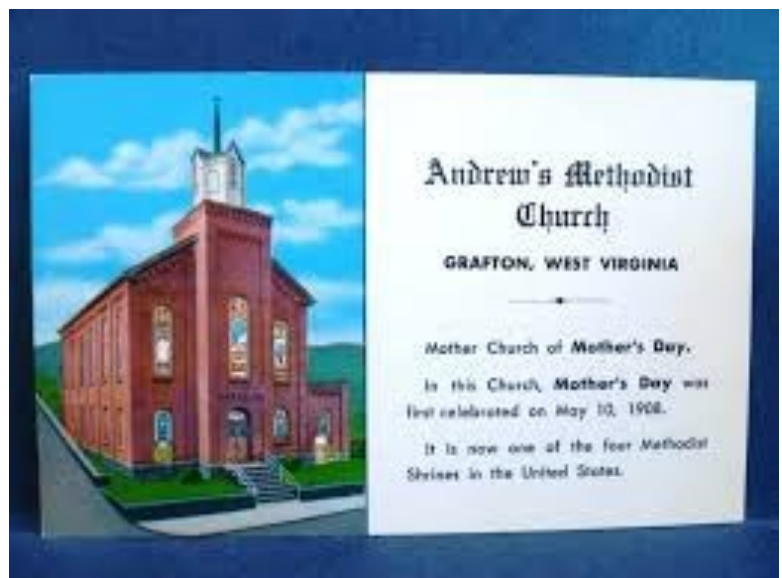
Anna Jarvis Turns Mother's Day Into a National Holiday

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, ***in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia.*** That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.



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Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37 percent.



CASTAWAYS NEEDS YOU

Ladies!

How would you like to spend Wednesday mornings with us sorting and pricing clothing for the store?

We would love to have you. We enjoy fellowship and a snack while we work and could use a few more helping hands.

Call Annette at 361-790-6217 or just show up at 8:30am at the side door at Castaways.

See you then.

Annette

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Hi Church Family,

Happy May! The year is flying by too fast!

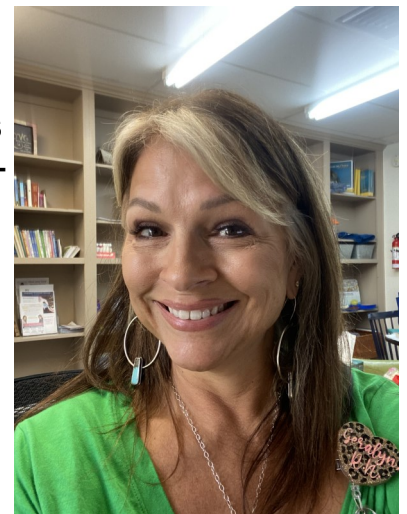
May is Mental Health Awareness and Stroke Awareness month. Do you know the signs of a stroke? Have you heard of the FAST acronym? Facial drooping, Arm Weakness, Speech, and Time to call 911. Please take these signs seriously and get help quickly. The effects of a stroke can possibly be reversed the sooner you receive medical attention. Please stop by the office if you have any questions.

Also, do you have someone in your family or a friend who suffers with Mental Illness or addiction? I do and it can be very difficult to understand when you have not suffered with problems yourself. I recently was told that “mental illness nor addiction is their fault, but it is their responsibility”. There are many wonderful resources to support families of the mentally ill or addicted. I encourage you to seek them out and attend. Most important is that we love and support these individuals without judgement. Please let me know if I can share resources with you.

My practice continues to grow! I feel extremely blessed to be able to continue to bless others with your help! I had a total of 76 patient encounters in March and so far in April I have close to 90. I continue to see a great need for housing, rent, utility assistance, gas cards, medication assistance, and assistance navigating the healthcare and benefits system. I am extremely thankful for all the wonderful resources we have here in Rockport.

Our emergency food pantry is running a little low on supplies. This food source is only used when Good Samaritan's is not open. Current needs are **pop top soups, canned meats, canned and dry beans, peanut butter, crackers, and bottled waters**. We serve hot meals to unsheltered individuals several days per week. The members of the community who are unhoused come in and love to have a cup of coffee, a warm meal, a place to feel loved, and a prayer. With the increase of individuals and meals served, **Frozen tv dinners** could help with keeping this part of our ministry moving forward. All the donations and support are truly appreciated.

I will be attending Wesley Nurse Forum in San Antonio on May 7-9. The Forum is held in May and October. We receive continuing education hours and learn about new projects and plans from our leaders. It is always good to gather with other Wesley Nurses to learn and get new ideas to implement into my practice.



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The Diabetic Education and Support Group continues to meet at 12:00 noon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room. This month we will meet on May 14th. Please feel free to join us any time for more healthy eating and nutrition information.

Also, our Seniorcise chair exercise class meets on **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays** at **10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Maggie Allen leads chair yoga for part of the class on Tuesdays. There are modifications for every level of ability. You can stand or sit to participate in the class. We are having a lot of fun and would love for you all to join us!

Also, in case you didn't know, we are so thankful to have Erica Garcia, PhD, LPC, as our MHM counselor in Rockport on Mondays and Thursdays. She is currently in room 10 of the education building. She and I are planning to host a class entitled "Making Peace with Your Past" starting in August. We will also work together on other events that we are currently brainstorming. Stay tuned for more information!

As always, I am open for your input and ideas that will better help me serve the community and congregation. Thank you all so much for your continued support, donations, and prayers. They are appreciated more than you know. Please feel free to call or text me anytime at **210-455-1409**. My door is always open, and God bless you all!

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as ransom for many" Mark 10:45 NLT



When Is Memorial Day 2024?

This U.S. federal holiday is observed on the **last Monday of May** to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. It was formerly known as Decoration Day.

What's the Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

On both Memorial Day and Veterans Day, it's customary to spend time remembering and honoring the countless veterans who have served the United States throughout the country's history. However, there is a distinction between the two holidays:

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who **died** while serving in the United States Armed Forces, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for their country.

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL who served in the United States Armed Forces—in wartime or peacetime—regardless of whether they died or survived. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.



Flying Old Glory

Flag etiquette on Memorial Day is unique.

At sunrise, flags are to be raised to full staff briskly, then lowered to a half-staff position, where they will remain until noon.

Traditionally, on Memorial Day (U.S.), volunteers often place small American flags on each grave site at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. Consider visiting a local cemetery to place flags; many organizations would be grateful for volunteers. Contact your local American Legion post, Daughters of the American Revolution, or Boy or Girl Scouts troops.

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Why Is The Poppy A Symbol of Memorial Day?

In the war-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) was one of the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed—as it was by the very brutal fighting of World War 1.

John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war firsthand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915. (See below for the poem.) He saw the poppies scattered throughout the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

The Poppy Lady

In November 1918, days before the official end of the war, an American professor named Moina Michael wrote her own poem, “We Shall Keep the Faith,” which was inspired by McCrae’s “In Flanders Fields.” In her poem (also shown below), she mentioned wearing the “poppy red” to honor the dead, and with that, the tradition of adorning one’s clothing with a single red poppy in remembrance of those killed in the Great War was born. Moina herself came to be known—and honored—as “The Poppy Lady.”

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The Symbol Spreads Abroad

The poppy was traditionally worn on Memorial Day in the United States, but the symbolism has evolved to encompass all veterans, living and deceased, so that poppies may be worn on Veterans Day as well. Not long after the custom began, it was adopted by other Allied nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, where it is still popular today. In these countries, the poppy is worn on Remembrance Day (November 11).

Today, poppies are not only a symbol of the loss of life but also of recovery and new life, especially in support of the servicemen who survived the war but suffered from physical and psychological injuries long after it ended.

“In Flanders Fields”

by John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

“We Shall Keep the Faith”

by Moina Michael, November 1918

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.*





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

Wednesday
Lively Bible Study
Women in the Word

Thursday
The Thursday Disciple Group

Online:
Bible in One Year
App by Nicky Gumbel

Giving for His Glory

MAR 2024 FINANCE

Church

*Giving:	\$ 19,551.89
Castaway's:	\$ 10,000.00
Total Income:	\$ 29,551.89
Total Expenses	-\$ 32,709.36
Mar Net Income (Loss)	-\$ 3,157.47

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

First Learning Tree

Income/Tuition	\$106,602.88
Regular Expenses	-\$ 99,404.86
Grant Applied	\$
Mar Net Income (Loss)	\$ 7,198.02

Church & FLT Combined through March

Year-to-date Net Income (Loss) \$ 4,040.54

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

March 2024

Sales Total	\$ 22,053.40
Admin Fee to Castaways	-\$ 2,459.27
Total deposit to FUMC	\$ 19,594.13

These funds were distributed as follows:

\$ 10,000 to the FUMC General Fund
\$ 3,918.83 to the Castaways Volunteers Mission Fund
\$ 5,675.30 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	287.00
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	



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

- 9:15am Small Group Studies and Children & Youth
- 10:45am Traditional Worship Service - Communion on First and Third Sundays
- 6:00pm Living Water Worship (Spanish)

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

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

For the latest updates, check our website at fumcrookport.org



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY MAY 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@fumcrockport.org

**FOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL
YOUR COUNTRY IS
GRATEFUL**

HIRING
Someone who...

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

EMAIL
CHILDRENANDYOUTH
@FUMCROCKPORT.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION



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