

April 2026 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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Spring is here! We have been so blessed with beautiful weather, making it so easy to enjoy all that our little community has to offer. I pray you are taking some time to get outside and take in the majesty of God's creation!

I would like to share with you our next six-week worship series. The United Methodist leaders are inviting 30,000 congregations and their pastors worldwide into a God-led, Holy Spirit-empowered series with an emphasis to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously. This emphasis will extend the vision of the church and help support 500 students annually to prepare for pastoral ministry across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

You may want to know how this worldwide series came about? In December of 2024, three United Methodists were killed in Munga Dosa, Nigeria, Bishop Ande Emmanuel and Rev. Eli Sule Yakku, together with other local leaders, stepped forward to comfort grieving families and steady their community. Their calm, courageous leadership kept the church united in a moment of deep pain.

Both leaders were formed at the United Methodism Banyam Theological Seminary in Bambur, Nigeria, where rigorous theological study is paired with practical leadership training. Their preparation made a profound difference when their community needed them most. (continued...)

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First United Methodist Church of Rockport

FUMC Phone No. 361.729.1659

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Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Valerie Goodrum, Director of Children & Youth.....x2579

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Through this initiative, we can extend the vision of the United Methodist Church: To form disciples Of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in the community and the world. By a shared goal we hope to endow 500 scholarships in perpetuity, ensuring that courageous, well-prepared leaders can serve in some of the most challenging missional communities around the world!

This initiative will begin Sunday April 12 and run through May 17. FUMC Rockport along with other United Methodist Churches are honored to participate on this journey and as your pastor I look forward to seeing how our faith community steps up to this amazing call to ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Melissa Lind





Children & Youth Ministry Update

As we look ahead to the coming season, we're excited about opportunities to grow, serve, and connect—both indoors and out!

Do you have an outdoor project in mind around the church or First Learning Tree? Whether it's planting flowers, refreshing play areas, light clean-up, or creating welcoming spaces for our children and families—we'd love to hear your ideas! Please let us know if you see a need or feel called to help bring something to life.

We are also in need of volunteers to support our children and youth programs and special events. From helping with activities, assisting during gatherings, or lending a hand behind the scenes, there's a place for everyone to serve.

Your time and heart make a lasting impact on the lives of our young people. Thank you for being part of what God is doing in and through our church family!

If you're interested or have ideas to share, please reach out—we'd love to connect with you!

Valerie Goodrum
Children & Youth Director
ChildrenandYouth@fumcrookport.org



Anniversaries

Ray & Ellie Saenz
April 19, 1969
57 Years



Birthdays

Annette Mahaffey—April 3rd
Jake Meyer—April 3rd
Pat Speck—April 5th
Carl Lechitner—April 14th
Donna Plummer—April 28th
Carl Thomas—April 29th
Mike McLaughlin—April 30th

First Learning Tree

Spring is blooming, and so are our students! April 13th-17th is national "Week of the Young Child" when early development in children ages 0-8 years is celebrated. The first 5 years of a person's developmental life are the most important, and we are blessed to nurture this time. Join us this week as we highlight important milestones and stages of our children.



FIRST LEARNING TREE



FIRST LEARNING TREE



IT IS FINISHED

A Tenebrae Service
by Mary McDonald



Jubilate
MUSIC

*Come join us
for the
Maundy Thursday
Cantata
April 2nd at 5:30 pm*

Easter Services

Easter Sunrise Service

April 5th , 7:00 am

Rockport Festival Grounds

Paul Klemm Preaching

Easter Sunday Service

April 5th , Together in Spirit – 10:45 am

Pastor Melissa Lind Preaching

Music News



This week I learned something new.

“Tenebrae” means *darkness*—or more literally, the extinguishing of candles.

If you joined us on Maundy Thursday, you experienced that slow movement into darkness. After each movement of the cantata, a candle was extinguished, until finally even the Christ Candle was put out—symbolizing the death of Christ.

As I write this, it’s still March, and we haven’t yet presented *It Is Finished* by Mary McDonald. But I’m going to go ahead and trust that what we planned, what we rehearsed, and what we prayed over came together in a meaningful way.

Because that’s what music ministry is at its best—not perfection, but offering.

And that’s where I want to say thank you.

Thank you to our choir, who give their time week after week—not just to sing notes, but to tell the story of our faith. Thank you to our musicians and volunteers who make each service possible.

And thank you to the congregation, for showing up, for listening, and for supporting what we do. Your presence matters more than you probably realize.

One of the things I love about the Tenebrae service is that it doesn’t end with light. It ends in silence... and in darkness.

But of course, we know that’s not the end of the story.

Easter reminds us that what feels like an ending is often just the beginning of what God is about to do.

As we move into this next season, we’ll continue building on that story—through worship, through music, and through the voices of this church. There are new things ahead, even if they’re still taking shape.

For now, just know this: what we are building together matters. And I’m grateful to be part of it with you.

Paul Klemm
Director of Music Ministries

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The Emmaus community continues to be a meaningful way for Christians to grow in their faith, build lasting relationships, and be reminded of God's grace at work in everyday life. Whether you have already experienced an Emmaus Walk or have been curious about what it might mean for you or someone you know, this season brings some wonderful opportunities to get involved.

We are excited to host the next Emmaus Gathering right here at First United Methodist Church of Rockport on **Saturday, April 11th at 6:00 PM**. Please bring a covered dish to share as we enjoy a time of food, fellowship, and worship together. Gatherings are a great way to reconnect with the Emmaus community, hear testimonies, and be encouraged in your walk with Christ. If you've attended a Walk before, this is a perfect opportunity to plug back in. If you haven't, you are still welcome to come and see what Emmaus is all about.

Looking ahead, Coastal Bend Emmaus is planning three more Walks in 2026:

Women's Walk #2022

June 25–28, 2026

Lay Director: Agnes Flores

Men's Walk #2023

August 6–9, 2026

Lay Director: Shane Beckwith

Women's Walk #2024

September 24–27, 2026

Lay Director: Priscilla Arce

Applications to become a Pilgrim (or if you've already been on a walk, Team Members) are now available. If you have been considering attending a Walk—or sponsoring someone else—this is a great opportunity to take that next step.

For more details, registration, and applications, please visit www.coastalbendemmaus.org.

Emmaus is not just a weekend—it's the beginning of a deeper walk with Christ, supported by a community that walks alongside you. We hope to see you on April 11th and encourage you to prayerfully consider being part of an upcoming Walk.

Castaways

Some of our Winter Texas volunteers will be leaving in April and we will be shorthanded. Cashiers are always on for a -two hour shift. Please consider donating a little of your time to help out with sorting and pricing as well. We are at the shop nearly every day and can suit your schedule. Just get in touch with one of the volunteers or call me and I will meet you there and we can find a task that you will enjoy. Thanks, Annette 361-790-6217.

VOLUNTEER *opportunities*



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 website where you can take the test on line. Passing is guaranteed!





PRAYER TEAM

This team is dedicated to lifting up our church, congregation & community in prayer throughout the week. If you have a prayer request for yourself or a loved one, or if you feel called to join this important ministry, you can find information on how to participate in our bulletin or on our website. We believe that united prayer can do amazing things, and we look forward to seeing how God works through this team.

For more information contact Doris Owens:

at 361-463-8666 or at rockportfumcprayerteam@gmail.com

†
LET US
PRAY



Wesley Nurse News Flash

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I am continuing to see many patients each month for different needs. I had 70 patient encounters in February and so far for March I have 65. 65 patient encounters are the expectation each month.

We continue to have a lot of fun in our Seniorcise and Zumba Gold classes. We have enjoyed seeing our friends from the North and will miss them as they journey back to their homes. We hope they will join us next year! As always, there are modifications for every fitness level and we would love you to join us soon.

Zumba Gold Monday and Wednesdays 10 am-11 am.



Seniorcise Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 am-11 am.



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1st ANNUAL CLEAN SWEEP 2026

Our 1st annual Clean Sweep 2026 project is well underway. The church has done an amazing job helping with this project by donating cleaning supplies. I have identified 15 families to bless with these items. We will be distributing the items within the next 2 weeks.

Thank you Church!



Our emergency food pantry and closet served many individuals in March. We keep a few bags of non-perishable food items in the front closet in the narthex for individuals who may come to the church on Sunday seeking food. **Frozen TV dinners** are always needed. Please consider adding a few dinners to your grocery shopping and dropping them by the church. We serve at least 1 person daily a warm lunch. **Thank you** to everyone who donates and continues to support this ministry of the church. The food pantry is used only when Good Samaritan's is closed.

Special request for March: Canned meats, cereal or granola bars, generic protein shakes, mosquito spray, and deodorant

The **Diabetic Education and Support Group** continues to meet at 12:00 noon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room. We had 7 individuals attend the meeting in March. Our next meeting is **April 14th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.

WOW! The **Bicycle ministry** inventory was depleted then God rode in! Thank you to everyone who donated new and used bicycles. Everyone who needed a bike has received one. You cannot imagine how life changing this gift can be. These bicycles are given to individuals who need transportation getting back and forth to work, grocery shopping, etc. For many individuals in Rockport, their bike is the only means of transportation they have. If you would like to assist with this growing ministry, please mark your donation as Wesley Nurse bike fund when making a monetary donation. If you have a gently used bicycle, William & Caleb have graciously agreed to assist with repairing the bikes. If you have a bicycle that needs to be picked up from your home, please let me know and I will send the bicycle angels to pick it up!



Coming Soon:

Dementia/Alzheimer's Community Forum education class
Steppin On fall prevention class

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, Geralyn

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

Small Group Study Opportunities



In person:
Sunday
Cross Talk
Truth Seekers
Children & Youth



FREE Community Exercise Class

Zumba Gold & Seniorcise: Standing or Seated

Take back control of your health & improve your life through exercise. DVD led class with modifications for every fitness level. These exercises can be done seated or standing. These classes will help you develop strength, enhance your ability to function in daily life, improve your balance, lose weight, boost your energy & metabolism. They can even help you play more with your grandchildren! Strengthen your body & mind to help you enjoy a life of independence!



Zumba Gold 10:00 am, Monday & Wednesday

Seniorcise Classes are at 10:00 am, on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

First United Methodist Church
801 Main Street
Rockport, TX

For more information, contact:
361-729-1659
Or GERALYN MATEJCEK, BSN, RN
Wesley Nurse
210-455-1409

www.mhm.org



Come Join Us!
FUMC of Rockport
801 E. Main Street

Every Tuesday at
11:00 am in the
Bistro
We play cards and board
games!

If you have a favorite
game bring it!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

- 8:30 am Daybreak Devotional Service
- 9:15 am & 9:30 am Small Group Studies
- 10:45am Together in Spirit - Communion on the First Sunday of the month
- 6:00 pm Living Water Worship (Spanish)

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

*Let us know you're worshipping with us from home by filling out the online Friendship Card.
You can find the link on our home page @ www.fumcrokport.org*

First United Methodist Rockport Serving the Rockport Community since 1870

PRAYER:

PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to:

rockportfumcprayerteam@gmail.com

SMALL GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES:

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

Truth Seekers 9:30 am, Conf. Room

Mon: Christian Believer, 10:00 am, Library

Mere Christianity, 5:30 pm, Rec. Room

GIVING



- Give online at fumcrokport.org/give
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78382

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

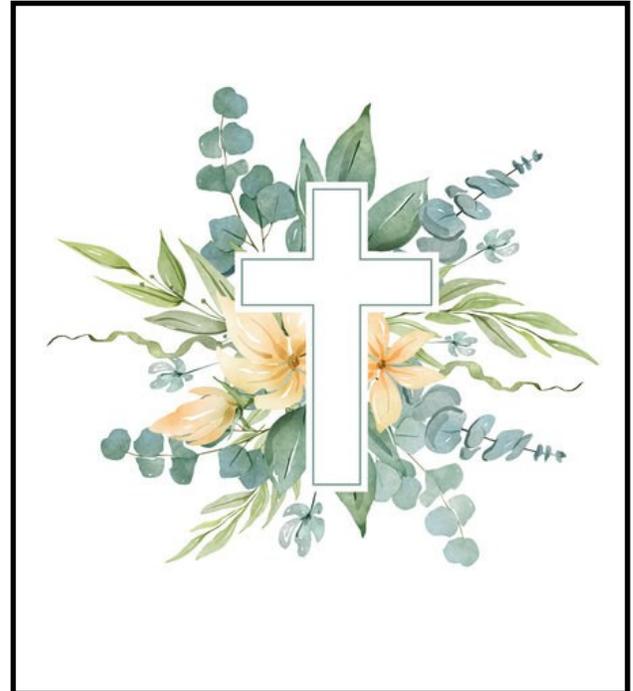
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MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

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@fumcrokport.org



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