

December 2025 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
of Rockport

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Christmas is a wonderful time of year for many, but it can also be challenging for some. The stress of the holiday season can feel overwhelming, and loneliness can overshadow the joy.

Finding Joy! Habakkuk 3:17–18: "Even though the fig trees have no fruit and there are no grapes on the vines, even though I have seen the livestock die, and the fields produce no food, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior".

Ordinary Moments: Remember that joy often comes in the ordinary moments. We risk missing out on it when we chase the extraordinary.

Spread Love: For those around us who may be struggling, let's celebrate Christmas by shining the light of love on those who need it most.

Encouragement! 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

Reach Out: I encourage you to seek out someone who may need a little love or acknowledgment that they are valued.

Dr. Seuss Wisdom: As Dr. Seuss said, "Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."

I pray that your Christmas is filled with the love, peace, joy, and hope that Christ brings.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Melissa Lind



This monthly newsletter is published by
First United Methodist Church of Rockport,
801 Main Street, Rockport, TX 78382.

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First United Methodist Church of Rockport

FUMC Phone No. 361.729.1659

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Gabby Galvan Business Manager.....	x2574
Paul Klemm, Director of Music Ministry.....	x2575
Pam Jaschke Administrative Assistant	x2576
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....	x2584
Geralyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....	x2578
Valerie Goodrum, Director of Children& Youth.....	x2579



We have a very busy Advent schedule this year, with something special planned every Sunday in December:

December 7: Baptism of Henry

December 14: Christmas Cantata (One Service)

Christmas on the Beach: We will be hosting this beautiful event on Monday, December 15 from 5:30 - 9:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to help greet visitors!

December 21: Children's Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve Service: Join us at 6:00 PM on December 24th!

December 28: Annual Parsonage Open House from 2:00 - 4:00 PM



Birthdays

Vicki Caraway - December 8th
Ann Schick - December 13th
Kay Stone - December 13th
Darlene Irwin - December 15th

Anniversaries

Tony & Pam Jaschke - December 19th
38 Years
Carl & Judy Thomas - December 23rd
9 Years
Rob & Jeannie Coe - December 28th
47 Years
David & Ann Murrah - December 29th
52 Years

FIRST LEARNING TREE

What is a great preschool without a great team? At First Learning Tree we love to brag about our impressive staff retention which, in the field of early childcare, staff turnover is very high.

Last year, Texas Workforce Solutions implemented a "Staff Retention Bonus" to reward employees that have remained with their centers for a specified duration of time. This fall, another bonus was issued, and First Learning Tree received \$22,800 in reward money for our employees. Full-time teachers received \$1,100 each, part-time teachers received \$700, and support staff received \$500. As you can imagine, this is a large blessing to our staff, and it has lifted their spirits here adding more value to their jobs. Approximately 1,100 childcare centers in the Coastal Bend received bonuses, and our center was the third largest recipient, and we were invited to attend the check presentation with a handful of other preschools. I was honored to represent First Learning Tree.

When I first took over as the Director, at the first Church Council I attended, the council told me they wanted to see significant raises for our employees. Since then, we started offering compensation that exceeds other childcare centers in the Coastal Bend, and our teachers are so appreciative. After Hurricane Harvey, the church and school worked together to pay our staff during evacuation and rebuilding time. During COVID, when most jobs withheld pay, we were able pay all employees full compensation. Our staff knows they can count on us, and that is what keeps us going strong.

Thank you to our staff and church for working together to make First Learning Tree the wonderful school it is.

Madealine Brown
FLT Director



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Thank you to everyone who helped get us setup!



Music News



Mark your Calendars! December 14th is Sunday that the Choir will present this year's Christmas Cantata, "Silent Night" by Craig Adams. Because of this special presentation, we will only have one service on the 14th. Please join us for a great Sunday Worship filled with Christmas Music!

Do you (or someone you know) play piano? I would like to find someone that is willing to accompany us at the 8:30 Service. Now, that's our biggest need. However, if that person is willing, we can certainly find more opportunities to play!

On a completely different note, I'd like to talk a little about the Praise Band. When there is a song that you recognize, sing with us! I'm not saying come up into the altar area and grab a microphone. What I mean is where you are, sing with us. When the band plays, it's not a concert. It's about Praising and Worshipping the living God. So, sing along. Sway to the music if you're so moved.

I realize that not everyone knows all the music we're playing. I do, however, try to program some music that may be familiar to you. Would it help if I included Song Lyrics in the bulletin? I'm happy to do that each week.

Thank you everyone for your continued support!

Paul



Walk to
Emmaus
THE BETTER ROAD



COASTAL BEND
EMMAUS

Emmaus News

I have mentioned this before, but 2026 is going to be a busy year for the Coastal Bend Emmaus Community!

Not only will we hold Monthly Gatherings at churches throughout the Coastal Bend, but we are also going to hold 4 Walks to Emmaus.

They are:

Men's Walk #2021 January 29th - February 1st, 2026 / Lay Director-Tim Miller

Women's Walk #2022 June 25th - 28th, 2026 / Lay Director-Agnes Flores

Men's Walk #2023 August 6th - 9th, 2026 / Lay Director-Shane Beckwith

Women's Walk #2024 (Dates TBD) / Lay Director-Priscilla Arce

If you (or someone you know) would like to participate in a Walk to Emmaus, let us know. We are always accepting applications for Pilgrims.

We are also looking for Team Members for these walks as well. If you've already been on a Walk to Emmaus and would like to serve, let me know and I will get you connected with the right people. For more information, go to our website: www.coastalbendemmaus.org

De Colores,

Paul Klemm



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Children & Youth Time
Join us every Wednesday
4:30 pm Youth Gathering
5:30 pm Children's Gathering

We have been focusing on helping hands and helping others to be closer to God. We will continue to build on these as we move into the Advent season.

We will be studying the history of St. Nick, Jesus' birthday and the advent candles this month.

The children want to watch and study the children's version of the Chosen. It will be interesting to see how their perception compares to the adults.

On December 21st we will have our pageant with the First Learning Tree Students. I hope to see all of you there.

As we move into the New Year, I would like to take the children on a mission outreach, incorporating the helping hand's theme.

I am still looking for volunteers to help me. It doesn't have to be much. An hour or two goes a long way. I would like to thank and acknowledge Julie Purcell for volunteering.

Thank you everyone for your support with our children and youth.

God Bless

Youth Director, Valerie Goodrum



Castaways News

If you are interested in helping sort and organize donations, just let me know when is a good time for you. Volunteers are at the store every day, so you can join in to help whenever is convenient for you. We need another person to test appliances, do minor repairs on lamps and furniture, and generally be a doo-dad fixer upper. Is that you? We are also looking for another backdoor guy to accept donations on Thursday morning, so we can discontinue paying someone to do that task. As always, we need pricers for clothing and miscellaneous items on Wednesday morning from 9-11 and all day on Thursday. If you are looking toward a worthy New Year's Resolution, look no further. Help out your church by joining the Castaways Team. Just give me a call, that's all. 790-6217 Thanks, Annette Hegen

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



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Hi Church Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas! I can't believe how fast 2025 has flown by!

I am continuing to see many patients each month. Thank you to the church staff, volunteers, & church members for your help and support. I had a total of 75 encounters in October and 65 for November.

First Learning Tree partnered with me to fill the Thanksgiving Blessing Bags! We served 43 families which included approximately 140 individuals. I received many text messages and pictures of turkeys with expressions of gratitude and thanks. Thank you to the Health Ministry Team members, Cierra, Jeannie, Janet, Hannah, and Pam for helping organize the bags and distribute. Also, William was a tremendous help to me with distribution of the bags.



Our emergency food pantry has served many individuals this month and the shelves are well stocked; we can always use the following items. **Pop top soups, canned meats, canned beans, crackers, and bottled waters.** Frozen TV dinners are always needed. **Thank you** all who donated and continue to support this ministry of the church. The food pantry is used only when Good Samaritan's is closed.

Special request this month is shampoo, razors, and deodorant for men and women.



Tree of Hope: This will be the 3rd year of this project, and it has been a huge blessing to the community. As in the past, all the individuals on the tree are Wesley Nurse clients and their pets. Thank you for helping to make this project successful.

The tree tags are available this week.

- Choose a tag
- Buy the gifts
- Wrap the gifts, place tag on gift

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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. 8 members attended in November. We watched videos from the TCOYD (Taking Care of Your Diabetes) website. Thank you, Jeannie Coe, for recommending that education resource. Our next meeting is **December 9th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.

Seniorcise continues to thrive! The class consists of a good mix of church and community members. Remember, there are modifications for every level of ability. You can stand or sit to participate in the class. **Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your water and prepare to have fun while getting healthier & stronger!

Have you tried Zumba Gold yet? It is so much fun! We meet on **Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:00 am** in the fellowship hall. It is truly a healthy Happy Hour. And all the good 50s-60s tunes are played.

ZUMBA!



Zumba Gold Monday and Wednesdays 10 am-11 am Fellowship Hall.
Seniorcise Tuesdays, Thursdays, and now Fridays from 10 am-11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Bicycle ministry continues to grow. William and the Brock family are assisting with repairs but could use financial assistance as well. 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. A bike tire costs anywhere from \$19-\$25. The tubes cost \$10-\$12. If you would like to assist with this growing ministry, please mark your donation as Wesley Nurse bike fund. Thank you and God bless.



Mental Health First Aid was held recently with 23 individuals attending. The course was presented by Amy with Coastal Plains. It was very informative, and we received good feedback from those who attended. We are offering a second course on December 15th for the ushers and other church and community members who did not make it into the 1st class. Please contact me if you are interested in taking the class.

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As always, I am open to your input and ideas that will help me serve the community and congregation better. 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!

Coming in 2026:

Alzheimer's Community Forum education class

Clean Sweep for 2026: cleaning supplies drive in partnership with FLT

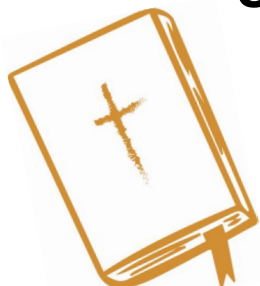
16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

“Serving Humanity to Honor God”

Blessings to you all,
Geraldyn



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
Fellowship Hall
We play cards and board
games!**

**If you have a favorite
game bring it!**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

8:30 am Daybreak Devotional Service
9:00 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.fumcrookport.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.fumcrookport.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, 9:00 am, Rec Room

Truth Seekers 9:30 am, Conf. Room

Mon: Christian Believer, 10:00 am, Library

The Chosen, 1:00 pm, Rec. Room

Mere Christianity, 5:30 pm, Rec. Room



GIVING

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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@fumcrockport.org



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