

# February 2026 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
*of Rockport*

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I think most of you will agree that love is complicated and relationships can be very hard to navigate. Scripture has many examples of complicated, yet beautiful relationships that we can all learn from. This month Paul and I have worked together on a February Sermon Series called “Love is Complicated” which will focus on Love, Relationships, and how our relationship with God is at play in all our relationships. I am so excited to take this four-week journey!

February 1st, I will be preaching both services with a focus on Adam and Eve, their relationship as a couple and their relationship with God, looking at how love was created as covenant before it became romance, and it broke not through passion, but through fear, blame, and hiding.

February 8th, Paul and I will be looking at Abraham & Sarah with the focus on when love grows weary of waiting, even faithful people are tempted to take shortcuts that wound each other and complicate God’s promises.

February 15th, Paul will be preaching both services with a focus on Jacob, Rebekah & Leah and when love plays favorites and withholds affection, God works through the overlooked and unloved to carry redemption forward.

(continued on next page)



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

**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**

## Staff Extension Numbers

Rev Melissa Lind, Senior Pastor.....x2248  
Gabby Galvan Business Manager.....x2574  
Paul Klemm, Director of Music Ministry.....x2575  
Pam Jaschke Administrative Assistant .....x2576  
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584  
Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578  
Valerie Goodrum, Director of Children & Youth.....x2579

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It's hard to believe Wednesday, February 18th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season! Boy how time flies. Please join us for services and Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion at noon and 5:30 PM.

I would like to close with a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." It is a wonderful reminder that God is always walking before us, and through faith we can trust that we are never alone. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

God's Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Melissa Lind

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# February 2026 Newsletter

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## Anniversaries

Mike O'Neal & Julie Purcell  
February 10th

Dan & Kathy Daniels  
February 11th - 49 Years

Paul & Sandy Klemm  
February 29th - 6 Years

## Birthdays

Richard Bianchi- February 4th

Ellie Saenz - February 4th

Carolyn Neal - February 10th

Valerie Goodrum - February 14th

Clay Melton - February 14th

Joyce Palmer - February 17th

Cheryl McIntyre - February 19th

Gabby Galvin - February 21st

Alan Barre - February 25th

Ray Saenz - February 28th

Pat Ehrhart - February 29th

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## FUMC Rockport Leadership 2026

<u><b>Chair</b></u> Richard Bianchi 26	<u><b>Secretary (Non-Voting)</b></u> Pam Jaschke	<u><b>Treasurer</b></u> Ginger Gay	<u><b>Lay Leader</b></u> Kay Stone
<u><b>Trustees</b></u> Steve Brock 27* Bob Gustaffsen 27 Art Foss 27 Wayne Caraway 28	<u><b>Finance</b></u> Tommy Tompkins 26* Terry Spang 26 Jeannie Coe 27 Karen Herro 28	<u><b>Staff Parish Relations</b></u> Kathy Daniels 27 * Carolyn Neal 26 Pat Speck 26 Vickie Caraway 28	
<u><b>FLT (Non-Voting)</b></u> Open Kathy Daniels Madaline Brown	<u><b>Annual Conference</b></u> Delegate Kay Stone Alternate Delegate Mike McLaughlin		

\*Chairperson



### ***FIRST LEARNING TREE***

With each new year, First Learning Tree strives to enhance our program with extra-curricular activities that are engaging and educational. This year, we launched "Life Skills" classes on Tuesday mornings. During these classes, our Pre-K students learned valuable, applicable skills they may show their families.

The first session was about laundering which taught our students the different ways to wash and dry our clothes. This included wash boards with soap and clotheslines outside along with modern appliances and how to use them. We then taught our students how to sort laundry and different settings to use with the machines. This session ended with learning how to fold and put away laundry. Our next session will follow gardening for the Spring. Then, we will teach our students the different types of plants such as food, flowers and trees. We will focus on planting, watering and maintaining a garden. Another great session will be all about food service. We will learn about cooking, setting, serving and etiquette. We may even host a dinner event where students will set a table and help serve families.

There is so much to be excited about with introducing these classes, and we cannot wait to share more!





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After a busy start to 2026 we are hoping for a low key February, with time spent reflecting on the lessons learned and planning ways to share God's love. We enjoyed our studies of the 12 days of Christmas. We had a 3 Kings celebration for their Feast Day. Lucky Henry found the baby Jesus.

We hope the weather will allow us to use our helping hands to visit a local park and pick up litter. If anyone would like to volunteer to join us we would love to have you.

The youth are still looking for a basketball goal, volunteers and new members. Pass the word. We look forward to sharing God's Love with the community.



## *Music News*



Things are getting exciting in the Music Department—and I'm really enjoying being able to say that.

Let me start by introducing Lynn Sobey. I've known Lynn for a few years now, and we've worked together on projects at Rockport Little Theatre. She has also stepped in for us once or twice in emergencies, which instantly makes her one of my favorite people. Lynn brings a tremendous amount of talent and experience with her, and we're grateful to have her playing for our 8:30 service until she heads back home to South Dakota in May. Please be sure to give her a warm welcome.

We've moved choir rehearsals to Tuesdays at 12:30, and honestly, the change has gone better than I expected. We've picked up several new choir members already. I know that time doesn't work for everyone, though. If Wednesdays at 6:30 would be easier for you, let me know. I already have about four people who've said they'd be interested in rehearsing then.

The choir has also started working on a new cantata, *It Is Finished* by Mary McDonald. The music is beautiful, and it tells the story of Holy Week, leading us right up to the crucifixion of Jesus. We'll be sharing it with the congregation during our Maundy Thursday service on April 2, and I truly believe it's going to be a very moving night. You may want to go ahead and mark your calendar now.

The Praise Band could also use a little help. We're especially looking for someone to play keyboard and someone to play drums. If that even might be you, please let me know—or just come sit in on a rehearsal. We meet Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Sanctuary.

And finally, I want to say thank you. I am deeply grateful for the generosity shown by this congregation at Christmas. Thank you so much for the staff bonuses. They meant more to us than you probably realize.

Paul Klemm  
Director of Music  
[musicafumcrockport.org](http://musicafumcrockport.org)





Coastal Bend Emmaus will soon host the first Women's Walk of 2026. Women's Walk #2022 will take place June 25–28.

At first glance, that may sound like a big-time commitment—but stay with me. The Walk begins Thursday evening, with arrival around 5:30 p.m. You'll gather all day Friday (yes, that does mean missing one workday), all day Saturday, and conclude around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. When you do the math, it comes out to 72 hours.

And those 72 hours are full. You'll hear talks from a variety of speakers. You'll take part in small-group discussions. You'll worship, sing, laugh, and experience genuine Christian fellowship.

You will also eat well. Very well. In fact, if you leave hungry, you're doing it wrong.

If you're unable to attend the Walk, there is still an important way you can be part of it. The entire 72 hours of the Walk to Emmaus is covered in prayer. Those hours are divided into 30-minute prayer slots, and before any Walk can begin, every single slot must be filled.

If you'd like to support the Walk through prayer, please visit [coastalbendemmaus.org](http://coastalbendemmaus.org) to sign up.



### *Castaways*

We are excited to start a new year in working to benefit the church and our mission projects. In 2025 we provided \$207,327 to the church through your donations and our efforts to ready them for sale. Thanks to all who are involved in small or large ways to keep this endeavor going. It is a lot of hard work but the benefits are amazing. Please consider joining us and see your work efforts make a difference.

***Annette Hegen and Team Castaways***

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## **VOLUNTEER** *opportunities*

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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](mailto:rockportfumcprayerteam@gmail.com)*





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Happy February Church Family and Friends,

I can't believe I blinked and January was gone!



Happy Heart Health month!

I am continuing to see many patients each month for different needs. Last month the focus was on the cold weather and helping the unsheltered population get to the warming center at Fulton Community Church. Thank you to the church staff, volunteers, & church members for your help and support. I had a total of 75 plus patient encounters in January.



Make plans to attend the **FREE Health Fest** on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 10 am – 2pm in the Community Room at the Courthouse. 302 N. Live Oak Street. The Wesley Nurse program will have a vendor booth sharing all the fun activities we have at FUMC! Zumba Gold and Seniorcise members will be invited to attend, and classes will be held at the Health Fest. It was so much fun last year, and we won a lot of door prizes!

Our emergency food pantry and closet served many individuals in January. If you have any gently used jackets, blankets, or sleeping bags we will be glad to take those off your hands. The pantry can always use the following items **canned meat, peanut butter or cheese crackers, and bottled water is always needed. Frozen TV dinners** are running low. **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 this month is razors and shaving cream for men. Generic protein shakes, breakfast, or granola bars.**

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Exercise opportunities are available **5** days per week at our church! Consider setting a goal to work on your strength, endurance, balance, and cardio with us in these **FREE** classes! Modifications are available for everyone. The goal is to get moving, socialize, and get fit while having fun!

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



We celebrated Lore's birthday in January. Lore is a vital member/leader of the Seniorcise class, and I could not do this class without her!

The **Diabetic Education and Support Group** continues to meet at 12:00 noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Recreation Room. We had 8 individuals attend the meeting in January. The education component of the class was healthy, high protein snacks. Our next meeting is **February 10th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.

**Bicycle ministry** continues to be a critical portion of the Wesley Nurse programs. My bike inventory is depleted now but God...**I have 3 individuals on the waiting list for bicycles.** 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.

*Thank you and God bless.*



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**Mental Health First Aid** The 2nd course of Mental Health First Aid was presented by Coastal Plains in January. It was very informative, and we received good feedback from those who attended. Thank you to the ushers, trustees, volunteers, daycare employees, and church staff members who participated in this vital training.

### Coming in 2026:

Community Health Fair February 17, 2026 at the Courthouse Community Room  
Alzheimer's Community Forum education class  
Clean Sweep for 2026: cleaning supplies drive in partnership with FLT



**Wedding Time:** Many of you know that my son, Mason, and his fiancée, Cierra, are getting married this month. We will be traveling to San Pedro, Belize from 2/25 to 3/2. I will be out of the office on those days. Prayers for traveling mercies and for a long, loving marriage are appreciated.

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

**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”**





### 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!



**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!**



**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](http://www.mhm.org)





## 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.fumcrockport.org/worship](http://www.fumcrockport.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.fumcrockport.org](http://www.fumcrockport.org)*

First United Methodist Rockport Serving the Rockport Community since 1870

### PRAYER:

PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to:

*[rockportfumcprayerteam@gmail.com](mailto: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

The Chosen, 1:00 pm, Rec. Room

Mere Christianity, 5:30 pm, Rec. Room



### GIVING

- Give online at [fumcrockport.org/give](http://fumcrockport.org/give)
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78382

## **MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH**

### **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](mailto:admin@fumcrockport.org)



First Sunday of Lent , February 22nd



## **First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff**

**Reverend Melissa Lind**  
Pastor  
[pastor@fumcrockport.org](mailto:pastor@fumcrockport.org)

**Madeline Brown**  
Director of First Learning Tree  
[info@fltree.org](mailto:info@fltree.org)

**Gabriela Galvan**  
Business Manager  
[FUMC@fumcrockport.org](mailto:FUMC@fumcrockport.org)

**Alfredo Gonzales**  
Custodian



**Paul Klemm**  
Director of Music Ministries  
[music@fumcrockport.org](mailto:music@fumcrockport.org)

**Pam Jaschke**  
Administrative Assistant  
[admin@fumcrockport.org](mailto:admin@fumcrockport.org)

**Geralyn Matejcek**  
Wesley Nurse  
[gmatejcek@mhm.org](mailto:gmatejcek@mhm.org)

**Valerie Goodrum**  
Children & Youth Director  
[ChildrenandYouth@fumcrockport.org](mailto:ChildrenandYouth@fumcrockport.org)