

January 2026 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

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I pray everyone had a very merry Christmas and is enjoying the new year! It was a joy to spend this Advent season with such an amazing congregation.

Every New Year I look and listen for a scripture that God is guiding me to. This Scripture helps me to focus the will of God not only for myself but also for the ministries of the church. I love this year's scripture! It is a short but impactful promise that if we "are pure and upright" following God's divine plan our future will be prosperous. This scripture comes from the book of Job chapter 8:7 "Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be." NIV "Although your former state was ordinary, your future will be extraordinary." CEB. God is so good! We had so many unexpected blessings in 2025 and I can't wait to see the blessings God brings this year!

Happy New Year,

Pastor Melissa Lind



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 Assistantx2576
Madaline Brown, First Learning Tree Director.....x2584
Geraldyn Matejcek, Wesley Health Nurse.....x2578
Valerie Goodrum, Director of Children & Youth.....x2579

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Castaway Volunteer Christmas Party



Birthdays

Suzie Marable - January 15th

Kenneth Goodner - January 19th

Wayne Caraway - January 23rd

FIRST LEARNING TREE

As we enter into this wonderful new year, we want to highlight our accomplishments and events for 2025.

The beginning of the year was full of wintery events such as “Dr. Seuss Week” that ended with our annual parade full of Dr. Seuss books, Super Bowl party, and Valentine extravaganzas. Our staff attended several conferences to learn new ideas and techniques for their classrooms.

Spring brought in some fresh fun with our annual “St. Jude Trike-a-Thon” where we raised \$2500 for patients in their hospital. We celebrated “Week Of the Young Child” by highlighting all the wonderful things young children do. To end the week, we hosted a color powder throw for our students, and they loved it. Messy and fun. Next there was “Kentucky Derby Day” when we dressed up in our best hats and had “horse” races in the parking lot. To celebrate “Teacher Appreciation Week,” our parents treated us to a week of food and gifts. We are truly blessed. Graduation was a beautiful display with 16 graduates showcasing all they’ve learned in our school. They are now in kindergarten showing great success.

Though it was hot, and we endured a drought, summer was a blast. We celebrated “Tropical Christmas,” and spent most of our days indoors creating magic. The kids were not ready to go back to school. To celebrate the end of summer, we hosted “Open House” where our parents were able to see all the accomplishments of their children. “Backpacks and Blue Jeans” was successful, and we distributed over 800 pairs of socks to our community. Ending summer, we held our second annual “Be Kind to Human Kind Week,” where we blessed our Humane Society, first responders, parents and community with gifts and good deeds.

Gearing up for fall, we celebrated “Community Helper Week” by gifting our first responders treats and sweets. Also, we opened our Pumpkin Patch and delivered “Porch Pumpkins” to homes and businesses in our community. We hosted our annual “Trunk-or-Treat” and “Trick or Treat Down the Street” where we collected goodies to send home. For Thanksgiving, we collected “Blessing Bag” food items and turkeys for the church. As always, this was successful by providing meals for over 30 families. To end our fall events, we hosted our annual “FLT Thanksgiving Lunch” with our families and students.

Ending with our winter events, we hosted “Tinsel and To-Do’s” where our families dropped their children off on Saturdays to get some needed errands accomplished. “Christmas Spirit Week” was colorful and beautiful with festive themes. Our “Christmas Pageant” at the church was splendid with a great time of bonding with the congregation. To end the year, we hosted our annual “Fairy Tale Ball” with characters of all kinds. This was a beautiful year, and though it is difficult to see it go, we are so excited for what’s in store!







Beginning in 2026, we will try something different for the choir. We will hold rehearsals on Tuesdays at 12:30. I hope that those of you who would like to participate in the choir but can't because you don't want to drive in the dark or are exhausted from working at Castaways will now be able to do so.

Beginning January 6th, we will start reviewing a new Easter Cantata. I'll have more information on that soon. The point is, this is an excellent time to get started with the Choir. Everyone will start on equal footing. Besides, being in the choir, we have the best seats in the house for Sunday morning Worship!



Time is getting short. The next Walk to Emmaus is a Men's Walk and will be January 29th through February 1st. If you're not familiar with the Walk to Emmaus, ask anyone who has participated. Talk to Pastor Mel or me if you have any questions. If you're interested in participating, see me; I have applications on my desk.

Ladies, our next Walk to Emmaus will be a Women's Walk. It will be held June 25th – 28th. It's not too soon to begin signing up for this walk. Again, I have applications on my desk. Just see me, and I'll make sure to reserve your spot.

Paul Klemm
Director of Music
musicafumcrockport.org





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,

Happy New Year! Praying for 2026 to be filled with good health, prosperity, peace, and love for all of you!

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 70 encounters in December.

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 razors and deodorant for men and women.

Tree of Hope: This project was once again a huge success thanks to the church's support. We served 28 individuals. Many of these individuals indicate that our gift is the only gift they receive and they are truly thankful. We served individuals who are unsheltered, living in shelters, single mom's and dad's, the young and the elderly. I received so many pictures with happy smiles that made this project at a very busy time of year all worthwhile.

I also was able to coordinate with Habitat for Humanity to get Christmas trees and decorations for 4 of my client's families. It was so fun to watch them choose trees and decorations. A huge blessing to these families.

And lastly, I partnered with my CrossFit gym, Rising Tide Fitness, to sponsor several children for ice skating. These children would not have been able to attend the skating event without Rising Tide sponsoring the entry fees. The kids were so excited!



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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. We had a small group in December buy enjoyed lunch and visiting together. Our next meeting is **January 13th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.

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.



Plus Seniorcise likes to eat pizza and celebrate together!

Bicycle ministry continues to be a critical portion of the Wesley Nurse programs. I am low on bikes at the moment but God... William and the Brock family continue to assist with repairs but we still need financial assistance. 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 The course was presented by Coastal Plains. It was very informative, and we received good feedback from those who attended. We are offering a second course on **January 27th** 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. Be checking your e-mails!

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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!



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!**



**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





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.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*

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 fumcrockport.org/give
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78382

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, JANUARY 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

MAY GOD
BLESS YOU
and
SEND YOU
a happy
NEW YEAR

HELLO
January

First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff

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