

July 2026 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of Rockport

VISIT US ONLINE fumcrockport.org

www.facebook.com/fumcrockport

I came across this saying the other day that piqued my interest, it's a quote from Samuel Rutherford, it says "There is nothing that will make you a Christian indeed, but a taste of the sweetness of Christ." This quote comes from a letter written to a young man by Rutherford his pastor, in the 17th-century. According to Rutherford, this young man was an "uncivilized loose liver and made his home a misery." He accuses this young man of coming late to church and strode out before the service was over. Rutherford felt as though this young man was behaving with the utmost irreverence and as if he was deliberately trying to insult his minister.

Samuel Rutherford's quote captures beautifully a Puritan emphasis on experiential faith, meaning that Christianity is not merely an intellectual belief or list of rules, but a true and personal life changing experience of God's grace. This grace highlights the difference between knowing about God and experiencing God. The "Sweetness" is the experience of God's love, mercy and presence firsthand.

What Rutherford is urging this young man and us is to look for the "sweetness" of God through our encounters and active participation in our daily lives. Through our firsthand experiences we find what anchors our souls to the divine love, grace and mercy of Christ, that as important as theology is it is only one aspect of knowing God. Our relationship with Christ is an interactive one, we are called to be ever-present and intentional in the actions and reactions of our God given lives and relationships not sitting idly by, but fully experiencing all God has to offer. This is the transformative power of an active relationship with Christ! Psalm 34:8 Says, "Taste and see that the Lord is Good." Once a person "tastes" the sweetness of Christ, their desires shift, they are won over by God's beauty and love, making faith a delight rather than a chore.

Grace and Peace,
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

Like us on Facebook!



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

July 2026 Newsletter

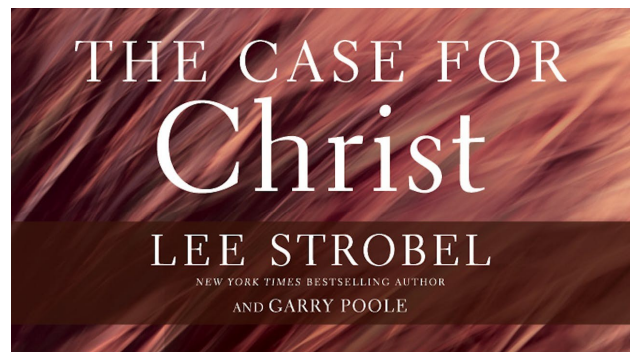


Monday Morning Bible Study

The Case For Christ Monday morning Bible study will begin on August 10 from 10:00-11:00. This book was written by a journalist who was an atheist . His wife was a new Christian, so he set out to prove that there was no Christ. This book made a big impact on me and others who have read it.

A sign-up sheet will be out soon and I hope you will decide to join me. This class is open to women, men- couples are welcome..

Please text me with any questions to Maggie Allen @ - 775-781-1637.



Children's Book Drive

The Aransass County Retired Teachers Association collects children's books each year and give them, in their own book bags, to children in need. This is usually done in May, with the hope that they will read over the summer and enjoy having something of their very own. The need for these books has grown, so we are collecting books at various places around Rockport, in the hopes of having more books for more children.

Pastor Mel has agreed to let us hold a book drive in our church, so the book bin will be in the foyer around the middle of August. Please consider books that your children or grandchildren have or had that they no longer want and help us share them with children who have little.

More information?

Please text Maggie @ 775-781-1637. Thank you.





Anniversaries

Mike Pfiester and Betsy Sadler, July 6th 30 Years
Gary and Kay Stone, July 23rd , 50 Years
Jim and Ann Schick, July 26th, 45 Years



Birthdays

Ted Norland, July 8th
Jane Doss Briggs, July 9th
Carita Gould, July 11th
Paula Barre, July 13th
Barbara Serota, July 13th
Judy Thomas, July 17th
Linda Teal, July 21st
Eloise Melton, July 24th
Noah Andrew Dominguez, July 31st

First Learning Tree

As we approach Independence Day, we are reminded of the blessings we have in our wonderful country. That is reflected in the work we do everyday at First Learning Tree. Everyday we take in our precious students to nurture, engage, mold and educate. In return, they give back to us love, joy, fulfillment and growth. As we celebrate our freedom, we acknowledge it allows us to provide quality meals with financial assistance from Texas Department of Agriculture. It allows us to provide subsidized tuition for families in need via Texas Workforce Solutions. It allows us to have a faith-based preschool where our children may openly learn and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ. As we say our "Pledge of Allegiance" every morning, we hold our hands over our hearts, proud to be an American at First Learning Tree.



July 2026 Newsletter





Dear FUMC

Happy Independence Day!

June was a wonderful month as we hosted Vacation Bible School. We had a blast, learned a lot, and made many new friends.

As we turn our attention to July, we will be studying various characters of the Bible as well as Jesus' miracles. The children have chosen specific characters and will be portraying them during children's time. To help with their costumes, we are in need of men's neckties. If anyone has any they would be willing to donate, we would greatly appreciate it.

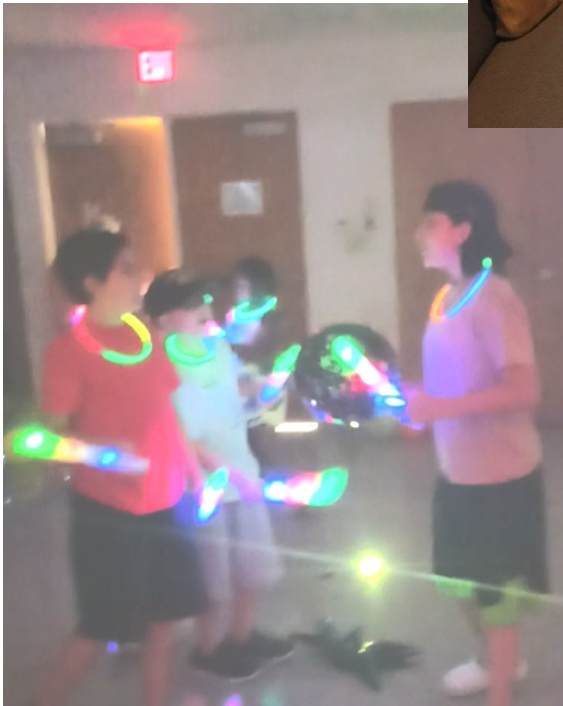
Additionally, we had a fantastic backyard burger party this past Wednesday. I have included some pictures below for your viewing pleasure!

Best regards,

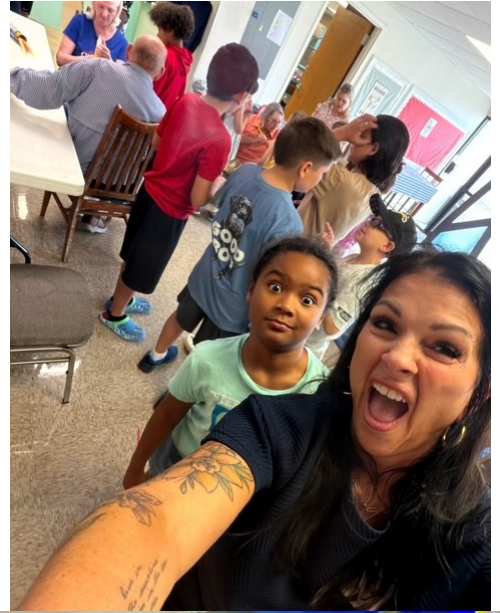
Valerie Goodrum



July 2026 Newsletter



July 2026 Newsletter



Castaways

Summertime and the living is easy....but don't get too comfy. Surely you have a closet or garage that needs purging. Please help us out with nice, gently used items that we can pass on to the community and help out the church through sales at Castaways. Also, let us introduce you to the fun and satisfaction our volunteers enjoy through "working" at this incredible thrift shop. Just two hours of your time on Wednesday or Thursday (or any day that is better for you) would be greatly appreciated. A delicious lunch on Thursday is included! Also, we will celebrate your birthday! Ask any Castaways volunteer how you can help, but consider cashiering or working the floor organizing or assisting customers. We could use another tinkerer or fix it guy as well. You are missing out! See you there! Annette and Team Castaways.

Annette Hegen 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.

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

**Church & FLT Financial Update
As of April 30, 2026**

	CHURCH		FLT
BUDGETED REVENUE**	\$ 144,596		\$ 480,380
ACTUAL REVENUE	\$ 143,194		\$ 400,581
OVER (UNDER) BUDGET	\$ (1,402)		\$ (79,799)
BUDGETED EXPENSES**	\$ 144,460		\$ 391,124
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 131,504		\$ 435,550
OVER (UNDER) BUDGET	\$ (12,956)		\$ 44,426
** FOUR MONTHS OF ANNUAL BUDGET			



Wesley Nurse News Flash

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I am continuing to see many patients each month for different needs. I had 71 patient encounters in May and so far for June, I have had 36. The expectation is 65 encounters per month with a focus on individuals aged 18-64 under or uninsured.



Patient Spotlight:

I thought I would start sharing a patient story with you each month to keep you all informed of the work I am doing in the community. This patient originally came to me last year with medical needs that he and I worked through with monetary assistance from MHM and the church. He went through a treatment program successfully with our help. He is a mobile mechanic and was able to save enough money to purchase a used van and 6 months of insurance. Since then, my company has assisted him with obtaining his vehicle registration and a new windshield. He is now up and running. He recently helped me with another client's vehicle repairs at no charge. He verbalizes that he has hope again and we have helped him renew his purpose in life. He is beyond grateful. Please keep this gentleman in your prayers and if you ever need a mobile mechanic I can get you in touch with him.

Zumba Gold Mondays 8 AM for the early birds and Wednesdays at 10 am



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



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 10 community members attend the meeting in June. The educational focus was "Our Heart & Kidneys: 'Til Death Do Us Part". Our next meeting is **July 14th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.



Vacation Bible School: I cannot express how much joy VBS brought to me. I was able to invite my patient's children, and they had an absolute blast learning about Jesus' love for them. Several of the children have expressed their desire to be baptized. It was amazing to see the kids brighten up and their lights were shining bright at the end of the week. Thank you very much for all the work that the volunteers put into VBS and for making it possible for these children to attend. We will be back next year!

July 2026 Newsletter



CLEAN SWEEP 2026

Round 2 will be happening at 10 am on June 26th at New Beginning's Church. We will be distributing cleaning supplies and sharing God's love with the community. We can always use volunteers to help with the distribution.

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



WN Food Pantry & Closet: Our emergency food pantry and closet serves many individuals each month. These community members feel welcomed and experience the love of Jesus through a hot meal, a cup of coffee, and a welcoming smile. Please consider adding a few items to your grocery shopping and dropping them by the church. **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 July: Generic protein shakes, small waters, Spam, sugar free sports drinks, feminine hygiene pads.

July 2026 Newsletter

Bicycle Ministry: Thank you to everyone who recently donated new and used bicycles. These bicycles are given to individuals who need transportation getting back and forth to work, grocery shopping, etc. I donated 3 bicycles in June so far. 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! Ask your friends, even the nail techs at your nail shop, I mentioned it in Lee Nail's and received 3 bicycle donations!



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...” Mark 10:45

“Serving Humanity to Honor God”



**Methodist
Healthcare
Ministries**

SERVING HUMANITY TO HONOR GOD

Small Group Study Opportunities



In person:
Sunday

Cross Talk on hold until mid August
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 8:00 am, Monday
& 10:00 am Wednesday

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

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 card games,
board games &
Mahjong!**

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS:

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, ON HOLD UNTIL MID AUGUST

Truth Seekers 9:30 am, Conf. 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

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY JULY 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



First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff

Reverend Melissa Lind

Pastor
pastor@fumcrockport.org

Madeline Brown

Director of First Learning Tree
info@fltree.org

Gabriela Galvan

Business Manager
FUMC@fumcrockport.org

Alfredo Gonzales

Custodian



Pam Jaschke

Administrative Assistant
admin@fumcrockport.org

Geralyn Matejcek

Wesley Nurse
gmatejcek@mhm.org

Valerie Goodrum

Children & Youth Director
ChildrenandYouth@fumcrockport.org