

# March 2026 Newsletter



Worshipping with the Rockport Community since 1870

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
*of Rockport*

VISIT US ONLINE [fumcrockport.org](http://fumcrockport.org)

[www.facebook.com/fumcrockport](http://www.facebook.com/fumcrockport)

As we walk through this Lenten season I would like to remind you that Lent is about a closer connection to Christ. As we carry the cross from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning, we are all on an intimate journey with Christ. May of us have given something up for Lent and others may have taken something on, no matter your personal journey the intention is to let go of the burdens you carry and draw Christ into a deeper relationship.

As we embark on this journey I will be taking 4 weeks to preach on “The Cardinal Virtues” found in C.S Lewis’s book Mere Christianity. The four virtues we will be touching on are Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude which are found in book 3 chapter 2 of Mere Christianity. C.S Lewis tells us the word “cardinal” has nothing to do with “Cardinals” in the Roman Church. It comes from a Latin word meaning “the hinge of a door.” These were called “cardinal” virtues because they are, as we should say, “pivotal.” These rules are pivotal moral standards to live by as Christians. I look forward to sharing these virtues from C.S Lewis!

Lastly, it was a joy to be able to spend a week up in Seattle with my daughter Karli and her husband Michael. I came home exhausted yet rejuvenated!

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  
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

# March 2026 Newsletter





**Anniversaries**

Ted & Kathy Norland  
March 23, 2019  
7 Years

---

**Birthdays**

Armando Dominquez—March 2  
Rachel Dominquez - March 2  
Jane Lechlitner - March 4  
Judy Rainey - March 6  
Mike Pfister—March 15  
Golda Tompkins—March 15  
Keaton Ogle—March 17  
Kyle Ogle—March 17  
Katie Ogle—March 17  
Taeko Zeidler—March 19  
Meaghan Greenway—March 23

---

# March 2026 Newsletter

---

## *FIRST LEARNING TREE*



# March 2026 Newsletter

## *FIRST LEARNING TREE*



David Murrah, who edits the Aransas County Historical Association's *Newsletter* provided us with this article from the latest issue about Pastor Mike McLaughlin's work in restoring historical markers in Rockport.

## HISTORY NEWS YOU CAN USE

# LOCAL VOLUNTEER REFURBISHING HISTORICAL MARKERS

by David Murrah



Mike McLaughlin poses with the historical marker he refurbished at the First United Methodist Church and provided a "before" picture of the plaque at the beginning of his work. The images below are of markers he restored at the Fulton-Bruhl House and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Photos by David Murrah and Mike McLaughlin.

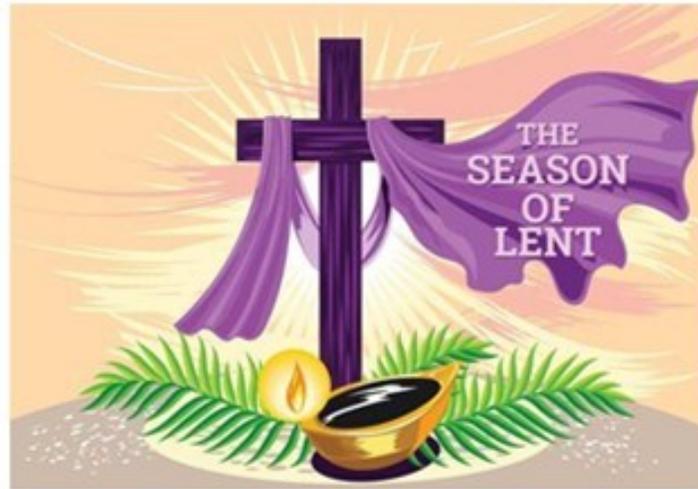


Aransas County's myriad of historical markers are getting a much-needed facelift, thanks to a retired pastor who lives in Rockport. And, he is doing it for free.

ACHS member Wayne White reported that he had seen a man working on one of the downtown state historical markers. Because Wayne lives in one of the oldest houses in Rockport, the 1868 Baylor-Norvell House on South Water Street, he needed his historical marker refurbished, so he stopped and asked the stranger how much he would charge to do the Baylor-Norvell marker. He was quite surprised when he was told there would be no charge.

Wayne later learned that the man was Mike McLaughlin, a long-time Rockport resident and retired Methodist pastor who devotes nearly all of his time to helping others through Rockport's First United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity, Castaways, and other local organizations, as well as traveling frequently to places like Saipan and Guam with UMCOR, which provides help and relief around the world. He serves as Manager of Habitat for Humanity of Aransas County.

Mike began his marker restoration project on the Methodist Church marker, utilizing guidelines provided by the Texas Historical Commission. He has also worked on plaques about the Aransas Hotel, Fulton Mansion, Rockport Pilot, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and several others. With a total of 58 historical markers in Aransas County, Mike has taken on a big job, and we owe him our thanks and encouragement for what he is doing for our community, and for what he is doing around the world.



**Events for the Lenten Season**

**Palm Sunday - March 29th**

Presentation by the Children

One Service 10:45 am

Potluck Sunday

**Maundy Thursday - April 2nd**

Cantata 5:30 pm

**Easter Sunrise Service - April 5th**

7:00 am - Paul Klemm Preaching

Rockport Festival Grounds

**Easter Sunday Service-April 5th**

One Service 10:45 am

FUMC Rockport

## *Music News*



On Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for a special service as our choir presents *It Is Finished* by Mary McDonald. This beautiful cantata walks us through the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry, inviting us to slow down, listen carefully, and remember the depth of His love.

For this service, singers from across our community have joined with our choir, making this evening even more meaningful. We will also share in Holy Communion as we remember the Last Supper and prepare our hearts for Easter morning. We hope you will come and be part of this sacred time together as a church family.

One of the gifts of our church is the incredible music offered each week by our band at the 10:45 service. We are blessed with talented musicians who work hard to lead us in worship.

But worship was never meant to be a performance.

As we continue to incorporate more familiar songs into our services, we want to invite you to do more than listen to them. We invite you to join in. If you know the song, sing it out with us from the pews. If it's new to you, feel free to clap along and let the rhythm carry you. Worship is something we do together.

And here's something else: if there's a song that has special meaning to you — something you'd love to hear in worship — please come talk to any member of the band. We may not be able to play everything immediately, but we would love to hear your ideas and do our best to make it happen.

Our hope is that the music we share doesn't just fill the room — but fills every voice and every heart.

Paul Klemm  
Director of Music Ministries

## Castaways

We are rocking and rolling under a mound of donations. Come help us sort and price and move out our merchandise to help the church. Currently, we are blessed with two FUMC Winter Texans to ease our work. Sheryl Quick and John Jefferies are always on task and dependable as they cashier and work the back donation door. Also, helping out are Marcia Bronson and Shirley Krajewski from Minnesota and Missouri. We thrive on their support and surely notice the difference in our output and sales. To our regular church family, please consider donating a couple of hours a week at Castaways to help your church. Just show up on Wednesday morning or anytime Thursday and say "Here I am!". **Blessings to all, Annette Hegen**

---

# 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](mailto:rockportfumcprayerteam@gmail.com)*



---

## March 2026 Newsletter

---



### Wesley Nurse News Flash

Happy March Church Family and Friends,

I am continuing to see many patients each month for different needs. I had 81 patient encounters in January and around 70 in February. The focus in February was helping individuals obtain cell phones, driver's licenses, and birth certificates. It is very difficult to accomplish much without those items.

We recently took the Wesley Nurse program to the Aransas County Health Fest and had so much fun. Thank you to the Health Ministry Team members for volunteering. We gave out MHM swag and promoted the Wesley Nurse programs. Zumba Gold and Seniorcise classes were held at the Health Fest, and we have had new members join the classes since then.



Currently, exercise classes are made up of mostly community members. I would really love to see more of the church members join us. We not only exercise, but we also get to socialize, support, and care for one another. Remember there are modifications for every fitness level. Please consider joining us soon!

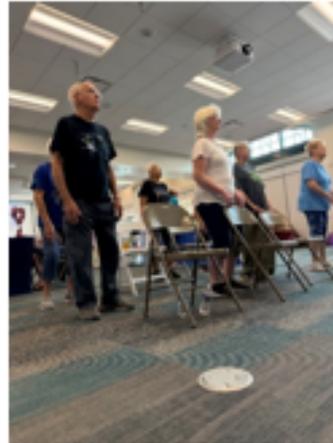
**Zumba Gold** Monday and Wednesdays 10 am-11 am Fellowship Hall.

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

---

## March 2026 Newsletter

---



### 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CLEAN SWEEP 2026

We have partnered with First Learning Tree for our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Clean Sweep 2026 project. We are collecting cleaning supplies and I will be identifying 30-40 families to bless with these items. We will collect supplies through March 25<sup>th</sup> with distribution to happen on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see attached shopping list if you want to participate.

See Shopping List on Page 14



Our emergency food pantry and closet served many individuals in February. **Frozen TV dinners** are restocked thanks to a special church member. 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.

---

## March 2026 Newsletter

---

**Special request for March: Tuna, generic protein shakes, peanut butter, and deodorant**

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 6 individuals attend the meeting in February. Erica our MHM counselor presented the program about Mental Well Being. Our next meeting is **March 10th at 12:00 noon** in the Recreation Room.



**Bicycle ministry** continues to be a critical portion of the Wesley Nurse programs. **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. If you have a gently used bicycle, William Wallace, has 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.

### **Coming in March 2026:**

Dementia/Alzheimer's Community Forum education class

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



**Wedding Time:** Your Wesley Nurse will be out of the office until March 4<sup>th</sup> celebrating the marriage of my son, Mason, and my amazing new daughter-in-law, Cierra.

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

***“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” – Romans 12:13***

## ***Clean Sweep 2026***

**Cleaning Supply Drive**

**Deadline March 25th**

**Drop off supplies at First Learning Tree  
or FUMC of Rockport**

***Love in Action Starts at Home***

*“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” – 1 John 3:17*



### **Supplies Needed**

***Paper Products:*** Toilet Paper, Paper Towels

***Soaps & Detergents:*** Hand Soap, Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent

***Disinfecting & Cleaning Products:*** Disinfecting Wipes, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Glass Cleaner, Powder Cleaner & All Purpose Cleaner

***Cleaning Tools:*** Broom, Mop, Toilet Brush, Sponges , Microfiber Cloths & Cleaning Gloves

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fumcrokport.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 [fumcrokport.org/give](http://fumcrokport.org/give)
- Mail to PO Box 1045, Rockport TX 78382



**APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TUESDAY, MARCH 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](mailto:admin@fumcrokport.org)



**Friday  
March 6th**

**First United Methodist—Rockport Church Staff**

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

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

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

**Alfredo Gonzales**  
Custodian



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

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

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

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