


First United Methodist Church
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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas
September, 2021



*“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.”
(Philippians 1:30)*

I have a confession to make. I’ve been struggling with what to write in this month’s newsletter article. Things have been busy, crazy, complicated. Situations and circumstances have been heavy, difficult, and sad. There have been disappointments and unexpected victories. In the midst of the heavy, complicated, and sad, there has been beauty, generous gifts of friendship and resources. God was faithful and provided in every circumstance. It’s a lot – not necessarily bad – just – a lot.

As a matter of spiritual discipline, I decided to begin with gratitude. No matter the circumstances or exhaustion, God is ALWAYS worthy to be praised. So, I started making a list of things for which I was grateful. Almost immediately, I felt the Lord correct me. Not things, people. The people in my life, in our lives, are more important than things. The Philippians scripture came to mind and I started thinking.

Thinking about you. Yes, you (even and especially if we don’t know each other yet.) I’ve been thinking about our Edinburg FUMC community, our extended community online, our long-distance Winter Texans and other friends. I’ve been thinking about you, wondering how you are – how you really are, wondering how we can better be in relationship with one another, praying that God will bless you and provide for you, and giving God thanks for you.

I’m thankful for those who have been faithfully worshipping online on Sundays and throughout the week. I’m thankful for those who share the service with their friends and family. We have doubled our “attendance” (in person and online vs. in person only in 2019) as a result of being able to live stream the worship service. I am thankful for those who have persevered with Zoom bible studies and Sunday School. Did you know, we have members who call other members every week so that they can

participate in Sunday School and in worship because they don’t have internet? I am thankful.

I am thankful for those who have begun to return to in person worship and studies. One of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do was try to lead Sunday worship, preach, through a video camera with no congregation present. Something extra special stirs in me each week as I get to see and hear the congregation pray out loud together, sing together, and bless one another. I am thankful.

I am thankful for those who have made sure that we were able to have worship and study every week. I’m thankful for our media techs, musicians, readers, and teachers who never stopped leading or teaching whether we were in person or not. I am thankful for those who gave generously whether they were able to come to worship or watch online. I’m thankful for those who help reimagine church, ministry, and being community.

I’m thankful for each of you, for all the good and sacrificial things you have done and continue to do that no one sees or knows about. I am thankful.

Blessings,
Pastor Michelle



Food Pantry



Pantry Fellowship

Here's a photo of our wonderful helpers from troop 73...on Saturday, August 21. Not pictured, but here on Saturday to help with distribution: Cindy Bishop, Chris Cowan, Lynn Noe, Marty Englebrecht, Michelle Vernone and our Holy Spirit.

Those who couldn't be there on Saturday, but helped us pack groceries into bags on Thursday and Friday: Linda Davis, Cathy Bonner, Ki Brush. Our thanks to all who donated food, funds and prayers to make this happen. Our next distribution will be on September 18, Saturday.



Community Bazaar and Rummage Sale Dec. 4

Do you have something to sell? Art, antiques, new, used, or handcrafted items, a service? Reserve a space in our parking lot for \$20 or \$30! You can set up a table or booth and make some money with other vendors (7:30am-3pm)!! Contact Susan Wiesehan at (956) 330-7368 or sign up at the church office! Also, start saving items for the church rummage sale (7:30am-noon). We will take working appliances, electronics, gently used clothes and shoes, furniture, linens, kitchen items, knick-knacks, tools, children's toys and books, etc.! You can start bringing your donations to fellowship hall on Nov. 21!

United Methodist Campus Ministries ***SPIRIT DAY!***

Aces BBQ - Edinburg
601 S 10th Ave
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-405-3050

BBQ, Dinner, Hamburgers, Lunch, Sandwiches

MENTION US for 15% back to UMCM

2nd Wednesdays each Month 2021!

May 12th June 9th July 14th Aug 11th Sept 8th

Oct 13th Nov 10th Dec 8th



In His Steps

We are in the third week of August as I write this update to our campaign for the 2021-2022 (our 27th campaign) School Year. I am so happy to say that in the month of August we have raised **\$1,610**.

This congregation is truly **stepping up** to help us help school children in Edinburg. Please continue to pray, to consider, and then, hopefully, to give. Thank you.

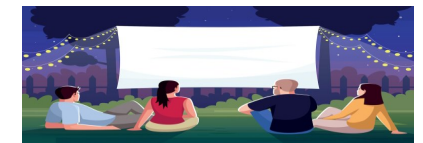


From The HUB

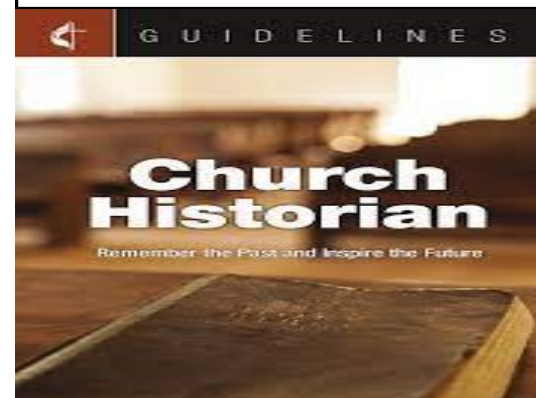
We're getting ready for our 3rd year of fall plantings at the farm and excited for the return of cooler weather vegetables. Volunteer hours are still Saturday morning 8 am-12 pm for anyone who wants to come by and see the latest progress!

Movie In the Prayer Garden

We will hold off having a movie in September, but plan to have one in **OCTOBER!** What's your favorite "Halloween" movie???



~Office closed Sept. 6th in observance of Labor Day~



Are you interested in our church and local history? Are you a gifted organizer? We are looking for a church historian (or team of church historians) to sort through, organize, and help us find ways to present pictures and documents that tell EFUMC's story. If you would be interested in being a part of tending our legacy, please contact Pastor Michelle

~August Memorials~

Given by Bennie Kay Carlson in memory of Pauline Gawlik perpetuated in the Shoe Bank, In His Steps.

