

First United Methodist Church
3707 W. State Highway 107
Edinburg, TX 78539-7782

Rev. Sarah Solis, Pastor
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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am
Address Services Requested



The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas



October 2026

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5, NRSVUE

Dear Edinburg First Family,

In late September, I gathered with a group of pastors in Kerrville, TX, for my first Residency in Ministry retreat as part of my journey toward ordination. For two days, I sat around a table with the eight other pastors working toward ordination, our two retreat facilitators, and the nine ordained mentors who will walk alongside us for the next two years. It was a room filled with folks with graduate and doctoral degrees in the Bible, theology, and ministry leadership, and if I counted the years of ministry experience in that room, it would probably exceed 200 years. As you might expect, we talked about the practical details of the program: our assignments, our schedules, and the topics we'll study together. But most of our time was filled with what you might not expect. All twenty of us shared the story of our call to ministry.

We heard twenty very different stories of folks with different gifts, backgrounds, and ministry hopes, but one thing was apparent. We were all people who came to experience the transformative love of God in such a way that we could think of no other way to spend our lives but in service of this transforming love. After the retreat, I drove through the Texas hill country on my way to Austin. I had never seen our Texas vineyards before! I was reminded of Jesus's words to his disciples in John 15: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." It doesn't matter how long we've been "working" for the Lord, how much we know, or how many skills we have acquired. We can do nothing if we are not connected to the love and grace of our Good God. The branches of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength wither apart from the vine of God's love.

John Wesley and the leaders of the early Methodist movement knew this, and so they established three general rules to guide life within Methodist communities: do no harm, do good, and attend to all the ordinances of God, the practices through which God meets us. We can think of that last rule as "Stay in love with God," and that is the name of our worship series through the beginning of Advent. But how do we stay in love with God? Together we'll explore some practices: Holy Communion, prayer, song, and Scripture, among others. If you've been around church, you might have heard of spiritual disciplines. Maybe you're like me, and you have felt a lot of pressure around these practices. What if they aren't a checklist, but invitations? What if they are ways to stay in love with God, ways to connect to the person of God?

Any good friend or partner knows that relationships require intentionality: taking time to talk and spend quality time with each other. It's the same with God. God longs to spend time with you. This connection is the source of all that we get to do. So over the next six weeks, I invite you to choose one small practice, such as five minutes of prayer each morning or a daily psalm or putting on a worship song on your daily commute, and try it. How might you be refreshed and transformed as you abide, as you stay and make your home, in the source of all love?

Just a branch with you,
Pastor Sarah

October Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- October - Pumpkin Patch Open
- October 4th - World Communion Day
- October 5th - Bag Rice and Beans, 1 PM
- October 9th - Pumpkin Bread Sales Begins
- October 11th - Pastor Sarah Appreciation Potluck
- October 15th - Bag Dry Goods, 1 PM
- October 17th - Food Distribution, 8 AM
- October 24th - Trunk or Treat, 5-7 PM



New Mailing Address

Please be sure to use our new address for any mail, correspondence, or church-related items:

3707 W. State Highway 107
Edinburg, TX 78539

Grief Support Group

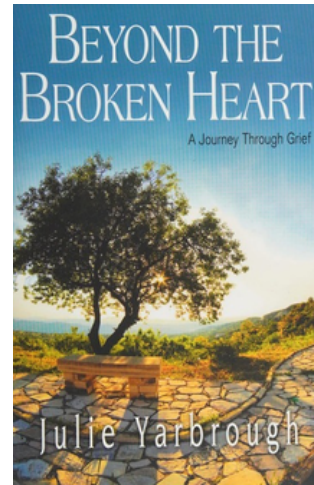
How do you understand grief when your heart is broken by the death of a loved one? To survive and live forward, those who grieve must find answers. Beyond the Broken Heart is a support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one and are in need of a community to share the loneliness of grief. Scriptural wisdom will be used to explore the issues of grief and offer spiritual encouragement for a life of renewed hope and joy. The group will also offer some specific coping strategies to guide the way back to fullness of life. if you are grieving the death of a loved one, please join us on the journey through grief.

Starting Date: October 7th, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Sunday School Room

For more information, contact our office at (956)381-9806



Server Appreciation

Blessings to our September Communion servers:

Larry and Sharon Kaiser, Will and Dora Pagel, Audrey Garcia, Kim Wilke, Abigail Udayan and Tina Gall (welcome home)!! Thank you for helping Pastor Sarah serve God's people at Jesus' table.

Blessings to our Liturgists Readers for September:

Lynn Beeching, Lee Hisey, Mark and Lynn Noe, Marty and Barbara Englebrecht, and Ricky and Marilyn Lara.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV

Thanks be to GOD.

What's up with the HUB?

Hello FUMC family!

We here at the Hub can't believe it is October already. We have squash getting ready to harvest and cucumbers and okra following close behind. Farmers markets will resume in the beginning of November and we can not wait to start sharing our produce with the community again.

We have also started our workshop series again, every 2nd Saturday from 10am-12pm. This upcoming workshop will be October 10th and we will be covering soil health! We are blessed and pray that this year bring us abundance in everything we do!

-Maria Gonzalez-Teran



Our Feathered Neighbors: Barn Swallows

As I write this in late September, we are still awaiting our first cool front, but fall migration is well underway anyway. You may see swallows, which eat flying insects, in flight or perched on a roadside wire. They need to leave the "cold North" before the chillier weather depletes their food supply. The easiest to recognize is the Barn Swallow, with its metallic purple-blue upperparts, burnt orange underparts, and forked tail. Although a few Barn Swallows winter here, many fly all the way to South America, along with the richly-colored Purple Martins, also in the swallow family. Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows also continue farther south. Species that often winter here include the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Cave Swallow. Think of them on those rare, cold winter days, when bugs are hard to come by. Swallows are fun to watch but challenging to identify, but keep trying and use your field guide or Merlin app to help!

Regards and good birding,
Tim Brush

