

First United Methodist Church

3707 West University

Edinburg, TX 78539-7782

Rev. Sarah Solis, Pastor

Office: (956) 381-9806

Fax: (956) 381-9807

Email: office@edinburgfumc.org

Web: www.edinburgfumc.org

Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am

Address Services Requested

Non Profit Orgnization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1



The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

September 2025



“How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you,”

Psalm 139:17-18

Dear Edinburg FUMC family,

September is here, and that officially marks two months of our journey together! I want to sincerely thank you for your warm welcome, kindness, and all your help as I have stepped into this role as your pastor. It has been such a joy to get to know you more deeply, to see your faces and your Facebook comments during Sunday worship, to share meals with you, and to chat over coffee at Coffee Hours at The Grind. A few of you have asked how long I’ll continue with Coffee Hours, and I’ve decided to make it a practice. So, I’ll be at The Grind every Thursday morning from 9AM to 12PM to offer a space of fellowship. I hope to see you there!

As we settle back into the rhythms of our church, we come to them as a kind of beginning. We come to them with new ideas, new faces, new ways of reaching out into our community. This is not newness for newness’ sake, but we embrace the creativity of the Holy Spirit so that we can live into God’s call to be a kin-dom community where all belong, where strangers become family in and through Christ. Newness can be exciting, but it can also be dizzying. I bring you the words of the psalmist from Psalm 139, “How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.” I am still with you. No matter what, friends, God is with us, and we are with God.

It feels like life in the church is coming into full swing again. The praise band is back, and we eagerly await the choir’s start. Our Shoe Bank campaign will start this week, and the Shoe Bank committee has many exciting ideas to carry on this legacy of service to our community. Campus Ministry celebrated the beginning of the school year and UTRGV’s first-ever football game on Saturday, August 30. We look forward to building deeper relationships with our college students at cooking classes, chapel worship, and Bible studies. And—our Wednesday night Bible study is officially re-starting Wednesday, September 3! We’ll meet at 6:30PM for food and fellowship, and our study time will begin at 7PM. Over the next six weeks, we’ll be studying the Gospel of Mark. It seems fitting that for a month of beginnings, the Gospel of Mark opens in this way: “The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah: Look, I am sending a messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

God is at work in and through our EFUMC family. I see this spark of God’s transforming love every time you embrace each other in Sunday worship, every time I see you gather to pack rice, beans, carrots, and onions, every time I hear that you called to check on a loved one, and every time I hear the giggle of a child in our worship space. There is so much life here, and there is so much life to come!

As we embrace our church rhythms and lean into the creativity of new beginnings, let us remember that God is with us and we are with God. When your calendar or to-do list feels overwhelming, turn to this breath prayer:

*Inhale, God is with me.
Exhale, I am with God.
This is the promise and the hope, friends.*



Breathing with God-With-Us,
Pastor Sarah



September Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 PM: Bible Study Begins
- Monday, September 8, 1:00 PM: Bag Beans & Rice, Freeze Chicken
- Sunday, September 14, 11:45 AM: “In His Steps” Shoe Bank Lasagna Lunch Fundraiser
- Thursday, September 18, 1:00 PM: Prepare Distribution Bags
- Saturday, September 20, 8:30 AM: Monthly Food Distribution







Shoe Bank

Yes, it is time to hear about our “In His Steps” Shoe Bank campaign for the 2025-2026 school year. This is our 31st Year!!!! This congregation should be very proud to have kept this mission going for so many years. Once, I had someone ask me how much money we had given over the years, and I was embarrassed to say that I didn’t know. I guess we could go back to the treasurer for 30 years to find out.

Last year, we estimated that we hadover given the school district over \$165,000 over the last 30 years. Then, last year, I challenged us to consider donating \$30,000 to the school district. I am so amazed and humbled that we did that! We gave the district \$32,570. We have a balance of about \$4,000 that I will be sending to the district this week to get them started.

The reason for our blessing is you. You have given to this cause all year long, not just these months of August and September. Some of you do this regularly, some on a rare occasion, or to honor or to remember someone dear to you. Every little donation adds up. We are truly blessed. The only money that came to us this year that was not from the congregation was a donation from the Rotary Club. We spoke to them last January and they immediately helped us. If you know of any groups that might help, please let me or Pastor Sarah know. We would be happy to go and give a program on the Shoe Bank.

This year, we are having a Lasagna Lunch after church on September 14th. Please make plans to come and join us. The Shoe Bank committee and helpers will provide the food. We are asking that you make a donation to the Shoe Bank and come eat with us.

The “In His Steps” Shoe Bank is a second-mile offering. After you consider your gifts to the church, this is above and beyond. Please mark your gift “Shoe Bank” so that every dollar you give will go to the purchase of new shoes for Edinburg school children.

I have a hard time as a good steward emptying our coffers, but as I am often reminded, we, as a people of God, need to have faith and trust that He will provide. If we want to “Walk in His steps,” we need to remember Christ’s words to take care of those in need.



Jackie Billings, member of Shoe Bank
Walking For Him, By Walking Like Him

EMBRACING SELF-LOVE:

How do you embrace Self-Love?

- **By being Kind to Yourself:** Even on your darkest days, do your best to show yourself, even in the smallest ways!
- **Set Healthy Boundaries:** Learn to say “No” and prioritize your needs. Establishing boundaries helps protect your emotional well-being and allows you to focus on what truly matters to you!
- **Nurture Your Body:** Physical Health is closely linked to mental well-being. Ensure you eat nutritious foods, exercise regularly and get enough sleep.

Remember developing self-love in your life is a journey that requires patience and practice! By practicing some of these tips in your daily life, you can foster a deeper understanding as well as appreciation for yourself! Self-love is NOT about perfection; it’s about progress and nurturing a **POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOURSELF!!!!**



What’s up with the HUB?

September is an exciting month at the Hub of Prosperity as we begin planting for the fall season! Squash, cucumbers, okra, and corn are some of the crops going into the ground, and we can’t wait to see them flourish in the weeks ahead. We’re also happy to announce a workshop on Saturday September 13th all about how to start your own garden— perfect for anyone looking to dig in and grow this season. As always, we’re grateful for your prayers and support as we nurture both the farm and our community.

Have a great day,
Maria Gonzalez



Shoe Bank Fun Facts

- We started in 1994.
- We started with cards valued at \$15 each.
- We evolved from a Disciple Bible Study Class.
- Since its inception, we have donated approximately \$200,000 to the Edinburg School District for shoes.
- In year 29, we provided the district with \$12,000.
- In year #30, 23 gave the district \$30,000.
- The district had 41 schools, 4 high schools, 6 middle schools, 31 elementary schools, 1 virtual school, 1 alternative school, and 1 credit recovery campus.
- The district is 945 square miles in size.
- The district has over 33,000 students.
- You can donate anytime.
- The district serves students from 3 Years old through 12th grade



✨Heavenly Humor ✨

How do we know God loves coffee?
hoping something will collapse.
Because Hebrews! (He-brews)



Spirit Sunday School Class

If you have been thinking about new school year, new routines, etc., then join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30-10:15 for Bible study discussion. Anytime is a great time to come, but September the class will be starting a new short study.

Week 1, 9/3: Mark 1-2

- Day 1: Mark 1:1-8
- Day 2: Mark 1:9-15
- Day 3: Mark 1:16-45
- Day 4: Mark 2:1-17
- Day 5: Mark 2:18-28

Week 2, 9/10: Mark 3-5

- Day 1: Mark 3:1-12
- Day 2: Mark 3:13-34
- Day 3: Mark 4:1-20
- Day 4: Mark 4:21-34
- Day 5: Mark 4:35-5:43

Week 3, 9/17: Mark 6:1-9:1

- Day 1: Mark 6:1-29
- Day 2: Mark 6:30-56
- Day 3: Mark 7:1-30
- Day 4: Mark 7:31-8:26
- Day 5: Mark 8:27-9:1

Week 4, 9/24: Mark 9:2-10:52

- Day 1: Mark 9:2-29
- Day 2: Mark 9:30-50
- Day 3: Mark 10:1-16
- Day 4: Mark 10:17-31
- Day 5: Mark 10:32-52

Week 5, 10/1: Mark 11-13

- Day 1: Mark 11:1-11
- Day 2: Mark 11:12-33
- Day 3: Mark 12:1-27
- Day 4: Mark 12:28-44
- Day 5: Mark 13

Week 6, 10/8: Mark 14-16

- Day 1: Mark 14:1-21
- Day 2: Mark 14:22-72
- Day 3: Mark 15:1-20
- Day 4: Mark 15:21-47
- Day 5: Mark 16

The Gospel of Mark: A 6-Week Study

