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

November Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- November 1st- All Saints Sunday
- November 2nd- Bag Rice and Beans 1PM
- November 8th- Friendsgiving with The Hub
- November 11th - Veterans Day-Office Closed
- November 19th- Bag Dry Goods 1PM
- November 21st- Food Distribution 8AM
- November 22nd-Christ the King Sunday
  -Hanging of the Greens after service
- November 25-27th- Office Closed -Thanksgiving
- November 29th - First Sunday of Advent



HIS HANDS
EFUMC FOOD PANTRY

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

The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas



November 2026

Dear Edinburg First Family,

Maybe you're a little bit like me, and as soon as October rolls around, you're already thinking about the Thanksgiving dinner table. A confession: I absolutely already have a grocery list and a detailed cooking schedule for Thanksgiving Day. This, of course, rolls into thoughts about Christmas: the decorating, the gifts, the meal, the "will we make tamales or buy them this year?" It is so easy to get caught up in "making the holidays happen." It is so easy to get lost in our well-intentioned desires to make the holidays meaningful and beautiful that we miss the gift of these days.

This month, what if we were intentional about our gratitude? I recognize, too, that the holidays can be a very difficult time for many people for many reasons. Gratitude isn't a way of glossing over the very real struggles in our personal lives or our community, but a spiritual practice of gratitude can help to ground us in the very real truth that God is with us no matter what we are facing. In worship, we'll be exploring gratitude. We'll start with giving thanks to God for love that never ends in our All Saints Sunday service. Then, we'll give thanks to God for the gift of community as we look forward to our Friendsgiving Luncheon with The Hub and Methodist Healthcare Ministry Partners. In the following week, we'll think about our gratitude for the calling that we have received to bless others as we have been blessed. We'll wrap up the church calendar year by giving thanks to Christ, our Shepherd King. Be sure to stick around after service on November 22 as we decorate for Advent and Christmas!



So how do we carry on the practice of gratitude this month outside of Sunday service? In this newsletter, you'll find a guide for how you and your family can weave in a practice of gratitude throughout your day. Try one practice, or try them all at different points this month. You might start with three things before bed, a thank-you note to someone who has blessed you, or a prayer of thanks at the doorway as you leave or come home. My hope is that these small, simple acts will slow us down enough to notice the gifts already in front of us. Even in the middle of grocery lists and tamale decisions, God is present at every table and in every moment. Even if we feel like we'd rather the holidays just pass us by, God is with us working in the seen and unseen for our good, and we are blessed to have a church family to walk alongside us.

With gratitude for each one of you,
Pastor Sarah

What's up with the HUB?

Hello EFUMC Family!

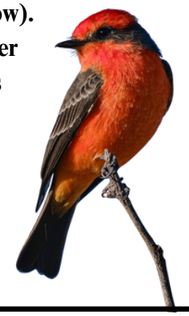
As we near the end of the year, things are getting busy here at the Hub of Prosperity! We feel especially blessed to celebrate Thanksgiving with you all on November 8th and are looking forward to sharing this special time together. We're also excited to bring back our farmers market on November 14th from 10am-12pm, we are located on the side of the road on Monmack behind the church. We will be starting this market off with squash, cucumbers, okra and more! We will also be hosting a native plant and beneficial insect workshop on that day (10am-12pm) to teach the community more about the important plants and creatures that support our gardens and farms. Another exciting addition to the Hub this month will be a new purple martin birdhouse near the church entrance, made possible through the generous support and donation from the Brush Family. We are so grateful for the continued support of our EFUMC family and can't wait to share all that this new season has in store!

With love,
Maria



Our Feathered Neighbors: Vermilion Flycatcher

As October turns into November, more winter birds are arriving in the Valley. Although some are modestly colored or hide in dense vegetation, the Vermilion Flycatcher is the opposite. Adult males are bright red, mixed with brownish black, and perch in trees or roadside wires in open areas (Females and young birds are not so bright, and can be challenging to identify, but they usually have some reddish or salmon patches below). Often seen on golf courses or other parks with scattered trees near water, this small flycatcher sallies forth out to catch flying insects. Although they can be seen throughout the year across much of South Texas, in most of the Valley they are winter birds.
Here's hoping you see one this season!



Regards and good birding,
Tim Brush

The Grateful Heart: Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline

The more we look for God's goodness, the more we see it. Gratitude is one way we can help ourselves see the movement of God in our lives. Through the month of November, I invite you into a practice of gratitude. The simple practices below take only a few minutes a day. You can pick one or two every day.

Gratitude for God's Presence
God is with us in the ordinary moments of the day, not only on Sunday mornings. These practices help us notice God in the midst of our daily lives.

- **Three Before Bed. Each night, name three moments where you saw God at work that day. A kind word, a safe drive, a sunset, an answered prayer. Write them in a notebook or say them aloud.**
- **The Doorway Prayer. Each time you walk through your front door, pause and say, "Thank you, God, for being here with me."**
- **Grace Before Every Meal. If you already pray before dinner, add breakfast and lunch. Before praying, name one specific thing you're thankful for, not just the food.**
- **A Psalm a Week. Read Psalm 100, 103, 136, or 145 slowly, once a day for a week. Underline every reason the psalmist gives for thanking God.**
- **Thankful Walk. Take a 10-minute walk with no phone. Thank God for everything you see, hear, and smell.**

Gratitude for Others
Paul often opened his letters by telling people he thanked God for them (Philippians 1:3). Gratitude grows when it is spoken out loud.

- **One Note a Week. Write a handwritten thank-you note each week of November. Consider a teacher, coworker, family member, neighbor, or someone who shaped your faith.**
- **Pray by Name. Choose one person each day and thank God for them specifically. Then send them a quick text: "I thanked God for you today."**
- **Thank the Unseen. Thank someone whose work often goes unnoticed: a custodian, mailman, nursery volunteer, or HEB cashier.**
- **Church Family Thanks. Before you leave worship each Sunday, thank one person by name for something they did or who they are.**

A Prayer for the Month
Gracious God, open our eyes to see Your hand in every part of our day. Thank You for Your presence that never leaves us. Thank You for the people You have placed in our lives. When thanks comes easily, keep us humble. When it comes hard, hold us close. Make us a grateful people, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Server Appreciation

Blessings to our October Communion Servers:
Gerry and Lori Rodriguez, Kathy Salazar, Ronny Villarreal, Debbie Ontiveros, and Gina Childress.
Thank you for helping Pastor Sarah serve God's people at Jesus' table!

Blessings to our October Liturgists Readers:
Uttam & Sheeba Udayan, Robert & Maria Cooley, Briana Zuroske, Anival & Sandra Henrichson, Mark Noe, and Tina Gall.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NIV