

First United Methodist Church
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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am
Address Services Requested

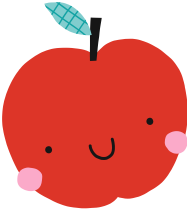
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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

August 2026



“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,”
Matthew 11:28, NRSVUE

Dear Edinburg First Family,

I’ve had The Porter’s Gate song “Come, All Who Are Weary” on repeat this week. It takes Jesus’s own words in Matthew 11:28-30 and turns them into an invitation you can sing: to the weary, to the striving, to anyone whose shoulders are tired—come, lean in, lay it down. The melody itself feels like exhaling. It’s the kind of song that slows your breathing down just by listening to it.

That invitation comes straight from Scripture: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30, NRSVUE). In Jesus’s day, every rabbi had a “yoke”—a particular way of interpreting the law and shaping a student’s life. Many of those yokes were heavy: rule stacked on rule, expectation stacked on expectation, with little room for anyone to fall short. Jesus offers something different. Not less to carry, necessarily, but a gentler way of carrying it—a yoke shaped by grace instead of perfectionism, one that actually fits.

This is what it means to rest in God’s presence. Not simply to stop moving, but to trust—all the way down—that we are cared for, redeemed, and restored by a God who is fundamentally good and kind. Rest isn’t the absence of a full calendar. It’s the confidence that even in the middle of carpool lines, lesson plans, doctor’s appointments, and meetings that run long, we belong to Someone who is holding us.

One of the hallmarks of the good news of Jesus Christ is the new community Christ forms among us—the kingdom, or as some love to call it, the kin-dom of God: a place where everyone belongs, where relationships matter more than performance, where healing and wholeness of heart, mind, and spirit are the point rather than the exception. This is la familia de Dios, the family of God. These are communities of rest. And I find myself wondering: whatever role we hold this year—parent, teacher, student, coworker, neighbor, pastor—how might we become places of rest for the people around us?

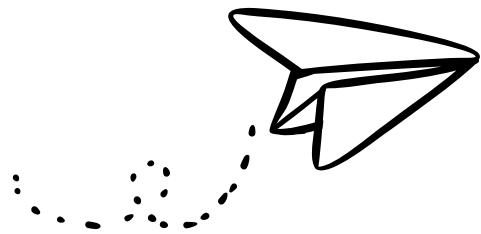
As summer winds down and the school year’s busy-ness rolls back in, I invite us to practice this together in a tangible way. On Sunday, August 16, we will hold our Back to School Service of Blessing. Students, teachers, and school staff of every kind are invited to bring a school item you’ll use this year—a backpack, a lesson plan book, a laptop, an ID badge—to be blessed as you head into the year. Invite a friend, a neighbor, a coworker. Let’s send our whole community into this school year carrying the blessing of Christ within a community of care and rest!

Descansando en la gracia de Dios / Resting in God’s grace,
Pastor Sarah

August Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- Wednesdays August 5th & 12th at 6:30 PM - Bible Study @ Parsonage
- Monday, August 3rd - Bag Beans and Rice, Freeze Chicken
- Thursday, August 13th at 1 PM - Prepare Grocery Bags
- Saturday, August 15th at 8:30 AM - Food Distribution
- Sunday, August 16th - Back to School Service of Blessing





Server Appreciation

Many thanks to our July Communion Servers:

Bruce and Ida Bush, Mark and Lynn Noe, and Chris Cowan.

Thank you for helping Pastor Sarah serve God's people at Jesus' table.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in men." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV



SERVING HUMANITY TO HONOR GOD

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating access to health care for the uninsured through direct services, community partnerships and strategic grant-making in 74 counties across South Texas. Learn more at www.mhm.org.

Meet your local Wesley Nurse

A Wesley Nurse is a faith-based community nurse that uses a holistic approach - mind, body and spirit - to help the community in many ways, such as free services that encourage a healthy lifestyle for all members of the community.

The Wesley Nurse program spans 80 sites throughout South Texas and is Methodist Healthcare Ministries' largest geographic outreach program.

While the Wesley Nurse program is a component of Methodist Healthcare Ministries' ecumenical outreach and located within churches, it does not teach a particular set of denominational beliefs. Programs are offered to groups or on an individual basis.

At Methodist Healthcare Ministries, our goal is to help every patient thrive. We do this by listening carefully and putting each person's needs at the center of their health care. Whether it's physical or emotional pain and stress, our compassionate team works together to help them live healthier lives.

Programs and services include:

- Health education
- Individualized diabetes education
- Diabetic supplies
- Referral assistance
- Facilitation of resources
- Wellness classes

For more information, contact:

Venisse Fuentes, RN
3707 W University Dr
Edinburg, TX 78539
(726) 900-6587

Please call to schedule an appointment.

Rev 01

It is Shoe Bank time!

School is getting ready to start, parents are looking at school supply lists, and everyone is wondering how much jeans—and shoes—are going to cost this year. Every student needs a good pair of shoes to start the year off right.

For 31 years, Edinburg First United Methodist Church (FUMC) has helped provide new shoes to students in need across the Edinburg School District. Through the In His Steps Shoe Bank, we provide a \$25 one-time-use gift card to students who need it most. Teachers, aides, and volunteers with the Parental Involvement Program help identify these children. You've likely heard the stories—students coming to school in shoes that are too big, too small, or completely worn out.

Those gift cards are redeemed at Shoe Carnival on 10th Street in McAllen.

Because of generous support over the last three decades, Edinburg FUMC has provided thousands of pairs of shoes for local students. Supporting this mission is one of the simplest ways you can help our community: Give financially and write "SHOE BANK" on the memo line of your check. Any amount helps!

We have designated August as In His Steps Shoe Bank Month. Your contributions will go a long way in ensuring local students step into the new school year with confidence.



SHOE CARNIVAL

Our Feathered Neighbors: Long-Billed & Curve-Billed Thrashers

This month we get "two for one", as we look at Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers. Both spend much of their time on the ground, poking around for insects, seeds and fruits. They often use their bill to toss leaf litter and sticks around--thrashing! Long-billed Thrashers spend more time under cover, in thick vegetation such as our church's treeline, or commonly at local parks and refuges. Their brownish gray back and head and streaking underneath help them blend in, while the Curve-billed Thrasher's light grayish buff color suits them for open, sunny areas. Curve-billed Thrashers are common at the church's treeline and the HUB farm, and even sometimes in residential neighborhoods. Both thrashers are interesting year-round residents with beautiful songs; well worth the effort to observe!



(Long-Billed Thrasher)

(Curved-Billed Thrasher)

Help Serve On Sundays!

We warmly invite our church family to take part in this simple act of fellowship by helping provide light snacks for our services. If you're able, bringing items such as pastries is a wonderful way to serve and bless others. This year, we will be using an online (virtual) calendar as an easy way to sign up. A QR code has been created and will be shared during morning announcements, posted near the coffee machines and snack table and placed next to this announcement. To sign up, simply open your phone's camera, point it at the QR code, and click the link that appears. The calendar link will also be shared in our group chat as a reminder, or you may speak directly with Dora Pagel for assistance or help signing up. Donations of creamers are always welcome and truly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for the love you show our church family.



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