

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](mailto:office@edinburgfumc.org)  
Web: [www.edinburgfumc.org](http://www.edinburgfumc.org)  
Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am  
Address Services Requested

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1



## Living the Resurrection

Dear Edinburg FUMC family,

I have been thinking a lot about the cross—which is to be expected of a pastor during Holy Week. But as we have been walking with Jesus through the Gospel of Luke this Lenten season, I have been turning over in my head Jesus' call to his disciples to “take up their cross and follow [Him.]” I have been asking myself: what does it mean to take up the cross?

Perhaps some of us have been taught that carrying the cross means enduring suffering for the sake of THE GREATER THING. Whatever we perceive that greater thing to be. And so, we bear hardship quietly, even when the cost is deep. But I wonder if that's too small a vision of what Jesus meant.

You are likely reading is on Easter Sunday, and friends, the cross cannot be understood apart from the resurrection. If the cross were only about suffering, then Good Friday would be the end of the story. But, on a day like today, we celebrate that it's not. The cross is not simply about what is done to Jesus—to us—it is about the life Jesus chooses to live: a life of truth, mercy, justice, and love in a world that resists those things. The cross is what happens when that kind of life confronts the powers of death.

So what does it mean to “take up our cross” in light of Easter?

It means we take up the way of Jesus—not as passive endurance, but as active participation in God's life breaking into the world. It means our lives get to be a way God answers our prayer, “May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” It means choosing love when it is costly, telling the truth when it would be easier to stay silent, practicing mercy in a world that often rewards indifference. It means aligning our lives with the resurrection life of Christ, even when that puts us at odds with the ways things have always been.

This Easter season, we will explore what it means to live the resurrection.

In the weeks ahead, we will follow the Gospel readings and step into the stories of the Jesus' disciples as they encounter the risen Christ. We will sit with Thomas, who reaches out to touch the wounds of Jesus and discovers that resurrection does not erase suffering but transforms it. We will hear Jesus say, “My sheep know my voice,” and consider what it means to listen for Christ's voice amid all the noise of our world. We will celebrate Ascension Sunday and wrestle with what it means for Christ to be present with us in a new way. And we will hear Jesus pray that we may be one, just as he and the Father are one—a unity that delights in diversity and holds us all together in one. And—we will be celebrating a very special Festival of God's Creation on April 19. You will not want to miss it!

These are not just stories about what happened long ago. They are invitations. The Spirit who rose Jesus from the dead invites us to become people who live differently because Christ is alive. To become a community shaped not by fear or scarcity, but by resurrection hope. To be a people who proclaim, with our lives as much as our words, that death does not get the final say.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!  
And that means we can live, too.

Caminando in la luz de Cristo contigo / Walking  
in the light of Christ with you,  
Pastor Sarah

### April Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> -Maundy Thursday with Campus Ministry 6pm
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Good Friday Service 6pm
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday Service
  - 8:00 am-Sunrise Service in the Prayer Garden
  - 8:45 am-Breakfast
  - 10:30 am-Easter Music Program and Service
  - 11:30 am -Easter Egg hunt
- April 6<sup>th</sup> -Easter Monday Office CLOSED
- April 16<sup>th</sup> - Bag Dry Goods, 1 PM
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - Food Distribution 8AM
- April 25<sup>th</sup> - Rummage Sale 8:00 AM-2:00 PM



## 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.



Scan Me

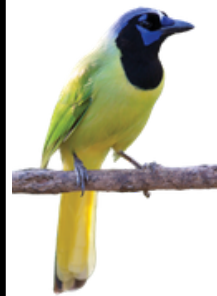
## Server Appreciation

A big shout out to our March Communion servers:

Linda and Gary Henrichson, Ronny Villarreal, and Audrey Garcia and her family, Kyleigh and Nolan!! Thank you for helping Pastor Sarah serve God's people at Jesus' table.

## Our Feathered Neighbors

While it's still fairly cool, I wanted to mention a bird that will be hard to see for most of the summer. Our Green Jay, one of the special birds that many folks want to see, is a bright mix of green, black and blue, with touches of yellow and white. They are easy to identify when seen at bird-feeders, and their raspy calls are distinctive, once learned. However, Green Jays get very quiet and secretive when nesting--they don't sing like many of our nesting birds. Green Jays store food in the fall and winter for the rare chilly day, and take quite a few insects (and even fruits) when available.



The key seems to be diversity--when acorns are abundant in oak trees, great, the rest of the year better to forage in thickets and woodlands where they can always find something. Our church treeline is a good example of the latter, with its assortment of native trees and shrubs. Who knows, Green Jays may even nest there!

Regards and good birding,  
Tim Brush

## Celebrating the Festival of God's Creation and Native American Ministries Sunday

On Sunday, April 19, we will be celebrating a very special Festival of God's Creation and Native American Ministries Sunday.

Our very own Maria and Rob Cooley will be helping to us in worship. Maria serves as a tribal chairwoman of the Lipan Apache tribe of Texas. Maria and Rob will share elements of the way her community worships our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will also take up a special offering that will be used to support United Methodist ministry with Native American communities in Texas and across the country.

This service is going to look a little different for just that Sunday! The chairs will be arranged in a circle. You will hear the names of God—Creator, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit—spoken in the Lipan Apache language. You will also be invited to learn songs of praise to Jesus Christ; there will be translation, so rest assured!

We can think of this service as a preview of Pentecost Sunday (May 24) and of John's vision in Revelation 7:9, where people of all nations, tribes, and tongues gather to worship the Lamb of God. What I love about Christ's church is that Christ calls all people—from every kind of community—to fellowship and worship. We, as Christ's body, get to learn and worship alongside each other! This is the legacy of Pentecost and the way we live into the vision of New Creation in our lives today. And so, I invite you into this very special worship service. Everyone is invited. Just as you are.

Pastor Sarah

EDINBURG FUMC  
PRESENTS...

# Rummage Sale



APRIL 25 & MAY 2  
8 AM - 2 PM  
3707 W. UNIVERSITY  
EDINBURG, TX 78539

## Edinburg First UMC Donations Needed for Rummage Sale!

Beginning April 7<sup>th</sup> we will be accepting Rummage Sale Donations!

- Toys
  - Furniture
  - Antiques
  - Books
  - Clothes
  - Jewellery
- & More!

Drop Off at: 3707 W University Drive,  
Edinburg, Tx. 78539

For any questions  
Call us @ (956)-381-9806

Start Your Spring Cleaning!

We will begin accepting donations for Rummage Sale April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Moments in the Word

We wrapped up another amazing Bible study filled with meaningful conversations, laughter and a reminder of the power of gathering together in God's Word.

