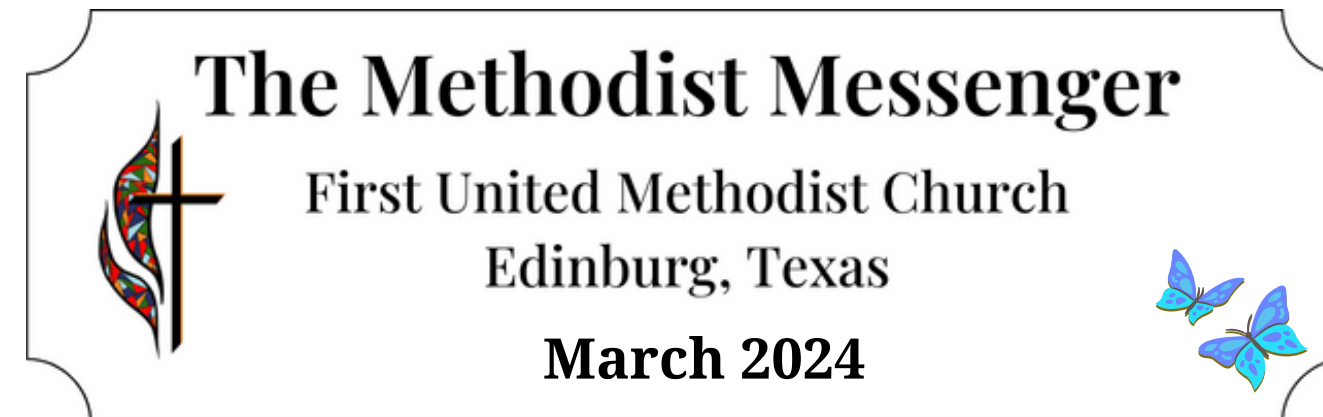


First United Methodist Church
3707 West University
Edinburg, TX 78539-7782

Rev. Michelle Vernone, 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 Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1



By the time you receive this, we'll be just a few weeks from Resurrection Sunday. During Lent, we've talked about and practiced Meeting Jesus At the Table (by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Foy). Since I haven't been able to literally sit around a table with each of you, I'd like to share some things.

We started a daily reading challenge to complete the Bible in a year. Our weekly Wednesday night study has been about digging more deeply into the scriptures. I invited our online family and friends to participate as well. There are about 20 of us reading and meeting together each week in person and another 70 who are participating in the online group!! What an amazing experience to grow in God's word together and strengthen our discipleship. I'm excited to see what God will birth from this time. I wonder what new ministries and leaders will emerge from 12 months of daily study.

March 6th will be one year to the day of the parsonage fire. In the way traumatic events do, it feels like it just happened and at the same time was a lifetime ago. I'm so grateful to those who took care of me through the whole process (are still taking care of me through the process) and loss. And, I am so grateful to be home again. The parsonage is beautiful. We're in the process of restoring the landscaping and taking care of the exterior. I love being able to host the congregation for fellowship and bible study in the remodeled parsonage. I am humbled by this community's outpouring of love and generosity in helping me restore what had been lost.

I feel confident most of you have heard me talk about my dad at some point in last the seven years. I'm unquestionably a "daddy's girl." I am very proud to share that my father, Retired Major Merle Vernone will be honored posthumously for his decorated military career, specifically his service during the Vietnam war, by being inducted into the Pavilion of Honor at Goodfellow Air Force Base. The induction ceremony is March 29, which is also Good Friday. I will be in San Angelo for the induction. We will have come and go prayer stations between 11am and 4pm for our Good Friday worship. I'll get in my car early Saturday morning and drive back, ready to worship Easter Sunday with you.

The last few months have been busy in general, but a few others and I have also been working on writing grants for different ministries and needs of the church/pastor. We just heard that we did not receive the grant we submitted for the food pantry. So we'll spend some more time researching other possibilities. I am also in the process of writing a grant to help with the feasibility of me taking a 3 month sabbatical in 2025. Our district superintendent, members of the board, and I have been in conversation about what that might look like and how it would benefit all of us.

So, how are you all? What is happening in your lives? How are your families? How is it with your soul? What conversations are you having around the table with your people? What conversations would you like to have? What is God doing in you? Would you like to meet for a coffee and some holy conversation? Let's make time to gather at the table together.

Blessings, Pastor Michelle



March Dates To Put In Your Calendar

March 3rd - Holy Communion and Reception for Judy McClelland
March 29 - Good Friday Come and Go Prayer Stations 12pm - 4pm
March 31 - Early Service in the Prayer Garden at 8am, Easter Cantata at 10am- please note the time difference for Easter Sunday.



Food Pantry Happenings

A big thanks to all the volunteers, congregation members, and boy scouts who came on a wet and cold Saturday morning. Not the most pleasant of days weatherwise. However, the Food Pantry Volunteers were at the church early and cheerfully prepared and passed out 100 bags of groceries. Prayers were offered on behalf of all who received the groceries. As most of you know, Judy McClelland (food pantry point person for more years than I know) is moving to be near her daughter in Seattle, Washington. Thank you, Judy, for all that you have done over the years! Judy has passed the mantle to me. I would be really worried were it not for the wonderful group of volunteers who make up the heart of the food pantry. If you have never had the opportunity to serve, let me give you a brief description of all that is involved in making 100 bags of groceries possible:

- Bulk fresh produce, approximately 1,000 pounds, is ordered from Buster Lind, Produce.
- Non-perishable items-dry pinto beans, rice, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, oatmeal, fideo, and tortillas are purchased or donated monthly by members of the congregation.
- 1,000 pounds of fresh chicken quarters are procured and frozen.
- On the third Thursday of the month all the non-perishables are divided and placed in 100 grocery bags.
- On the third Saturday, the fresh produce is delivered and added to the grocery bags along with the frozen chicken.
- The volunteers then begin the process of passing out the bags.

This month we are trying a new thing. The beans and rice that we provide will be purchased in bulk from Sam's and volunteers will meet one day to prepare 100 bags of each. On that day, we will also receive 100 ten pound bags of chicken that will need to be prepared for freezing. If all goes as planned, that day will be Monday, March 4th at 2 PM. If you feel God calling you to this ministry, please join us on one or all of these days. There is always room for another set of hands.

Peace,
Barbara Engelbrecht



Sacred Space – Yoga With Mollie

Take some time during the week to be intentional about connecting your mind, body, and spirit. Starting March 12th, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm – 6:15pm, EFUMC will offer time to build strength and flexibility through yoga taught by Mollie Wallace. Mollie is an experienced certified yoga instructor soon to graduate from UTRGV with her doctorate in Occupational Therapy. All levels of experience are welcome as well as all levels of mobility. Chair yoga and other modifications are offered so everyone can participate at their level of comfort. The cost of the classes is donation based, so donate if/what you are able to help cover the cost of the class. We will meet in the fellowship space of the church. Looking forward to sharing this sacred space with you.



Shoe Bank

The Shoe Bank was able to take 300 cards to the Edinburg Parental Involvement team this week. That means we gave them \$7,500 to spend on shoes for the children in our school system. I am so proud of our church family. There have been years when we were not able to give a second giving to help them. This congregation is the best!!

Blessings,
Jackie Billings



Pastor Michelle thanks everyone for the birthday wishes and all the love from her church family!



What's up with the HUB?

The Hub farm stand continues every Saturday morning, 10 am - 12 pm! Current veggies include broccoli, carrots, beets, lettuce, kale, cabbages, onions, and more. Our chickens are picking up the pace on egg laying so plenty of farm-fresh eggs available as well. Our March workshop will be Saturday March 9 (10 am - 12 pm) and cover Native Plants in Agroecosystems with John Brush leading a plant ID walk around the farm. On Wednesday March 13 (9 am - 12 pm), the Museum of South Texas History will be hosting the second day of their three day "Farm Life in South Texas" festival at the Hub and will be recording oral histories on site. Please feel welcome to come by and share your stories! If you have any questions, please email Stephanie at stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu

Thanks,
Stephanie

El Valle District Higher Education Scholarship

Thank you for your interest in the El Valle District Scholarship Program. It is our strong desire to encourage and support United Methodist students as they pursue their dreams through college education or technical school training. Through this program, may we partner with God in equipping and empowering our next generation of leaders for the Church and the world.

In selecting recipients for the El Valle District Scholarship, our goal is to honor with a scholarship award those who:

- Demonstrate commitment to Christian leadership and witness through their chosen activities and demonstrate outstanding Christian character.
- Recognize God's work in their lives and share an exceptional desire to continue growing.
- Have been accepted into a college, university, or technical school academic program.
- Are active members of a United Methodist Church in the El Valle District for a minimum of one year prior to submitting the application. (Any member of a local congregation who has or is in the middle of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church will not be considered.)

To meet this goal, the scholarship committee will review your application based upon a whole person concept as measured by the following criteria: academic potential, faith foundation, community service, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, and the mission of representing The United Methodist Church well at your college or university. Financial need is not a relevant criterion. Our intention is to offer multiple scholarships at a minimum of \$500. The amount will vary from year to year. In 2024, ten scholarships at \$1500 are available. Contact the church office for the application!

Blessings,
Rev. Laura Brewster, District Superintendent, El Valle District.

