

First United Methodist Church  
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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am  
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# The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church  
Edinburg, Texas

April 2024



In John 21, after Jesus has risen and is sharing a meal with the disciples, Jesus asks Peter 3 times if he loves Jesus. Each time Peter says, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” And each time Jesus replies with an instruction, “feed my lambs”, “care for my sheep” and, “feed my sheep.” We’ve spent this Lent studying about meeting Jesus at the Table. We’ve talked about every time we gather around a table it is an opportunity to engage the holy.

Now, we’ve celebrated the resurrection, and again, we gather with Jesus to get our next instructions and we lean into Jesus’ words to Peter. We’ve been fed, we’re still being fed, now it’s our turn to feed and care for others. If asked how we minister to others we eagerly share about our shoe bank, our food pantry, and our relationship with the HUB. Here’s where these responses break down. We joyfully meet needs in these ministries, but by their nature, these are not ministries that lend themselves to building direct relationships.

So here are my questions for you all to pray about and have conversations. Then connect with the Ad Board and myself to share your insights and dreams for our church family reaching deeper into the community around us to ‘feed His sheep and lambs.’ These are not just “church” questions, but questions for each of us personally. Individually, we are all called to respond to Jesus’ lesson, if you love me, feed my sheep.

Do you see the “work of the church” as your work and ministry too? How do you participate in the church beyond Sunday morning? Who will you invite to the table and with whom are you willing to share time at the table? Who will you invite to work alongside you for the good of the Kingdom of God through Edinburg FUMC?

There are current ministry opportunities that amount to ‘low hanging fruit’ to get started. For example, as a church we used to provide weekly lunches two months out the year for Campus Ministry. If EFUMC committed to providing one dinner a month for their weekly bible study for the 2024 – 2025 school year, would you participate? Not just bring a meal, but stay, eat, and maybe even stay for bible study. In case you didn’t know, Zach, one of our choir scholarship students, is this year’s president for Campus Ministry.

Project Transformation will house their summer interns at the Campus Ministry building again this summer. If EFUMC committed to bringing a meal weekly for the summer, would you participate? Again, not just drop off food, but stay, eat, and build relationship. In case you didn’t know, Natalie, one of our college students who works in the office and the nursery, was one of last year’s Project Transformation interns that I met when I brought and shared a meal.

We put Fifth Friday Food Truck events on hold due to the holidays and holy days they coincided with (New Year’s and Good Friday). Will we as a church commit to restarting Fifth Friday events as a way to reach out to our personal circles and greater community? I can name at least 5 new members who came to be a part of our church as a direct result of being invited to one of these Fifth Friday Food Truck events. When I ask if you will commit to restarting, I don’t just mean giving moral support (though we’ll need that too) I mean will you attend and stay – not just pick up food and go? Will you invite people? Will you help plan to make the events special for those who attend?

How can you/we be more inclusive of the students and volunteers at the HUB? How will you/we make sure they understand we consider them part of the family? Would you be willing to help create ways for the church and HUB to work together on different projects?

As I have prayed, I see so many groups of people who would benefit from being loved on by this church family. People who can be loved into community and experience the unfailing love of God in Christ Jesus because we were willing to take Jesus at his instruction, ‘feed my sheep, take care of my lambs.’

From Heart to Table  
Pastor Michelle

We bless your name and give you thanks, Lord Jesus, the Resurrected One, who demonstrates God’s infinite and powerful love for each of us. Thank you for pouring out your Spirit upon us. You give us each skills, gifts, and talents to be put to use for those around us. You give us hearts able to love, feel and offer compassion, and minds able to wrestle with scripture and deepen our relationship with You. As we enter this Spring season, a season of new life and new beginnings, show us the new thing you have for us. Speak to our hearts and show us our place in your beautiful plan to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to our part of the earth. Give us eyes to daily see opportunities to be your hands and feet in a world that often doesn’t recognize you. Revive us! Remove our apathy or indifference as far as the East is from the West. If we are tired, let us never choose other things over You, your holy Church, our ministry in your kingdom, or worship in community. Instead, help us in all things to put you first, as your word teaches, apart from you we can do nothing. Fill us with your passion, your hope, your joy, and your eager anticipation for all that is in front of us. We love you, Lord of Life. Amen.





## Food Pantry Happenings

I am so thankful for all who help to make this ministry happen. There is a lot to be done each month and the "Food Pantry Team" works together like a well-oiled machine. If you have never participated in this ministry (as I had never), I encourage you to come and check us out. An extra pair of hands is always welcome.

Some dates to remember:

– April 8, Sorting Day. This is the day we sort the beans and rice into individual 2 pound bags and pick-up and prepare the chicken bags for freezing. This is the day when we need a truck for a couple of hours to pick up the chicken from Aguliars Meat Market on University just east of the church. For this day WE NEED A TRUCK. If you have a truck and would like to help us (1 time, multiple times, every month) please call or text me at 901-289-9040. We begin at 2 p.m. and finish in 1 ½ – 2 hours.

– April 18, Packing Day. This is the day we prepare the non-perishable grocery bags. These bags include, rice, pinto beans, canned chicken, canned vegetable, tomato sauce, fideo, oatmeal and corn tortillas We begin at 1:30 and finish in approximately 1 ½ hours.

– April 20, Food Pantry Day. This is the day the community come to receive their groceries. This day begins early. In March, I arrived at 7:45 to begin getting ready for the day only to find there was already a line of cars stretching across the parking lot and out onto Mon Mack. Other team members arrived between 8:00 and 8:30. At 8:30ish Buster Lind delivers the fresh vegetables which we sort into individual bags. When that is finished, we start the distribution which takes about an hour.

I wish everyone could witness this process. It is a beautiful thing to see. Pastor Michelle (and anyone who wants to join her) greets every vehicle and offer prayers. Many accept. Young and old form an assembly line and place in each vehicle a bag of non-perishable food items, a bag of chicken and a bag of produce. Always with a smile and friendly greeting.

You would be most welcome to join us on any or all of these days.

Peace and Blessings,  
Barbara Engelbrecht



## What's up with the HUB?

The Hub farm stand continues every Saturday morning, 10 am - 12 pm! We're shifting back into warm weather crops, so squash, beans, and cucumbers are back with tomatoes, peppers, and okra expected later in the month! Our workshop this month will be Saturday April 13 (10 am - 12 pm) and cover Strategies for Sustainable Pest Control. We also invite you to join the 2nd RGV Food Summit at Casa de las Palmas Hotel in McAllen April 24-27. More details available at 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

JOIN US FOR  
**A DAY RETREAT FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**  
Saturday, April 20  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

A day of praise and worship along with fun hands-on activities, including cupcake decorating, card making, wood painting, sensory bottle making, jewelry making, and community service projects

For more information, contact Andrea at [children@mcfirst.com](mailto:children@mcfirst.com)

To register for this event, scan the QR code below

Application Deadline: April 2nd, 2024

### Celebrating la Frontera Together

The Texas Hispanic Farmer and Rancher Conference (TxHFRC) and the Food Summit come together for a bilingual four-day event bringing together agriculture, policy, activism, and community stakeholders to co-create a resilient and inclusive food system the Rio Grande Valley, TX.

APRIL 24TH-25TH

The Texas Hispanic Farmer and Rancher Conference (TxHFRC) brings together the farming and ranching community, agribusinesses, and advocates of sustainable agriculture for two days of farm tours, workshops, and networking events focused on equitable participation in the full range of USDA programs.

**Join us to:**

- Learn about and access USDA NRCS resources.
- Explore relevant information on climate-smart/sustainable/regenerative/organic agricultural production practices.
- Connect with other producers, technical assistance providers, researchers, and other industry professionals.

APRIL 26TH-27TH

This summit focuses on closing the gaps within the food system through two days of workshops, speaker panels, and movie screenings with fireside chats to help all stakeholders envision an inclusive and resilient local food system for the Rio Grande Valley, TX.

**Join us to:**

- Gain new skills and build connections to become an active participant in the food system.
- Drive positive changes in the Rio Grande Valley by uniting all aspects of the food system from production to consumption.

Don't forget! Bible Study  
Wednesday nights at 6PM!

# BIBLE RECAP

*"It's important for us to know our story in order to help lead our future."*

THE BIBLE RECAP

STARTING  
**1.2024**

**"The Bible Recap: A One-Year Guide to Reading and Understanding the Entire Bible."**

*Join the Wednesday night conversation about these readings!*  
Starting Jan. 4th at 6 PM at the Parsonage, 1522 Cedar St., Edinburg.

Edinburg First United Methodist Church

## Sacred Space – Yoga With Mollie

### Sacred Space

Yoga with Mollie

Take some time during the week to be intentional about connecting your mind, body, and spirit.

**Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm – 6:15PM**

All levels of experience are welcome as well as all levels of mobility. Join us at Edinburg FUMC. (3707 W University Dr, Edinburg, Tx.) We hope to see you there!

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.

For more information about Mollie Wallace please see her Facebook page "Yoga With Mollie".

**More Info About Mollie Wallace:**

- 5+ years teaching yoga + meditation
- 10+ years of higher education
- Doctor of occupational therapy
- Has practiced yoga in 5 different countries!

**Questions? Reach out to us at:**

- Office: (956)-381-9806
- Email: [office@edinburgfumc.org](mailto:office@edinburgfumc.org)

