

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

**February 2026**



Dear Edinburg FUMC family,

As I write this letter, my Spotify playlist has pulled up the song, “Love Will Never Fail (1 Corinthians 13)” by The Porter’s Gate. The simple chorus repeats, “Love will never, ever fail.” How fitting for February. How fitting for us as we begin to prepare our hearts for Lent. “Love will never, ever fail” is, after all, the message of Lenten and the Easter seasons. It was Love who knelt in the dust of the earth and breathed life into the first human. It is Love who carries us in the wilderness journey of life, and it is to Love we return. It was Love who defeated death on the cross for all of us, forever.



The season of Lent begins early this year; be sure to check our calendar of events for the Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday, and Bible study dates! This Lent, I invite us into an ancient tradition. In the early church, Lent was used to prepare converts for baptism on Easter, during which they studied the essential truths of the Christian faith. If you attended our Church Family Meeting at the end of January, you heard about our plans to revitalize how we walk with our children, youth, and new members. I am using this season, in part, to help our youngest members grow in their understanding of the gospel. I also see our Lenten series as an opportunity for all of us—no matter where we are on our faith journey—to re-hear the Good News once more, as if for the first time. This is a great time to invite friends and family in need of a message of hope.

The Good News is truly good. We need Gospel truths to ground us in a world and time that feel shaky and uncertain. Indeed, Lent is a season of inward reflection and repentance. It is a time when we turn down the noise of the world to listen for the still small voice of God. It is a time when we allow God to show us how to grow in a more perfect love for God and neighbor. But Lent’s call to repentance is never about punishment; it is always grounded in God’s great, great love for us. A love that never, ever fails. This season, I invite you to hear the Good News once again. May we open our hearts and minds to be enchanted by the message of Jesus Christ again. I can’t wait to see what the Spirit will do in us and through us.

Caminando contigo, Walking with you,  
Pastor Sarah

## February Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- Feb. 2nd at 1 PM: Bag Bean & Rice, Bag & Freeze Chicken
- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Fat Tuesday/ Pancake Supper at 5pm-7pm
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday
  - Ashes and Prayer, 7:00-9:00 AM-12:00-1:00PM
  - Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 PM
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 1PM: Prepare Food Distribution Bags
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am: Food Distribution
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> First Sunday of Lent with Children’s Moment
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Lunch at Luby’s For everyone
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM Lenten Bible Study Begins!







## Having a Grateful Heart

The word gratitude can have many meanings depending on how others use it and in what context. Being Grateful involves recognizing that something good has happened to you. It also consists of acknowledging that someone is responsible for it, whether it's a specific person in your life, an impersonal source like nature, or a divine entity!

Gratitude is a positive emotion that involves being thankful and appreciative and is associated with several mental and physical health benefits. When you experience gratitude, you feel grateful for something or someone in your life and respond with feelings of kindness, warmth, and other forms of generosity. Feelings of gratitude often emerge spontaneously in the moment, but evidence suggests that consciously cultivating such thankfulness can have mental health benefits.

Benefits of gratitude that researchers have uncovered include:

- Better sleep
- Better immunity
- Higher self-esteem!!
- Decreased stress
- Lower blood pressure
- Less anxiety and depression
- Stronger relationships
- Higher levels of optimism
- Greater life satisfaction



## A Rocha USA Visit Mid Feb.

Three A Rocha USA staff from their Austin office will visit us mid-February. A Rocha USA is part of an international Christian nature conservation organization that has been active for 40 years. It specializes in place and science-based community work that honors God by taking care of creation. Currently the USA organization is actively working with churches towards being places of restoration. Last year the Brushes hosted other staff from Austin. They loved the EFUMC property; the Hub community, tree line native forest and effort to promote native plants. They also met our pastor and farmer. This year we will do the same and also give them a tour of Santa Anna, a Tiny Forest, and a bird banding demonstration. We are excited to introduce these guests to the RGV and show off EFUMC and its care for our specific place!



## Thank You

We celebrate and give thanks for our church being recognized as a Five-Star Giving Church! This designation reflects your faithful generosity and commitment to the wider ministry of The United Methodist Church. Through the full payment of our conference apportionments and gifts to special initiatives, you are supporting mission and ministry at the local, national, and world-wide levels. Your giving helps sustain missionaries, equips congregations, and enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to respond quickly and compassionately to disasters near and far. Thank you for living out your faith through generosity and for helping our church be a connectional witness of God's love in action.



*Paint Just Like*

**Bob Ross**

Class Painting for February 7, 2026

Certified Bob Ross Instructor  
Call (956) 239-5296 or email  
rebeccasrgvstudio@gmail.com  
to reserve your seat.  
10 slots available  
(minimum 16 years of age)

\$85.00 (all materials included)

Edinburg First United Methodist Church  
3707 W. University, Edinburg, TX 78539  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rebecca's Studio

## Our Feathered Neighbors: The Mockingbird

Hi, I was asked to write a short note about birds, focusing on species we might see around the church property. I thought I would start with the mockingbird, a bird that all of us have probably seen or heard. Our mockingbird--officially the Northern Mockingbird--gets its name from its habit of imitating the calls of other birds. I have heard them imitate a variety of species, including the deep-voiced chachalaca. It seems this habit improves a male's chances of maintaining a territory and breeding successfully. Mockingbirds also chase away larger predators, such as cats and hawks, from their territory! They eat a variety of insects, as well as small fruits, and build small cup nests in trees. They remain one of our most common birds and can be seen any day of the year in our neighborhoods and parks.



## 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

## Fat Tuesday Reminder

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Feb 17th**, join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship.

**5:00-7:00 PM**

