

First United Methodist Church
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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

November 2025



“We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing,”

2 Thessalonians 1:3, NRSVue

Dear Edinburg FUMC family,

As we head into November, I offer you the poem:

“When the Sun Returns”
by Sarah Browning.

*It is hallelujah time,
the swallows tracing an arc
of praise just off our balcony,
the mountains snow-sparkling
in gratitude.*

*Here is our real life —
a handful of possible peonies
from the market —
the life we always intended,
swallow life threading
the city air with
our weaving joy.*

*Are we this simple, then, to sing all day —
country songs,
old hymns, camp tunes?
We even believe
the swallows, keeping time.*

I love that first line. November is a hallelujah time. Of course, every day is an opportunity for praise, but in November, we pause to remember and give thanks. On All Saints Sunday, we honor the saints—those who have shown us what it means to love God and our neighbor with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We give thanks for the ways their faithful legacy continues to shape our present and our future. As we start planning our Friendsgiving or Thanksgiving meals, we thank God for all that God has provided: the food we eat, the table where we gather, and the loved ones who surround it. We remember that the best of life is found in these simple things.

November also marks the end of the church calendar. Advent preparations are underway, and I look forward to decorating the church on the last Sunday of November (November 23). But before we look ahead, I encourage you to take some time this month to reflect on the past year. You might journal or incorporate these questions into your prayer life. Since last November, what has happened in your life—the good and the hard? In both the good and the hard moments, where did you sense God’s presence—God’s love, peace, assurance, or even challenge? How have you grown in love for God, your neighbor, and yourself? As we prepare for Advent and the new year, how do you want to grow in the coming year—your prayer life, Bible study, or service to God and community?

I am truly thankful for you, Edinburg First. I thank God because I see you living out your faith. I see you growing in love for one another. I am grateful to be part of a church with such a rich, longstanding legacy of hospitality and warmth in our community. I thank you for your generosity with your time and resources, and I thank you for the way you greet new faces in service with such joy. That is our real life: when the love that God has for us flows out into our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods. It is truly a hallelujah time

Con cariño,
Pastor Sarah

November Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- Nov. 3 (1 PM): Bag Bean & Rice, Bag & Freeze Chicken
- Nov. 8 (8 AM to 2 PM): Rummage Sale
- Nov. 13 (1 PM): Prepare Grocery Bags
- Nov. 14 (6 PM): Ladies on the Patio (Jackie’s house)
- Nov. 15 (8:30 AM): Food Distribution
- Nov. 15 (1-4 PM): Paint like Bob Ross
- Nov. 16 (after church): Friendsgiving with the Hub
- Nov. 23 (after church): Christmas Decorating
- Nov. 27-28: Office will be closed



*Give Thanks
with a
Grateful Heart*

Healthy Self-Esteem

We've likely all heard the advice to believe in yourself, value yourself, be your own cheerleader, and that you can't fully love others until you love yourself and all of that is true. But what exactly does that really mean in real life? Essentially, having healthy self-esteem is vital to a successful, happy life.

To have healthy self-esteem, it's important to understand what self-esteem really is. Self-esteem is giving respect and admiration to yourself. The American Psychological Association defines self-esteem as "the degree to which the qualities and characteristics contained in one's self-concept are perceived to be positive."

Healthy self-esteem is not just liking yourself but generally affording yourself love, value, dignity, and respect, too! Positive self-esteem also means believing in your capability (to learn, achieve, and contribute to the world) and autonomy to do things on your own. It means you think your ideas, feelings, and opinions have worth.

In other words, self-esteem is how you feel about yourself (inside and out), encompassing what you think about and value yourself and how you relate to others. It's also related to how you feel others' view, treat, and value you.

Your friendly community counselor,
Anna Castillo



EFUMC Presents... PUMPKIN BREAD SALE

Small Loaf

\$6

Large Loaf

\$10

The return of a fall favorite:

Our beloved pumpkin bread is back and as delicious as ever!

Starting Oct. 18 - November 23

For More Info Call (956)-381-9806

Spirit Sunday School Class

Class is starting a new book study and all are welcome at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.
It is about growing older, but not old!



What's up with the HUB?

November is bringing cooler days and new beginnings at the Hub of Prosperity! October was a challenging month for growing due to the heat, but we're grateful for the shift in weather and hopeful for a more fruitful season ahead as we begin our next round of planting. Our Farmers Market officially opens for the growing year on November 8th from 10 AM to 12 PM, and we're excited to welcome everyone back for another season of fresh, local produce. On the same day, we'll also be hosting a workshop on beneficial insects with Farmer Katie from Weaving Food Web Farms, where we'll learn how to identify and attract these beneficial insects to our farms and gardens. Later this month, we look forward to celebrating Friendsgiving with our church community, a time to come together in gratitude for another season of growth and connection. As always, we're thankful for your continued support and prayers, they keep our mission growing strong.

With love,
Maria



RUMMAGE SALE

**NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**3707 W UNIVERSITY DR.
EDINBURG, TX 78539**

GOT QUESTIONS?

📞 CALL US @ (956)-381-9806
OR SEND US A MESSAGE!

📷 INSTAGRAM: @EDINBURGFIRSTUMC
📘 FACEBOOK: EDINBURG FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rummage Sale around the Corner!

Hello Friends!

Get ready for amazing deals and a day full of fun!
Our annual Rummage Sale is happening on Saturday, November 8th, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Bring your friends, grab a coffee, and make a day of it — let's find some great deals together while supporting a wonderful cause! If you have any questions or need help with your donations, please don't hesitate to reach out to Gina Childress or Kathy Salazar.

Thank you so much for your support —
we couldn't do this without you!



A Letter from One of Our Own

I want to tell the choir "Every voice in that room always sounded like heaven itself and that they are all amazing people who I miss singing with and can't wait to hear those heavenly voices singing songs on Christmas eve or whatever it is". To the church, "I pray that everyone in that church whether your now or been there forever, that y'all are doing wonderful in your lives and whatever is wrong starts to go right. I ask you pray for my platoon mates and their families. See you all soon".

From PVT Santos, Trinidad IV

