

First United Methodist Church  
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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am  
Address Services Requested



# The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church  
Edinburg, Texas



**MAY 2025**

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.  
**Philippians 1:6**


**New Member Sunday**

If you've been thinking about making our church your spiritual home, we would love to walk with you on that journey. We'll be receiving new members on Sunday, May 18th, and we warmly invite anyone who feels ready to take this meaningful step to contact the church office.

It would be a joy to welcome you into our church family!

**Important Dates For Your Calendar This Month!!!**

- May 4th: Graduation Sunday
- May 5th, 1:00 PM: Bag rice & beans, prep and freeze chicken
- May 11th: Mother's Day
- May 15th, 1:00 PM: Prep grocery bags
- May 17th, 8:30 AM: Prep fresh produce  
9:00 AM: Food distribution starts
- May 18th : New Member Sunday



By the time you read this, I'll be just a few weeks from moving back to San Antonio. To say I have mixed feelings is an understatement. I love this community. Each of you have helped shape me as a person and pastor. I am so grateful.

At first, I thought I'd use May's newsletter to share all the great things we experienced together. However, I'm going to save that for June. Instead, I want to take an opportunity to lift up Edinburg's incoming pastor, whoever that will be.

First, please start praying daily for whom God is sending. Pray that they would have the peace that passes all understanding as they make this move, to a church they most likely have never been to before. Pray that as a church we start making room for this person in our hearts and in the DNA of this community. That they would feel safe to show up as their authentic self and not worry about whether or not they "fit."

Here's how we can help our incoming pastor have a strong and gracious welcome:

1. If you are behind in your giving/pledges, try to get caught up before July 1st. If you are able, make your summer tithes and offerings at the beginning of the season. Summer is typically a time when giving drops off—for a variety of reasons. People are traveling, have planned vacations, money gets tight, the heat reaches record highs, and the cost of air conditioning can be nearly prohibitive. There's little more overwhelming than starting a new appointment and being told the finances are shaky, giving is down, and the church is in the red—but, "Don't worry! It's the summer. We'll probably make it up once school starts again."

2. Make every effort to be in worship every Sunday for the first few months. Pastors are deeply encouraged by your presence in worship.

3. Help your new pastor get to know you! Invite them to your home for dinner. Organize some informal lunches or dinners with no agenda other than building relationships.

4. For the first few weeks, tell them your name each time you see them. Learning new names and faces can be tough. There's nothing more awkward than knowing you should remember someone's name, drawing a blank, and seeing them waiting for recognition. Help your pastor out—repeat your name before they have to ask..

Lastly, bless your outgoing pastor. Pray for the congregation that will receive me, and pray that they are preparing to welcome me well. Give your new pastor a few weeks before asking for the things I may not have done. (Don't get sensitive—we all know there were things we didn't see the same way. That doesn't mean we don't love and respect one another.) Find ways to help your new pastor see that you are sending me off with love and are excited to receive them in that same spirit.

Much love and many blessings,  
Pastor Michelle



## What's Up With The HUB?

This month's free community workshop is Saturday May 10, 10 am-12 pm and will cover safe canning practices. We'll also host our 5th Annual Tomato Festival on Saturday May 24, 6-8 pm. Come taste test this year's tomato crop and feel free to bring your favorite tomato recipe to share! Weekly farm stands continue every Saturday 10 am - 12 pm and volunteer hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11 am.

Email [stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu](mailto:stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu) with any questions!



## It's Not Easy Bein' Green...

... but we're going to work at it! If you are interested in helping tend God's creation and want to help EFUMC in our ministry to care for creation, please contact Pastor Michelle at [pastor@edinburgfumc.org](mailto:pastor@edinburgfumc.org)

## Congregational Care

The Congregational Care team visits members when we know someone needs us, sends cards to members in need, and generally tries to keep in the know so we can help each other and help Pastor Michelle minister to us all.

If you would like to join this group or if you need help from this group, please contact the office at 956 381 9806.



## Sunday School Update

We have been studying a book called God's Psychiatry, by Charles Allen. So far we have discussed and learned hidden facts about the 23rd Psalm and the 10 Commandments. Starting Sunday, April 27, 2025, we will dive into the Lord's Prayer.

If you would like to join this discussion group on Sunday mornings at 9:30, please come to the classroom on the southwest side of the main building. All are welcome.

## Help Serve Our Church Family on Sundays!

We're looking for volunteers to assist with setting up our coffee station and providing light snacks before Sunday services. This is a wonderful way to bless our church family, foster fellowship, and create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

Here's how you can help:

- Snacks: Bring simple items such as pastries, fruit, or other items of choice.
- Set-Up: Arrive 30 minutes before service to help set up the coffee station and snacks.

Your contributions, big or small, will make a meaningful impact! If you'd like to join the rotation or have questions, please contact Dora Pagel at [dorahpagel@gmail.com](mailto:dorahpagel@gmail.com) or (956) 929-1180. There is also a sign-up sheet on our snacks/coffee table with openings for the next three months. If you'd like to sign up, please write your name and phone number, and I will send out a friendly reminder the day before your scheduled date.

Thank you for helping us create a warm and inviting space to connect and worship!

## Monthly Communion Servers

If you would like to help serve Communion, please call the office, 956-381-9806, or Dana Villarreal, 956-279-9066. We need six servers every Sunday. It's a humble, spiritual part of your personal worship of God and an act of service to others.

## A Word From the Office

Hey Church Family! 🗨️🙏

Just a little reminder from your office crew we've got amazing counselors and a nurse right here on site during the week! Whether you're going through something tough & need someone to talk to, or just aren't feeling your best, we're here for you.

If you know someone who may need support, feel free to contact us—help is right here when you need it. ❤️

Office: (956)-381-9806

Wesley Nurse: (210)-944-0904

Counselors: (956)-432-4673

## Shoe Bank 2025

We set a goal of \$30,000 this year in giving since it is our 30th year, and you are an awesome congregation. We began the year by providing the school \$10,000 in August (enough for 400+ shoes), then in March we gave another \$15,675 (enough for 627+ shoes). We have in reserve to start the next year \$4,765.14. If you add these together, we have \$30,440.14!!!! We began with a reserve in August, so this was not all raised during this school year, but we are truly doing our best to "Walk In His Steps".

Thank you, Jackie Billings



**IN HIS STEPS**  
WALKING FOR HIM, BY WALKING LIKE HIM

## Treasurer's Report

Hello, church! Here is our 1st quarter 2025 Budget Report and April's Budget Report.

	January	February	March	April
Operating Giving	\$26,350	\$20,936	\$23,516	\$23,848
Operating Expenses	(\$26,735)	(\$25,205)	(\$23,399)	(\$26,773)
	(\$ 385)	(\$ 4,269)	\$ 117	(\$ 2,925)

Our monthly giving averages \$23,662 and our monthly expenses average \$25,528 leaving us with \$1,866+/- deficit every month. We have a small Operating "cushion", but every month of deficit reduces it. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who faithfully give to support and fund our church's Operational Budget for Apportionments, Property Insurances, Utilities, TMF Loan, Maintenance, and Staff Compensation, and ask those who haven't been able to give to prayerfully talk to God and see what he places in their heart.

Dana Villarreal

Treasurer

P.S. Ask me about my testimony of how God saved my life. I am always happy to share the story!