

First United Methodist Church

3707 West University

Edinburg, TX 78539-7782

Rev. Sarah Solis, Pastor

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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am

Address Services Requested

Non Profit Orgnization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1

December Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- December 3rd- Advent by Candlelight, Wednesday, 6:00 PM
- December 6th - Paint Just Like Bob Ross Class, Saturday, 9:00AM
- December 13th - Christmas Cookie Exchange, Saturday, 7:00PM
- December 17th - Service of Longest Night, Wednesday, 6:30PM
- December 20th- Food Distribution, Saturday, 9:00AM
- December 20th- Annual Christmas Carnival, Saturday, 1:00PM
- December 21st - EFUMC Christmas Musical Service, Sunday, 10:30AM
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, 6:30PM
- December 24th - Jan. 2nd Office Will Be Closed





The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

December 2025



Our Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of cruelty. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing heavy taxes and seizing land. Then — all of a sudden — a thrill of hope. During Advent, the Church around the world leans forward in expectation, longing, and hope as we prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth. In our Advent series, we will ask the question: “How does a weary world rejoice?”

Luke 1 tells us that after the angel Gabriel announced that she would have a son conceived by the Holy Spirit, she ran to tell her cousin Elizabeth, who was miraculously carrying John the Baptist in her womb. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth greeted Mary, ““Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.”” In these birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, and grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we will hold space to acknowledge the real weariness in our lives and world while celebrating God’s closeness with wonder and joy.

Dorothy Day, a laywoman deeply dedicated to ministry with the poor, often spoke of “the duty to delight.” She believed that noticing beauty, practicing gratitude, and choosing joy—especially in troubled times —is a holy discipline. Advent invites us into that same practice. Even as we acknowledge the world’s weariness, we are called to look for the glimmers of God’s presence breaking in: a small kindness, a word of encouragement, a quiet moment of peace. To delight is not to ignore hardship; it is to trust that God is already at work, stirring joy in unexpected places, just as Elizabeth felt her child leap within her.

This Advent, I invite you to embrace the holy discipline of delight. We will have two Advent calendars; one is especially designed for families with young children. Each day in December, the calendar provides simple ways to practice joy and wonder. You’ll notice that they’re simple things, but I hope these small acts of delight add up to a constellation of joy this season.

The holidays can be a challenging time for many people for many different reasons. If you're feeling weary this season, I invite you to join us for the Service of the Longest Night on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30PM. Together, we’ll read a Scripture of hope, sing, and pray. When life feels heavy, we need each other, so I pray that if you need a place just to be, you’ll come and share this special time. I also encourage you to bring along a friend who might need some encouragement too. Finally, our Advent Devotional, linked to our sermon series, is available in both print and digital formats (Kindle-compatible!). We will send out the digital version through our MailChimp, so watch for an email from the office in the coming days! Each week, you’ll have a chance to reflect on a Scripture passage, poetry, art, and song.

In “O Holy Night,” we sing, “Long lay the world in sin and error pining till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!” This Advent season, I pray that as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, your soul recognizes its worth. I pray you take time with your family and loved ones to cherish those little, extraordinary moments of joy. I pray you remember that in weariness, God is with you because that is the miracle of Advent, friends. God is surely with us.

With love,
Pastor Sarah



Kaps for Kids

What started as a way to use up yarn has evolved into a ministry of many proportions. Dorothea Knox was making knitted/crocheted caps and wondering where the need for them might be. We decided to add them as a gift to the Edinburg School Children who have received shoes during the year. That was 2021, and we had 45 caps. We gave about that many in the next two years, and in 2024 we gave them 84. This year, we will have 140 caps to share with the children in Edinburg schools. The Lambs Loom, a nonprofit group in McAllen has donated yarn, Chris Cowan has donated yarn, and many others. Currently, we are a group of four, and we meet weekly for about an hour or so of visiting, knitting, using a loom, or crocheting to create the caps. Our time together is a blessing to us as we are creating a blessing for others.

For more information, call the office at (956)-381-9806



Congregational Care

The Congregational Care committee is ready and waiting. If you tell us what you need, we will try to make it happen. We just need you to let us know.

Call the office (956)-381-9806 and they will reach us.

Sunday School

The Adult Spirit class is starting an Advent Study on November 30. All are welcome to come join.

Here is the plan:

November 30 Foretelling, Luke 1:26-28

December 7 Mary visits Elizabeth, Luke 1:39-56

December 14 Angel to Joseph, Matthew 1:18-25

December 21 Birth of Jesus, Luke 2:1-20

Come to one or all. We meet at 9:30 in the adult classroom on Sunday Mornings. It will be fun.



Food Pantry

On behalf of the Food Pantry team, I want to thank every person who made our food distribution and emergency pantry possible this month! Thank you for your generosity with your time and resources. And a HUGE thank you to our incredible media team for putting together the videos highlighting this vital work. It fills my pastor's heart to see how different members of the body of Christ come together to answer Jesus' call in Matthew 25.

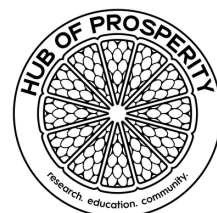
We have just submitted an application for one of our big grants! Please be in prayer for our application, so we can continue to be the hands and feet of God's love for our community.



What's up with the HUB?

December is a meaningful month at the Hub of Prosperity as we continue caring for the farm and preparing for the seasons ahead. We're pleased to welcome Dr. Robin Choudhury on December 13th for a workshop on pest management and plant disease. This month, we're also focusing on improving our soil health to support stronger harvests and greater abundance in the coming year. As the holidays approach, our team is looking forward to some restful time with our families. Thank you, as always, for your support and for the privilege of being part of the EFUMC family. Have a Wonderful Holiday from the Hub of Prosperity!

With love,
Maria



Paint Just Like
Bob Ross

Class Painting for December 6, 2025

Certified Bob Ross Instructor
Call (956)239-5296 or email
rebeccaargstudio@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, DECEMBER 6, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rebecca's Studio

Shoe Bank

The Shoe Bank drive for this first half of the school year was a great success. We were able to take \$15,000 of Shoe Carnival cards to them last week. We would not be able to do this without your generosity and the giving hearts from our local Rotary Club. I hope that during this season of giving you will remember your church. Be sure to support the operating budget and then consider all the other ways you can give. The gift of shoes to the Edinburg school children is a great gift.



Join Us for A
Christmas
COOKIE EXCHANGE

Let's celebrate the Season!
SATURDAY | 13 DECEMBER 2025 | AT 7 PM
AT THE PARSONAGE! 1522 CEDAR ST EDINBURG TX

You will be contacted Dec.7th
with the number of people in
attendance. Then you'll know
how many homemade cookie
gift packages you'll make.
RSVP with Tina 956-225-4683

MUSIC
PETTING ZOO,
BOUNCE HOUSE
& MORE!!!

FOOD
ACTIVITIES

Christmas
CARNIVAL

All are Welcome!
—DECEMBER—
SATURDAY **20** AT 1-4 PM

3707 W. UNIVERSITY DR. EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539