

First United Methodist Church

3707 West University

Edinburg, TX 78539-7782

Rev. Sarah Solis, Pastor

Office: (956) 381-9806

Fax: (956) 381-9807

Email: office@edinburgfumc.org

Web: www.edinburgfumc.org

Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am

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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

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Beloved and Sent

“Just as [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.” Mark 1:10-12, NRSV

Dear Edinburg FUMC family,

Over the past month, our Bible study has been journeying through the Gospel of Mark together. And it’s been a great time! If you haven’t been able to make it to Bible study, it’s always a time of good food and good conversation. It’s a space where you can bring your questions, the unique insights you hold, and faithfully wrestle with the question Jesus poses to his disciples: Who do you say I am? No Bible expertise required. Just show up with an open mind and an empty stomach.

The next time the Bible study gathers—Wednesday, October 8—we will be reading Mark 11-13, which describe Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of the end of his earthly ministry. This has made me think about the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. In those days, there was a man named John the Baptist; he began to call people to a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” And the people responded. People from Jerusalem and the countryside all around came to John to confess their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. John the Baptist said, “‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me... I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” The people responded to John’s message because they recognized the signs of the coming Messiah.

Enter: Jesus to be baptized. So much could be said about what happens next. He sees the heavens torn open. The Holy Spirit descends upon him. And he hears a voice—the Father’s voice—say, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” When Jesus comes out of the water, his new life begins. All that Jesus would do—his miracles, his teachings that would inspire both awe and ire, his death and resurrection—come from this moment.

Immediately after, the Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the wilderness for forty days. He was tempted by Satan, spent time with the wild beasts, and was waited on by angels.

It strikes me that before these forty days of struggle, Jesus was reminded of three things. 1) He is God’s beloved son; his identity is rooted in Belovedness. 2) Before he overcomes Satan’s temptations, the miracles and the teachings, the Father affirms that he is well-pleased with Jesus. 3) Fully-human Jesus receives the Holy Spirit; whatever his ministry would bring, Jesus would not face it alone.

The same is true for us. In baptism, we are brought into the family of God. In The United Methodist Church, we baptize infants as the purest expression of God’s gracious love that longs to bring us close even before we can understand this love. When we are witnesses to a baptism, we remind ourselves that we, too, are God’s beloved child; we, too, are always growing in understanding of who God is and what this great love calls us to. By our baptism, we are sent in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the one who guides us through the wilderness of life. The Spirit is the one who tugs on us to respond to the call of love—to call that friend, linger around the family table, show up for the Shoe Bank or the food pantry or pumpkin patch.

Over the month of October, we will be spending time thinking about the elements at the heart of our worship: communion, baptism, fellowship, and the Word. As we spend the month reflecting on “true and proper worship,” remember that worship is grounded in the reality that you are God’s beloved child. You are sent and empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring that transforming love out to the world. You do not go alone. You go with the Spirit, and we go together.

Con cariño, With love,
Pastor Sarah

October Dates To Put In Your Calendar

- Oct. 5th at 11:45 AM - Welcome Luncheon for Pastor Sarah
- Oct. 7th at 1:00 PM - Bag Bean & Rice, Bag & Freeze Chicken
- Oct. 11th at 11:00 AM - Celebration of Life: Lois Kildahl
- Oct. 15th - Pumpkin Delivery Day!
- Oct. 16th at 1:00 PM - Prepare Grocery Bags
- Oct. 17th - Pumpkin Patch Begins!
- Oct. 17th through Nov. 23rd - Pumpkin Bread Sales Begin
- Oct. 18th at 8:30 AM - Food Distribution
- Oct. 26th - We Begin Accepting Items for Rummage Sale
- Oct. 31st at 5:30PM to 7:00 PM - Trunk-Or-Treat



Pumpkin Patch Season is Here! 🎃

Mark your calendars — pumpkin delivery day is Wednesday, October 15! We'll need all the help we can get to unload the pumpkins and set up the patch that day.

Once the patch is ready, we'll also need volunteers to help run it- welcoming/greeting visitors, helping with sales, and sharing smiles!

Whether you can lend a hand for an hour or an afternoon, your help makes a big difference. Let's make this year's Pumpkin Patch the best one yet!

To sign up or get more information, please contact the office @ 956-381-9806 ! 🍂

What's up with the HUB?

October is shaping up to be a lively month at the Hub of Prosperity!

We're excited to welcome two guest speakers for workshops this month: on October 4th, Beatrice will lead a natural dye workshop, blending agriculture and art in a unique way, and on October 11th, Farmer Dave will share his wisdom on soil health, drawing from years of farming experience.

We'll also be starting our October plot at the farm, planting a variety of leafy greens, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and more. It's a season full of learning, growth, and community, and we're so grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Have a great day,
Maria Gonzalez



Shoe Bank

Thank you to this great congregation. In one month, we have brought in \$11,795 for Shoe Bank. We received a great donation from the Rotary Club. We raised money with our Lasagna Lunch, and we have had individuals contribute. The month highlighted all the needs that students in our local schools face as they go to school. We are helping to be good stewards by providing the shoes they need. You heard the need from Sandra Rodriguez-Ramos, the school Parental Involvement Coordinator, Ivan from the Shoe Carnival Store, telling us how they help as Sandra shops for the shoes, you heard from Kim Wilke, a career technology teacher at Economedes, and you heard from Dora Pagel, who is a diagnostician for the district. I hope that all of these have touched your heart. Our lasagna lunch was only possible because you bought tickets, and so many volunteered to help bake, decorate, clean up, and do anything else that I forgot. I am so blessed and grateful to all. Thank you.

Please continue to make your monthly/yearly pledges to our operating funds, and then consider supporting our Shoe Bank, Food Pantry, Music Scholarships, or any other 2nd Mile Giving initiative that you wish.

Blessings, Jackie Billings



The Rummage Sale is Back!

Hello Friends!

We're excited to announce the return of our long-awaited Church Rummage Sale — and we need your help to make it a success!

Now's the perfect time to start setting aside your gently used treasures. We're gratefully accepting:

- Working appliances & electronics
- Clean, gently used clothing and shoes
- Furniture in good condition
- Linens and kitchen items
- Knick-knacks, tools, toys, and books

Donation drop-off begins October 26 in the Fellowship Hall. 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!