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# The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church  
Edinburg, Texas

July 2022



*So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. (Gal. 6:9-10)*

Here we are friends, another year together as church. I'm so grateful and excited to be a part of God's good work in and through Edinburg FUMC. UMC Pastors are appointed year to year. We often have the unspoken expectation that we'll stay in one place for a few years, nothing is guaranteed or promised. We commit to going where God (through the Bishop and cabinet) sends us. Each year is a precious gift and we should be purposeful not to waste a moment of it.

What good work is before us? What opportunities for relationship, community, fun, growth, joy, and deeper discipleship are before us? Already, we know that in the next few months the remainder of the walking trail will be installed. We are updating and refurbishing the playground and making plans to invite the neighborhood families to be at home on the property. We are experimenting with 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Food Truck Potlucks as a way of reconnecting with each other and connecting to our neighbors. We are planning to reallocate space and rooms to reflect the work and ministry we are doing now, instead of letting rooms sit empty for "maybe one day".

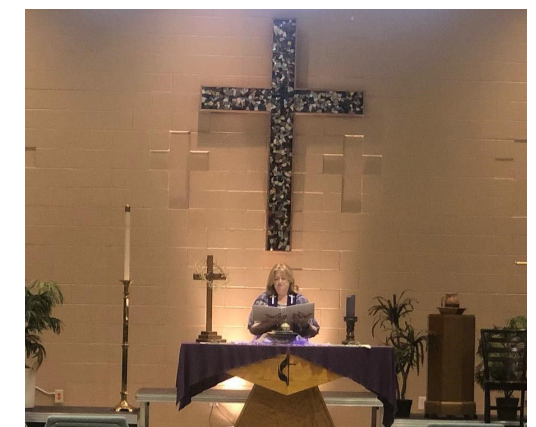
But all of these only matter if they are the overflow of our personal and communal discipleship. If they are about living out our identity as the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." The work of the church is for the heart of God. Our mission statement says that we are loving God by loving and serving others. All that we do is a demonstration of our love for God. How we serve, how we give, what we say, what we don't say... these are all pieces of our discipleship and worship. Our spiritual practices and habits are a means of pressing into deeper, more authentic discipleship. What is your individual prayer practice or habit? Bullet prayers? Crisis intervention? Moments here and there? Dedicated time every day where you ask and listen? What does your individual study of scripture look like? Do you take time to read every day? Do you let God's word transform you? Do you dig deeper for context? Do you ask questions? How often are you in corporate worship on Sundays? Do you fast? Do you participate in small group study? When planning out your day or

your week, what gets scheduled first? Is it time for your spiritual practices and discipleship or other things? When planning out your finances, what gets budgeted first, your tithe/offering or...?

We all are in different places in our discipleship journey. We all have places to grow in our discipleship. None of us can grow in our discipleship alone. We are meant to do it together, in community. So, I'm inviting you into a challenge – The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith by Chris Folmsbee. These questions are attributed to John and Charles Wesley that would be asked in their "Holy Club" (read accountability/small groups ministry). I'll create a special Facebook group for those willing to take the challenge with me. We can discuss the daily questions and challenges. I know some of you don't do Facebook. If you'd like to do the challenge with us, I'll figure out an additional way for us to connect. We'll start on August 1st.

Let us not grow weary of doing good or of choosing to love God more deeply and intentionally. For at just the right time, we will see God's blessing.

**In Jubilee,  
Pastor Michelle**



## PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

There are numerous ways to connect and get involved with Project Transformation Rio Texas and this summer their program is requiring hundreds of volunteers to operate! To learn more about the volunteer opportunities and how to get started volunteering visit [PTRioTexas.org](http://PTRioTexas.org)



### June Food Pantry Distribution

Our distribution was a success in June. A big "Thank You" to volunteers on Thursday afternoon, who came to fill our grocery bags and to more volunteers on Saturday morning as early as 8:30 to receive our produce bags from Buster Lind and to bag the frozen chicken from the H.E.B. food store. We even had some of the Boy Scouts arrive to help, which was a nice surprise. One of the developments of the day was the sea breeze showers that came over and managed to wet down the paper bags of groceries we had sitting on tables near the parking lot distribution area. That "rain scare" caused us to begin moving the groceries earlier than we usually do, to cars that were lined up all the way down Mon Mack Rd. Cindy and Pastor Michelle were able to speak to some of our grocery recipients. They were hearing prayer requests from those receiving groceries and were extending blessings to all.

I am hoping that our congregation will continue with their support and prayers for the food pantry. Please remember to include prayers for those 100, who are receiving the food that we distribute once a month, and for those who come by for food after our 100 bags are gone.

**May we continue to be-- Blessed to be a blessing.**

### Women's Retreat: Walk to Emmaus in November.

I have been asked to be the Spiritual Director for the women's Walk to Emmaus retreat Nov. 3 – 7th. If you've never been on this retreat, it can be a powerful time of connecting to God and other women as we press more deeply into our discipleship. It is a time for spiritual and emotional healing. A time to discern how we can offer our gifts and graces to God. A time to celebrate all we have been created to be in Christ Jesus. Start praying about signing up for this weekend. If you've already been, start praying about whether or not you might be willing to serve on team, make agape, and/or help provide food for the retreat. You are a beloved daughter of God. I hope you'll join me. *(I promise we'll have fun!)*

Blessings,  
**Pastor Michelle**

### Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for people willing to volunteer with the Children's Sunday School at 9:30am (same time as adult Sunday School) and then for the nursery on Sundays during worship. We're hoping to find enough people to volunteer so that no one is out of worship more than once a month or 6 weeks. Volunteers must be over 18 years old and will need to complete the Safe Gatherings Training as required by Rio Texas Annual Conference. Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve.

Blessings,  
**Pastor Michelle**

### Market Day

We are grateful for everyone that helped make June's Night Market a success! Our next Night Market will be on Saturday, July 9th, from **5 pm-9 pm**. We will have a Market filled with live music, food, and many vendors! We hope you all will join us and be a part of this fun-filled event!



### It's a Potluck, But Not Like You Remember!!

On Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 7pm – 9pm, we'll host our first pot luck since COVID-19 restrictions went into place. Come enjoy good food, good friends, great live music, and hopefully meet some new friends. We will



be celebrating students and teachers as they head back to school. We're still working out some of the details, but we will be doing a sign-up sheet for side items as well as possibly pre-selling tickets for meals from the Food Truck to have a good head count. We'll be inviting our neighbors,

the scout troops we host, The HUB students, Campus Ministry students, our Market Day vendors, so who will you be inviting? If you are willing to help with set up and prep work, please contact **Linda Henrichson (956) 607-0663**

### The Return of PUMPKIN PATCH!!!

Even before COVID, EFUMC was struggling to find enough volunteers to sustain a successful Pumpkin Patch. The event and its delicious bread at EFUMC have long been a community tradition that we are ready to re-imagine to best serve the church and the community. The Ad Board has voted to do a "short patch." We'll open the patch for the last 2 weeks of October (15th – 31st roughly). We'll only be ordering a half-truck of pumpkins, but will still need EVERYONE'S HELP to make this a fun, successful event. We are looking for a volunteer to oversee/coordinate the different aspects of the patch and different individuals to head up teams for each piece of the pumpkin patch pie.

#### We need people who will:

- ⇒ Help prep the space for the pumpkin set up (we may move to a different space on the property)
- ⇒ Help decorate and create "picture taking" spaces
- ⇒ Help set up additional lighting
- ⇒ HELP UNLOAD PUMPKINS
- ⇒ Help lead stories or crafts on the 2 Saturdays of the patch
- ⇒ Help with games and activities on the 2 Saturdays of the patch
- ⇒ Help WORK THE PATCH!!



Put it on your calendar and start dreaming of fall when you feel the summer heat!

### Music Ministry



Summertime is here! The choir is off until September and the band will be taking a much needed break in July. This will be a time of renewal and rest, but it also gives me a time to reflect on everything the music ministry has been able to do this past year. From Christmas & Easter cantatas to the band playing at Trunk of Treat, and the choir performing at the Annual Conference it has been a jammed packed year. Thank you for your continued support of our scholarship singers and our band members. With your help, we have been able to build a team of dedicated and talented music ministry members to lead us in worship.

### Shoe Bank Update!

As the school year approaches, we will be asking for you more support to provide shoes for our ECISD students in need. We are so grateful to have wonderful support through the school district to make sure the students who need them receive shoes and a tangible expression of God's love for them. Thank you, to all who have donated to our In His Steps Shoe Bank so far this year:

**Anonymous**  
**Mary Williams**  
**Jackie Billings**  
**Barbara Francis**

**Judy McClelland**  
**Laura Brewster**  
**Norma Ramirez**

**Church office will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup>**

