

First United Methodist Church  
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# The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church  
Edinburg, Texas



## August 2024

If you were in church on July 21st, or watched online, you heard how the Lord has been teaching me and exhorting me to share about what “compassion” really is. For disciples of Jesus, compassion isn’t just an emotion. The Greek definition of the word means we are moved in our stomachs (churning, making us sick) by something we see and moved to take action. It isn’t compassion if we don’t have a personal, visceral reaction and are compelled to be part of the solution.

As a culture, we have become numb, immune, inured to the ills of the world. We see them. We’re sad for them. We are resigned to them. We are grateful that/when they don’t happen to us. We are safely untouched by their effects. It’s not deliberate, but it’s a problem, a place that needs to be healed in our discipleship. I asked the congregation what issue, place of concern in the world moves them to the biblical definition of compassion. I asked what issue/concern they would want us, as a faith community, to actively become part of the solution. All of the responses fall into these categories:

- Elder Care, particularly those in our community without family nearby
- Food Security/Equity
- Human/Sex Trafficking
- Vulnerable Children
- Making sure everyone knows they are loved by God and have a place to belong.

If the issue that moves you to compassion is not listed or falls into these categories, PLEASE email me.

So what do we do now? First, we pray. Pray for God to align our hearts to His and to each others in biblical compassion. Pray for God to bring people who will lead ministry in these areas. Pray that God will give us clear vision and creativity in discerning how we go forward and what **BIG DREAMS** God has for our church and our community in these specific areas. Pray for God to make resources abundantly available. Pray for people, businesses, and organizations outside the church who will partner with us to this good work. Pray for God to show you **YOUR** specific role in doing this good work.

We will not rush into doing anything for the sake of doing something. Please email me, call me for coffee, to discuss what you have heard from the Lord in your prayers. If you have specific skills, make them available to the church. Are you a skilled, experienced grant writer? Are you someone who is networked in the community and know who to ask important questions? Are you willing to be trained and do home visits? How will you be moved to action with and as the church?

Moved by Compassion  
Pastor Michelle



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

- August 4: Communion
- August 25: Back to School Blessings
- August 30: Fun 5th Friday
- SHOE BANK CAMPAIGN ALL MONTH LONG!





ESTD 2002  
FOOD TRUCK  
POTLUCK  
EVERY 3RD FRIDAY

# 5<sup>TH</sup> FUN FRIDAY!

AUGUST 30TH 2024

5:30PM-9PM

AWARD WINNING  
CARNE GUISADA!



## My Internship at EFUMC by Sarah Solis

This summer, I was blessed to intern at two El Valle United Methodist Churches. I spent June with Pastor Celia Halfacre at First United Methodist Church in Brownsville. There, I learned about traditional liturgy; I was invited to lead Sunday service with Pastor Celia and during the transition time when FUMC Brownsville awaited their new pastor. I also supported their VBS, prayed over the youth and their chaperones as they headed out to UM Army, and helped cook dinner to serve at Good Neighbor Resettlement House with Brownville's United Women in Faith group.

In July, I transitioned to First Edinburg. I told Pastor Michelle that I wanted to learn about the nitty-gritty realities of a pastor's work. I have helped with research grants to support the work of Campus Ministry, attended a Campus Ministry strategy meeting, and met pastors in Hispanic ministry. I also served alongside the Food Distribution team to pack rice, beans, and chicken, and last Saturday, I had the immense blessing of praying over the families as they waited in line. I also preached my very first sermons in the RGV! It has been a summer of blessings as I have learned so much about how churches function as part of a network of community care. It is bittersweet to end my summer, but I am filled with joy and hope as I look forward to returning to serve El Valle and the Rio Texas Conference once I graduate.

## Food Pantry

Dates to remember this month:

Monday, August 5th at 1:00 p.m. bag beans and rice and prep chickens for freezer;

Thursday, August 15th at 1:00 p.m. prepare grocery bags;

Saturday, August 17th at 8:30 a.m. distribution day.

Last month we were blessed to bless 115 families. When the 100 bags were given out and there were still 15 cars in line, we were able to give them H.E.B. gift cards. There is so much need in our community.

We know the food we provide will be quickly gone. However, there is something much more lasting happening at our Food Pantry. Look at the picture that accompanies this article. You can see Pastor Michelle and members of our congregation going to each car in line and asking if the people inside would like prayer. The day I walked that line everyone asked for prayer: prayer for illness, prayer for loss, prayer for work, prayers for their children...

If you have felt God's call to intercessory prayer for and with others, join us on Saturday, August 17th. There is as much, no more, need for prayer as there is for the food we provide.

Peace and joy,  
Barbara Engelbrecht



## Project Transformation

Ready to connect and get involved with Project Transformation Rio Texas during the summer? Scan the QR codes to become a Dinner Volunteer or Reading Volunteer Buddy!



Contact PT Staff

Tera Quintero, RGV Outreach Coordinator for Project Transformation: 361-271-9334/ [tera@prietexas.org](mailto:tera@prietexas.org)

or

Meg Myers [meg@prietexas.org](mailto:meg@prietexas.org)  
with any questions or concerns!

## What's up with the HUB?

Summer is a quiet time of year at the farm, but we're still hard at work preparing for another year of growth and agricultural education once the school year starts again on August 26. Our free 2nd Saturday workshop series will return on Saturday September 14. The September workshop will be an introduction to vegetable gardening in the RGV. We may have some community garden bed openings for the fall season. Community garden membership is \$20/year and fall planting day will be in mid to late September. Please reach out at [stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu](mailto:stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu) if you'd like to join the bed waitlist or if you have any other questions about the Hub!

All the best,  
Stephanie



## Testimonials

Thank you for your prayers during my recent illness. I'm well now and your prayers were certainly felt. Also thank for your prayers for my brother, as he retiring Haiti . He has arrived back there safely and is back at work and is very happy to be back.

Susan Wiesehan

## "Sacred Space With Mollie"

Starting on Thursday, August 1st, 2024, classes will be taking place on Monday & Thursday at 5:30 PM. The classes are still donation based and all mobility levels are welcomed!



## The Office Corner

Around a year ago I was introduced to EFUMC by my good friend Zachary, as there was a position for being an Office team member. I didn't really know much of EFUMC, nor did I even know what a Methodist was, so I decided to come to the Sunday service and learn more about the values of the church. I don't exactly remember what the sermon was that day, but I do remember that it resonated with me and that the church had a very welcoming aura to it that didn't made me feel like an outcast or antagonized me for not being in the same group as everyone else. Throughout my life I've visited various branches of Christianity such as the Catholic church, the Baptist church & the Protestant church, etc. All of these never seemed to aligned with my beliefs or would begin to antagonize my family and I if we didn't act exactly like them. These would range from being excluded from activities, to being humiliated in front of the whole congregation. EFUMC has been the opposite of those experiences, and I want to say thank you to all of you for not only helping me find a place to learn and discuss the teachings of the Lord, but also to be able to help my community and open up my heart to being closer to God. I hope to continue being part of this community in the future to come.

Wishing all of you the best,  
Edgar Lerma