

First United Methodist Church
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The Methodist Messenger
First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas
September 2024

As of September 1, 2024, just about 75 of us from EFUMC and friends of EFUMC will be 245 days into daily reading the bible using a chronological reading plan so that we will have read the entire bible by December 31, 2024. At day 245, we are still about a month out, reading daily, from starting the New Testament.

the “every day”. I have been raised to be a self-sufficient, problem-solving, make a plan then work the plan, person. Which is great when I surrender my will to God’s heart in process. Unfortunately, right now, I’m more focused on not failing than I am focused on letting God carry the burden. There is an idol of success and approval that is too heavy for me to carry.

Let me summarize the main points thus far. 1. God loves us. 2. God takes God’s covenant with people SERIOUSLY. 3. God will not allow infidelity to the covenant, idolatry, to go unpunished. 4. God will go to extreme lengths to get our attention. Being loved by God doesn’t exempt us from the consequences of our sin. God disciplines those whom God loves. 5. No matter how deeply we’ve grieved God, how grossly we have been unfaithful, how angry we have made God, God’s heart is to make a way for us to be restored.

As I ask God to show me about my own areas of repentance and restoration, I am asking God to show me where, as a church, we might have struggle to keep God first. I’m going to invite to you pray, to ask God to show you where God is no longer first in your whole being, in your daily life, and your inmost hopes and dreams. If you’re not sure what might be an “idol”, try to identify places in your life where God doesn’t get your first and best. Does God get the first and best of your time? Does God get the first and best of your trust? Does God get the first and best of your finances/resources? Does God get the first and best of your thoughts? Your words? Are you making room for God in your life or is God the center of you life and you make room for other things after that. Is God first?

At the heart of our covenant with God, we promise that God gets the first place in our whole being, our daily life, our inmost desires. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are first in all things. This means that our relationship, attention to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is an intentional pursuit and commitment. When we look back at the Old Testament, what we read over and over (and over) again is that the people of Israel and Judah abandoned God, worshipped other gods, built pagan altars, defiling their relationship with God through infidelity, “taking idols into their hearts.” (Ezekiel 14:3)


In the coming weeks, months, we’ll be talking, praying, repenting, and hopefully, restoring God to God’s proper place in all the areas of our whole being, daily life, and inmost dreams and desires. Do we want the church to grow? Do we want to share the love of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with others? Do we want to be spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically, and financially healthy? Do we want our families to be healthy and whole? Do we want to see good done in the world? Then God must be first.

I haven’t been able to shake that verse, “they have taken idols into their hearts.” I’ve been asking God to show me what “idols” I have set up in my heart that push God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit from their rightful place in my whole being, my daily life, and my inmost dreams and desires. I find that I am struggling to trust God with

Re-aligning my heart,
Pastor Michelle

Important Dates For Your Calendar This Month!!!

- September 2nd- “Labor Day”, Office Closed
- September 9th- Prepare Chicken for the freezer & divide rice and beans into bags
- September 19th-Prepare our non-perishable grocery bags for distribution
- September 21st- Food Pantry Day





Exciting news! Introducing ‘Chef Alec's Private Events & Catering’
 Experience culinary delight with Chef Alec’s gourmet plates perfect for private events, special occasions and more! Anyone with an appetite for quality meals inspired by our local growing seasons will be sure to enjoy these meals.
 Reach out to Alec via email or telephone and make sure to follow him on Facebook and Instagram!



Dinners and Bible Study for Campus Ministry!

EFUMC has committed to provide dinner on the 3rd Thursday of each month for Campus Ministry’s bible study.

If you would be willing to help prepare and deliver a meal, please sign up on this google form or email Pastor Michelle at pastor@edinburgfumc.org

(We need to make a QR code for the Google form)

What’s up with the HUB?

We'll be starting back up our 2nd Saturday workshop series on Saturday September 14, 9-11 am. This month's free session will cover the basics of starting a vegetable garden. The Hub community garden will also start back up in September and it looks like we will have a few open beds, so please let us know if you'd like to apply to adopt a bed for the season! You can reach Stephanie at stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu with any questions!

All the best,
Stephanie



Trunk or Treat and All Things Pumpkin

October will be here soon! If you are willing to help plan and prepare, please contact the church office. Trunk or Treat will be Sunday October 27th 4pm – 6pm.



“Sacred Space With Mollie”

Come and Join us for Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays at 5:30PM! Here at Edinburg First United Methodist Church.



Food Pantry

I want to begin with a big THANK YOU!! To everyone who helped at our 5th Friday Potluck. All proceeds went to the support of our Food Pantry Ministry. In the past two months we have seen a significant increase in the number of families waiting in the distribution line. Last month we gave out 100 bags and there were still at least 25 vehicles in line.

This month our Food Pantry day is Saturday September 21. We begin preparing for distribution at 8:30 a.m. Distribution begins at 9:00 a.m. On Monday September 9, we will prepare chicken for the freezer and divide rice and beans into smaller bags, beginning at 1:00 p.m. On September 19 at 1:00 p.m. we will prepare our non-perishable grocery bags for distribution.

Everyone is welcome to come and help on one or more of these days.

Peace,
Barbara Engelbrecht

