

First United Methodist Church
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Rev. Michelle Vernone, Pastor
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Worship/Live Stream 10:30 am
Address Services Requested

Important Dates For Your Calendar This Month!!!

Food Pantry dates to remember:

January 6 1:00 p.m. bag beans and rice, prep and freeze chicken

January 6:30pm 15th Prayer & Healing Service

January 16 1:00 p.m. prepare distribution bags

January 18 8:30 a.m. distribution day

January 31st 5:30PM 5th Friday

Looking for a way to serve the community, join us on any or all of these dates.



The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church
Edinburg, Texas

January 2025




“Lord, through all generations, you have been our home.”
Psalm 90:1

It’s the holiday season. It’s the “holy day” season. Holiday celebrations are almost always synonymous with “home” and “family.” Sometimes that’s good and sometimes that’s...complicated. Even the most healthy, happiest families have struggles, arguments, topics that cause strain. There are many who don’t know what it’s like to have a ‘home’, a place to belong, a place to be loved. There are people who don’t have any family (by DNA standards). For these and many others, the holidays, are hard.

Whatever your experience of home, holidays, or family, there is a home and a family that transcends our earthly circumstances. Psalm 90:1 reminds us that God is our home. We are all bound together by the power of the Holy Spirit as more than just strangers, colleagues, or friends. By God’s love, grace, and compassion we are family. And, like any home, any family, we have our struggles, arguments, topics that cause strain. No matter, we are home, and we are family regardless.

Advent is the eager preparation for the long-awaited Messiah. The one who is our home comes to make His home in us.

This Advent/Christmas we will be emphasizing being home for Christmas. Not just ‘coming’ home, but ‘being home’ for our relatives, friends, faith-family, and maybe most especially, people who don’t feel or believe that they have a home or family. What could that look like in your life? Could you invite someone you know to share in your family traditions?

Maybe you could start a new tradition? I want to encourage you to approach Advent differently this year. Maybe, instead of the constant round of parties and open houses, going out, spending extravagantly on gifts, we choose to be home more. We spend our evenings at home, with the people God has given us. Low key and lovely. Baking with kids, grandkids, friends, family. What if we gave time and affection to our friends and family as our most valued gifts. What if we gave “gift money” to the ministries that are closest to our hearts? What does it mean to you to be “home for Christmas?” What would it look like to give someone else a place to belong?

Each Sunday in Advent we will celebrate communion, recognizing that God is our home, all who gather are family, and Jesus is the feast at the Table. Each week will celebrate communion with Christmas Cookies, recipes from our congregation. The Advent Devotional I’ll be teaching from is Coffee and Cookies with God vol. 2. We have a few copies on hand at church or you can order them from Amazon (kindle editions as well). On Christmas Eve, during our offering, we’ll ask our church family to bring forth their 2025 commitments and lay them in the manger as our gift to the King.

Answering the Call,
Pastor Michelle

Study of Revelation

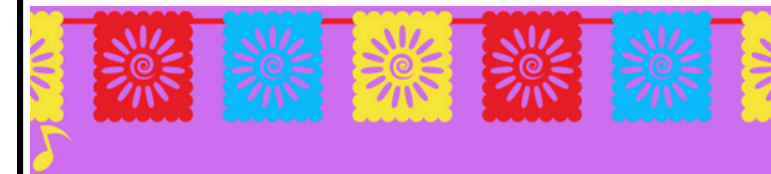
Please join us for an exciting 10-week study of Revelation, chapters 1 -5, starting Tuesday, January 14th, at 10am in the meeting room. These chapters unveil Jesus' letters to the seven churches and true spiritual worship of God. Please call the office to sign up. Bring your favorite bible and let's dig into God's Holy Word! See you soon!

Sunday School:

We have been studying the same book that Pastor Michelle is using for the December sermon series and have really enjoyed looking back past Christmas' and the traditions that we hold dear. We will be continuing a study of words that we should avoid as Christians in January. Please come and join us.



🎉 Get Ready for the Fifth Friday Fiesta! 🎉



Shoe Bank

Dorothea Knox and I took 84 knit caps to the Parental Involvement Office at the Edinburg School district and they are going to distribute to children in need at their Christmas parties on campus. The balance in Shoe Bank donations as of December 15, 2024 is \$17,181.14. We are a little over half of our goal of \$30,000 for year number 30.

REVELATION STUDY

CHAPTERS 1 -5

Congregational Care:

We have been busy sending Christmas cards to the people that we know would like to hear from our church family. If you know of someone, please let us know, too.



Starting Tuesday, January 14th, at 10am in the meeting room!

What's Up With The HUB?

This month's free community workshop is Saturday January 11, 10 -11:30 am. Beatriz Guzman Velasquez, local artist and beginning farmer program graduate, will present and the session will include a seed swap and seed packet art activity! Weekly farm stands also return from their holiday break on Sat. 1/11, 10 am - 12 pm. See you at the Hub! You can reach Stephanie at stephanie.kasper01@utrgv.edu with with any questions.



"His Hands" Food Pantry

Thanks to our grants, this month we are increasing our distribution from 100 to 125. Thank you to all who participated in our First Annual Christmas Carnival. It was a wonderful event. It was a beehive of fun and activity. Estimates are of at least 120 children accompanied by parents/grandparents!



HIS HANDS
EFUMC FOOD PANTRY

Fifth Friday Fiesta is coming and we're gearing up for something special. More details coming soon!

Fifth Friday Fiesta

January 31st, 2025
5:30PM-9PM

N. University Dr. Edinburg, TX 78539

Food will be served 6PM-7:30PM

