

# FUMC Edna Newsletter

## A New Year focus: to choose to love?

<sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” – Lamentations 3:21-23

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27*

Happy New Year! I often think of new beginnings with the new year. Lamentations 3:21-23 encourages me that even when I failed on new year’s resolutions, new plans, exercise routines, healthy habits, new Spiritual disciplines; God is still God, God is still faithful, God is still calling me into relationship/ strengthen my relationship! God’s mercies are new not just each: new year, new month, new week, but each new day! Thanks be to God!

This new year the Luke passage above comes to mind. What would it look like to love? (Greek: *agape* kind of love, most often associated with God’s kind of love. Also, in the Greek this is a verb, so not Hallmark squishy love, but an active choice [choosing to love]).

What would it look like to choose to love God? And choose to love God not just with some parts of us, but with all our hearts, with all our soul (life/ self [think Hokey Pokey: put your whole self in]), with all our strength, and with all our mind?

Spiritual Disciplines help us: draw closer to God, strengthen our relationship with God, and even come back and be reconciled with God. The Holy Spirit works through our participation in Spiritual Disciplines to transform us and helps us improve our relationships with others. Spiritual Disciplines include: prayer, reading the Bible, reading devotionals, worship, giving of time as well as finances, serving, sharing what God has done, journaling, fasting from food or things, sitting in silence, enjoying & honoring a Sabbath day, studying the Bible in a small group, confessing sins & shortcomings, repenting, practicing forgiveness, participating in Christian fellowship, partaking in an accountability group to name a few.

What would it look like to choose to love our neighbor? These neighbors are not just our friends and family, those easy to love; but also our ‘extra-grace-required’ porcupine-like/ hard to love: family members, co-workers, geographically-near actual neighborhood neighbors, people who disagree with us, etc. How can we demonstrate God’s love to those around us, those on social media, etc.? How can we invite and assist people: to come to God, to accept God’s offer of relationship through Jesus the Christ, to grow in their relationship with God?

What would it look like to choose to love ourselves? Sometimes one of the hardest people to love and to forgive is our self. Often what we say to our self, we would not say to our friends. So, instead of beating up yourself, think of what you would say to a friend in your situation, then say that to yourself. Spiritual disciplines can help you to choose to love yourself as Christ loves you, as the Holy Spirit transforms you to become more and more Christ-like.

This year as we seek to choose to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and our neighbor as self, what Spiritual Discipline(s) will you start or pick up again? When you fail, start again, trusting that God is still faithful, chooses to love you, and still seeks to be in relationship with you. Thanks be to God!

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Kelli

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## January

1st ~ Epiphany Sunday  
 2nd ~ RSVP for Soul Food  
 3rd ~ Edna ISD, Back to School  
 4th ~ Ganado ISD, Back to School  
 5th ~ Industrial ISD, Back to School  
 5th ~ Soul Food Thursday, Plates to Go Only, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am  
 8th ~ Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
 8th ~ Education Committee, Moon Building, 12:15 pm  
 9th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm  
 9th ~ Trustees Committee, Moon Building, 6 pm  
 10th ~ United Women in Faith, Semi-Annual Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am  
 16th ~ MLK Day  
 29th ~ Noisy Offering, Lighthouse #2911, Both Services  
 30th ~ RSVP for Soul Food  
 31st ~ Brown Hearing Center, Parlor, 10 am - 4 pm

## February

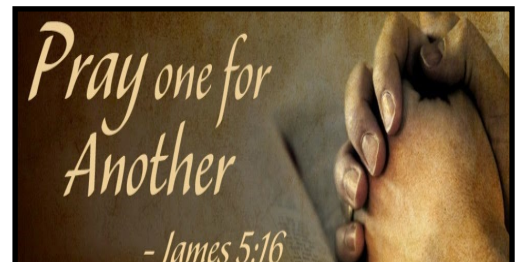
2nd ~ Soul Food Thursday, Plates to Go Only, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am  
 13th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm  
 13th ~ Trustees Committee, Moon Building, 6 pm  
 19th ~ Transfiguration Sunday  
 20th ~ Presidents' Day  
 20th ~ March/April Newsletter Submission Deadline  
 21st ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper, Fellowship Hall  
 22nd ~ Ash Wednesday Services, Chapel, 6:30 am, 12 pm, & 6:30 pm  
 26th ~ Noisy Offering, UM NOMADS, Both Services  
 28th ~ Little School Board, Parlor, 5:30 pm

Welcome to our NEW Music Director, Kybind Jimenez!

Harmony Chimes will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, Jan. 4th in the Choir Room at 5:15 pm.

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsal on Wednesday, Jan. 4th in the Choir Room at 6 pm.

Our District Prayer Partner is First UMC Columbus. Please join us in praying for our brothers and sisters at First UMC Columbus, as they lift our congregation in prayer. We ask blessings upon them that they may be encouraged to seek our Lord and share the Good News with their community.



Soul Food, delicious lunch on 1st Thursdays at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, lunch served as take-only at this time. A printed devotional is available with each lunch. Please RSVP by contacting the church office at 782-3561 by the Monday prior to the lunch, so we are able to prepare enough food to accommodate those interested!



The Worship Committee asks Worshippers to bring their coins the last Sunday of each month and drop them in the cans. We chose organizations around the area that could use the financial support as they help those in need.

November: United Methodist Student Day college scholarships, grants, loans: \$121.70 was collected and sent in.

December: Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity: \$125.17 was collected and sent in.

Thank you for your support!!

January: Lighthouse2911 – is a non-profit organization seeking to serve the needs of at-risk youth and their families in the Texas Golden Crescent (Victoria, TX and the surrounding communities). Sharing hope and brightening the future. Led by Rev. Paul Beard of FUMCs Ganado & Louise.

“Youth are taught healthy life concepts and skills and are mentored and supported. Our staff members assist youth in applying valuable life lessons in their everyday lives. Parent programs give parents a valuable resource for support, crisis management, and parent education. Positive Attitudes & Life Skills (PALS) is a multifaceted program directed at improving the attitudes and life skills of youth. It is a drug-use and violence prevention and educational support program as well. This comprehensive program includes: support groups, social skills outings, summer camp, community service restitution, summer program, education services, workshops, early offender programs, and placement alternative programs.” For more info: <http://www.lighthouse2911.org/>

February: Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service – NOMADS “provide volunteer labor for United Methodist organizations. NOMADS demonstrate God’s love through our work and by listening to the people with whom we work. We do new construction, remodeling, and repairs for churches, children’s homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and disaster rebuilding. Team members do maintenance, cleaning, painting, electrical, drywall, sewing, and flooring.” For more info: [www.nomadsumc.org/](http://www.nomadsumc.org/) .

### Wednesday Nite Live

6pm meal, 3rd—5th & 6th-12th graders have games and a Bible Study to help them grow in their faith. If you would like to provide the meal on a Wednesday, please contact the church office or Courtney Mercer.

wednesday  
night **LIVE!**



If you are interested in being a substitute at Little School, please contact Brittany Powell 361-781-2760.

Helping Hands is looking for few more volunteers on Monday or Thursday mornings. 324 E Main St., Edna, Texas 77957 (361) 782-7543.

Helping Hands is open to clients: Monday & Thursday mornings 9am – noon.



Community Trunk-or-Treat 10/27 at EHS. We handed out hundreds of the Christian pumpkin booklets with our church contact info and of course. Great time to interact with our community!





## Wednesday Nite Live game snapshots



We celebrated Pastor Appreciation Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Normally this would be in October, but we moved it to November 6<sup>th</sup> for our Pastor. She thanks you all for the encouraging notes and donations given in honor of her to our Capital Improvements fund!

We are collecting bids to remodel restrooms creating an accessible restroom and with a baby changing table, and create a little kid restroom in the Nursery / Room 6 area. We would like to start and complete this project July-August 2023, with your support.

Pastor Kelli gave a special lesson about the Trinity to our children during Sunday School 11/13.





Great time worshipping with our brothers & sisters in Christ at the Community Thanksgiving worship service 11/20! A generous offering of \$195.00 was collected for Helping Hands!

United Women in Faith Annual Bake Sale  
11/22. Thank you for your support!!



Thank you to Formosa Plastics Religious Trust and First National Bank, Port Lavaca for the generous grant to help subsidize our Vacation Bible School for children, and our Mid-Winter Retreat and Summer Camp for youth!  
At the luncheon, we were blessed to hear how different churches and non-profit organizations make a difference in Calhoun, Jackson, and Victoria counties! Over these last 26 years, Formosa Plastics Religious Trust has given away over 1 million dollars across the three-county region.





Children singing at both worship services 12/11, let us worship Our Lord together!



Thank you those who helped them set up the Nativity Scene facing Main St.!

Thank you for helping us reflect on what Christmas is about!

Christmas Boxes to our previous mission families were collected on 12/18, so they can be driven down to the Valley and hand-delivered. Thank you for sharing with our mission families





Here are some pictures from this Advent & Christmas season.



WNL kids &  
church adults  
share joy through  
Christmas  
caroling!





Reverse Advent Calendar non-perishable items for Helping Hands were collected 12/18 and delivered to Helping Hands. Thank you for sharing with our fellow Jackson County neighbors!!



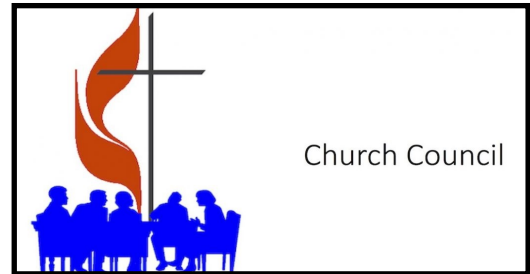
Christmas Day is Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> so to worship God on this special day we will have 1 combined worship service at 10am! Please feel free to bring your relatives and come in your appropriate robe and slippers!



Thank you to Joel Fuller for setting up the new office computer and transferring over the files and programs for us!!

Thank you to Adam Stansbury, Jimmy Brauhnolz, Dorothy Johnson & JP Strickland for replacing the lights in the Fellowship Hall. Great work!

Church Council seeks to increase Fellowship opportunities in 2023. Look for more information to be announced as details are finalized.



Youth Mid-Winter Retreat 2023 info coming soon!

United Women in Faith next semi-annual luncheon is Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.



United  
Women  
in Faith



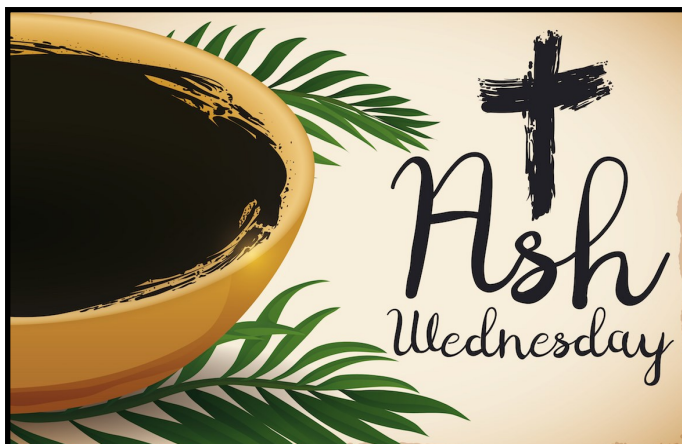
If you have 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade student(s) that have not been confirmed, and are interested in Confirmation class, please contact the church office. So, we can prepare for Confirmation class 2023.





Shrove Tuesday (aka Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday) Pancake & Sausage supper will be Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is marked by 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Here is a Lent preparation list to help you grow in your faith (*please see page 14 for list*)



Ash Wednesday 2/22 worship services in the Chapel: 6:30am, noon, and 6:30pm.

If you have a high school senior who is graduating in May, please let the office know. We will be beginning our 2023 celebration and scholarship plans.



# Report of Leadership Development & Nominations 2023

## Church Leaders

Church Council Chair	*David Johnson
Lay Leader	*Mike Myers
Recording Secretary	*
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference	*Mike Myers
(Alternate) Lay Delegate to Annual Conference	*Holly Myers
Treasurer ( <i>Paid positions serve without vote</i> )	*Rachel Fuller
Financial Secretary	*Barbara Martin
Youth Ministry Leader	*JP Strickland
UMW President ( <i>Elected by UMW</i> )	*Holly Myers
Youth Ministry President or Rep. ( <i>Elected by Youth</i> )	*
Young Adult Rep.	*Colleen Fellers

### Leadership Development & Nominations

#### Class 2023

Gaylynn Lambert

#### Class 2024

Courtney Mercer

Tara Orsak

Michelle Orsak

#### Class 2025

Jana Scalin

Jan Lewis

Terry Smith

*Ex Officio member: 1 Lay Leader (vice chair). (At least 1 young adult, 1 can be youth)*

### Staff-Parish Relations Committee

#### Class 2023

Jill Branscum

Sam Roberson

#### Class 2024

Madalyn Maresh

Chris McCabe

Chair: \*Tia Patton

#### Class 2025

Don Sachletben

Kay Simons

Tara Orsak

*(At least: 1/3 Male, 1/3 Female, 2/3 Members)*

### Finance Committee

#### Class 2023

Pam Fiew

#### Class 2024

Bill Reaves

#### Class 2025

Shannon Orsak

*Ex-officio members: Pastor, 1 Lay Leader, 1 Lay Delegate, Church Council chair, S.P.R.C. chair or rep, Trustees chair or rep, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer (Rachel Fuller –paid position serves without vote).*

### At-Large Members

#### Class 2023

\*Patricia Rachels

Chair: \*Bill Reaves

### Wesley Nurse

\*Lindsey Floyd (*paid position serves without vote*)

*\*The asterisk indicates that the person holding that office is a member of the Church Council.*

Charge Conference approved 11/13/2022



***For the following committee, the Chairpersons are elected by Charge Conference (& are members), with personnel on these committees is open, at any time throughout the year.***

**Education Committee**

**Co-Chairs:** \*Brandy Stansbury & Jennifer Storz

Sherrie Bergstrom, Becky Hanys, Brandy Stansbury, Jennifer Storz, Patricia Rachels, Jill Branscum, Pam Fiew

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

**Worship Committee**

**Co-Chairs:** \*Butch & Pat Norrell

Maudie Thomas, Gayle Sachtleben, Lesli Tipton, Becky Hanys, Pat Norrell, Butch Norrell, Diane Powell, Martha Davis, Theresa Burnett, Jennifer Storz, Dorothy Johnson

*Ex Officio members: Music Director; Communion Steward; Paraments Coordinator; Liturgist Coordinator; Usher Coordinator; Acolyte Coordinate; Pastor*

**Missions Committee**

Sandy Fellers, Hunter Boxwell, Jesse Riddle, Paul Davis

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

**Fellowship Committee**

Martha Davis, Jan Respondek, Dorothy Johnson, Diane Powell, Theresa Burnett

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

**Safety Team**

**Chair:** \*David Johnson

David Johnson, Dorothy Johnson, Madalyn Maresh, Mike Myers, JP Strickland, Hunter Boxwell, Leighton Smith

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

**Building Committee**

**Chair:** \*Dennis Simons

Dennis Simons, Nancy Bergstrom, Diane Powell, Ronnie Kubecka, Madalyn Maresh, Maudie Thomas, Jan Respondek, Glenn Martin

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

**Little Church School Board**

**Chair:** \*Missions Chair (Sandy Fellers)

*Ex Officio members: Pastor, Missions Chair (Sandy Fellers), Trustees rep (Jill Branscum), Finance rep (Pam Fiew), Education rep (Jennifer Storz), LCS Director (Brittany Powell), LCS Treasurer (Scarlett Williams), 3 At Large members: Holly Myers, Anna Utz, Kate Brooks.*

**History Committee**

Betty Brigham, Linda Browning

*Ex Officio members: Pastor*

*\*The asterisk indicates that the person holding that office is a member of the Church Council.*

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter. However, without my heart and life being ready, I may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with my brothers and sisters, I commit myself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below I make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks:

(Check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

#### Inward and Personal Disciplines

- ☐ Spend time in solitude each day.
- ☐ Share in the Lenten Series.
- ☐ Read a book for inner growth.
- ☐ Read at least one chapter a day from the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.
- ☐ Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, joys, questions, reading.
- ☐ Focus on thanksgiving in prayer, and pray each day.
- ☐ Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
- ☐ Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- ☐ Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- ☐ Take control of my life by \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Fast from one meal, TV show, or bad habit each week and spend that time in prayer and Scripture reading.
- ☐ Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- ☐ Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- ☐ Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
- ☐ Forgive someone who has hurt me.
- ☐ Dance my prayers to a favorite tape, CD, or MP3.
- ☐ Participate in community learning such as Sunday School and Bible Study each week.
- ☐ Read the Upper Room or Lenten devotional each day.
- ☐ Other promptings:

#### Outward and Social Disciplines

- ☐ Take on some loving task:
- ☐ Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- ☐ Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- ☐ Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
- ☐ Go to coffee, lunch, or dinner with someone I want to know better.
- ☐ Begin to recycle from my home and workplace.
- ☐ Give blood and recall the cross.
- ☐ Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- ☐ Pray to God to help me resist racial prejudice and to give me courage in opposing it.
- ☐ Decide to become a member of the church and speak to the pastor.
- ☐ Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.
- ☐ Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Other outward and social promptings:

#### As a way of being accountable, I will either:

- ☐ Share my intentions for Lent with my Sunday School or Bible Study group at its next meeting, or
- ☐ Share my plan with at least one other person and share with that person my experience of Lent during Holy Week.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_



## **Thank you and thanks be to God for your tithes and offerings!**

In addition to giving by way of the offering plate, especially if you are out of town on Sunday or watching the service:

- ♥ you can bring your financial gifts to the office (216 W. Main St., Edna), *there is a secured mail slot in the door for after hours drop off.*
- ♥ snail mail your check (PO Box 790, Edna, TX 77957).
- ♥ or add First UMC Edna to your bank's Bill Pay or similar feature (include your name in the notes/ reference section).
- ♥ Online Giving is available through Tithe.ly. Please see church website: <https://fumcedna.org/> for more information.



First UMC Edna seeks a Nursery Assistant to work part-time primarily on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings providing nurture and care for the children.

All staff are required to pass a background check and Safe Gatherings training.

Full job description are available in the office.

If interested, please contact the church office at FUMCEDNA@gmail.com or at 361.782.3561

If your small group is looking for additional study resources, please let the church office know. If you are interesting in joining a small group, please contact the church office so we can help you form new small groups.

We are still livestreaming the 9am & 11am worship services on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/fumcedna](https://www.facebook.com/fumcedna) .

*You do not need a Facebook account to access this from a computer. Without an account a box may appear asking you to log in, you can click "Not Now" (located at the bottom of the box) and the box will shrink.*

## Want More Information?

### Do we have your current contact information from you?

Please take time to update your email, phone, mobile phone, address (physical & mailing), and date of birth for yourself and your family and your anniversary date.

If you've had any changes in the past year, please verify that the church office received these updates.

You may call or email the church office at: 361-782-3561 or [fumcedna@gmail.com](mailto:fumcedna@gmail.com)  
Or you may submit your update online at <https://fumcedna.org/>

Interested in assisting us in worship at either service on a rotating basis: (greeter, usher, acolyte, Scripture reader, Holy Communion server, sound system tech, worship slides, set up the livestream on the iPad, preparation before or after worship, etc.) training is available. Please let Pastor Kelli or the church office know! 361-782-3561.



For all who volunteer or work with children or youth (Sunday School teachers & assistants, Youth Ministry leaders & assistants, Youth Mid-Winter Retreat, Vacation Bible School, Youth Summer Camp, Nursery, etc.): Training certification lasts two years, and all 3 steps can be done online now.

Please register at [www.riotexas.org/safesteps](http://www.riotexas.org/safesteps) . Two months before your certification expires you will receive an email reminder. If you have questions, please ask Pastor Kelli. Thank you for loving our children, youth, and God!

### **Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Classes are collecting items for the FUMC Edna Blessing Box**

\*The box is located on Allen Street outside the Fellowship Hall Building  
Mark your Calendars - Bring your items to your teacher, the *4th Sunday of Every Month!* The Children will help their teacher load the Blessings Box.

**“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will reward them for what they have done” Proverbs 19:17**

Item suggestions: Pull-tab microwaveable mac-n-cheese, Vienna Sausages or ravioli, pull-tab fruits, tear-open Tuna packages, small jars of peanut butter & jelly, gum, packaged nuts & cheese & crackers, toothbrushes & toothpaste, etc.



## Prayer Request

*Grey & Adelaide*  
*Carol Anderson*  
*Bentley Bacak*  
*Brianna Bergstrom*  
*Jim Billings*  
*Bruce Birdwell*  
*Lydia & Richard Chapman*  
*Dorothy Davis*  
*Larry Davis*  
*Paul Davis*  
*Frances Dragoo*  
*Family of Alan Ferrusca*  
*Corinne Garza*  
*Sarah Boxwell James*  
*Michelle Loch*  
*Alroy Malina*

*Family of Nancy Melton*  
*L.A. Parks, Jr.*  
*Kaden Peebles*  
*Courtney Rozner*  
*Family of Charlene Salge*  
*Nadine Schmeltekopf*  
*James Simons*  
*Harrison Stafford*  
*Drake Tarver*  
*Marlene Tedder*  
*Tyler Tesch*  
*Maudie Thomas*  
*Larry Vitek*  
*Frances Webster*  
*Lylamae Hutcheson-*  
*Williams*

*Our Congregation*  
*Following God's Prompting*  
*All Those Affected by the*  
*Coronavirus*  
*Our World*  
*FUMC Columbus*  
*Those Fighting Cancer*  
*Ukraine*  
*Uvalde*

\*Prayer request will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless notified otherwise. You may submit your prayer request to the church office\* Names in *italics* are on-going prayer requests.

*If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share in our newsletters, you may submit them to the church office!*

## EASY WINTER FRUIT SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

5 Kiwi Fruit	3 Clementine or Mandarin Oranges
2 Bananas	2 Pears
2 Apples	2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh mint
1 TBS fresh lime juice	1 Tbsp honey or agave

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine kiwi, oranges, bananas, pears, apples and mint in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together honey & lime juice. Pour the juice mixture over the fruit and gently toss to combine.
3. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate for up to 2 hours.

Find it online at <https://www.gimmesomeoven.com/easy-winter-fruit-salad-recipe/>

Pastor

Rev. Kelli Williamson

Secretary

Rachel Fuller

Music Director

Kylind Jimenez

Praise Band Leader

JP Strickland

Custodian

Victor Cruz

Nursery Director

Bertha Medina

Wesley Nurse

Lindsey Floyd, RN

Little Church School

Director

Brittany Powell

Check out our updated website at <https://fumcedna.org/> and  
our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fumcedna>



First United Methodist  
Church

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216 W Main St  
PO Box 790  
Edna, TX 77957

**return service requested**

Phone: 361-782-3561

E-mail: [fumcedna@gmail.com](mailto:fumcedna@gmail.com)

website: [www.fumcedna.org](http://www.fumcedna.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/fumcedna](https://www.facebook.com/fumcedna)