FUMC Edna Newsletter

Training to win

"²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified."

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Our Lent sermon series "Boot Camp" comes from the *Lectionary Sermon Series*. "Lent can be like a boot camp for the soul, a restart in a focused area. Lenten disciplines we adopt are intended to make the season "hard" in the way a boot camp can be, pushing us beyond what we think our limits are, in ways that strengthen us." This is an intriguing idea.

Athletes know they cannot sleep the day away, then lounge and party, and be magically ready overnight for the game or competition. They know they must put in the effort and be disciplined, if they are going to compete at the various levels: whether for the Olympics, professional sports, college sports, even middle school and high school sports.

Musicians and artists know they too have put the effort and be disciplined if they are going to perform or create masterpieces at the various levels.

As followers of Christ, we too, without effort and discipline, do not become magically overnight like Christ: faithful, generous, offering forgiveness, sacrificial, courageous, obedient, trustworthy, filled with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), etc. God reveals to each us the rough edges or areas of our lives that need smoothing out or growing or strengthening or pruning or other kinds of change, so that we can become the people God dreams and believes we can be, more and more like Christ.

This transformation is not solely for your benefit, but also how God can work through you to reach others, to inspire others, to point others to God, and for the transformation of the world!

When taking on a change or challenge, remember: Why you are doing this?; Who are you doing this for?; Who can cheer you on and hold you accountable?; Divide it into smaller pieces/ tasks; Lean on the Holy Spirit's guidance, prompting, help, and power; and Do not give up!

The other side of Lent is Easter! The celebration of: the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, God's faithfulness to the Promises, death does not have the last word!, Hope, and more!

With God's help, supporting one another, and our intentional effort, may we grow a little closer to God and more like Christ by this Easter, than we are today! And even more so by the next Easter!

N N O U N C E M E N T & UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>March</u>

1st ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm

- 2nd ~ Soul Food Thursday, Plate to Go, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
- 6th ~ Trustees Committee, Moon Building, 6 pm
- 7th ~ UWF General Meeting, Parlor, 4 pm
- 8th ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm
- 12th ~ Daylight Savings Time, Spring Forward
- 13th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm
- 14th ~ Mary Circle, Linda Reaves, Holly Myers & Shelley Menefee, 9:30 am
- 14th ~ Ruth Circle, LeNora Dollar & Nancy Simons, 10 am
- 14th ~ Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
- 15th ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm
- 16th ~ Brown Hearing Center, Wesley Center, 10 am
- 19th ~ Education Committee, Moon Building, 12:15 pm
- 20th ~ Retired Teachers, Fellowship Hall, 10 am
- 21st ~ Belong Group, Moon Building, 6 pm
- 22nd ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm
- 23rd ~ Lydia/Martha Circle, Deanna Shoemate, 7 pm
- 26th ~ Noisy Offering, Imagine No Malaria, Both Services
- 27th ~ Church Council, Moon Building, 6 pm
- 29th ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm
- 31st ~ Golden Crescent Food Bank Distribution, Volunteers Needed, Shelby Park, 8 am

<u>April</u>

2nd ~ Kids Sing, both Services 2nd ~ Holy Week Party, Fellowship Hall, 10 am

- 2nd ~ Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Kids through 6 Grade, Home of Mike & Diane Powell, 2 pm
- 3rd ~ RSVP for Soul Food Thursday
- 4th ~ UWF General Meeting, Parlor, 4 pm
- 5th ~ Lord's Prayer Study, Parlor, 6:30 pm
- 6th \sim Soul Food Thursday, Plates to Go, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
- 6th ~ Holy Thursday, Stations of the Cross, Fellowship Hall, 6 pm
- 7th ~ Community Good Friday Service, Courthouse Gazebo,

12 pm

- 7th ~ Tenebrae Service, Chapel, 6 pm
- 8th ~ Holy Saturday Come & Go Prayer, Chapel, 11 am-1 pm
- 9th ~ Easter Sonrise Service, Brackenridge Park, 7 am
- 10th ~ Office Closed in Observance of Easter
- 10th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm
- 10th ~ Trustees Committee, Moon Building, 6 pm
- 11th ~ Mary Circle, Peggie Bezoni & Phyllis Chastain, 9:30 am
- 11th ~ Ruth Circle, Chris McCabe, Pam Fiew & Carol Cox, 10 am
- 11th ~ Girls Scouts, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 pm
- 19th ~ May/June Newsletter Submission Deadline
- 20th ~ Lydia/Martha Circle, Theresa Burnett, 7 pm
- 21st ~ Jackson Co. A&M Club's Annual Muster, Fellowship Hall, 5 pm
- 23rd ~ Education Committee, Moon Building, 12:15 pm
- 28th ~ Golden Crescent Food Distribution, Volunteers Needed, Shelby Park, 8 am
- 30th ~ Noisy Offering, UMCOR, Both Services
- 30th ~ Celebrate Graduates Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, 12 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.

Noisy Offering: last Sunday of the month

January: Lighthouse 2911: \$116.06 was collected and sent in.

February: NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service): \$63.33 was collected and sent in.

Thank you for your support!!

March : Imagine No Malaria – is part of a global partnership and together with our partners; our generation can beat malaria once and for all. By improving the ways people fight the disease using bed nets, providing access to diagnostic tests and medicine, draining standing water, and improving sanitation we have already helped reduce malaria deaths by more than half. Imagine No Malaria combines integrated health infrastructure, education and advocacy to address death and the debilitating effects of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. For more info: https://umcmission.org/advance-project/3021190/

April: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – "UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development." For more info: <u>https://www.umcmission.org/umcor</u>

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.





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.



Pastor Kelli gave a special lesson about symbols in our worship spaces to our children during Sunday School January 8th



United Women in Faith Semi-Annual Luncheon on January 10th Thank you Reba Roberson for your presentation!!







Living Well Through Lent 2023



Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind Lenten 2023 devotional available in the Sanctuary, Wesley Center, and on the church website.







UWF Ruth Circle 19 members from the Ruth Circle meet at the Sky Restaurant in Victoria Tx for their Christmas Luncheon. A great time was had by all!





Pictures from Shrove Tuesday (aka Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday) Pancake & Sausage supper 2/21.



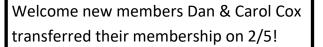
















Palm Sunday: April 2nd 9am (Wesley Center) & 11am (Sanctuary) Holy Thursday: April 6th 6pm, Stations of the Cross (Fellowship Hall) <u>Good Friday: April 7th</u> Noon – Jackson County Ministerial Alliance "Jesus' 7 Last Words" (Courthouse) 6pm – Tenebrae (*Reading the Passion narrative & extinguishing of candles*) (Chapel) Holy Saturday: April 8th 11am-1pm Prayer & Reflection, come & go (Chapel) <u>Easter: April 9th</u> 7am Sonrise (Brackenridge Park historic church), 9am (Wesley Center) & 11am (Sanctuary) Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent adapted from Daniel Benedict – My Preparation for Easter 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

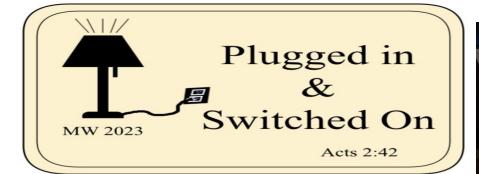
- ____ Spend time in solitude each day.
- ____ Share in the Lenten Series.
- ____ Read a book for inner growth.
- ____ Read at least one chapter a day from the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.
- ____ Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, joys, questions, reading.
- ____ Focus on thanksgiving 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.

















This year's Midwinter Retreat was an amazing time for our youth and adults alike as we partnered in missions and the breaking of bread. We had 19 youth (13 of which were 7th grade boys) attend the event that included amazing worship lead by Kaylee Hanys and her band with a fantastic speaker in Coby Duren. We split the group into 8 mission teams to work with 20 adults (and 4 children) on mission activities such as shut-in visitation, Helping Hands, church projects, and yardwork for our elderly. We had lively games of whiffle ball, basketball, and dodge ball (adults vs kids with adult victory!), and meaningful small group discussions. The weekend finished with a very well attended churchwide brunch and a long nap... MYF is very blessed to have the support of our amazing church family. The speaker, as well as visiting worship band leader, commented on the welcoming and loving spirit of our congregation. Thank you to all!























Easter Lily Order Form Deadline for orders – Wednesday, March 22nd	
I would like to order #	_lily(ies) at \$10 each
AND / OR	
Donate to church ministry(ies):	
\$to General Budget	
\$ to Capital Improvemen	ts
\$ to Missions	
\$ to Trustees	
Given by:	
In Loving Memory of:	
In Honor of:	



LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL WILL HAVE A LEMONADE STAND FUNDRAISER ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH FROM 10:30-12:00. FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PLAYGROUND.



*Vacation Bible School: June 12th-15th *Mission Trip: June 23rd – July 2nd *Youth Summer Camp: July 16th-20th Children plan to sing and read Scripture at both worship services Palm Sunday 4/2, join us as we worship Our Lord together!

If you have a high senior who is graduating in May, please let the office know. We are finalizing our 2023 celebration and scholarship plans. Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday,4/2 at 2pm hosted by Mike & DianePowell. Ages through 6th Grade.

Graduating Seniors Celebration is on Sunday, April 30, 2023 noon in the Fellowship Hall! More details coming soon!



Join us as our community will be gathering for National Day of Prayer on Thurs., May 4th at Noon at the Courthouse Gazebo & lawn, led by the Jackson County Ministerial Alliance. 2023 MISSION TRIP June 23rd - July 2 Home Construction in Donna, Texas Prayers, financial contributions, and workers are needed. Contact Sandy Fellers or the church office for more info

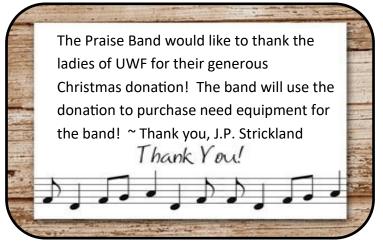




Dear FUMC,

Thank you for allowing the Girl Scout Troops to meet in your fellowship hall. We greatly appreciate it! Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sommerfield



Using "Good Cents" in God's Name: Occasional Notes on Church Finances

In going about our busy lives and trying our best to live out faith in Christ on a daily basis, most of us give little thought to financial considerations affecting the church. For most of us, we do our parts every Sunday morning when we faithfully and willingly contribute our offerings, giving as best we can with the good-faith assumption that the whole of the church's financial picture will be taken care of otherwise. That's often the fullest extent of thought that many of us will give to the overall financial well-being of our church on a routine basis. It's only natural, of course. We like to think of our church experiences more in terms of the message of worship and spirit of fellowship that we receive rather than complicating those uplifting scenarios with the complications of money! God knows, it's hard enough to keep our own personal budgets in order, much less having to worry about the church's financial fortunes as well!

Obviously though, operating our church and sustaining its important mission requires constant attention and financial stewardship. This work is done on behalf of the congregation by our Pastor, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Church Council, and Finance Committee. Working together they craft and monitor and annual maintenance and operation of our facilities, supports pastoral services and underwrites the many vital ministries that we extend to our community and beyond. The budget essentially becomes the church operating blueprint for the year, projecting, as best possible, incoming proceeds for the year and managing anticipated expenditures so that both income and disbursements balance. So, thanks to the dedicated services of these stewards of the church most of us can indeed go on worshiping without giving too much thought to the larger financial backdrop attendant to on-going operations. Sometimes however, it seems both helpful and informative for church members to know a bit more of the financial foundations of their church, even if nothing more than to give members a better glimpse into how their personal stewardship is employed by the church to ring God's gracious message to both a congregation and community that they adore.

To this end, the Finance Committee has decided to offer a series of occasional reports and ruminations in our church newsletter in an effort to share some of the "comings and goings" related to our finances at First United Methodist Church in Edna. We take this opportunity to announce this new feature, and hope that it will add to your understanding and appreciation of the generosity and stewardship of our church.

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: <u>https://fumcedna.org/</u> for more information.

First UMC Edna is currently looking for: musical accompanist substitutes for our weekly Sunday morning 11am Traditional worship service, when needed.

If you are qualified and interested, please contact Rev. Kelli Williamson pastorkelliw@gmail.com 361-782-3561.

Please share this article to help us fill this position. Thank you!

First UMC Edna seeks a Nursery Assistant & substitutes to work part-time primarily on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings proving 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

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, <u>www.facebook.com/fumcedna</u>.

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.

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 Or you may submit your update online at <u>https://fumcedna.org/</u>

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 <u>www.riotexas.org/safesteps</u>. 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 5th 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 Peggie Bezoni Family of Jim Billings Bruce Birdwell Kellie Brewer Lydia & Richard Chapman Dorothy Davis Larry Davis Paul Davis Frances Dragoo Corinne Garza Alexis Hinsley Sarah Boxwell James

Michelle Loch Karen Lott Alroy Malina L.A. Parks, Jr. Kaden Peebles Courtney Rozner Nadine Schmeltekopf James Simons Harrison Stafford Drake Tarver Marlene Tedder Tyler Tesch Larry Vitek Frances Webster Charles Wells Lylamae Hutcheson-Williams Our Congregation Following God's Prompting All Those Affected by the Coronavirus Our World FUMC Columbus Those Fighting Cancer Turkey & Syria 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!

15-MINUTE CHICKEN & RICE DINNER

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast (4 small or 2 large cut in half lengthwise for thinner pieces)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 2 cups uncooked instant white rice (for creamier rice, decrease to 1 1/2 cups)
- 2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets (about 6 ounces)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Season the chicken with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook for 6 minutes or until browned on both sides *(to prevent sticking- make sure the skillet and oil are hot before add-ing the chicken)*. Remove the chicken from the skillet.
- 2. Stir the soup, water and paprika in the skillet and heat to a boil. Stir in the rice and broccoli. Reduce the heat to low. Return the chicken to the skillet. Sprinkle the chicken with additional paprika. Cover and cook for 5 minutes or until the chicken is done and the rice is tender. Season to taste before serving.

Find it online at: https://www.campbells.com/recipes/15-minute-chicken-rice-dinner/

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 <u>https://fumcedna.org/</u> and our Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/fumcedna</u>

You are Loved. Jou are Chosen. phesians 1:4

First United Methodist Church

216 W Main St PO Box 790 Edna, TX 77957

return service requested

Phone: 361-782-3561

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website: www.fumcedna.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcedna