

FUMC Edna Newsletter

Greetings church family,

I am excited to be writing the first of what I hope are many newsletter articles for FUMC Edna. I look forward to my arrival and meeting you all over the next couple of months. As we look forward to opportunities to get to know one another, please know that after my arrival there will be some opportunities advertised including cottage meetings later in the summer. Jenn, Bailey, and I, are excited to be joining you all in ministry as we move to Edna and begin working together.

As I begin my time as your pastor, I want to give you a very brief introduction of myself. I was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville to be exact. I lived there until Jenn and I got married and I moved to Austin to attend seminary. While in seminary I served as the Minister of Pastoral Care at Covenant UMC in Austin. Following seminary my first appointment was to be the pastor at FUMC Carrizo Springs, and for a year and a half I also served as the pastor of FUMC Crystal City. Most recently I have served as the pastor at Industry United Methodist Church. I also have a lot of experience in Youth Ministry. There are so many other things that I could tell you about but feel that is better done as we get to know one another.

One of the reasons I am excited to be moving to Edna is its location. As I said, I grew up in Brownsville and it was nothing for my family to just decide on a random (off-tourist season) weekend to just pack up and go to the beach for a couple of days. We would surf fish, boogie board, and eat a lot of seafood. I am excited to be moving back closer to the coast, and fresher fried shrimp! We are also looking forward to getting to know you, our new church family, as well as getting to know the community of Edna and all it has to offer.

Once again, we are excited to be coming to Edna, and can't wait to get there. We hope to see as many of you as possible on our First Sunday, July 9th. Until then we will continue to pray for you all. Pastor Kelli has shared that you all have been praying for us and are grateful for all the prayers. We hope that you will continue to pray for us and for the congregation in Industry as they go through transition as well.

We will see you all soon and are excited to be a part of First United Methodist Church in Edna.

Blessings, Pastor Jacob Hunter

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

July

1st - 2nd ~ Mission Trip
 2nd ~ Combined Service, Sanctuary, 10 am
 3rd ~ RSVP for Soul Food Thursday
 4th ~ Independence Day, Offices Closed
 6th ~ Soul Food Thursday, Plates to Go, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
 9th ~ Welcome Pastor Jacob & family
 9th ~ Combined Services, Sanctuary, 10 am
 Lunch following Service, Fellowship Hall
 Meat will be provided, please bring your favorite side to share
 10th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm
 16th - 20th ~ Youth Summer Camp, Register Online at www.fumcedna.org or see JP Strickland for more details
 21st ~ Brown Hearing Center, Wesley Center, 10 am
 23rd ~ Education Committee, Moon Building, 12:15 pm
 28th ~ Golden Crescent Food Bank Distribution, Shelby Park, Volunteers Needed, 8 am
 30th ~ Noisy Offering, Blessing Box, Both Services

31st ~ RSVP for Soul Food Thursday

August

3rd ~ Soul Food Thursday, Plates to Go, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
 6th ~ Education Committee, Moon Building, 12:15 pm
 8th ~ UWF Covered Dish Salad Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am
 9th ~ Edna ISD, Back to School
 13th ~ Back to School Celebration, Pray for Students, Church Teachers, ISD Teachers, & Give out Backpack Tags, Both Services
 13th ~ Promotion Sunday: Sunday School, Moon Building, 10 am; Present 3rd Grade Bibles
 14th ~ Finance Committee, Moon Building, 5:15 pm
 14th ~ Trustees Committee, Moon Building, 6 pm
 16th ~ Ganado ISD, Back to School
 16th ~ September/October Newsletter Submission Deadline
 17th ~ Industrial ISD, Back to School
 25th ~ Golden Crescent Food Bank Distribution, Shelby Park, Volunteers Needed, 8 am
 27th ~ Noisy Offering, Wesley Nurse, Both Services

Children & Youth Sunday School will resume August 13th, after taking the Summer off.



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

May: Missionary Willie Berman, Director of the Mexican Methodist Border Mission: \$125 was collected and sent in.

June: Helping Hands: \$75.90 was collected and sent in.

Thank you for your support!!

July: Blessing Box - 24/7 micro food pantry box of non-perishable food outside on the Allen St. side of FUMC Edna. "take what you need, leave the rest for others".

August: FUMC Edna Wesley Nurse fund - "A key component Wesley Nurses undertake in their communities is providing health education, health promotion and facilitation of resources, in a mind, body and spirit holistic approach. While the Wesley Nurse program is a component of Methodist Healthcare Ministries' ecumenical outreach and located within churches, it does not teach a set of denominational beliefs. All Wesley Nurse programs are free, and all members of the community are welcome." (MHM website) *For more info: Lindsey Floyd, RN*
lfloyd@mh.org 361-782-2413 or 361-333-5516.}

Wednesday Nite Live

6pm meal, 6th-12th graders have a game and continue their journey through the Bible, to help them grow in their faith. 3rd-5th grade also have class after the 6pm meal. If you would like to provide the meal on 1 Wednesday, please contact the church office or Courtney Mercer. **WNL will resume in August.**

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.

Farewell!

“¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters,¹ I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet each other with Christian love.¹ ¹³ All of God's people here send you their greetings. ¹⁴ ¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:11-14 _{NLT})

Farewell brothers and sisters in Christ! Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support these last 5 years! Also, for the opportunities to minister to you and with you, journeying alongside you over the years! I am grateful for my time among you.

I continue to ask for your prayers as I continue to walk by faith towards God's calling on my life to be an Air Force Chaplain. This is not a new calling, but one from 2004 when I was first starting seminary. I was afraid so I continued on as a civilian, **but God** has yet to give up on me (& God has yet to give up on you)! Thanks be to God! “Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis Grace has brought me safe thus far, Grace will lead me home!” (Amazing

Grace #378 v3 UMH).

As when Pastor Adam moved to a new appointment 5 years ago, you gave me the opportunity to be your pastor, for which I am grateful. As Bailey & I move from here to my sister's place awaiting the completion of the Air Force Chaplaincy process, then to my first assignment; I ask you give Pastor Jacob the opportunity to minister to you and with you, journeying alongside you. Though both of our dogs are named Bailey, we have different gifts. *Remember we all each have 1 or more gifts, and no one has all the gifts.*

Though I am moving away, no longer to be the pastor of FUMC Edna and thus I am no longer your pastor. But note: I am not going into Witness Protection, I will send updates when available, I will continue to pray for you; and remember: God loves you and you are not alone for God is with you!

"Remember, you do not go alone. God goes with you!

God goes...

before you to show you the way,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over you,
and within you always to give you peace."

Amen! (Rev. Kip Gilts – 1 of the pastors when I was in college, who would say this every week.)

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Kelli

Blessing & Sending Forth of the Pastor

(based on "An Order of Farewell to a Pastor," The Book of Worship, pp. 598-99)

Chairperson of SPRC expresses thanks for the pastor's ministries.

Pastor responds with these words:

I thank you, members and friends of First UMC Edna, for the love and support you have shown me as your pastor and for the ways you have accepted my leadership. I will carry with me many things you have taught me. I am also aware I made mistakes—tasks left undone, pastoral calls not made, decisions I insisted on making when I should have let you make them, and decisions I put off making when I should have made them. And so, I also ask for your forgiveness.

The congregation responds:

Pastor Kelli, we are grateful for the many blessings you have given us. Your influence on our faith and our faithfulness will not leave us with your departure. We, too, have made mistakes, and we ask for your forgiveness, as we offer you ours. We accept that you have now been appointed to minister elsewhere, and we release you for your ministries there.

Pastor:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I receive your gratitude and forgiveness, and I offer you mine, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending upon me, and I place you in the care of God and your new pastor, Pastor Jacob. I will pray for him and for you in your continuing ministry here.

The pastor kneels, the lay leaders lay their hand upon the pastor's head or shoulders, and the congregation joins hands and unites in this blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you!

**The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you!**

**The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you peace,**

as you go to shepherd the people of the US Air Force. Amen!



Farewell to Pastor Kelli!

We had 1 combined worship service at 10am
June 25th and Farewell & Thank you luncheon at
11:15am!

Thank you,
Wednesday Nite Live teachers and
assistants!
Courtney Mercer, Schannen Weinmann,
Desmond Powell, JP Strickland,
Melissa Strickland



Congratulations to
Karson Van Pelt at IISD scholarship awards
receiving the Gladys & Bruce Wright
and Mary Drake Hill
Scholarships from First UMC Edna presented
by Jennifer Storz and Pastor Kelli!

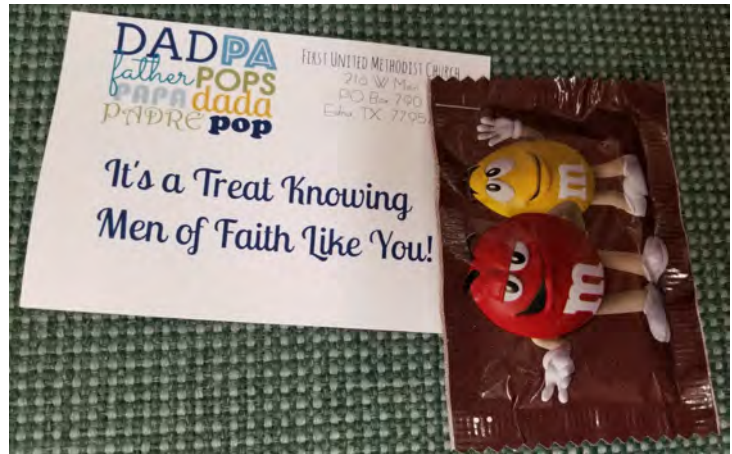


EISD Baccalaureate worship
service led by the pastors from
Jackson County Ministerial
Alliance was blessed time!
Families, not just individual
students, came forward for
prayer, what a blessing to be a part of
the service!

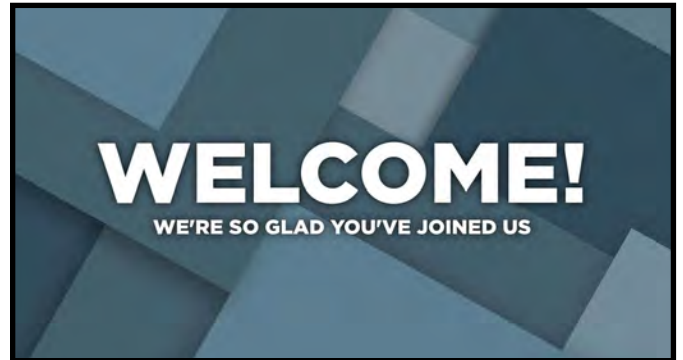
Children & Youth Sunday School will
take a break for Summer after
May 14th and will
resume August 13th.

Thank you to our teachers: Brandy
Stansbury, Jennifer Storz, Colleen
Fellers, Leighton Smith, and
Lindsey Floyd!!

We honored mothers and motherly women on Mother's Day and fathers and fatherly men on Father's Day! We are blessed to have so many people who bless the lives of others!



We remembered and thanked God those who have died in serving our country, Memorial weekend.



We welcomed Grace Fick (Lori O'Connor's mom) as she transferred her membership to FUMC Edna 5/14.

2023 Missions Trip

Friday, June 23rd - Sunday, July 2nd

Donna, TX

Thank you for your support!! There will be pictures in our next newsletter!



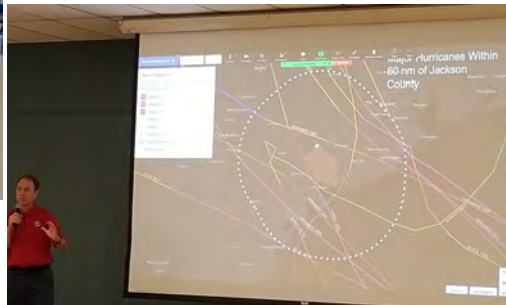
We celebrated 3 baptisms!!

Coy Michael Williams (son of Patrick & Sara Williams),
 Juliet Kaye Scanlin (daughter of Troy & Jana Scanlin),
 and Mabel Jean Knopp (daughter of Will & Haley Knopp)!

Praise God!!!



Jackson County VOAD hosted a free Hurricane preparation event for the community June 7th.
Pastor Kelli has been the Chair.



Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Kelli Williamson



Vacation Bible School 2023 at FUMC Edna was a huge success! Our church hosted 87 VBS kids and over 30 youth and adult volunteers assisted with all of the VBS activities and needs. Also, between 20-30 volunteers prepared and served the nightly meals for both the kids and volunteers! This year's theme was Keepers of the Kingdom following the Armor of God Bible lesson found in Ephesians Chapter 6. The kids enjoyed food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall and then rotated (by age group) to games, Bible lessons, crafts and music. The church was FILLED with sweet children and our church family poured the love of Christ into each of them for 4 nights from Monday, June 12 - Thursday, June 15 from 5-730pm.

Day 1



Day 2



Day 2 Continued



Day 3



Day 3 Continued



Day 4



Day 4 Continued





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 2nd we will have 1 combined worship service at 10am in the Wesley Center with JP Strickland preaching.

July 9th we will have 1 combined worship service at 10am with Pastor Jacob Preaching and celebrating Holy Communion, and Welcome luncheon at 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall. (*Meat will be provided, we ask if you would bring sides*)

July 16th we will resume 2 worship services at 9am in the Wesley Center & 11am in the Sanctuary.



SAVE THE DATE

Youth Summer Camp: July 16th-20th

There are still a few spots available!!!

More info and registration available on our website!

You are invited to the United Women in Faith's semi-annual luncheon on August 8th 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall!



United
Women
in Faith

This Summer, we are remodeling the restroom between the Nursery and Room 6 to create an ADA accessible adult restroom with a mounted baby changing table whose door will open to the main hallway in the Education building! And we are creating a little kid restroom connected to the Nursery and Room 6!

Look for these and other improvements to be finished in August 2023 ish!

Back to School Celebration Sunday, August 13th!

9am & 11am: Blessing of students, church teachers & assistants, ISD teachers & staff, backpack tags, Bibles presented to 3rd graders.

10am: Promotion Sunday, children & youth move up to the next grade level in Sunday School

If you are going into 3rd grade, please let the church office know, so we can present you a Bible on August 13th!



Jackson County ISD Back to School Start Dates:

Edna ~ August 9th

Ganado ~ August 16th

Industrial ~ August 17th

THANK YOU!

Dear FUMC Family,

I would like to thank you for the Senior luncheon and for the basket full of gifts! All of your thoughtful gifts will be helpful as I begin my college journey. I am very blessed to have a wonderful church family. Thank you for your love and support, it truly means a lot to me!

Love,

Karson VanPelt

FUMC Family,

I would like to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Mary Drake Hill & the Gladys Bruce White Scholarships. Receiving these scholarships mean a lot to me because they are from my church family. FUMC—Edna has been a big part of life & I cherish the love & support my church family has given to me. I hope I continue to make my church family proud as I begin the next chapter of my life!

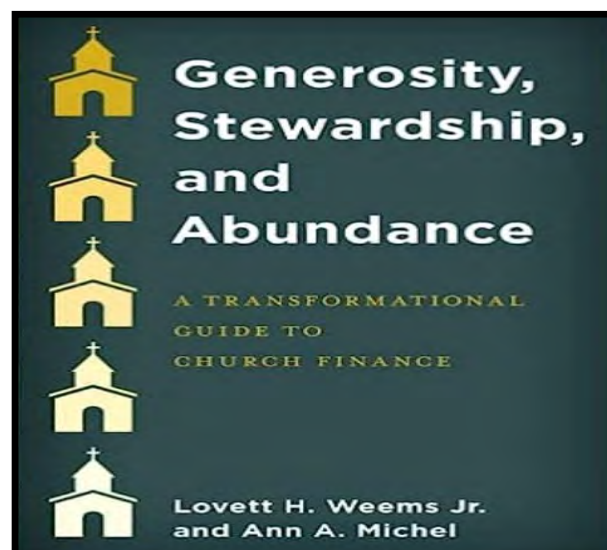
Love, Karson VanPelt

As a means of continuing education and opportunities for reflection by members of the Finance committee, members had previously agreed to read the book entitled *Generosity, Stewardship and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finance* by Lovett Weems and Ann A. Michel and to discuss their learnings together at future committee meetings.

Members began discussion of Part 1 of the book. Bill Reaves began discussions by requesting members to reference key points in these first chapters that “stood out” to them as they reviewed the materials. Good discussion ensued and several points in the book were referenced by committee members, some of which include:

1. All money talk should begin with the individual’s financial position and not with the church’s financial position, and reasons to give should always relate to opportunities for individual discipleship and growth of congregation members and not that of the church.
2. Reference to the author’s rule to “never talk about the church’s money apart from the church’s mission”.
3. Discussion of the pros and cons of sharing giving trends of individual members, weighing this information as critical, yet confidential data that can potentially aid a finance committee in understanding the church’s fiscal giving patterns and in monitoring necessary income trends associated with the church operating budgets.
4. Discussion on finding ways of better “telling the stories”, which show the impact that comes from member giving.
5. Possibilities of presenting members with more “special giving opportunities” to encourage members’ giving for special projects or special memorials, etc.
6. Considering options to enable more on-line giving opportunities.

As time was running out for the meeting, members agreed to adjourn by acclamation and agreed to continue discussions of this section at the next regular meeting.



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 is currently looking for: musical accompanist substitutes for our weekly Sunday morning 11am Traditional worship service, while we search for our next part-time Music Director/ accompanist. If you are qualified and interested in either position, please contact the Church Office at 361-782-3561 or email at fumcedna@gmail.com. Please share this article to help us fill these positions. Thank you!

First UMC Edna seeks a Nursery Assistant and Nursery Substitutes 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 descriptions are available in the office.

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

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
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 . 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
Kellie Brewer
Lydia & Richard Chapman
Dorothy Davis
Paul Davis
Corinne Garza
Sarah Boxwell James
Michelle Loch
Karen Lott
Alroy Malina
Tom Morris
Barbara Morton*

*L.A. Parks, Jr.
Kaden Peebles
Family of Trey Reckaway
Courtney Rozner
Nadine Schmeltekopf
James Simons
Tab Simons
Family of Betty Smith
Harrison Stafford
Drake Tarver
Marlene Tedder
Tyler Tesch
Larry Vitek
Frances Webster
Family of Charles Wells*

*Lylamae Hutcheson-Williams
Family of Allen Zieschang
Our Congregation
Following God's Prompting
Our World
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!

COWBOY CAVIAR

INGREDIENTS

6 Roma tomatoes, diced	1 bell pepper, seeded & diced
1 medium onion, finely diced	2 jalapeno peppers, seeded & finely diced
1 large avocado, diced	15 oz can corn, drained
15 oz can black beans, rinsed & drained	1/2 bunch of cilantro (about 1/2 cup chopped)
3-4 Tbsp lime juice	1/2 cup Italian Dressing
4 medium garlic cloves, pressed	1 tsp salt or season to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine diced tomatoes, chopped onion and bell pepper, seeded and diced jalapeno, sliced avocado, drained corn, rinsed and drained black beans and chopped cilantro.
2. Stir in 3-4 Tbsp of lime juice, 1/2 cup of Italian dressing, 4 pressed garlic cloves and 1 tsp of salt or season to taste.
3. Mix everything together and serve with tortilla chips.

*<https://natashaskitchen.com/cowboy-caviar-recipe/>

Pastor

Rev. Jacob Hunter

Secretary

Rachel Fuller

Music Director

Open Position

Praise Band Leader

JP Strickland

Custodian

Victor Cruz

Nursery Director

Sara Gonzales

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>



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Church

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