



Mainsail Newsletter February 2026

First United Methodist Church



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Teach us again what it means to love our neighbor

A prayer from Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey.

Gracious and merciful God,

Our hearts are heavy as we witness the pain, fear, and unrest following the recent events in Minnesota. We grieve the loss of life, the trauma carried by families and communities, and the deep divisions that continue to wound our common life. We ask for your comforting presence to surround all who are suffering and for your healing to move powerfully among them.

As followers of Jesus Christ and as United Methodists, we affirm the sacred worth of every person. Our Social Principles call us to uphold human dignity, pursue justice, and work for peace in our communities and in the world. Shape us into people who resist violence, who seek understanding, and who choose compassion over anger. Teach us again what it means to love our neighbor, especially when that love requires courage, humility, and sacrifice.

Guide leaders toward wisdom and accountability. Stir your church to be a faithful witness for reconciliation and hope. Empower us to speak truth with grace, to listen deeply to one another, and to become instruments of your peace. May your Spirit lead us toward a future marked not by fear, but by justice, mercy, and steadfast love.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

We invite you to continue this work through prayer, learning, and faithful action. The resources below offer opportunities to grow in understanding and to engage thoughtfully with our immigrant neighbors during this time.

January 31 at 10:00 AM (Zoom)

Responding to Our Immigrant Neighbors: What Is Accompaniment?

Hosted by the Rio Texas Conference

Register here: https://riotexas.zoom.us/meeting/register/TdX0tajhT_SWnK_GEKjPfw#/registration

Immigration Resource Hub

A collection of tools, teachings, and resources for churches and individuals provided by the Rio Texas Conference and Rio Texas Antiracism & Equity Coalition

Explore here: <https://riotexas.org/immigration-resource-hub>

February 25

Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice

Read more here: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/advocacy/immigration-and-global-migration/faithful-resistance-a-public-witness-for-immigrant-justice>

May we continue seeking understanding, practicing compassion, and walking faithfully together.

United Women of Faith



Feb. 22nd

Meeting & Pot-luck

March 21st

Social Event - Hot Diggity Dog

Leadership Council



Meeting

Doodles Room

Sunday, Feb. 15

11:30am



Feb. 18th

6:00pm

Cuero FUMC

Rabke UMC

Worship change

Feb. 1

2:30pm



Souper Bowl Soup to Go

Sunday, February 8

11:00am – 1:00pm

Pick up only

\$10/32oz.

Potato and/or

Vegetable

Cuero FUMC/Fellowship Hall

210 N. Clinton

Proceeds to benefit

C.A.M.AL House &

Church apportionments

Presale Tickets-until Feb. 2

Contacts:

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Lent & Ash Wednesday

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends on Holy Saturday. In Holy Scripture, the number forty is symbolic of periods of testing and purification. It is related to the period of time spent in the Ark of Noah, the period spent by the Hebrew people wandering in the desert on their way to the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the time Jesus was in the wilderness of temptation after his baptism.

The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The Lenten season of the Christian year is a preparation for the celebration of Easter and new life in Christ. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts. It later became a time of penance and preparation for all Christians.

Why begin Lent with the imposition of ashes? In ancient times, slaves were branded with a mark on the forehead to show the world that they were not their own, but belonged to another. Over the centuries, the early Christians adopted and transformed this practice as a way to begin the season of Lent. With ashes, symbolic of repentance and purification, they would mark the forehead of each Christian with a cross, as a way of saying to all the world: "I am not my own; I belong to Christ."



PRAYER REQUESTS
We are here to pray for you!



Ron & Shelly	Emily Cheatham	Euner Johnson
Wayne Wolf	Lisa Langton	Bob Barth
Rev. Wanda Ritchea	Pastor Lindsey	Pastor Lindsey's Mother
Linda Thamm	Sarah & Earl O'Connor	Linda Sager
Mildred Weldon	Rainey & her son TJ	Carol Rau
Miles Harvy		



February
Birthdays & Anniversaries



Judy Adams	5 th
Kayla Pickett	14 th
Emily Cheatham	16 th
Wes Jones	17 th
Jean Eldridge	18 th
Charla Jones	23 rd
Ray Sager	24 th

Stayton & Mildred Weldon	7 th
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**CAMAL House
Food Pantry**
Non-Perishable Food
Donations Needed.
Please leave in the cart
in the narthex of the church.

February Worship Leaders



DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS/USHERS
2-1-2026	Tom Cheatham	Volunteers
2-8-2026	Earl O'Connor	Volunteers
2-15-2026	Sarah O'Connor	Volunteers
2-22-2026	Judy Adams	Volunteers