

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *The Messenger*

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!  
For praise from the upright is beautiful.*

*Psalm 33:1 NIV*





## Back to Basics: Why the Fundamentals Still Matter

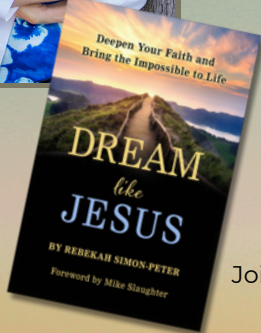
Every so often in life, it's important to return to the basics. Athletes go back to fundamentals of form and conditioning. Musicians revisit scales and exercises. Teachers return to foundational skills before moving to advanced material. Even the most seasoned professional needs a reminder of what really matters most.

The same is true for our life of faith. Over time, we can get so caught up in the busyness of church activities, programs, and schedules that we lose sight of the core practices that shape us as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why our current sermon series, Back to Basics, is so important. We are revisiting the foundational rhythms of worship, prayer, mission, Scripture, the sacraments, and hospitality— not because we've forgotten them, but because we need to be reminded of how vital they are.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, often spoke of the “means of grace”— ordinary practices through which God does extraordinary work in us. Worship, prayer, serving our neighbors, Bible study, sharing in the sacraments, and practicing hospitality are not optional add-ons to the Christian life. They are the very tools God uses to shape our hearts and transform the world. For when we return to the basics, we are renewed. We remember who God is and who we are called to be. We find strength for daily living and courage to face challenges. And we open ourselves once again to the grace of God that is always available, always reaching, always calling us deeper.

So whether you are new to the faith, have been along the journey for a while, or somewhere in between, this is a season for renewal. My hope is that each of us will take this opportunity not only to listen on Sunday mornings, but also to practice these basics throughout the week. Because these simple, powerful practices are what keep us rooted in God's love and ready to share that love with the world.

~ Rev. Amanda Smith



## The Bob & Candi Nolan Speaking Series presents

# Rebekah Simon-Peter

**Date:**

Sunday, October 5

**Time:**

10:50 AM - Combined Worship Service

**Location:**

First United Methodist Church Sanctuary

Sponsored by The Bob & Candi Nolan Speaking Series

**Following the Service:**

Free luncheon and book talk with Rebekah Simon-Peter

Join us for an inspiring message from Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, author of *Dream Like Jesus*, as she shares a vision of bold faith and transformational leadership.



Join us for Acoustic Café on September 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
Bring a friend and enjoy music, fellowship, and snacks!



Men's Fraternity meet each Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Library



Join Women's Exercise Mondays each week at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!  
Bring a friend and start your week off right.  
All fitness levels are welcome.



5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir (Education Bldg. #308)  
5:30 p.m. Church Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Children's Classes (Ed. Bldg. 3rd Floor)  
Youth Small Groups  
Adult Study (Ed. Bldg. #207)  
6:15 p.m. Carillon Handbell Practice  
7:00 p.m. Motet Choir Practice

## Adult Bible Study with Rev. Amanda

### The Chosen – Season 1

Wednesdays | 6–7pm | Room 207

*Watch each episode before class.  
Need help watching? Call the church office.*

We're diving into **The Chosen** – Season 1!

Each Wednesday night, Rev. Amanda will lead a recap and discussion on one episode.

**Room 207 (Kaleo Sunday School Room) | 6:00–7:00 pm**

Please watch the week's episode ahead of time using the free Chosen app (iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV)  
Need help watching? Call the church office to schedule a time to view.

Worksheets will be handed out each week to guide discussion.

#### September Schedule:

Sep 3 – Episode 2  
Sep 10 – Episode 3  
Sep 17 – No Class (Tailgate Fellowship)  
Sep 24 – Episode 4



# Tailgate Together




WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 5:30 PM  
FUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring Your Favorite Tailgating Food

Bring a snack, side, or dish you love, and enjoy a spread of everyone's favorite tailgate treats - wings will be provided!

Rep Your Favorite Team

Wear your favorite school or team shirt and show your colors and spirit!

Kick Off Fun & Fellowship

Laugh, compete, and connect! Cornhole, trivia, and surprises await as we huddle up for fellowship together.



#### 8:50 a.m. Service

Randy Jerry & Paul Stone

#### 10:50 a.m. Service

September 7: Jerry Huffman & Rick Rainwater  
September 14: Jerry Huffman & Floyd Thomas  
September 21: Jerry Huffman & Dwayne Long  
September 28: Jerry Huffman & Nate Evers

If you're unable to usher on your scheduled Sunday, please reach out in the group text to request a swap.

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jay Brooks 9/7  
 Amelia Johnson 9/11  
 Casey Cates 9/12  
 Jonathan Riley Robbins 9/14  
 Stephen Murphy 9/15  
 Thomas T. Sheppard 9/16  
 Nate Evers 9/16  
 Brian Ratcliff 9/20  
 Jennifer Stone 9/23  
 Susan Foster 9/24  
 Jackie Rodgers 9/25  
 Eliza Brewster 9/26  
 Donna Bevill 9/28  
 Karen Hicks 9/29

## memorials & gifts

**Barbara Scroggs**  
 Susan Burge

**Tommy Patterson**  
 Susan Burge

**Carol Ellen**  
 Randall & Nancy Whitmore

**Margaret Morgan**  
 Candice Mattocks

**Jane Dudley**  
 Candice Mattocks

**Margaret Morgan**  
 Tricia Tlappek Humphrey

## Welcome

### Welcome Our New Members!

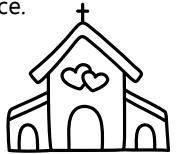


Lily Hicks Langston  
 & Karen Hicks



Shelley Heigert

We are thrilled to welcome our new members to FUMC El Dorado! We look forward to growing in faith together through worship, fellowship, and service.



## New Women's Ministry Circles

FUMC now has two new monthly circles for women of all ages to connect, grow, and serve together.

**Esther Circle** – generally for women under 50

**Anna Circle** – generally for women over 50

Each group will meet once a month with unique fellowship opportunities and activities.  
 Join the one that best fits your season of life!



If you have any questions, please reach out to Abbey Thomas at 870-315-4106.



If you have any questions, please reach out to Shelley Heigert at 809-205-0233.



# September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>   <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>2</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>3</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study Adult Ministry 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>8</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 5:30p Nominating Comm. Mtg.	<b>9</b> 8:30a Men's Frat 6:00p Esther Circle 6:00p Anna Circle	<b>10</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study Adult Ministry 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>15</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Mtg.	<b>16</b> 8:30a Men's Frat 11:15a Fellowship of the Sent 7:00p Acoustic Cafe	<b>17</b> 5:30p Tailgate Together (FSH) 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>22</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 1:30p Mission Comm. Mtg.	<b>23</b> 8:30a Men's Frat	<b>24</b> 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:30p Dinner 6:00p Kids & Youth Bible Study Adult Ministry 6:15p Handbells 7:00p Motet Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:50a FirstLight 10:00a Sunday School 10:50a Sanctuary Ser.	<b>29</b> 10:00a Women's Exercise Noon Prayer Min. 3:45p Staff Mtg. 5:30p Leadership Board Mtg.	<b>30</b> 8:30a Men's Frat				



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

OF EL DORADO

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Kevin Keele	Organist	
Andrea Hale	Church Administrator	<a href="mailto:fumcedfs@suddenlinkmail.com">fumcedfs@suddenlinkmail.com</a>
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