



Prayer Lists

Newly Added:

Family of Marie Binford, Susan Patton's Mother
 Family of Gavin Rodden
 Family of MaLaina Jae Strickland-Patterson (two-year-old)
 Jack Walker

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Buddy Gregg	Sally Grove
Ahtrell Dalton	Pete Robinson
Mary Beth Tuck	Sherie Kao
Clay Yeager	Gary Kibler
Helen Dickson	Jan Vowell
Jean Ward	Robert Seay

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

People of Japan
 Bill Cole
 Judy Greenwood
 Sally Cooper (Mary Dagenhart's mother)
 Wade Swinson (Mandy Swinson's husband)
 Cleon Flanagan, Sr.
 Fred Ohsiek
 Oma Thomas (Ron Thomas' mother)
 Janet Skauge
 Peggy Aguilar (Otha Spencer's friend)
 Deborah Brown (Diane McDowell's friend)
 Kay Webber
 George O'Kelley
 Doris Sanders (Susan Bruton's friend)
 Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)
 Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)
 David Crenshaw
 Chance Thornton
 Sam Duckworth (Jessica Duckworth's young son)
If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).



Remembering those serving in our military.

HM1 Robert Starkey (Afghanistan)-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
 Sgt. Jason Schmidlen (Iraq)-Jim and Debby Heitholt's son
 Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
 Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson
 Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
 Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
 Nathan Grove
 David Wheat-Edna O'Quinn's nephew
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
 Lt. Col. Peter Bailey
 Lt. Col. Richard Bailey
 Lt. Col. Keith Williams
 Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor
 Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
 Lt. Dan Barton
 Kris Yoder-son-in-law of John & Rebecca Sneed
 Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-cousins of Ladonna & Chris Patterson
 Garrett Johnson



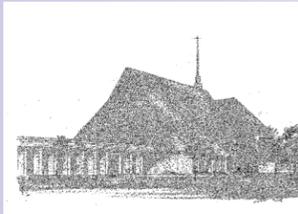
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Place Label Here

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 Monday, April 25 by 9:00am

First United Methodist Church
 1709 Highway 50
 Commerce, TX 75428
 Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert

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First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 6

April 13, 2011

Holy Week at FUMC Commerce:

A Service of Palms and Passion

Sunday, April 17

Worship in the Chapel at 8:45 am with gospel hymns and scripture;
 at 9:45 am in the Chapel, celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday;
 and at 10:50 am in the Sanctuary featuring special music by the Chancel
 Choir, scripture, and prayer



Maunder Thursday worship

with Holy Communion and foot washing
 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
 Thursday, April 21



A Good Friday Service of Tenebrae

at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
 Friday, April 22

The Day of Resurrection: Easter Sunday, April 24

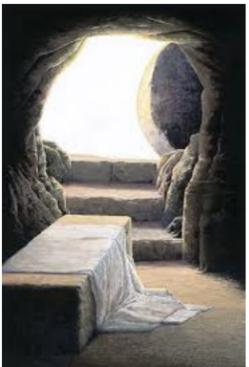
Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

Led by FUMC youth

Worship:

at 8:45 am in the Chapel
 at 9:45 am in the Chapel, celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday
 at 10:50 am in the Sanctuary featuring special music by the Chancel Choir

Bring a breakfast treat to share! Fellowship and hospitality will be
 ongoing in the Family Ministries Center throughout the morning.
 Come fellowship and worship!



Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥

Happy 91st Birthday to Otha Spencer!

Otha has generously given of his prayers, his presence, his gifts, his service, and his witness.

Please join us for a come and go celebration on

Sunday, May 1st

Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Spring has definitely sprung in Commerce! The bluebonnets and red clover are in their full formal dance regalia, the new rose-bushes here at the parsonage are blooming with amazing vigor, and the downy woodpeckers in the silver poplar in the backyard are sitting on their nest. In the evenings, I often see one of the parents pop his or her head out of the nest and look around – it is a sight that is too cute to describe!



After a second rather snowy winter (at least for our part of the globe), the fecundity of life seems ever more surprising and wonderful. Even if Ol' Man Winter shows his head again (that "Easter Cold Snap" my grandmother always talked about), it won't be enough to stop the ever-abounding life-force around us.

The same is true for our congregation, too. This Sunday afternoon just passed, a ga-zillion kids (it seemed like that many!) hopped and skipped around the church lawn, looking for Easter eggs. At the same time, we celebrated the coming of a first child to our Associate Pastor, Marc Corazao, and his wife, Michelle, at a shower in Baby Corazao's honor. God's ever-present life-giving power is at work in our congregation.

And yet, sometimes it seems God's life-power is a bit much, don't you think? Case in point: a pair of barn swallows have decided to build a nest in a nook of the front porch of the parsonage (in spite of the clanging chimes we hung there). They are such delicate-looking birds – streamlined and graceful. But every time my husband or I try to open the door to get the mail or the paper, they swoop in, threatening to dive-bomb us. Scenes of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" play in my head as I slam the door! I have been informed by knowledgeable bird-folk in our congregation that we might as well give up going out the front door until the swallows' nesting is complete. Sigh. There goes watering the front flower beds!

God's work in and among us can be like this. Often when I catch wind or scent of God working, I am excited and ready to join in. But it doesn't take long for me to want to put the brakes on – it all seems to move too fast! This is more than I can handle, God! Slow down! Don't dive-bomb me with too many possibilities! I don't have enough time, or money, or volunteers, or whatever excuse is at hand.

But God doesn't stop. God-in-Christ is continually leading, pushing, bringing life out of darkness and impossible situations. God's Spring has Sprung – are we ready for the ride?

God's Spirit be with you all – *Valarie*



Worship

April 17, 2011

Rev. Valarie Englert will continue the theme Seeking Home

Please join us this Passion/Palm Sunday!

8:45am ~ Chapel
9:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
6:30 pm ~ FMC

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Harriet Williams (903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Jim Patton (903) 886-2206

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson (903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Bob Mills (903) 886-6792

Stewardship Team Chair:

Hal Langford (903) 886-8334

Foundation Chair:

Danny Shepherd (903) 886-6883

Connect Team Chair:

Ladonna Patterson (903) 886-4630

Grow Team Chair:

Teresa Heatherly (903) 886-7070

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Building a Home This Lenten Season

Over the years, members of our church have traveled to Juárez, Mexico to build cinderblock homes for people whose homes were made of cardboard and other scrap materials. Their effort was in support of the Proyecto Abrigo ministry, which once built over 200 homes per year. Now due to the rampant violence in the area and the resulting cancellation of mission trips from the US, **only 1 home has been built in 2011** according to Proyecto Abrigo founder, Rev. Jose Luis Portillo, during his recent visit to the Dallas area.



Jessie Helton and Ryan Klinck with other volunteers and the Hernandez family who was blessed with a new home in December 2010.

Today is not the time to forget our brothers and sisters in Christ. So far, we built a scaled-down version of a 12' x 24' Proyecto Abrigo home in the Gathering Area to remind us of God's people in Juárez. This year's Lenten drop-a-dollar collection and offerings, which currently totals **\$2,323**, will be dedicated to Proyecto Abrigo. Members have also brought in a significant amount of aluminum cans, which will be converted to cash as additional support for this important ministry.



Cans for Construction of Proyecto Abrigo home

We can build a home for a family *in spirit*. Please continue to support Proyecto Abrigo with your prayers and with your Lenten gift on or before Easter Sunday. Please also continue to bring your rinsed aluminum cans. The cost to construct a Proyecto Abrigo home without the labor of a mission team is \$3,500. **Our goal is to raise funds to cover the majority cost of one of these homes.**

To learn more about Proyecto Abrigo, talk with the Helton's,

Ryan Klinck or the Corazao's – all of whom have been to Juárez recently. You can also visit www.proyectoabrigo.org or like Proyecto Abrigo on Facebook.

Your Church at Work: Serve Team

Remember the first day back to school? Many of us had a new first-day-back-to-school outfit. Recently Communities in Schools (CIS) learned that a Greenville church was going to have a rummage sale at which new standardized dress clothes were priced at \$1.00 an item. CIS was invited to come before the sale was opened to the public and pick out the clothing they wanted. Raising the money became the challenge. Thanks for donations from the Serve Team's undesignated drop-a-dollar funds, the Friendship Class, and individual members, much of the needed money was raised in four days. CIS was able to purchase enough standardized dress items for 400 youngsters to have a brand new first-day-back-to-school outfit to start school.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Apr 17	Matthew 21:1-11
Monday, Apr 18	Psalms 36:5-11
Tuesday, Apr 19	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
Wednesday, Apr 20	John 13:21-32
Thursday, Apr 21	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday, Apr 22	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 John 18:1-19:42
Saturday, Apr 23	Exodus 14:10-31 Matthew 28:1-10
Sunday, Apr 24	Psalms 118:1-2 John 20:1-18
Monday, Apr 25	Psalms 16:1-8
Tuesday, Apr 26	Psalms 16:9-11
Wednesday, Apr 27	Acts 2:14, 22
Thursday, Apr 28	Acts 2:23-33
Friday, Apr 29	1 Peter 1:3-5
Saturday, Apr 30	1 Peter 1:6-9

Financial Update

General Operating Fund as of March 31, 2011

Income:	\$ 87,337	Early	27	35
Expenses:	\$ 87,159	9:45	16	17
Balance:	\$-22,853	Late	117	153
		Bridge	16	18
		SS	86	105

Attendance

	April 3	April 10
Early	27	35
9:45	16	17
Late	117	153
Bridge	16	18
SS	86	105

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Wednesdays. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. All inputs are due by 9:00am on the Monday of the publication week. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, April 25 by 9:00am****