

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2012

Holy Week at FUMC Commerce:

A Service of Palms

Sunday, April 1

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



Maundy Thursday worship

with Holy Communion and foot washing
at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
Thursday, April 5

A Good Friday Service in the manner of Taize

at 6:30pm in the Chapel
Friday, April 6



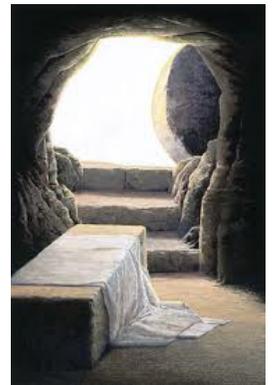
The Day of Resurrection: Easter Sunday, April 8

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!



Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 1
2:00-4:00pm.

Bring your Easter basket and
get ready for the hunt!



*Easter lily orders are
now being taken. See
the insert in the
bulletin or call the
church office at 903-
886-3220 to reserve
yours today.*

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Dear FUMC Friends:

When she was alive, my grandmother referred to her church clothes as her “Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes.” She would dress neatly and respectfully, donning a special outfit with tasteful jewelry and nice shoes – very different from her work-in-the garden weekday clothes. Going to church was special, and required special clothes – it was a way of honoring God.



The phrase “Sunday-go-to-meeting” always made me laugh when I was a girl. It seemed antiquated somehow, but also evocative of a different time and a different way of living. Church gatherings and worship were considered “meetings” – special times that marked a welcome change in the weekly rhythm. There were “Sunday meetings”, “prayer meetings” on Wednesdays, “camp meetings” in the summer, all descriptive phrases that carried within them positive meaning.

Fast forward to the present: the word “meeting” often conjures up very different understandings and responses. For many of us, meetings usually involve business related to our work. They take up space in our calendars, and roll around with numbing frequency. We schedule weekly meetings, monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, annual meetings. For many of us, meetings become placeholders around which the rest of life happens. We often schedule meetings first, then shoe-horn in family time, worship, celebrations, and R&R.

The hidden confession in all of this meeting activity is this: if we’re not meeting, we often feel like we’re not being productive. Our culture demands productivity, and for those of us who don’t work on an assembly line or harvest crops, meetings are a way we gauge our productivity. A week with a lot of meetings is a “busy week.” And the dirty little secret within this confession is that we often make work for ourselves when there isn’t a meeting on the near horizon, because if we’re not working, we’re not being productive.

I wonder what God thinks about all these meetings. Dare we imagine that we hear a divine chuckle? Or a divine sigh? A shaking of the divine head? How would God gauge our “productivity”?

It’s probably no accident that the spiritual disciplines run counter to the demands of our calendars. Reading scripture, prayer, meditative walking, and silence are all spiritual disciplines that challenge the schedules we keep. Implicit in practicing the spiritual disciplines is an invitation from God to stop what we’re doing, and “meet” with the Divine instead.

Holy Week offers us that chance to meet with God. It offers each of us the opportunity to live differently, just for a week. Wouldn’t it be liberating to be able to say: “this week is important to the practice of my faith (not to mention my sanity as a human being), I’m going to move every meeting off my calendar with the exception of one – my meeting with God”?

Consider yourself liberated – may your Holy Week be a time in which you travel those last steps with Christ. May your Holy Week be a time in which you die to your former self, and rise again, renewed, with Christ on Easter.

God’s peace be with you –
Valarie

Upcoming Worship

April 1

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

“Gathering Clouds”

April 5

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm in the Sanctuary

“A Day of Remembrance”

April 6

Good Friday

6:30pm in the Chapel

Taizé-style worship

April 8

Easter Sunday

Mark 16:1-8

“Terror and Amazement”

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton

(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart

(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson

(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Donna Tavener

(903) 886-7891

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts

(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd

(903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Ladonna Patterson

(903) 886-4630

Teresa Heatherly

(903) 886-7070

Angela Roberts

(903) 886-2142

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. 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. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, April 16 by 9:00am****

Cooks Needed for *Shelly's Casseroles for Christ!*

Many worthy projects in our church are products of the inspiration and concern of Robert and/or Shelly Seay. Among those is the program begun by Shelly in 2000 to enhance *Meals on Wheels* by providing casseroles for one meal each week. With her organizational skills, Shelly put into action a plan with approximately twenty volunteers serving as cooks, and, thus was born—*Shelly's Casseroles for Christ*. Both to honor Shelly's work and to fulfill this need, other volunteers are attempting to continue this program.

There are currently forty-five volunteers who cook for *Shelly's Casseroles for Christ*—including not only Methodists but members of all faiths in Commerce. Several of our cooks need to be excused from serving because they, in fact, should/could be receiving meals. They have served well beyond their time. So, I am looking for a few 'good' cooks to volunteer for this worthy mission of our church. A cookbook will be supplied, and a recipe is chosen for each week. You will only need to prepare one casserole each quarter that serves 10-12 people. The casseroles may be prepared ahead of time and frozen if the schedule doesn't fit your availability. No need to cook the casseroles; you only put them together in a disposable pan. The cooks at Meals on Wheels will cook them on the day they are served.

Perhaps, this is a good time to thank our current cooks which include: Brenda Latson, Roberta Brister, Sue Porter, Jane Langford, Laura Milligan, Kathy Hill, Ruth Ann White, Helen Rowe, Frances Sartwell, Susan Lampe, Nancy Green, Mary Casey, Carole Walker, Julie McLeroy, Linda King, Janet Williams Skauge, Kay Jensen, Anne Mills, Janet Latham, Dixie Turman, Tammy Naizer, Luann Huffman, Eupel Walker, Judy Rudoff, Donna Tavener, Loretta Kibler, Betty Casselberry, Margaret Floyd, and Ahtrell Dalton. Twice during the quarterly rotation, 'Our Baptist Friends' take a turn, and several ladies on the Board of Meals on Wheels also share a turn at casserole preparation.

Please consider volunteering to help with this ministry of FUMC Commerce. The program could use ten new cooks to replace some who will be retiring at the end of the current schedule. Please consider volunteering today. Give Sharon Smith (903-450-3600) a call to add your name to the list of cooks.

*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?'
The king will reply 'I tell you the truth whatever you did for the least of these brothers,
you did for me.'* —Matthew 25:37-40

VBS 2012

We're gearing up for VBS! This year we'll dive in and discover God's underwater universe with Cokesbury's Operation Overboard! We'll explore the depths of God's Word at VBS 2012, and "Dare to Go Deep with God!"

Operation Overboard Vacation Bible School will be June 18th – 22nd 2012, for kids who have *completed* Pre-Kindergarten – 5th grade.

As we starting wrapping our brains around transforming our building and sanctuary into an undersea wonderland, there are a few items we could use:

- ★ Plastic (or any other material) fish, seashells, lobsters, crabs, seahorses, coral, etc
- ★ Scuba gear
- ★ Fish nets
- ★ Blue cellophane, material, butcher paper, or sheets (that could be used as an underwater backdrop)
- ★ Any other decorating items or props that might help to create an undersea look and feel

If you have any of these items that you would be willing to loan or donate, please see Alison, or drop the items by the Church Office at any time! To learn more about Operation Overboard VBS, please visit the website:

<http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com>. Thank you!!





2012 Lenten Offerings

FUMC-C has a long tradition of giving generously through our special Lenten offering. This year, we will dedicate your gifts to Proyecto Abrigo and youth summer mission trips. Half of the Lenten offering will support the homebuilding, medical clinic, and food bank ministries of Proyecto Abrigo | Project Shelter in Juarez, Mexico.



The other half of the Lenten offering will support FUMC-C youth in mission. Middle school students are participating in C2K - Connect to the Kingdom, which is a project of the Council on Youth Ministries of the UMC North Texas Conference. For one week in Dallas, middle schoolers will work in teams with inner-city families and churches. They may perform repairs to homes and church buildings or help churches with VBS and other summer ministries. High school students are joining the U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) to serve those in need in a Texas outpost. Our high schoolers will combine their strengths to meet home repair and maintenance needs for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners. They will "camp" at a host Methodist church just as U.M. ARMY campers did last summer here in Commerce.



NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates



Scenes from the "Spring Trip of Mission Awesomeness", March 10-12, 2012

Exploring and experiencing God at work in creation and creative mission with Burgundy Pasture Beef, Homestead Heritage Community, Connect to the Kingdom, Church Under the Bridge, The Lorax, World Hunger Relief Inc, & Windy Meadows Farm!





UMW will meet **Tuesday, April 17th** at 10:00am. The Program will be on International Ministries by Terry Haneke, District Vice President. Our April project is: Food Pantry items. **All women are invited to join us!**

UMW

Our Socks and Undies collection drive continues. We need:

- Sizes 4T-8
- White
- For boys and girls
- Socks and undies



YARD SALE
Saturday, March 31
 Brookshire's parking lot
 benefitting the
Commerce Alliance
of Ministries
 which helps feed
 Commerce families

We need you to donate items. If you want to volunteer to help by donating items or in other ways, please call Julie Gentle at 903-468-2679.

Coke Machine



Have you seen our coke machine? When you're thirsty, go down the hallway by the youth room, and get a nice cold drink!

Attendance

	Mar. 4	Mar. 11	Mar. 18	Mar. 25
Early	35	21	26	30
9:45	10	10	10	12
Late	133	81	112	107
SS	73	59	63	83



Reading the Bible Daily



As you seek to grow closer to God through daily prayer and Bible study, you may have your own favorite daily readings. If not, you will find Scriptures for each day listed below. We hope you'll read daily and ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I just read?"

Some other questions you might ask are: What does this text say about who God is?" "What does this text say about who I am/who we are as human beings?" "What does this text say about our relationship with God?" You may want to reflect on paper with a journal or note pad. We hope this will become a part of your daily prayer time.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Apr 1	John 12:12-19
Monday, Apr 2	John 12:1-11
Tuesday, Apr 3	John 12:20-36
Wednesday, Apr 4	John 13:21-32
Thursday, Apr 5	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday, Apr 6	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Saturday, Apr 7	Exodus 14:10-31
Sunday, Apr 8	Mark 16:1-8
Monday, Apr 9	John 20:19-23
Tuesday, Apr 10	John 20:21
Wednesday, Apr 11	Psalms 133 Acts 4:32-35
Thursday, Apr 12	1 John 1:1-8
Friday, Apr 13	1 John 1:9-2:2
Saturday, Apr 14	John 20:24-29
Sunday, Apr 15	John 20:30-31
Monday, Apr 16	Acts 3:12-16
Tuesday, Apr 17	Acts 3:17-19
Wednesday, Apr 18	Psalms 4:1-3
Thursday, Apr 19	Psalms 4:4-8
Friday, Apr 20	1 John 3:1-7
Saturday, Apr 21	Luke 24:36b-43
Sunday, Apr 22	Luke 24:44-48
Monday, Apr 23	Acts 4:5-12
Tuesday, Apr 24	Psalms 23
Wednesday, Apr 25	Psalms 23:1
Thursday, Apr 26	1 John 3:16-22
Friday, Apr 27	1 John 3:21-24
Saturday, Apr 28	John 10:11-13
Sunday, Apr 29	John 10:14-18
Monday, Apr 30	Acts 8:26-40



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Ron Thomas
Eli (Virddie Montgomery's grandson)
Ruth Warren and family in the loss of her father

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Judy Rudoff
Jack Gray
Gene Casselberry
Sally Grove
Julie Wadlow
Otha Spencer
Jan Vowell
Gary Kibler
Robert Seay

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

George Moore (Brad Moore's father)
Alma Thompson (Dennis Wilkinson's mother)
Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)
Bobbie Williams (Bonnie Springs' sister)
Cindy Kelso (Amanda Brown's sister)
Laura Cole and Gail Cole (Helen Cole's daughters-in-law & Judy Anderson's sisters-in-law)
Jan Chapman (District Office)
Kay Webber
Judy Greenwood
George O'Kelley
Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)
William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)

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.

Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Matt Skelton-Mack and Mariann Andrews' nephew
Jason Timmons-seriously injured
2nd Marine Division
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Chief Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Christopher Kendrick-Navy (Helen Rowe's friend)
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
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
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-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins
Garrett Johnson



Phone: 903-886-3220
Fax: 903-886-3240
www.fumccommerce.org
office@fumccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, April 16 by 9:00am

Place Label Here

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