

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 7

August 2016

## VBS 2016



We had a wonderful week "catching the wave of God's love" at the Surf Shack!

"Remember that the Lord is great and awesome." Nehemiah 4:14b

This week with the help of 20 youth and 22 adult volunteers from our church and community, 60 kids came through and learned many wonderful lessons and stories from the Bible. Each day we "surfed" through God's word.



**Monday we learned that God Loves:** Our surfers experienced God's love through the story of Jesus' baptism. They came to understand God's amazing love as expressed through sending someone as special as Jesus.

**Tuesday we learned that God Calms:** Through the disciple's story of an encounter with Jesus in a storm, our surfers learned how God can bring peace to any situation and calm our fears even when things aren't going well. They realized that they, too, can trust in Jesus through storms in their lives.

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**Wednesday we learned that**

**God Sends:** We experienced the disciple's experience trying to catch fish. Jesus urged them to keep trying. Surfers heard how Jesus invites us and sends us to participate in an amazing experience, telling the Good News of his life.



The mission this year was the Commerce Food Pantry! We collected 2 large boxes of non-perishable items to donate.

It is awesome to work with these kids alongside such a loving and supportive congregation dedicated to programs such as VBS that lead our kids to know more of God. I am deeply grateful for your support.

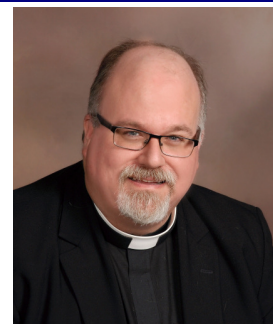
Shelly Oats

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## Adult Confirmation Is Coming!

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



In whom do we believe? What do we believe? Why do we believe what we believe? What is the purpose and meaning of the Christian life? What do our beliefs as Christians call us to do in a world that is starving for the Good News of Jesus Christ? These are all good questions, and ones which are addressed in Christian Confirmation classes as young people are prepared to make their public Affirmations of Faith before the congregation and be received as professing members of the Body of Christ. These are also questions that are remarkably appropriate for us to consider as life's twists and turns carry us through personal changes, mountain top experiences, and valleys of weeping.

In 2015-2016 I had a fantastic time working with Craig Jensen as we lead a wonderful group of young people through a heart, soul, and mind transforming Confirmation experience. We studied the breadth and depth of our faith, dealing with concepts and ideas that have been common among all Christians since the earliest days of the church as well as with those that are particular to our Protestant and Methodist contexts. We looked at the early development of the church, its history across the centuries, its development, growth as it moved into modern times, and some of the major theological concepts that have lead us to where we are today. We examined the place of Methodism within the broad family of Christian churches and we examined some of the details of organization and structure that govern the life of our denomination. In all of this, we tried to remain open to differences in thought and opinion while striving to reach for a common affirmation of faith in the One who made us and makes us still.

In 2016-2017 we are going to offer a similar experience to the congregation as a whole. While congregational-wide Confirmation can be very challenging, it is also very do-able. It will take patience and a willingness to prepare ahead of time, it will take being open to God's love and grace, and it will take everyone being open to different ideas and even familiar ideas heard in different ways. The plan is that, one Sunday a month (from September 2016 through May 2017) we will meet as congregation-wide class during the Sunday School hour to participate in confirmation. During the month prior to each session we will have time to read through the lesson for the session and be familiar with the basic information in it; when we come together we will talk a few specific concepts from the lessons to look at, we'll ask questions, and we'll share ideas, thoughts and experiences about the study.

Sample copies of the confirmation books will be available for everyone to look at soon, and they will be available to take, read, and use a couple of weeks prior to our first session together. Dates for the study are being set as: Sept 25, October 23, November 13, December 11, January 22, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 21 (the final few dates are tentative and open to adjustment).

I am really looking forward to taking this journey with you! If you have questions, please feel free to ask, and you will be hearing much more about this in the days and weeks to come.

Worship
8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:

[www.revneal.org](http://www.revneal.org)

[www.youtube.com/revneal](http://www.youtube.com/revneal)

[www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo](http://www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo)

Online Sermons

## Little Ark Roundup

**Date:** Thursday, August 11, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 Meeting, 6:00 Fundraiser Dinner

**Place:** Family Ministry Center



Little Ark is hosting a "Round Up" in order to offer fellowship with our Little Ark families (**past, present, and future**) and our wonderful teachers. This is a wonderful opportunity for the church members to get to know our families and a little more about our program. We are also hosting a fundraiser dinner during the Roundup, and would greatly appreciate donations of individually bagged chips, cookies, and water bottles. Thank you so much for all you do for Little Ark.

For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at [shelly@fumccommerce.org](mailto:shelly@fumccommerce.org) or Jennifer Knight at [jknight\\_littleark@yahoo.com](mailto:jknight_littleark@yahoo.com) or 903-246-5650.



Most of the students left for the Summer, but there was plenty going on at the Wesleyan! When students arrive back on campus later this month, they will find that the building has had some major improvements. The Prayer Room has new paint, the back fence is fixed, the interior bench window seats are polished and have new cushions, there are new pictures on the walls, AND...we have a new handicap accessible entrance!



U.M. ARMY built a new wheelchair ramp from our parking lot to the side of the building where there was a walled-in doorframe. They paved a way where there was no way! And now we have a new entrance so all God's children can safely/easily enter the Wesleyan.



Along with building improvements, over the Summer we had weekly movie nights, the new student staff/leaders were evangelist at the new student fairs and we planned out worship services for the entire semester.

Please join us for a Wesleyan Work Day on **Saturday, August 13, 9:00am**. We will be transforming the old student office into a welcome/study room, along with deep cleaning the whole building.

### Committee Chairs

**Ad Council Chair:**

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

**Vice Ad Council Chair:**

Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776

**Lay Leader:**

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

**SPPRC Chair:**

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

**Trustees Chair:**

Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487

**Finance Chair:**

Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

**FUMC Foundation President:**

Anne Mills (903) 217-2615

**Connect Team Chair:**

Susan Patton (903) 886-4612

**Grow Team Chair:**

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

**Serve Team Chair:**

Amy Stark (903) 246-3177

**Lay Member:**

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

**UMW President:**

Mary Lou Heatherly  
(903) 886-8381

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at [communications@fumccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Monday, August 22 by 9:00am\*\***

People of FUMC Commerce,

On behalf of the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY) group that came to Commerce the week of June 26-July 2, we thank you for your generous hospitality and welcome. Your church and community welcomed high school youth and adult volunteers from Cypress, Grand Prairie, Huntsville, Lubbock and El Paso/Juarez with open arms, love and compassion. For that, we are thankful.



Fellowship after joint worship service at Griffith Chapel where a work team installed a new bathroom



Thanks to these U.M. ARMY campers, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry can be more welcoming to folks with physical disabilities. Plus, this is a perfect entry for Prairie Crossing students!

Because of your willingness to host these 57 volunteer missionaries, 17 projects were completed. These projects ranged from building a wheelchair ramp and assorted other projects at the Wesleyan and a new bathroom at Griffith Chapel to shower installation to wheelchair ramps on homes and painting and replacing sheetrock and siding. I believe four of the homes were projects with a connection to FUMC-C. It was a hot week, but the young missionaries you hosted worked hard. God



Jim Patton in the ball cap helped scope projects and assisted work teams throughout the week

moved in powerful ways, and lives were transformed because of your willingness to have us.



City Councilman Gene Lockhart presenting the Proclamation naming June 26-July 2 U.M. ARMY Week in Commerce

We were grateful for the partnerships with the church, University and City, with the added bonus of a Proclamation naming June 26-July 2 U.M. ARMY Week in Commerce. It is always special coming to Commerce to see the way the community comes together to support U.M. ARMY. This year, we had the added bonus of being able to work on Griffith Chapel CME Church and had a joint worship service with them on Wednesday evening, before they joined us for worship at FUMC Thursday evening.

Finally, we are grateful for the historic support of FUMC, from helping launch the new chapter with Board and Financial support, and now we are grateful for the support of one of your own, Mikey Elwell, the first U.M. ARMY NxNW Texas Youth Advisory Board Member to attend a camp in leadership. Please congratulate him and thank him for his service and leadership.

All in all, I hope you take pride in the work that was completed for Christ through U.M. ARMY Commerce 2016, and I hope we can return in future years.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the ministry!

Thanks again,  
Scott Atnip  
U.M. ARMY Commerce 2016, Director



Mikey Elwell pictured far left with the rest of base camp was the first U.M. ARMY NxNW Texas Youth Advisory

## U.M. ARMY Here and There

There is indeed a lot of work in this world for love to do. In the last couple of weeks, FUMC-Commerce has lavished its love on our youth going to Vernon with U.M. ARMY and U.M. ARMY youth camping in our church and working throughout our community. Thanks to your generous gifts of time (cooking, baking, transporting ice, serving, cleaning) and financial support, our youth had extra snacks and the incoming youth had a plenty of food and logistical support while staying with us.

In addition, your generosity helped defray the expenses of some of the projects that exceeded the U.M. ARMY budget.

Gifts totaling \$973.33 came in designated to either help feed U.M. ARMY campers or support the camp where help was needed most. \$638.82 was used to host the welcome taco dinner, purchase chicken, snacks & drinks, and send them off Saturday morning with donuts and pigs in a blanket. The balance of \$334.51 was added to \$1,000 of Serve funds and given to the U.M. ARMY NxNW Chapter to help cover material costs such as a new door, a shower, a toilet, flooring, a window unit, lumber, and loads of siding.

Your love continues to do work. Financial support for VBS – July 18, 19, and 20 – was a great help. The Connect and Serve Teams thank you for all the ways your love does the work in this world – not just here but beyond the city limits as well.



## MISSION of the MONTH

### August Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for August is the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. Its mission is making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, by offering TAMUC students an inclusive and welcoming faith community where ALL God's diverse children Belong, Believe, Become. All \$1 bills placed in the offering plate and designated gifts during August will support this ministry of the United Methodist Church.

# Save the Date!



**Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016**  
**Family Ministry Center**



### Simplify Your Summer Giving!!

If you think you may miss church services this summer due to travel or other commitments, consider setting up an automatic giving schedule. Your consistent support is vital to our church, especially during summer months. To set up a recurring contribution, visit the church website at [www.fumccommerce.org](http://www.fumccommerce.org), and click on 'Ways to Give' and create a profile if you haven't already.





First United Methodist Church Foundation  
Annual Report 2015

2015 marked the twenty-third anniversary of FUMC Foundation Commerce TX. In November 2015, we celebrated "Foundation Sunday" to honor generous donors. In December 2015, the Foundation sponsored an estate planning workshop, "Putting Your House in Order." As required by the bylaws, \$ 3647.88 was returned to the permanent fund, representing 10% of the income from the permanent funds. The following received gifts or grants from the Foundation in 2015:

Community:

Commerce Clothe-a-Child	2,000.00
Commerce Lil' Angels	2,500.00
Commerce Literacy Program	<u>2,500.00</u>
Subtotal	\$7,000.00

First United Methodist Church and Parsonages

Church bus	22,087.53
Organ repair	1,831.16
Sump pump	1,500.00
HVAC Blower (Fellowship Hall)	1,708.50
Drake Parsonage	3,393.70
Tree trimming church grounds	6,500.00
HVAC repair (Sanctuary)	3,786.00
Defibrillators	3,650.00
Youth ministries Intern	<u>3,600.00</u>
Subtotal	\$48,056.89

Scholarships

Leland and Mary Casey Scholarship	500.00
Gary Kibler and Weldon & Annie Reese Kibler Family Scholarship	<u>1,500.00</u>
Subtotal	\$2,000.00

**Total Gifts to Church and Community 57,056.89**

Foundation Expenses:

Accountant	4,200.00
Foundation Report: 2009-2013	447.40
L. Killgore for Knight Account Management	<u>380.23</u>
Subtotal	\$5,027.63

**Total Expenditures for 2015: \$62,084.49**

*The FUMC-Commerce Foundation welcomes gifts of any size. The continued growth of the Foundation is aided by each dollar given. Gifts to the Foundation are above and beyond pledges to our church; those pledges form the financial backbone of our church.*

*The full report can be viewed online under the Newsletter section.*

FIRST THURSDAY

First Thursday  
Potluck Luncheon  
August 4 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES  
RECYCLE

Saturday, August 6  
9:00-11:00

At the intersection of  
Walnut and  
Campbell Streets



UMW will meet **Tuesday, August 18** at 10:00am. The Response program will be brought by Mary Lou Heatherly. Our August project is items for the Food Pantry. **All women are invited to join us!**

*In memory of...*

**Lamont Cunningham**

By: Susan Lampe  
Edna O'Quinn  
Lena Faulkner



**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
<b>Jun 29</b>		8		
<b>Jul 3</b>	25	—	80	45
<b>Jul 6</b>		5		
<b>Jul 10</b>	31	—	68	45
<b>Jul 13</b>		9		
<b>Jul 17</b>	30	—	78	45
<b>Jul 20</b>		—		
<b>Jul 24</b>	30	—	76	52



**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of June 30, 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 34,131	\$191,877
Expenses:	\$ <u>28,529</u>	\$ <u>177,820</u>
	\$ 5,602	\$ 14,057

**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:**

Monday, Aug 1	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Tuesday, Aug 2	Isaiah 1:11-15
Wednesday, Aug 3	Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23
Thursday, Aug 4	Hebrews 11:8-16
Friday, Aug 5	Hebrews 11:1-3
Saturday, Aug 6	Luke 12:32-40
Sunday, Aug 7	Luke 12:35
Monday, Aug 8	Isaiah 5:1-4
Tuesday, Aug 9	Isaiah 5:5-7
Wednesday, Aug 10	Luke 12:49-53
Thursday, Aug 11	Luke 12:54-56
Friday, Aug 12	Hebrews 11:29-40
Saturday, Aug 13	Hebrews 12:1-2
Sunday, Aug 14	Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19
Monday, Aug 15	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Tuesday, Aug 16	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Wednesday, Aug 17	Psalms 71:1-6
Thursday, Aug 18	Hebrews 12:18-24
Friday, Aug 19	Hebrews 12:25-29
Saturday, Aug 20	Luke 13:10-13
Sunday, Aug 21	Luke 13:14-17
Monday, Aug 22	Jeremiah 2:4-13
Tuesday, Aug 23	Jeremiah 2:4-13
Wednesday, Aug 24	Psalms 81:1, 10-16
Thursday, Aug 25	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Friday, Aug 26	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Saturday, Aug 27	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sunday, Aug 28	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Monday, Aug 29	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Tuesday, Aug 30	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Wednesday, Aug 31	Luke 14:25-27



## Prayer Lists

### Newly Added

Family of Denham White (Jennifer and Michael Knight's nephew)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world

### Continued Prayers

Harry Icenhower, Loretta Kibler, Ruth Ann White, Gayle Shumate, Rebecca Sneed, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Linda Liston, Pete Chamberlain, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan's sister), Barbara Gish, Jayne Williams, Belle Bowen (Josephine Parker's sister), Dave Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's father), Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother), Dr. Mark Godat, Larry Chaloupka, Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Jack and Gladys Gray, Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Gladys Gray and Glenna Siebenhausen

The Haven (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."*

*James 5:16*

*Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.*

*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...

2 <sup>nd</sup> Marine Division	Danaycurce Childress
Mike Dempsey	Col. Peter Bailey
Garrett Johnson	Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton	Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law	
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad & Vickie Boynton's son-in-law	
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother & Tom Starkey's son	
Lt. JG. Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother & Tom Starkey's son	
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother	
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde & Wanda Robnett's grandson	
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law	
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins	



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**First United Methodist Church  
1709 Highway 24  
Commerce, TX 75428  
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due  
**Monday, August 22 by 9:00am**