

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2017

# Back to School **BLOWOUT**

Saturday, July 29



**Little Ark Meet the Teacher  
10:30-11:00am**

Meet your child's teacher for the 2017-18 school year and find out what's in store for the school year.

**Back to School Blowout  
11:00am-1:00pm**  
(Lunch will be provided )  
Little Ark, Our Church, and the Community  
**Waterslide / Bounce House / Face Painting / Snowcones**  
**Food / Fun / Fellowship / PLUS! Cabo The Goat**

Let's celebrate our Little Ark and Commerce ISD students and teachers by inviting them to join us as we celebrate a new school year! The WHOLE community is welcome!

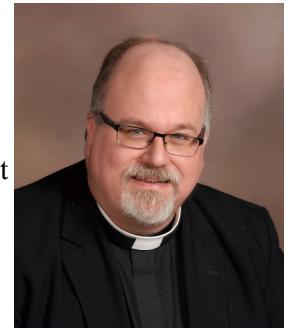
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## Our Ministry With Children

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

We should all be concerned with the health, education, and faith-formation of children. Throughout his ministry Jesus demonstrated to us that Children have a special place in the Kingdom of God: they are to be loved, protected, and nurtured in the faith while being encouraged to ask questions and enter into their own relationship with God. This was Jesus' own experience as he matured, and one which he clearly cherished for all children:



Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matthew 19:14; see also Mark 10:14, and Luke 18:16)

Often identified as being the church’s future, in reality children are also the church’s present. All of our ministries with and for children must be oriented around what is best for them: for their well-being and faith-development. The *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church both outline clear standards for our children’s ministries, and FUMCC is paying close attention to these as we chart our course into the future.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, gave children’s ministries a high priority. Wesley established health clinics and schools for children to encourage their growth in faith, knowledge, and health, as well as in safety and in a life free from the burden of poverty and the toil of child labor. Wesley also required his pastors to care for and teach children on a regular basis. I am pleased to say that First Commerce has an amazing ministry in this area: we have a children’s and youth ministry program that engages in powerful mission and ministry in our midst. From VBS to Confirmation to Summer Camps to Reading Programs to the youth UM-ARMY mission trips, and much more, this congregation is reaching out and making a difference in the lives of the young people in our community.

This is also true of Little Ark Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten. We are sometimes asked: “Is Little Ark a mission or ministry of our church?” The short answer to this question is “yes!” Little Ark is not an outside organization that we host in our facilities; it is a critical component of our amazing ministry for children through which we are in mission to little ones and their families. Its purpose is not so much to grow the church as it is to make the spiritual, physical, and intellectual lives of children better. Yes, as the church we can do a better job of reaching out through Little Ark to the families it serves, but even if not a single person joins the church from these efforts they are still an incredible mission of our church to a segment of our population that needs to hear and experience the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For my own small part, in addition to serving on the Little Ark Board, I have had the pleasure of leading morning chapel with the children and have also met many of the parents of those involved in the program. If you would like to support and be involved in this ministry, I’m sure there is a place for you.

We often forget that the Kingdom of Heaven comes to those who are willing to receive it as a little child: vulnerable and trusting while being willing to change and grow (Matthew 18:3). Children, therefore, play a critical role in the life of the church. We must learn from them how to be true disciples of Jesus Christ; we must un-learn the dysfunctional systems taught to us by our society so that we can learn and grow as children do: openly, willingly, and with much enthusiasm. Working in ministry with and to children can help us to rediscover this incredible truth. Remember, ultimately we are all Children of God.

**THE LIGHT**  
**A Contemporary Service Sundays @ 6pm**  
**Childcare & Sunday School available**



FUMC-Commerce would like to send children back to school with a bag tag and a blessing! For those who are not sending a student off to school, we welcome your donation of a new backpack to be blessed and distributed to Commerce ISD.

All children are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 6, 2017 so both they and their backpack can be blessed in our 10:50 am worship service.

These backpacks are our children's constant companions as they go about their school days, so the pastors of FUMC-Commerce would like to bless them. After the blessing they will give each child a tag to put on their backpack to remind them that God is with them in their daily life and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year.

Don't have any students at home? All are invited to be a blessing to other less fortunate children by purchasing a new backpack and bringing it to the church on Sunday, August 6. The new backpacks will be blessed, tagged, and distributed to Commerce ISD.

We would also like anyone involved in education (all teachers, principals, custodians, secretaries, etc.) to join us in this blessing. You make such an impact on our children each and everyday and you deserve a blessing too!



**Ransomed!**  
**August 6TH**  
**6-7pm**  
**at the The LIGHT Service**  
**Come and be blessed by the**  
**Gospel music of the group**  
**Ransomed!**

## Worship

**Sunday, August 6**  
**Back to School Sunday**

**Sunday, August 13**

**Sunday, August 20**

**Sunday, August 27**

**8:45am ~ Chapel**  
**10:50am ~ Sanctuary**  
**6:00pm ~ Family**  
**Ministry Center**

## Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, August 16**  
**5:30 pm in the Chapel**  
This is a special service of prayer, contemplation, and Communion conducted in the Anglican Tradition.  
All are welcome!



**Worship Assistants Needed**

The 10:50 service needs children, youth, and adults who are willing to serve as Acolytes! We also need men, women, and youth who are interested in serving as Ushers and as Greeters! Please contact the church office if you would like to serve.

# Children's Ministry



## Hero Central

"Do good, Seek peace, and Go After It!"

When almost 70 children ranging from pre-k to 5<sup>th</sup> grade came bursting through the doors for a faith-filled, fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School, you know that many volunteers committed themselves to make it happen.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our many FUMC members and Little Ark staff for all their work and support:

- Technology: Vickie McMurray
- Set-up and Take-down: Kristi Robertson, Joanna Thrift, Racheal Bailey, Mandy Swinson, Jennifer Knight, Bonnie Smith, Cason Oats, Angela Roberts, Christina Darty, Alison Walker, Linda Baron and Vickie McMurray
- Photographer/Historian: Robyn Elwell
- Registrars: Judy Rudoff and Racheal Bailey
- Snack providers: Mary Carolyn Dye, Nancy Doughty, Kay Jensen, Laura Milligan and Harriet Williams
- Station Leaders: Pastor Greg and Pastor Brian, Lauren Dierolf, Sam Elwell, Alison Walker, Graham Knight, Judy Rudoff, Mandy Swinson, and Joanna Thrift
- Shepherds: Kim Bruister, Mimi Dobbs, Katy Jensen, Erin Jensen, Kristen Poe, Angela Roberts and Kassady Todhunter
- "Flame" the puppet: Emma Knight
- A special shout-out to the youth who were shepherds, station leaders and station helpers and who also took the initiative to do whatever job needed doing: Aubrey Clayton, Emma Dobbs, Marley Moore, Emma Knight, Graham Knight, McKynna Swinson, Sarah Martin, Allie Wittkopf, Emma Wittkopf and Cayde Shaw
- A huge thank you to the generous gifts of our FUMC members for sharing their time, talents, and gifts

Again, thank you all for contributing your time to a very successful experience for our kids!



### Confirmation Is Coming!

Beginning in September

If you have 5th, 6th, or 7th graders who have not been through Confirmation, please let the church office know.



Little Ark  
is offering  
A

CPR course  
Saturday, August 5  
11am-1pm

The cost is \$35 per person.

# VBS 2017



SUPER!

SPECTACULAR!

Wow!



POW!



ON TARGET!



# Children's Ministry



## Bridgeport Camp

We were so blessed to be able to send 14 kids to Bridgeport Summer Camp this year. Special thank you to our congregation for embracing our children and supporting them on this very important journey. The children spent 5 wonderful days growing closer to God. They each spent time with their own family groups where they met new friends and grew together in love. They had interest groups throughout the week that each child was able to choose. One of the favorites among our group of kids was "worship". In this group, the children were the ones choosing the scriptures, songs and prayers for each night's worship service. Each of them spoke about how much closer they are with each other and they plan to continue spreading that love at school and in our community.



Special thanks to Diana Pemberton for joining our children for this wonderful week!

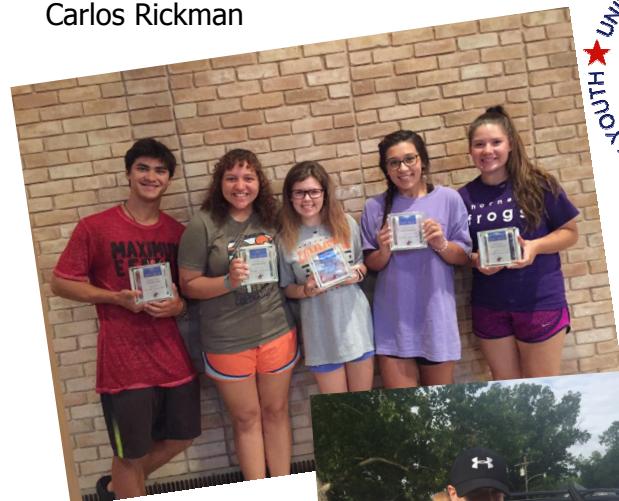


# UM ARMY

## Youth Mission Trip 2017 to Bonham, TX

We had a fantastic week serving the community of Bonham. We built a total of 3 wheel chair ramps, painted 3 houses, and added extra space to the local food pantry. The home owners couldn't have been happier! This was Faith Dickson's and Claire Dobbs' last year able to attend as students. We are sad to say goodbye, but know they both will have a great time in college. All in all it was a great camp this year, and we look forward to going again next year. Thank you all for the prayers y'all sent out to us while we were serving the community

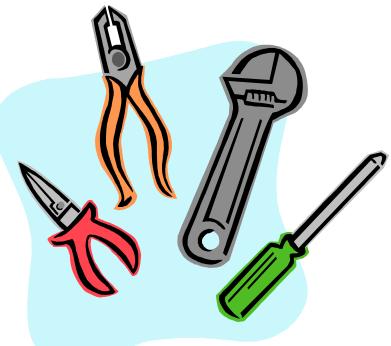
Carlos Rickman



# MISSION of the MONTH

## Mission of the Month

Drop a Dollar during August goes to the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. "Making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, by offering students an inclusive and welcoming faith community where ALL God's diverse Children; Belong, Believe, Become!"



### WCM Work Day Saturday, August 12

9am - 1pm

Please come help get our place ready to greet the new semester! Let's make the Wesleyan property look clean and inviting. Brian will have specific tasks to assign. Thanks for your support!



### Sponsor a Free Lunch

Every Wednesday during the school year the Wesleyan hosts a free lunch for students and staff. These lunches are outstanding evangelism opportunities and are often the first time someone comes to the ministry. If you and/or your small group would like to sponsor a free lunch, please email [Brian@fumcommerce.org](mailto:Brian@fumcommerce.org). Thanks for your support!



### Commerce Community Garden Cooking & Meal Prep Class

Saturday, August 5 ~ 9am-noon

This hands-on class will be held in the FUMC-Commerce kitchen and all materials provided. To register for classes please call the church office at 903-886-3220.

Sponsored by: C-CAP, AgriLife Extension Service, and Commerce Community Garden



The Wesleyan Campus Ministries  
is hosting the

## East District Youth Event

Sunday, August 13  
2pm -- 5pm  
at the WCM



## School Supplies Collection Drive

Would you like to help Commerce ISD Students, Teachers and Families get off to a GREAT start for the 2017-2018 school year? Please help us "STUFF the BUS" with new school supplies for our students!

### **Most Needed Items:**

- Crayons
- Markers
- Bottled School Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Map Pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Spiral/Composition Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Zippered Pencil Bags
- Pocket Folders with brads
- Large Zippered Binders

### **Drop-off Locations:**

**COMMERCE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2900 FM 3218**

**COMMERCE  
POLICE STATION  
1103 SYCAMORE**

**FIRST METHODIST -  
COMMERCE  
1709 HWY 24**

**Rotary**



**Commerce**  
Independent School District

Call Alison Walker, CISD Family Services – (903)366-0642 with questions or to apply for assistance

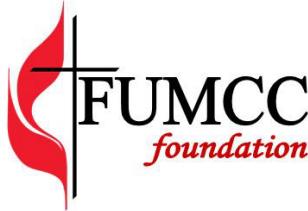
## FUMC Foundation Announces New Funds

The FUMC Foundation has created two new funds: the Bob Mills HVAC Matching Fund and the Gene Lockhart and John Burkett Music Enrichment Matching Fund.

The Bob Mills HVAC Matching Fund is to complement the fund started in 2014 to honor Bob Mills' service to the church and especially his dedication of time and expertise to the HVAC systems of the sanctuary, the Family Life Center and associated buildings. Taking the lead from past Foundation Boards who wisely set aside funds which financed the sanctuary HVAC system, the current Board made a decision to match the donations already received in Bob's memory with the goal of planning for a future large HVAC expenditure. Going forward, the Foundation will match all donations to the new Bob Mills HVAC Matching Fund up to a total matching amount by the Foundation of \$40,000.00. Any donation, large or small, will help achieve the goal of preparing for the future.

The new Gene Lockhart and John Burkett Music Enrichment Matching Fund is named for two individuals who have each given over 40 years to the music program. The Foundation has started this fund with \$5,000, the amount the Foundation asks for starting a fund for a specific purpose. The Foundation will welcome donations of any size and will match all donations up to a total of \$30,000 by the Foundation. The funds will be used to enrich the music experience at our services and to continue the tradition of musical excellence.

Donation checks should be made to "FUMC Commerce" with a memo "Bob Mills HVAC Matching Fund" or "Lockhart/Burkett Music Enrichment Matching Fund". The donations will be transferred to the Foundation, where the funds will be invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation.



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

### Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

### SPPRC Chair:

Jim Patton (903) 886-4612

### Trustees Chair:

Virginia Collier (903) 367-7588

### 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) 246-1487

### Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



## Luigi's Gives Back Sunday August 20

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!



Potluck  
Luncheon  
August 3  
@ 12pm

As you travel and take vacations this summer, don't take a break from your giving. We are grateful for your faithfulness!



## 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.fumcccommerce.org](http://www.fumcccommerce.org), and click on 'Ways to Give' and create a profile if you haven't already.

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@fumcccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumcccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

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

**Attendance**

	<u>10:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
<b>Jul 2</b>	97	33	66	
<b>Jul 9</b>	110	34	18	
<b>Jul 12</b>				5
<b>Jul 16</b>	86	37	20	
<b>Jul 23</b>	82	35	29	


**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

<u>as of June 30, 2017</u>		<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 27,824	\$ 162,403
Expenses:	<u>\$ 27,151</u>	<u>\$ 173,914</u>
	\$ 673	-\$ 11,511

love →  
**EACH other**  
**AS I have**  
**LOVED you**  
- JOHN 15:12 -

**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:**

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Tuesday, Aug 1    | Genesis 32:22-31          |
| Wednesday, Aug 2  | Psalm 17:1-7              |
| Thursday, Aug 3   | Psalm 17:1-7, 15          |
| Friday, Aug 4     | Romans 9:1-5              |
| Saturday, Aug 5   | Matthew 14:13-21          |
| Sunday, Aug 6     | Matthew 14:13-21          |
| Monday, Aug 7     | Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28     |
| Tuesday, Aug 8    | Genesis 37:12-28          |
| Wednesday, Aug 9  | Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b |
| Thursday, Aug 10  | Matthew 14:22-25          |
| Friday, Aug 11    | Matthew 14:26-33          |
| Saturday, Aug 12  | Romans 10:5-13            |
| Sunday, Aug 13    | Romans 10:14-15           |
| Monday, Aug 14    | Genesis 45:1-15           |
| Tuesday, Aug 15   | Genesis 45:1-15           |
| Wednesday, Aug 16 | Psalm 133                 |
| Thursday, Aug 17  | Psalm 133                 |
| Friday, Aug 18    | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32     |
| Saturday, Aug 19  | Matthew 15:10-28          |
| Sunday, Aug 20    | Matthew 15:10-28          |
| Monday, Aug 21    | Exodus 1:8-14             |
| Tuesday, Aug 22   | Exodus 1:15-22            |
| Wednesday, Aug 23 | Exodus 2:1-10             |
| Thursday, Aug 24  | Psalm 124                 |
| Friday, Aug 25    | Romans 12:1-8             |
| Saturday, Aug 26  | Matthew 16:13-15          |
| Sunday, Aug 27    | Matthew 16:16-20          |
| Monday, Aug 28    | Exodus 3:1-6              |
| Tuesday, Aug 29   | Exodus 3:7-15             |
| Wednesday, Aug 30 | Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c |
| Thursday, Aug 31  | Romans 12:9-17            |



## Prayer Lists

### Recent Concerns

Ahtrell Dalton  
Gayle Shumate  
Gene Casselberry  
Sue Davis  
Bill Heitholt  
Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson)  
Harry Icenhower  
Linda Baron  
Mel Fox

### Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world,  
Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Nell Brown, Harold Coker,  
Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Rev. Tom Dudley,  
Sammy Elwell, Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove,  
Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris  
Kerbaw, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin,  
Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Betty  
Morton, Pat Skauge, Robert Seay, Madeline Sullivan,  
Rev. Clay Yeager

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Gayle Shumate, and Euple Walker

**Oak Manor:** Harry Icenhower

**The Haven (San Antonio):** 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...

Daniel Chamberlain  
Mike Dempsey  
Col. Keith Williams  
Lt. Dan Barton  
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law  
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law  
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins

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



Phone: 903-886-3220  
Fax: 903-886-3240  
[www.fumcommerce.org](http://www.fumcommerce.org)  
[office@fumcommerce.org](mailto:office@fumcommerce.org)

**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  
**Tuesday, August 22 by 9:00am**