



**MERRY
MARKETPLACE
& LUNCH FOR
MISSIONS**

Saturday, December 1st

10 am - 3 pm

*First United Methodist Church
1709 Hwy 24 in Commerce*



EAT! • ENJOY! • SHOP!

*Homemade Stew & Cornbread
\$5 Per Person • \$10 Quart Jars To Go*

Baked Goods & Other Delights

Antiques & Vintage Finds

Christmas Decorations & Gifts

Alternative Gifts

All Proceeds Go Directly To Missions In Commerce & Beyond



Sunday, December 23

Regular Morning Schedule (no The Light service)

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

"A Holy Christmas: Communion, Carols, and Candlelight"

Child friendly @ 5:00pm

Silent Night, Holy Night @ 7:00pm



Parsonage Open House
2800 Meadowview
Sunday, December 9, 2018
2:00-4:00 p.m.

We have made your beautiful parsonage our home and we want to welcome you to both for a bit of Christmas celebration! Please come by the parsonage at 2800 Meadowview on Sunday, December 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for some Christmas goodies. Maybe some Carols and Coffee. If you are a diehard Cowboy fan we'll have the game on too. Come and go, or come and stay!

Sam and Cathy Caldwell



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Our Contemporary Service

Christmas is coming, and we're getting ready to welcome Christ into our world and into our lives in a new and powerful way at The Light!

**You're invited to the
Wesleyan Campus Ministry
(1504 Lee Street) at
6:00 PM on December 2, 9, and 16.**

Come and be part of an exciting worship celebration as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah!

*Texas A&M University-Commerce
Music Department
Organ Recital
Sunday, December 2 @ 2:00pm
in the Chapel*



The TAMUC Music Department would like to express their sincere appreciation to FUMC-Commerce for our generosity in allowing their organ students to have lessons and practice at our church.

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 4pm at The Lion's Den

Wednesdays @ 12pm & 6pm

We will pray together and establish a covenant for each segment! No costs except time. Open to anyone.

Childcare available by request.

Segment 1: Advent 2018 The Birthing of the Messiah (The Christmas Narratives from the Gospels)

- Dec 5 Mark (the story of the Baptism)
- Dec 12 Luke (the story of the Shepherds)
- Dec 19 John (the Eternal story)
- Dec 26 (holiday)

Segment 2: Greening and Growing in Winter 2019 (Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit)

- January 2 (holiday)
- January 9 Bearing Fruit--Love
- January 16 Bearing Fruit--Joy
- January 23 Bearing Fruit--Peace
- January 30 Bearing Fruit--Patience
- February 6 Bearing Fruit--Kindness
- February 13 Bearing Fruit--Goodness (Good news)
- February 20 Bearing Fruit--Faithfulness
- February 27 Bearing Fruit--Gentleness, (and... Lent begins with Self-Control)





Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed
*Monday, Dec. 24 through Wednesday, Dec. 26 for Christmas
*Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.



WELCOME New Members

Welcome to our new members:

- o Hurley Buford
- o Mack Poole
- o Janeen and Joel Kvanli

Advent 2018 Poinsettias



Orders for poinsettias will be taken until Monday, December 10th. You may take them home after the December 24th Candlelight Worship Service.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, December 2
1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 9
2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16
3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 23
4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 30
8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
6:00pm ~ Wesleyan
Campus Ministry

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

Trustees Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation President:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

FIRST THURSDAY

**Potluck Luncheon
December 6
@ 12pm**

Join us as we celebrate all FUMC members that are 90 years old or older!



**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday
December 16**

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%.

Help support our church by eating some good food!

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@fumcommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The November deadline is Tuesday, December 11 by 9:00am****



Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:30am**.

Our Sunday School Bible Verse for December is: "In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior." Luke 1:47

The Holy Spirit has been busy at work through the Wesleyan Campus Ministry!

Last month we achieved several fruitful ministry and administrative efforts, including; hosting the Light Contemporary Worship service, partnering with new churches/student organizations, launching our district-wide 12:15 Campaign, developing next year's budget, applying for grants, sponsoring and having a workshop at the 2nd annual Mental Health Matters Day, and cooking/serving breakfast for the FISH Thanksgiving Food Distribution! We have so much to be thankful for from November, Hallelujah, Amen!

On Mental Health Matters Day the Wesleyan hosted the closing workshop, You Are of Sacred Worth: Faith and Mental Health. As with all of our ministries the main objective was to proclaim that each and every person is a beloved child of God, created in God's image, in particular those living with mental illness. The day's keynote speaker, Danee Sergeant, joined us and greatly contributed to the conversation with many of their own faith related questions. The following Sunday at the Light I preached on Mark 5:1-20, the story of Jesus healing the man who lived in the tombs of Gerasene, as an example of how Jesus greatly cared for those living with mental health issues. I pray that in this holiday season we all may reach out in the love of our healing Savior to anyone who may feel 'in the tombs.'

Thank you to all who support us for making this kind of life-affirming ministry possible! If you would like to support the ministry of the Wesleyan that strives to affirm the sacred worth of ALL God's diverse children, please prayerfully consider joining our 12:15 Campaign and becoming a monthly donor.

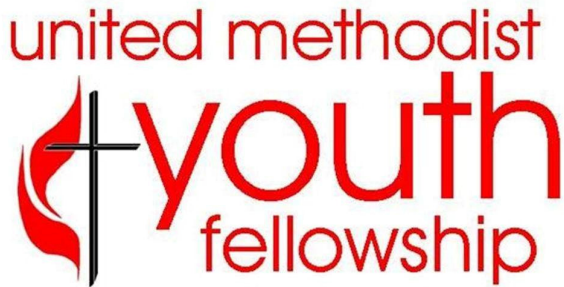
May the Holy Spirit continue to work through our ministry together, and may we all share the light and love of our Redeemer to all people.

Brian



WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!



UMYF is all about Advent this month! We'll be discussing what this season is all about and reacquainting ourselves with the stories of Mary and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and the birth of Jesus from the gospel of Luke. Luke tells the story of the Messiah's birth through the eyes of people outside the bounds of popular society—a young, unwed mother-to-be; an older, childless couple; and a group of poor shepherds. As we experience the miracle of Christ's birth from this perspective, we'll challenge our-

selves to see Christmas as more than just a time for presents and overeating.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship will meet December 2, 9, and 16 from 4:00 to 6:00, then break for the holidays and return on January 6, 2019. Each week we have games and fellowship, snacks, worship, bible study, and small group discussion. If you know any middle school or high school youth, please invite them to come and see what UMYF is about. There is always room for more, and each student is welcome!

UMYF Trip to Galleria Dallas

Shopping and Ice Skating
Saturday, December 15

First United Methodist Church Commerce Youth will be going to The Galleria Dallas on Saturday, December 15, 2018, for a day of shopping and ice skating. We will leave Commerce at 11:00 AM and return around 7:00 PM. There is no cost for this trip, but youth need to be signed up by Tuesday, December 11. Contact Nevin or go to our Facebook group for details and signup.

UMYF Midwinter Retreat



There is a great event coming up for youth early in 2019: the Midwinter Retreat at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center, Friday, February 8 through Sunday, February 10. Our youth (grades 6 through 12) will join more than 200 youth and adult volunteers from churches across the North Texas area to learn more about their faith and grow in their relationship with God as they participate in Bible study, worship, small group discussion, games and recreation, and fellowship with other young Christians. Midwinter is a lot like summer camp but packed into one weekend. Contact Nevin to find out details and get registered. All registrations will be completed by Monday, December 17.

Contact with FUMC Youth Ministry

Join our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415260338564559/>

For Parents:

Sign up to receive SMS updates via text, go to <https://www.remind.com/join> and enter class code **fumccumyf**, or text **@fumccumyf** to **81010**

Contact Youth Minister Nevin Jackson directly: **903.461.9752** or nevin@fumcccommerce.org

Volunteers Serve 167 Families through “Hunt County Gives”



Photo by Robyn Elwell

The Saturday before Thanksgiving was the “Hunt County Gives” food basket distribution led by Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH. Our halls and Family Ministry Center were full of guests checking in to receive a turkey, dry goods, and fresh produce. Everyone enjoyed fellowshiping around the table as we ate a sausage and pancake breakfast. Our gracious volunteers from our church, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry, S.O.L. (Student Organization of Latinos), the Honors College, and the First Baptist Church served 167 local families! We also had the support of Texas A&M University – Commerce, which provided a forklift and volunteers to unload pallets of food, and of Brookshire’s, which loaned us a pallet jack.

The Christmas food basket distribution is scheduled for Saturday, December 15, at the First Baptist Church. Families who registered in October and picked up their Thanksgiving basket are eligible to receive the Christmas basket.

If you would like to volunteer on December 15, please contact coordinator Nora Chessher at 903.461.4289 or the First Baptist Church office at 903.886.3189. This will be a great opportunity for the faith community to work together and deepen its understanding of how FISH is helping families in Commerce.



Saturday, December 15
Volunteer at Food Basket Distribution
from 8 to 11am
(Distribution from 9 to 10:30am)

Contact Nora Chessher
at 903.461.4289 to volunteer.





Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thanksgiving Day, about 150 people came together to enjoy a free traditional turkey dinner and share the day with others. Those who attended lingered after their meal to enjoy fellowship with those they knew and those they just met.



A HUGE thank you to all who worked to make this event a success! To all who made Drop a Dollar donations to fund the meal. To the volunteers who made soup and pie for the dinner, the ladies of Mt. Moriah Church for preparing the sweet potatoes, to Brookshire's and Sodexo for their generous contributions to the



meal. And to all the volunteers, who came out Thanksgiving day to make the Community dinner a success. These folks decorated tables, worked in the kitchen to prepare food, cut and plated pies, packed to-go boxes for delivery, delivered those meals, greeted guests, manned the serving line and helped wash dishes and clean up. A big thanks to Mikey Elwell for his great work as Kitchen Kommander on Thanksgiving Day. What a joy to see faith and service in action!



The Angels Are Coming! The Angels Are Coming!

Believe it or not, 'tis the season when angels flock to our church as part of the Prison Ministries Fellowship Angel Tree Project, a ministry that FUMC-C has supported for 19 years. If this endeavor touches your heart, you can help by:

- o adopting an angel and purchasing a gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent;
- o donating gift bags, tissue paper;
- o helping wrap presents on **December 13 at 1:30** in the Family Ministry Center;
- o coming to our party and interacting with the families on **Sunday, December 16 at 2-4pm**;
- o praying for the children, their caregivers, and the incarcerated parent.
- o Important Dates:
 - o **December 12**: Last day to return Angel Tree gifts unwrapped
 - o **December 13**: Gift wrapping at @1:30 in the Family Ministry Center
 - o **December 16**: Angel Tree Party @ 2-4pm



MISSION of the MONTH

December Mission of the Month: Proyecto Abrigo

It's December and beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Family Ministry Center is decked out in splendor for our Merry Marketplace for Missions this week. It has put us all in a festive mood for the holidays. The rich scent of the Pattons' hearty stew for the Wesleyan that mingled with the tempting aroma of home baked delights, as well

as the visual smorgasbord of antiques and collectibles, put us all in a festive holiday mindset. It's that time of year to decorate with lights fantastic and swirls of ribbons and rolls of colorful wrapping paper. Gingerbread houses, scented candles, egg nog, holiday parties, red velvet dresses, extra house cleaning and special cooking to prepare for the arrival of family and guests from afar. All these things are integral parts of the holiday season for most of us.

But let's consider what truly makes Christmas, well, Christmas. That cold lonely night at the inn where there was no room. A road-weary husband seeking refuge for his young wife, a mother-to-be great with child who would be delivered that night. No place to lay their heads save for a hay-filled stable. Our Lord and Savior came into the world in the most humble of settings, and was laid in an animal food trough for a crib. Quite a juxtaposition from the hustle and bustle and glitz and glamor we use to celebrate His birthday today, wouldn't you say?

A visit to Proyecto Abrigo, or, in English, Project Shelter, in Juárez, México, will bring you abruptly out of the glitz and thrust you into cold desert nights not so unlike the night Jesus was born. The inn's stable in Bethlehem, Jesus's first "home," and the daily living conditions of the residents of east Juárez are not so different, either. Families there live in extreme poverty. Many have migrated north from Southern México looking for work and seeking a better life for their children and themselves. These families live in rudimentary structures made from a patchwork of cardboard and chicken wire for housing frames and are topped with large black trash bags for roofs. The desert sand is their floor unless they can somehow manage to scrounge old discarded pieces of fabric or parts of shredded rugs that have been salvaged from the many garbage heaps that are to be found just over the next hill.

For these of God's children Proyecto Abrigo was founded. In 1992, after graduating from John Wesley Seminary in Monterrey, México, Rev. José Luis Portillo invited volunteers from the US to come help construct his church building where he would serve his first pastoral assignment back in Juárez. The volunteers asked how they could help the families they saw living in cardboard shacks, so in 1996, Rev. José Luis founded the ecumenical organization he named Proyecto Abrigo, a home-building mission to provide permanent housing for families who proved they wanted to do better. He turned to his United Methodist friends in the US for volunteer help and financial assistance to construct 12'X24' cinderblock houses. Several thousand houses, five churches, a medical clinic, a vocational school, and community center have been built since that time.

Judy Rudoff has often remarked how an entire Proyecto Abrigo home could fit in her living room. Yet these structures are palaces compared to what these families had been living in. Often, the original structures are left intact to function as "overflow" rooms, especially for large families. The entire cinderblock home is a single room with two windows and a door. Each has a hand-poured concrete floor and is finished with a slightly pitched roof to keep the rain from coming in. As many as ten or twelve people move into these homes and are blissfully happy and feel overwhelmed with their blessings.

Volunteer teams travel to Juárez to sleep in dormitory bunks and to work hard every day shoveling sand, mixing mortar, and "buttering" cinder blocks with the wet mortar until the home is built. Once completed, the home blessing takes place. Every team does it a little differently. This church has traditionally made a trip to the local Soriano's store (similar to Walmart) and pooled their

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resources for a blessing basket for the family. On the day of the blessing, the family gathers inside their new house along with the home building team. José Luís prays for the family and the team and then administers Holy Communion, the first meal in the new home. It is an unprecedented gift to be present at this holy time.

This is Christ in action. This is what Christmas is all about. Please give generously to Drop a Dollar or write a check with Proyecto Abrigo on the memo line to help support this life-changing mission effort.

And seriously consider joining with your church sisters and brothers the next time a mission trip to Juárez comes up. You will be blessed in more ways than you can possibly imagine. Merry Christmas!



Clockwise from above:

First Meal in the new home, Holy Communion

The mother of the new house wearing a prayer shawl we sent

The Building Team

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

The text 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' is written in a decorative, stylized font. 'MERRY' is in red and 'CHRISTMAS' is in green. The letters are outlined and have a slight 3D effect. The text is surrounded by elegant, brown, swirling flourishes. Three holly leaves with red berries are scattered around the text: one on the left, one in the middle, and one on the right.

FROM
YOUR
CHURCH STAFF

The text 'FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF' is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The text is centered and flanked by two holly leaves with red berries. The holly leaves are green with red berries and are positioned on the left and right sides of the text.

Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain is here to pray for your urgent prayer needs. Feel free to call or text your prayer request 8am-8pm or call the pastor and notification will be forwarded immediately to our prayer partners.

Prayer Lead:

Mary Lou Heatherly 903-456-1412

e-GIVING Online

Remember, you can always give your monthly contributions securely online. To set up a recurring contribution, visit the church website at www.fumccommerce.org, and click on "Ways to Give" and create a profile if you haven't already.

By the Numbers

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>
Nov 4	33	122	20	44
Nov 11	37	72	15	38
Nov 18	43	97	22	42
Nov 25	40	89	18	47

**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

<u>as of October 31, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income: \$ 29,875*	\$295,144
Expenses: \$ 37,005	\$311,720
	-\$ 7,130
	-\$ 16,576

*includes extra giving



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:

Saturday, Dec 1	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Sunday, Dec 2	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Monday, Dec 3	Malachi 3:1-4
Tuesday, Dec 4	Luke 1:68-75
Wednesday, Dec 5	Luke 1:76-79
Thursday, Dec 6	Philippians 1:3-8
Friday, Dec 7	Philippians 1:9-11
Saturday, Dec 8	Luke 3:1-6
Sunday, Dec 9	Malachi 3:1-4
Monday, Dec 10	Isaiah 12:2-6
Tuesday, Dec 11	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Wednesday, Dec 12	Luke 3:7-18
Thursday, Dec 13	Isaiah 12:2-6
Friday, Dec 14	Zephaniah 3:19-20
Saturday, Dec 15	Philippians 4:4-7
Sunday, Dec 16	Luke 3:7-18
Monday, Dec 17	Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday, Dec 18	Micah 5:2-5a
Wednesday, Dec 19	Psalms 80:1-7
Thursday, Dec 20	Hebrews 10:5-10
Friday, Dec 21	Hebrews 10:5-10
Saturday, Dec 22	Micah 5:2-5a
Sunday, Dec 23	Luke 1:46-55
Monday, Dec 24	Isaiah 9:2-7
Tuesday, Dec 25	Hebrews 1:1-12
Wednesday, Dec 26	Psalms 148
Thursday, Dec 27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Friday, Dec 28	Luke 2:41-52
Saturday, Dec 29	Colossians 3:12-14
Sunday, Dec 30	Colossians 3:12-17
Monday, Dec 31	Isaiah 60:1-6



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Rev. Tom Dudley
Smitty Harris
Wilson Sparks

Those affected by the fires in California

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, our world and country's leaders, Wayne Bruno, Debra Burton, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Carol Davis, Corky Drinkard, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Sammy Elwell, Mel Fox, Jack and Gladys Gray, Betty Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's grandmother), Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), David Huffman, Rheba Icenhower, Doris Kerbow, Bob Langly, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Richard Norton, Mary Ogletree (Mimi Dobbs' mother), Donna Perkins, Grayson Prewett (Bill and Sharon Prewett's grandson), Michaela Prussack, Mary Sartin, Robert Seay, Pat Skauge, Billy Stocker (J.D. Short's uncle), Judy West

Oak Manor: Mary Elizabeth Channon, Helen Cole, Barbara Gish and Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Roger and Jean Arnold, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Gayle Shumate

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Keith Williams
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

*"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).

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**



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
Tuesday, December 11 by 9:00am

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell