



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 1

February 2016

TACKLE



HUNGER

Want to make a play in the fight against hunger?

Join us for the

SOUPER Bowl Luncheon

Sunday, February 7

in the Family Ministry Center

following 10:50 a.m. worship service!

Bring your favorite soup, stew, bread or dessert to share.

February 7th drop-a-dollar giving and donations dropped in the soup pot will benefit Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian and Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce.



**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
Tuesday,
February 9
5:00 to 6:00pm**

On February 9, dinner is ready! Come and get it!

Join us in the Family Ministry Center for a hot meal of pancakes and sausage on Shrove Tuesday, which is also called Fat Tuesday. It is the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

This all-you-can-eat pancake supper is brought to you by the Matthew 7:7 Sunday school class and the Connect Team. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.



**Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 10
@ 6:00pm
in the Sanctuary**

**A powerful service of repentance,
reflection, and imposition of ashes**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	1st Thursday, LSB, E.D. Training Day,	pg. 3
2016 Missions of the Month, Food 4 Kids	pg. 4	2015 Missions review	pg. 5
End of Year Event Wrap Up	pg. 6	UMW, Memorials, Attendance	pg. 7
Finances, Daily Scriptures	pg. 7	Prayer List	pg. 8

Incarnational Theology By Dr. Gregory S. Neal

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14 NRSV)

In Christian Theology the area of study dealing with the coming of God to be with us in Christ Jesus is known as Incarnational Theology. Theologians enjoy tossing around great big words that have very simple meanings, and this is one of those words. The verb “to incarnate” is formed from the Latin roots “in”, meaning “into,” and “carn”, meaning “flesh.” In other words, it literally means to “in-flesh” something ... to make something in the form of a human being. It also has the figurative meaning of “to put an abstract concept or idea into concrete form.” In Christian Theology it is the word used to describe the coming of Jesus to be one of us. As the Nicene Creed states:



“For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. (No. 880 UMH)

The doctrine of the Incarnation states that Jesus of Nazareth, who walked the dusty roads of Galilee, taught in the Synagogue at Capernaum, cleansed the Temple of the money changers in Jerusalem, wept at the tomb of Lazarus, celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room, and died on the cross for our sins ... this same Jesus was also God, come to live with us and as one of us, in human flesh. As the opening sentences of John’s Gospel puts it: “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” Jesus is the eternal Word, the creative agency through whom the Father created all that is or ever shall be. And, as John also affirms, this Word of God was and still is God. Incarnational Theology teaches us that God has always revealed Godself to us through the “normal,” the physical, the temporal, the mundane things of this life. The created order has always contained within it a window into the agency and genius of its Creator; it has always been true that one can know about God by looking at what God has created. Likewise, God’s ultimate and eternal self-revelation for us is in and through the form of a human: Jesus of Nazareth. In this human being we see not only ourselves as God calls us to be, but we also see God. The only begotten Son of the Father didn’t stop being God in order to become human but, rather, took upon himself our human nature, almost as if he were putting on a garment, and in so doing God purified our humanity and made it possible for us to become one with Christ. As Charles Wesley’s wonderful Christmas hymn proclaims:

“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!” (No. 240 UMH)

Through the incarnation God was veiled within humanity, thus revealing to us God’s gracious, life-transforming nature. The incarnation also had the glorious side effect of enabling us to interact with God. Thanks to the veiling nature of the incarnation, the disciples were able to be with the God-human Jesus without fear, learning from him, enjoying time with him, and coming to know God through him. We, too, have that same privilege; we, like the disciples, have the joy of coming to know God in and through Jesus. This is a critical point for Incarnational Theology: all that we need for our salvation can be experienced in and through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

There isn’t an element of Christian dogma that isn’t impacted by understanding that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Godself. This is nowhere more evident than in the area of Sacramental Theology. The incarnational concept is so critical to the functioning of the means of grace that it is fair to say that they cannot be properly comprehended apart from it. To put this simply, every means of grace is incarnational. Without the real presence of God in Jesus, each and every means of grace would be powerless; but, because Jesus is truly the divine manifestation of God’s grace in our midst, each of the means of grace is conduit for conveying the love of God to us. In other words, it is precisely because God became human in Jesus Christ that we can come to know God and receive God’s gifts of love and presence through material instrumentalities like scripture, prayer, worship, healing, Baptism, and Holy Communion. Jesus is the ultimate means of grace: he is the foundational conduit, the personal manifestation, and the perfect expression of the pure grace of God. Because of the incarnation, Jesus is *the Sacrament of all Sacraments*. And, it is because of this that all the means of grace have meaning: far from being

Incarnational Theology, continued

mere symbols, or lifeless reminders of that which they signify, by virtue of conveying the real presence of Jesus, each *ontologically becomes* that which it re-presents.

It is in this sense that Eucharistic Theology is also Incarnational Theology. In and through the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ we, when we partake of the elements in the Holy Meal, are partaking of the real, divine, life transforming presence of God which became one with us in Jesus of Nazareth. God, incarnate in human flesh, becomes God incarnate in bread and wine so that we, when we partake in faith, might be sanctified into the very presence of Christ for others.

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
February 4 @ 12pm
The Connect Team and
First Thursday will honor
our members who are 90+ years old.

COMMERCE CARES
RECYCLE

Saturday, February 6
9:00-1:00
At the intersection of
Walnut and Campbell Streets

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." John 21:12 (MSG)



**Last Saturday Breakfast
Community Gathering**

Free Breakfast

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Fresh Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Coffee



Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
1504 Lee Street, Commerce

Saturdays,
January 30 & February 27
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Worship

Sunday, February 7
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sunday, February 14
Wednesday, February 10
Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 21
Sunday, February 28
8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

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:**
TBD
- 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:**
Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142
Amy Stark (903) 246-3177
- Lay Member:**
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- UMW President:**
Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381

**East District
Training Day**

Featured Speaker
Dr. Ted Campbell



January 30 • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
First UMC Sulphur Springs

GOAL ACHIEVED

The east district made their apportionment goal for 2015.

This makes 20 years that that our district has made its goal. FUMC Commerce also made its goal.

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

****The next deadline is Monday, February 15 by 9:00am****



2016 Missions of the Month

Below are the 2016 missions of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during each month will benefit the named mission. In addition, your Serve team seeks ways to put our faith in action each month. Look for service opportunities throughout the year!

- January:** North Texas Disaster Relief Fund
Serve has designated \$1,000 in addition to January drop-a-dollar giving
- February 7:** Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church and Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce (Join us for SOUPer Bowl of Caring Potluck Lunch!)
- February:** Lenten Offering to benefit U.M. ARMY
- March:** Lenten Offering to benefit U.M. ARMY
FUMC-C hosting U.M. ARMY summer camp week of June 26!
- April:** North Texas Food Bank
- May:** Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp
- June:** Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- July:** Communities In Schools
- August:** Wesleyan Campus Ministry
- September:** Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH
- October:** Commerce Clothe-a-Child
- November:** Thanksgiving Dinner
- December:** Proyecto Abrigo

Your Serve team welcomes guests and new team members at monthly meetings held first Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Sunday school classroom. Contact any of the Serve Team members for more information or to share ideas for how the church can serve: co-chairs Angela Roberts (972.765.6547) and Amy Stark (903.246.1487), Pastor Brian Dierolf, Jan Helton, Bill Heitholt, Tyler King, Jim Patton, Judy Rudoff, Richard Smith, and Carolyn Trezevant.

Brown Bags Needed for Food 4 Kids

Handled brown bags are used to carry home snacks from the North Texas Food Bank when children don't return their backpacks to school. Please donate your stash of brown bags – Braum's are best – to support this mission! You may drop them off at the church office or A.C. Williams Elementary School office.



To sign up to volunteer as a backpack loader, contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 or go to fumccommerce.org for the link on the home-page to the online sign-up sheet.



Ruth Ann White and Tom & Virginia Collier load Food 4 Kids backpacks at A.C. Williams Elementary



FOOD 4 KIDS

2015 Mission Dollars in Review

During 2015, we gave our \$1 bills and designated gifts and held the Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions to assist financially the missions supported by our church. Our direct giving plus fundraising, rather than a line item in the general operations budget, fund these missions. Your Serve team is responsible for administering these mission funds. Below is a summary of the gifts received and the gifts made in 2015.

Inflow	
2014 Carry Over Balance <i>Includes 2014 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds</i>	5,589
Drop-a-Dollar & Designated Gifts to Missions of the Month during 2015	6,525
Other Received in 2015 <i>Includes proceeds of eBay sales conducted by Ann Underhill of unsold 2014 Merry Marketplace items</i>	339
2015 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds	12,024
Inflow Total	24,477

Summary	
Inflow	24,477
Less Outflow	17,624
2015 Carry Over Balance	6,853

The carry over balance generated by Merry Marketplace proceeds allows the Serve team to respond to special needs for assistance, supplement mission of the month giving, and fund mission activities such as Helping Hands and the Last Saturday Breakfast. For example, the Serve team has designated \$1,000 to the North Texas Disaster Relief Fund, which will be added to the drop-a-dollar giving received during January, 2016.



Outflow	
Serving Our World	
Proyecto Abrigo <i>Lenten Offering & Alternative Gifts, including home</i>	4,600
UMCOR Earthquake Relief Nepal	500
Wesleyan Community Development Fund <i>Two scholarships to twins Andrea and Diana Flores from Mexico</i>	480
Heifer International Alternative Gifts	320
Subtotal	5,900
Serving Our Region	
U.M. ARMY <i>Lenten Offering & Alternative Gift</i>	774
Zip Code Connection 75426	657
UMCOR Flood Relief TX and OK	500
Subtotal	1,931
Serving Our Community	
Wesleyan Campus Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace Lunch Proceeds, Mission of the Month & Alternative Gift</i>	1,379
Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace Proceeds</i>	1,248
Last Saturday Breakfast	1,240
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	1,031
Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH	810
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	739
Commerce Clothe-a-Child	600
Boys & Girls Club	500
Communities In Schools	500
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce	420
Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce	420
North Texas Food Bank in Dallas	285
Food 4 Kids Spring Break Snacks	273
Bridgeport Scholarship Fund	256
Helping Hands Supplies	92
Subtotal	9,793
Outflow Total	17,624

CAREER WORKSHOP

Guest speakers / Presenters from Texas A&M University – Commerce Career Development Center

Family Nights
Commerce Public Library
6:00pm – 7:00pm

- FEB 18** | Job Search Basics
- FEB 25** | Resume/Cover Letter
- MAR 3** | Resume/Cover Letter Writing
- MAR 10** | Interview Skills & Writing thank you notes

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE!

You will receive Guided Help and Free Giveaways!
Registration required –
sign in at the front desk or call the library at 903-886-6858
The classes will be limited to 15 people!

commerce
PUBLIC ★ LIBRARY

(903) 886-6858
1210 Park Street, Commerce, Texas
<http://www.commercepubliclibrary.org/about-us>



Luigi's Italian Cafe has offered to support our community by donating 10% of dining receipts on the third Sunday of each month to our church. If you take your bulletin after church 2/21, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating some good food!

LOCATION CHANGE: Laity Day with Bishop McKee has been moved to First UMC Terrell. March 5, 2016:



LAITY DAY WITH THE BISHOP
EAST DISTRICT
Saturday, March 5, 2016
9:30 a.m. Gathering • 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day, over 200 people came together to enjoy a free traditional turkey dinner and share the day On 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 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 contribution to the meal. And to all the volunteers, young and young at heart, who came together Thanksgiving day to make the Community dinner a success. These folks helped set up the tables and chairs, worked in the kitchen to prepare food, pack to-go boxes for delivery, delivered those meals, greeted guests, manned the serving line and helped clean up.

What a joy to see people come together in service to our community. Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season.



At the Angel Tree party hosted in the Family Ministry Center. Thank you to Judy Rudoff and Tricia Dempsey for leading this mission and to the congregation for blessing 39 children and their families!



UMW will meet **Tuesday, February 16** at 10:00am. Our February project items for the Food Pantry.

All women are invited to join us!

UMW is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education.



In memory of...

Kathy Benton

By: Dennis & Judy Anderson
Thomas & Eileen Faulkenberry
Dough Rollins SS Class
Loretta Kibler
Mariann Andrews

Do Heitholt

By: Dennis & Judy Anderson
The Terrell Family
Richard & Debra Terrell
Loretta Kibler
Mark & Frances Sartwell
Mariann Andrews

Louise Reeder

By: Loretta Kibler
Glen & Mary Kibler



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Jan 3	30	—	70	55
Jan 6		9		
Jan 10	26	—	105	47
Jan 13		—		
Jan 17	28	—	92	89
Jan 20		—		
Jan 24	30	—	78	55



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of December 31, 2015 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 32,977	\$383,901
Expenses:	\$ 27,003	\$374,070
	\$ 5,974	\$ 9,831

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, Feb 1	Exodus 34:29-32
Tuesday, Feb 2	Exodus 34:29-35
Wednesday, Feb 3	Psalms 99
Thursday, Feb 4	2 Corinthians 3:12-16
Friday, Feb 5	2 Corinthians 3:17-4:2
Saturday, Feb 6	Luke 9:28-34
Sunday, Feb 7	Luke 9:34-43
Monday, Feb 8	Luke 4:1-13
Tuesday, Feb 9	Psalms 51:1-17
Wednesday, Feb 10	Isaiah 58:1-12
Thursday, Feb 11	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Friday, Feb 12	Matthew 6:1-6
Saturday, Feb 13	Matthew 6:16-21
Sunday, Feb 14	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Monday, Feb 15	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Tuesday, Feb 16	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Wednesday, Feb 17	Psalms 27:1-4
Thursday, Feb 18	Psalms 27:5-14
Friday, Feb 19	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Saturday, Feb 20	Philippians 3:18-19
Sunday, Feb 21	Luke 13:31-35
Monday, Feb 22	Psalms 63:1
Tuesday, Feb 23	Isaiah 55:1-5
Wednesday, Feb 24	Psalms 63:1-8
Thursday, Feb 25	1 Corinthians 10:1-5 Isaiah 55:1-2
Friday, Feb 26	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Saturday, Feb 27	Luke 13:1-9
Sunday, Feb 28	Isaiah 55:6-9
Monday, Feb 29	Joshua 5:9-12



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...

Gayle Shumate, Gene Lockhart, Wyman Williams, Sue Taylor, Emily Waddle's father, Kelly Hemingway, Allen Martin, Jack and Gladys Gray, Amy Novicke Cryan, Jennifer Oats (sister of Jessica Morgan), Lamont Cunningham, Suzanne Dickinson, Rev. Tom Waitschies (Pastor Greg's friend), George McFarland, Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

*Condolences to the family & friends of Pete Robinson, a member of the church since 1933

*Joy for the birth of Elijah Matthew Naizer, son of Brian & Mary Naizer and grandson of Gil and Tammy Naizer
Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, James Moody, Edna O'Quinn, Ruby Vander Velde, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Glenna Siebenhausen

The Laurels (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

*"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...

2nd Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. JG. Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and 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



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcccommerce.org

office@fumcccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, February 15 by 9:00am**

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