

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2017

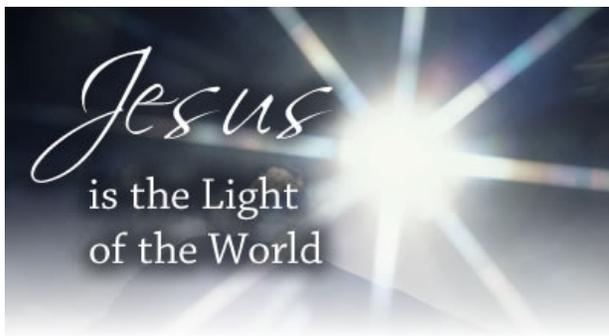
The Light By Dr. Greg Neal and Rev. Brian Dierolf

The church is called to be a light to the nations, proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ to all. The church is called to be a lighthouse, sending forth a beacon of God's unconditional love to the lost. The church is called to not hide the light of God's love under a basket, but to let God's light shine for all the world to see. The church shines forth God's love in many ways: by feeding the hungry, by helping those in need, by joining in acts of justice for the oppressed. Yes, and the church shine's forth God's love through teaching and preaching, through offering the sacraments, and offering a place of worship for all. Offering a place of worship for all is critically important for the life of the church, and is one of the most important reasons why we're thinking about beginning a new worship service.



First UMC Commerce has long been a place of meaningful, enlightening, life-transforming worship. On Sunday mornings the congregation welcomes people to two classically-styled services which express the best of our protestant and Wesleyan backgrounds: the 8:45 am service is a laid-back traditional service which is remarkable in its simplicity. The congregation calls out several hymns that are sung from the venerable Cokesbury Hymnal; written liturgy is very minimal, and the service flows from one element to the next without much need for reference to a bulletin. It is a meaningful, comforting, and intimate service of the Word, and when the sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated it is done so with attention being given to the central word's of Jesus in its institution. The 10:50 am service is formal and Methodist in its form, ethos, and structure, following the liturgy outlined in the Untied Methodist Hymnal and Book of Worship. Attention to the Wesleyan themes of grace are central to its structure, the words of the liturgy are drawn from the historical Protestant and Anglican backgrounds of Wesley's roots, and the inclusive Methodist ethos is maintained throughout the whole. It is a traditional service of Word and Table, were God's grace is offered to all in the classic forms of traditional worship.

While these classic forms of worship shine forth to many people in our church and community and are absolutely vital for the life and ministry of our church, it is also true that we have many neighbors and friends for whom they do not shine as brightly of God's love, acceptance, and welcoming grace. And, it is to these people that we need to be turning while maintaining that style and form of worship which we hold dear. To this end Brian and I, in conjunction with a group of concerned members within the congregation, have begun conversations over how to reach out to those for whom traditional worship is not as welcoming. With the help of the amazingly talented and vibrant Vickie McMurray, who has a great deal of experience in the field, we have explored other current forms of worship and have begun putting together a proposal to launch a new worship experience this spring. Right now it appears that a *new* Sunday evening service is what we're looking at, but there is nothing yet set in stone; our objective is to reach out to new people with the light of God's love, while maintaining and always improving our existing classic forms of worship.



Please keep in your prayers Brian, myself, Vickie, and all those who are working toward launching a new worship experience. You will be hearing much more from us about this new venture, beginning with an informational meeting immediately following the 10:50 am service on Sunday January 29. At this meeting we plan to offer a proposal for a new worship experience and will be seeking your support in spreading God's light to all. We hope to see you there!

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Worship

Sunday, February 5

Sunday, February 12

Sunday, February 19

Sunday, February 26
Transfiguration of the Lord

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary

FIRST THURSDAY

First Thursday
Potluck Luncheon
February 2 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES RECYCLE

Sat., Feb. 4 @ 9-11am

At the intersection of
Walnut and Campbell Streets



Worship Committee

participation as we seek to make our worship life together even better!

Soon we will have a re-start of our Worship Committee. If you are contacted about being part of this group, please consider saying "yes." We need everybody's participation as we seek to make our worship life together even better!



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:

Pat Skauge (903) 259-9875

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

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381



FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry is donating this beautiful hat tree to the Lou & Jack Finney Cancer Center at Hunt Regional Medical Center. Al & Garrett Stapleton crafted the tree, and we will fill it with knitted and crocheted hats. The hope is that the hats will bring joy to the patients.



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

www.revneal.org

www.youtube.com/revneal

www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo



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 13 by 9:00am****

CHANGE THE GAME

WITH SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy
the Super Bowl football game,
help us be mindful of those
without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Guests from local churches and the community are coming to break bread with us and give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

SOUPER Bowl Potluck Luncheon
Sunday, February 5, from Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Family Ministry Center
Bring your favorite soup, stew, bread or dessert to share,
or just yourself. There will be plenty!

Dollars Dropped in the Soup Pot Will Support
Bread of Life Food Pantry | Commerce Food Pantry

These two food pantries are also the February Missions of the Month.



Souper Bowl Players Needed!

Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 if you would like to join the hospitality team for the Potluck Luncheon. The following positions are needed:

- Assistant cooks to help Jim Patton make extra stew on February 4.
- Kitchen help to oversee crockpots and make beverages on February 5.
- Clean up crew.



2017 Missions of the Month

Below are the 2017 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:** Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- February:** 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!)
- March:** Lenten Offering to benefit FISH (Hunt County Shared Ministries)
- April:** Lenten Offering to benefit FISH (Join us for Annual FISH fundraiser BBQ)
- April:** after Lent -UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)
- May:** Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp
- June:** U.M. ARMY
- July:** Adopt-a-Tiger (formally Communities in School)
- August:** Wesleyan Campus Ministry
- September:** North Texas Food Bank
- 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: Chair: Amy Stark (903.246.1487), Pastor Brian Dierolf, Jan Helton, Bill Heitholt, Angela Roberts, Jim Patton, Judy Rudoff, Richard Smith, and Carolyn Trezevant, and Anna Browning.



Leah Cleveland, Laura Milligan and Donna Tavener loading backpacks

Volunteers Needed!

Food 4 Kids at A.C. Williams

Our church provides three volunteers Thursdays at 9 a.m. at A.C. Williams Elementary School to load Food 4 Kids backpacks with shelf-stable snacks from the North Texas Food Bank. These backpacks go home with food insecure children every Friday.

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



FOOD 4 KIDS

2016 Mission Dollars in Review

During 2016, we gave our \$1 bill 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 2016.

Inflow	
2015 Carry Over Balance <i>Includes 2015 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds</i>	7,415
Drop-a-Dollar & Designated gifts to Missions of the Month during 2016	7,665
2016 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds	7,236
Souper Bowl of Caring	737
Inflow Total	23,053

Summary	
Inflow	23,053
Less Outflow	16,477
2016 Carry Over Balance	6576

Merry Marketplace proceeds allows the Serve team to respond to special needs for assistance, supplement Mission of the Month giving and fund mission activities.



Outflow	
Serving Our World	
Proyecto Abrigo	366
Heifer International Alternative Gifts	315
Subtotal	681
Serving Our Region	
North Texas Disaster Relief Fund (December 2015 tornado)	1,572
U.M. ARMY <i>Lenten Offering and Serve Donation</i>	2,878
UMCOR (Louisiana flood relief)	500
Subtotal	4,950
Serving Our Community	
Wesleyan Campus Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace Lunch proceeds & Mission of the Month</i>	1,478
Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace proceeds</i>	949
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	841
Community Pancake Breakfasts <i>LSB through May and Holiday Food Distribution</i>	638
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	299
Helping Hands <i>Griffith Chapel and WCM work day</i>	321
Commerce Clothe-a-Child	750
Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp	691
CISD Adopt-a-Tiger	546
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	500
Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce <i>Souper Bowl of Caring and Dennis White memorial</i>	1,000
Hunt County Shared Ministries- FISH	1,300
North Texas Food Bank in Dallas	411
Food 4 Kids Spring Break Snacks	522
Senior Center Resources and Public Transit (SCRPT) <i>Nutrition Programs in Commerce</i>	600
Subtotal	10,846
Outflow Total	16,477



Looking back over 2016, it is evident that FUMC's love has done a lot of hard work that radiates through our church, our town, our state, and even our world. On behalf of the 13 families and 30 children who were a part of Angel Tree this year, we want to thank you for the work your outpouring of love did. Gratitude goes to:

- o FUMC-Commerce and the office staff for underwriting the cost of paper, envelopes, and stamps and for formatting our mail outs
- o those who purchased gifts, even though some were added at the very last minute. We continue to be touched by the care taken in selecting items.
- o gift wrappers: Joanna Thrift, Jenna Kim, Amy Stark, Susan Patton, Angela Roberts, Mimi Dobbs, Sandy Hutton, Jan Helton, Harriet Williams, and Kay Swope
- o cookie makers: Francis Sartwell and the Merry Market bakers
- o the youth, under the leadership of Wes and Dian Underwood, who did a great deal of the heavy lifting from greeting our families to plating snacks to clean up. Maxwell Wymore played the piano. Allie Underwood read The Star. Rockney Reid and Trey Wheeler organized a game of throwing rings on Santa's hat. Sam Underwood and Trey Wheeler helped the youngsters with crafts.
- o Mike Elwell who gave out gifts and listened to last minute wishes in a red suit
- o Melinda Reid who made home deliveries
- o Robin Elwell who photographed the festivities and took family and individual photos with Santa

The weather outside was grey and very cold, but loved warmed the Family Ministry Center and the hearts of hosts, caregivers, and children alike. Judging from the comments and goodbye hugs, our angels went home with some happy memories.

Thank you again,
Judy Rudoff & Tricia Dempsey

**Contemporary Worship Q&A
Sunday, January 29 @ 12pm**

Come learn about the possibility of new exciting worship service. Presentation and Q&A with the passionate and talented Vickie McMurray who would be the Contemporary Worship Leader. We are seeking input from all members to confirm this service is in the best interest of the church to proceed.



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 on February 19, 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!



**Adult Confirmation
Congregation-Wide
Confirmation Class**

Once a month during the Sunday School Hour on the dates listed below. EVERYBODY is invited to join us.
Class dates: Feb. 26, *Mar. 26, *Apr. 30, *May 21 (*tentative/open to adjustment).

**All Church Meeting
Sunday, February 12 @ 12pm**



The Ad Council is hosting a special meeting to review the 2016 end-of-year financials and to present the 2017 budget. Also, Little Ark's financial plans for 2017 will be discussed. We hope you can come to this informative meeting!



UMW will meet **Tuesday, Feb. 21** at 10:00am. The program will be Prayer & Self Denial. 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...

John King

By: Loretta Kibler
Dough Rollins SS Class



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Dec 24		142*	
Dec 25		50**	
Jan 1		63**	
Jan 8	25	81	56
Jan 15	30	73	37
Jan 22	29	101	66

*Christmas Eve Service
**one service only (@ 10am)



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of December 31, 2016 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 38,220	\$361,140
Expenses:	\$ 27,112	\$363,086
	\$ 11,108	-\$ 1,946

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:

Wednesday, Feb 1	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Thursday, Feb 2	Matthew 5:13-16
Friday, Feb 3	1 Corinthians 2:12-16
Saturday, Feb 4	Isaiah 58:9b-12
Sunday, Feb 5	Matthew 5:13-20
Monday, Feb 6	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Tuesday, Feb 7	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Wednesday, Feb 8	Matthew 5:21-26
Thursday, Feb 9	Matthew 5:27-37
Friday, Feb 10	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Saturday, Feb 11	Psalms 119:1-8
Sunday, Feb 12	Psalms 119:1-8
Monday, Feb 13	Leviticus 19:1-2
Tuesday, Feb 14	Leviticus 19:9-18
Wednesday, Feb 15	Psalms 119:33-40
Thursday, Feb 16	1 Corinthians 3:10-11
Friday, Feb 17	1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Saturday, Feb 18	Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday, Feb 19	Leviticus 19:1-2
Monday, Feb 20	Exodus 24:12-14
Tuesday, Feb 21	Exodus 24:15-18
Wednesday, Feb 22	Psalms 99:1-4
Thursday, Feb 23	Psalms 99:5-9
Friday, Feb 24	2 Peter 1:16-18
Saturday, Feb 25	2 Peter 1:19-21
Sunday, Feb 26	Matthew 17:1-9
Monday, Feb 27	Genesis 2:15-17
Tuesday, Feb 28	Genesis 3:1-7



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world
Gayle Shumate, Bill Ogden, Carol Peek, Allen Martin, Jean Andrews, Harriet Williams, Rev. Tom Dudley, Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Allyson Tuckne (Judy Rudoff's niece), Odeanna Stewart, Jason Jarvis (Gene and Betty Casselberry's family member), Jason Matthew Smith (Lavonne Wells's grandson), Briana Routt (Sally Grove's sister-in-law), Danny House, Margaret Floyd, Jim Pinney (Janet Skauge's brother), Zachary Madden, Sally Grove, John Walker (Nancy Doughty's brother), Jessica Lauren Coe (Diane McDowell and Susan Lampe's friend), Brad Standlee (Gene and Betty Casselberry's friend), Hugh Hanby, Loretta Kibler, Harry Icenhower, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Pete Chamberlain, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan's sister), Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother), Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Doris Kerbow, 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, Euple Walker, and Ruth Ann White

Hunt Regional Hospital 7th Floor rehab: Madeline Sullivan

Briarcliff: Dick Walker

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...

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 13 by 9:00am**

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