

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 2

February 2018

Valentine's Dinner



Sunday, February 11 @12pm
in the Family Ministry Center

*Suggested donation of \$10/plate
Benefiting the Wesleyan Campus Ministry
Enjoy an Italian meal, get to know the Wesleyan students,
and support our campus ministry!*



On February 13, 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 Connect and Serve Teams. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 14
@ 6:00pm
in the Sanctuary

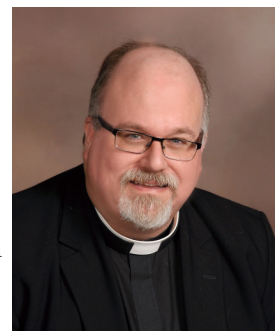
**A powerful service of repentance,
reflection, and imposition of ashes**

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Times of Prayer

Prayer is one of the fundamental means of grace. It is a glorious gift of God's love, for in and through it each and every one of us can come before the throne of grace and enter into a personal, meaningful, life-transforming relationship with the Almighty Creator of the entire Universe. So frequently we treat prayer as if it were some strange, unnatural, foreign practice of super-spiritual piety; in truth, it is the most natural, human, simplest, and least distant means of grace.



In and through prayer — both individual and communal — we are brought into a closer abiding relationship with God. Prayer isn't just our talking to God, it is also our listening to the voice of God in our lives. We can hear God's voice in many different ways: through the words of Scripture, directly and internally, through the words of great Christian authors and poets, through the words of our family, friends, and loved ones; there are many ways of hearing the voice of God. Prayer is about opening oneself to that voice and allowing God to speak to us, wherever we are and whatever our needs may be.

Sometimes we get so super-spiritual about prayer that we miss the radical reality of its important presence in our lives. We are called to pray everywhere and all the time ... not just at Church and not just in private. Indeed, our very lives are called to be a "prayer unto God." I particularly love the words of Paul concerning prayer:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV)

In our prayer life we are called to "rejoice in the Lord always." Even though we live in a difficult world, and even though our lives are very full and very difficult, if we will only open ourselves to God in prayer we can know the true peace of the Presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. That is how we, as a people of faith, can overcome such horrible tragedies as the shooting deaths of children in High Schools, or the deaths of family, friends, and loved ones in natural disasters like tornadoes. Left to our own strength, or own abilities, our own sources, we will surely fail to persevere in the tragedies of this life. But with the strength and the power and the love of Almighty God, working in and through us through the many wonderful means of God's grace, we can be assured of the strength and the peace to make it through our trial and tribulations. Note what Paul says: "do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Bad things will happen ... they always have, and in this life they always will. But through prayer, through abiding with the Love of God in Jesus Christ, we can be assured that we will have the Peace of God, which passes all of our human ways of understanding.

In 2018 we are beginning a new prayer initiative. Every evening, before you go to bed, I invite you to take the prayer list you will find elsewhere in this Newsletter and to pray through the names you will find there. I invite you to do the same with the weekly list you'll find in your worship bulletin. I also invite you to take the photo directory and to pray for the names and faces you will find there. And, if you know of people that we need to be praying for, please let the church office know. As we move forward, we will have many opportunities to gather for prayer and to pray for our church and for your friends and families by name. Our first opportunity to do this will be Wednesday, January 31, at 6pm in chapel. You are invited to come and join with me for a half-hour of focused prayer, together, for our church.

THE LIGHT

Contemporary Service

Sundays @ 6pm
in the Family Ministry Center



Join us on Sunday, February 4, for The Light's first-ever Super Bowl Party! We'll kick things off at 5:00 with our First Sunday potluck featuring chips and dips, desserts, and other game day snacks. The game starts at 5:30, and we'll watch it live on the big screen. And you won't want to miss our halftime show and worship featuring The Light band! You're encouraged to bring a canned good to donate, and the evening's offering will be shared with the Commerce Food Pantry. We hope you will invite your friends and neighbors and join us for a fun-filled evening of football, food, and fellowship!

This month at The Light:

- o Sunday, February 4: Our first ever SUPER BOWL PARTY (begins at 5PM)
- o Sunday, February 11: The end of our BE THE CHURCH series: Being the Church through our Witness
- o Sunday, February 18: A brand new sermon series for Lent begins!
- o Sunday, February 25: Lent sermon series continues

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
February 1
@ 12pm

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 1pm
in the Friendship Room.

We're working our way through the Book of Genesis. If you've not yet joined us, it's never too late to start! There's always room for more!

Upcoming Worship

- Sunday, February 4*
- Sunday, February 11*
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
- Sunday, February 14*
Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, February 18*
- Sunday, February 25*

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

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:

TBD

Connect Team Chair:

Dr. Greg Neal (972) 953-7866

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

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 Tuesday, February 20 by 9:00am****



THANK YOU

The Marketplace and Lunch held December 2nd raised \$6,800 for general missions, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry, Bridgeport Camp scholarships, and designated missions through alternative gift-giving! The Merry Marketplace Committee extends its appreciation and gratitude to the generous donors, amazing bakers, talented crafters, dedicated volunteers, and merry shoppers who made this a successful event in support of vital ministries. And a special thanks goes to Music Director Jelisa Baker and the Children's Choir who brought sounds of the season to the lunch crowd, which savored Jim Patton's made-from-scratch stew.

NEXT YEAR

The Merry Marketplace Committee is exploring the option of moving the Marketplace to a fall date, including items for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you have thoughts on this date change, Ann Underhill (903-886-3922) welcomes your ideas. With input from all, the Serve team and Administrative Council will determine how the event fits into the overall plans for 2018.



PROYECTO ABRIGO MISSION TRIP 2018

Amazing Grace: Want Some? Get Some!

What amazing grace it is to follow the words of Jesus: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

Spring Break, smack in the middle of Lent, can make it hard to stick to all those spiritual commitments you'll be making on Ash Wednesday, but have I got a deal for you! The mission trip to Juárez falls exactly during that time (March 11-March 16) making it much easier to honor your spiritual diet of prayer and reaching out to help others in need. Dire need. Please prayerfully consider joining the team. You'll come back renewed, spiritually refreshed, and overflowing with Amazing Grace. Guaranteed.

The families we serve live in abysmally inadequate "shelters" made from trash bags, cardboard, the occasional scrap piece of particle board or lumber. Such are the conditions for many families who have traveled north to Juárez in search of work and a better life. They have no running water, no electricity, no heat, no air conditioning. Food is scarce, but their faith is unbounded. Amazing Grace.

Rev. José Luis Portillo began his ministry of building shelters for these truly indigent families nearly 20 years ago because a 2 year-old child froze to death in his family's squalid trash bag and cardboard housing. José Luis appealed to many churches in the US to come to his aid by sending teams to build houses made of cinder blocks and mortar for those who lived in similar conditions. Commerce FUMC has answered that call on many occasions, but it's been four years and the need is still dire.

If you can't go but still would love to help, you can! You can fully sponsor a team member for \$150 to pay room and board, sponsor a team member's passport expenses for \$150, or sponsor a couple of cinder blocks (or however many you'd like) for \$20 each. Vitamins, over-the-counter medicines, and medical supplies are always needed. The children enjoy soccer balls, coloring books, and crayons. Pick up a few next time you're wherever you shop and drop them off at the church. There will be a basket below the bulletin board in the hall next to the office for that purpose. Any donation you can make is greatly appreciated. That's Amazing Grace, too!

Many, many thanks for all the prescription bottles and medical supplies that have been donated over the years. They have been sent to the mission for use in the clinic which serves approximately 200+ patients per week. Blessings on you, FUMC-Commerce. You have faithfully served the people of Juárez, but the need is still great. Participate in any way you can. Amazing Grace.

More information at <http://proyectoabrigo.org>.

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 \$135 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 4 * 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 Amy Stark at 903.246.1487 if you would like to join the hospitality team for the Potluck Luncheon. The following positions are needed:

- Kitchen help to oversee crockpots and make beverages on February 4.
- Clean up crew.

2017 Mission Dollars in Review

During 2017, 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 2017.

Inflow	
2016 Carry Over Balance <i>Includes 2016 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds</i>	\$5,915
Drop-a-Dollar & Designated gifts to Missions of the Month during 2017	\$8,233
2017 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds	\$6,775
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$569
Inflow Total	\$21,492

Summary	
Inflow	\$21,492
Less Outflow	\$14,827
2017 Carry Over Balance	\$6,665

Merry Marketplace proceeds allow 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	\$1,600
Heifer International Alternative Gifts	\$240
Wesleyan Campus Development Fund <i>(Scholarships for students in Juarez, Mexico)</i>	\$490
Subtotal	\$2,330
Serving Our Region	
U.M. ARMY	\$337
UMCOR <i>(Serve Donation and designated Hurricane Harvey relief donations)</i>	\$2,050
Subtotal	\$2,387
Serving Our Community	
Wesleyan Campus Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace Lunch proceeds & Mission of the Month</i>	\$1,102
Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>Merry Marketplace proceeds</i>	\$608
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	\$919
Community Pancake Breakfasts <i>Holiday Food Distribution</i>	\$290
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$377
Project Graduation Class of 2017	\$250
Commerce Clothe-a-Child	\$760
Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp	\$500
CISD Adopt-a-Tiger	\$860
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce <i>Souper Bowl of Caring & Mission of the Month</i>	\$536
Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce <i>Souper Bowl of Caring & Mission of the Month</i>	\$536
Hunt County Shared Ministries- FISH <i>(Lenten Offering and Serve Donation)</i>	\$2,166
North Texas Food Bank in Dallas	\$500
Food 4 Kids Spring Break Snacks	\$206
Senior Center Resources and Public Transit (SCRPT) <i>Nutrition Programs in Commerce</i>	\$500
Subtotal	\$10,110
Outflow Total	\$14,827

Dear FUMC Congregation,

On behalf of the 14 families and 32 children who received gifts from the Angel Tree ministry, we want to thank you for your on-going support of this project. Thanks go to:

1. The church for understanding the cost of the mail outs and the crafts.
2. All of you who adopted angels and then lovingly—and sometimes painstakingly—bought the requested gifts.
3. Sisters Too and the Prayer Shawl members who beautifully wrapped the packages.
4. Frances Sartwell and the zealous Merry Market bakers whose excess provided delicious snacks at our party. They not only tasted good but, thanks to Susan Patton, they looked good on the plates!
5. The Roberts and Dempsey families:
 - o Mike Roberts carried a table and gifts to be wrapped to our workroom, helped set up for the party, and mingled with our families. After also making our guests feel welcome and helping with crafts, Angela Roberts was last seen pushing a broom as we cleaned up. Oliver Roberts not only wore a Santa hat so the kids could take turns trying to throw rings on it, he also skillfully read a Christmas story to the children.
 - o John Mark Dempsey, joined by his daughter Jenny, helped organize gifts by family so we could take inventory. Jenny's help was invaluable on wrapping day when she brought wrapping materials and gifts to our work room. John Mark brought the gifts to the Family Ministry Center on party day and helped prepared snacks. Tricia's hot chocolate bar was a very popular destination at our snack table.
6. Mike Elwell who not only organized our game of ringing Santa's hat, but also dispensed the gifts with a hearty, Ho, Ho, Ho!"
7. Robin Elwell who captured the activities at the party, photographed the children on Santa's lap, and helped make the families feel at home.
8. David and Cathy Giles and Melinda Reid who delivered packages to families who could not attend the party.



We have so much to be thankful for! This congregation made Christmas a little brighter and, we hope, more meaningful for several children and their parents.

Thank you!

Tricia Dempsey and Judy Rudoff

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER
Prayer Vigil
Wednesday, January 31
6pm in chapel
You are invited to come together for a half-hour of focused prayer for our church.

Luigi's
ITALIAN CAFE
Luigi's Gives Back Sunday
February 18
If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!

e-GIVING
Give 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.

children's choir

Children's Choir will begin Wednesday, January 31 for the spring semester.

We will visit Oak Manor Nursing Home on Valentine's Day to sing and take stuffed animals to the residents.

Special thanks to Prayer Shawl ladies for helping out with choir snacks again this semester.



*Our Bible verse for February: Luke 12:34—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Our Preschool and Pre-K will have their Valentine's Day parties on Wednesday, February 14.

Children's Ministry

Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:40am** and each evening at 6:00pm. This month we will study Jesus' miracles and learn our Bible verse: Mark 4:41—"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



Summer Camps:

- Bridgeport 3rd-5thgrades: June 11-15
- Bridgeport Junior High: June 18-22



VBS 2018:

Rolling River Rampage
Mon, June 18- Fri, June 22
5pm-8pm

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! This year's VBS theme will be Rolling River Rampage!! The dates are June 18-22 and will take place from 5-8 each evening. We could use volunteers for stations, as shepherds, and to provide snacks and drinks for each day. For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at shelly@fumccommerce.org.



Our nine confirmands will participate in the Bishop's Rally hosted at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano on Sunday, February 18. This event is the largest gathering of North Texas United Methodist youth; the 2017 event reached almost 800 participants!

The afternoon will be packed with large group gathering, worship, an address from Bishop McKee, and, of course, plenty of games and activities. It will be a great day in the lives of our Confirmation students.

In memory of...

Madeline Sullivan

By: Alta Fay Peden
Bob & Sally Grove

George McFarland

By: Alta Fay Peden
Dennis & Judy Anderson
Walt Parker
Nell & John Avery
Lena Faulkner
Dough Rollins SS Class
Bob & Sally Grove

Jack Roberts

By: Dennis & Judy Anderson
Bob & Sally Grove

Bill Crook

By: Susan Lampe
Dennis & Judy Anderson
Wyman & Harriet
Williams
Bob & Sally Grove

Eleanor Sandifier

By: Jim & Susan Patton
Walt Parker
David & Luann Huffman
Dennis & Judy Anderson
Wyman & Harriet
Williams

Eleanor Sandifier, contin.

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Mary Nell Roberts

By: Joe & Laura Milligan
Dennis & Judy Anderson
Bob & Sally Grove

Ahtrell Dalton

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Lucy Potts

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Ruth Ann White

By: Joe & Laura Milligan
Bob & Sally Grove

Harry Icenhower

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Faye Jackson

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Edwina Threlkeld

By: Bob & Sally Grove

John King

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Dick Walker

By: Bob & Sally Grove

Linda Chapman

By: Bob & Sally Grove



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:

Thursday, Feb 1	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Friday, Feb 2	Mark 1:29-39
Saturday, Feb 3	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Sunday, Feb 4	Isaiah 40:27-31
Monday, Feb 5	Psalm 50:1-6
Tuesday, Feb 6	2 Corinthians 4:3-4
Wednesday, Feb 7	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Thursday, Feb 8	2 Kings 2:1-7
Friday, Feb 9	2 Kings 2:8-12
Saturday, Feb 10	Mark 9:2-6
Sunday, Feb 11	Mark 9:2-9
Monday, Feb 12	Genesis 9:8-17
Tuesday, Feb 13	Psalm 25:1-10
Wednesday, Feb 14	Isaiah 58:1-12
Thursday, Feb 15	1 Peter 3:18-22
Friday, Feb 16	Mark 1:9-15
Saturday, Feb 17	Mark 1:9-15
Sunday, Feb 18	Psalm 25:1-10
Monday, Feb 19	Mark 8:31-33
Tuesday, Feb 20	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Wednesday, Feb 21	Mark 8:31-34
Thursday, Feb 22	Psalm 22:1, 23-31
Friday, Feb 23	Mark 8:34-38
Saturday, Feb 24	Romans 4:13-16
Sunday, Feb 25	Romans 4:17-25
Monday, Feb 26	Psalm 19:7-14
Tuesday, Feb 27	Exodus 20:1-11
Wednesday, Feb 28	Exodus 20:12-17

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
Dec 24	25	62	—	32	
Dec 24		101*			
Dec 31		58**		20	
Jan 7	32	68	28	43	
Jan 14	30	58	19	50	
Jan 17					8
Jan 21	33	74	12	48	
Jan 28	31	75	28	47	

*Christmas Eve Service

**one service only (@ 10am)

**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of December 31, 2017 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 34,320	\$353,755
Expenses:	\$ 24,833	\$351,060
	\$ 9,487	\$ 2,695



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

The Family of Richard Fulkerson
 The Family of Ernest Hawkins
 The Family of Daphne Thomas (Shelly Oat's cousin)
 Rev. Tom Dudley
 Barbara Gish (Susan Lampe's mother)
 Mary Louise McMahan
 Richard Norton
 Georgia Pearce (David Pearce's mother)
 Charlie Smith
 Nancy Stewart

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world,
 Judy Anderson, Roger Arnold, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth Cline (Tammy Naizer's father), Harold Coker, Tom and Virginia Collier, Garrett Cramer, Rachel Cramer, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley's brother and niece, Jack and Gladys Gray, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, George McFarland, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Betty Morton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert Seay, Billy Stocker (JD Short's uncle), Rev. Clay Yeager

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

Legend's: Mary Means

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
 Daniel Chamberlain
 Mike Dempsey
 Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
 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).

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:
www.revneal.org
www.youtube.com/revneal
www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo



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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, February 20 by 9:00am