

First United Methodist Church

Commerce

January 2018



Morning Services: 8:45am in the Chapel 10:50am in the Sanctuary

Evening Service: 5:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



5th Sunday Combined Worship Service Sunday, December 31st 10am in the Sanctuary

The next 5th Sunday Combined Worship service is Sunday, December 31st. Our morning services will be worshipping together! Our order of worship will be a combination of both the 8:45 and 10:50 service styles. So, come and see your "friends from the other service" and enjoy our worship together!

Sunday schools are invited to begin at 9am! Brought to you by The Worship Committee



As a church, we have ministered to the people of Proyecto Abrigo in Juarez, Mexico over the years by sending prescription bottles, medical supplies, helping two girls get an education, and by sending mission teams to build homes for the indigent and destitute.

But it's been four years, so it's time to go again!

Become a team member by:

- going to Juarez March 11-16, 2018 to help build a 12 x 24 foot concrete cinder block home for a family in need
- giving a contribution towards the necessary \$3200 to build a home

Prayerfully consider being part of the team! Everyone interested in learning more about Proyecto Abrigo and the details about the mission trip are invited to attend a brief informational meeting directly after the 10:50am service on January 21. Snacks will be served.

Need more information? Call Jan Helton: 903-450-7335 or email: jheltons@hotmail.com.

Inside this issue:

- Pastor's Article Committee Chairs, Announcements Children: Choir Christmas Season
- Memorials, Attendance
- Prayer List

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Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed *Monday, Dec. 25 through Thursday, Dec. 28 for Christmas *Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2 for New Year's.



- The Light, Upcoming Worship Children: Christmas Parade, Field Trip Wesleyan Campus Ministry Finances, Scriptures
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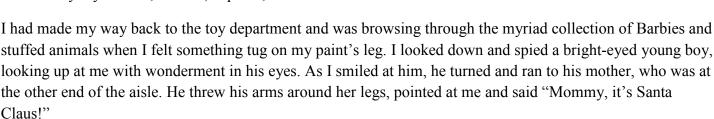
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All Hail the Plainclothes Santas by Dr. Gregory S. Neal

It was one of those beautiful December days that you would love to bottle up and save for opening in the middle of July: the sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky, there was a slight hint of crispness in the air but it wasn't cold enough to warrant a jacket. I had arrived at Wal-Mart with visions of Christmas shopping dancing in my head, but I hadn't a clue as to what to buy. Oh, I had Angel Tree presents to pick up, but figuring out what to buy my mother, brother, nephew, and niece eluded me.



He was right: a few years ago I was asked to play Santa for a Christmas party at a big Children's Home in North Texas. They had the suit, and they wanted someone large enough to fit into it without the need for padding. That I also brought my own whiskers to the event was a big plus and a big hit with the children. One boy, as he sat on my knee for the photo, reached back to grab my beard and exclaimed: "hey, it's real!" In subsequent years I've taken to growing a fuller beard in the months leading up to December so-as to be even more "Santa-ish." As a result, I am often noticed by children in the months of November and December, and am sometimes even called "Santa Claus" by an excited toddler. Every time it happens, it brings a smile to my face.

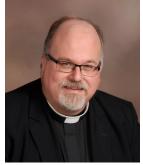
I'm reminded of the humorous psychological quip:

The 4 Stages of Santa Claus:

- You believe in Santa Claus
- You STOP believing in Santa Claus
- You become Santa Claus
- You look like Santa Claus

Stage one (1) is a lot fun: you get to experience the mystery and wonderment of the self-giving love of St. Nicholas as funded and implemented by your parents. Stage two (2) is decidedly *not* fun: some Scrooge (often an older sibling) has told you that Santa Claus doesn't exist, blown your bubble of Christmas excitement, and left you feeling jilted by your parents for lying to you for years. Stage three (3) is sometimes fun, but usually just a huge drain on the pocket book: you're buying Christmas presents for everybody else, but rarely does a Plainclothes Santa get a Christmas gift in return. But, then, there's stage four (4), which may be the best of all: looking like Santa means that people start treating you ... well, like Santa! I'm thankful I've finally reached that stage!

However, looking back, I must admit that being a Plainclothes Santa had its perks. Yes, it was expensive, but there was always a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you'd gotten someone something that they really, really wanted. All hail the Plainclothes Santas!



Volume 16, Issue 1



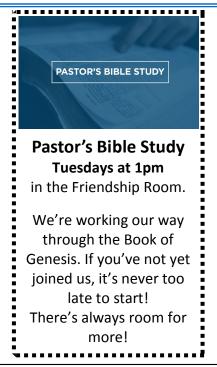
This month at The Light:

What does it mean to be the Church?

Dr. Greg and Pastor Brian will explore this question in a new sermon series for The Light called BE THE CHURCH beginning Sunday, Jan.7. You are invited be part of the discussion and the community every Sunday evening at 6:00 as we enjoy Spirit-filled music and worship.

- Sunday, January 7: Being the Church through our prayers
- Join us for the First Sunday Potluck at 5 PM!
- Sunday, January 14: Being the Church through our presence
- Sunday, January 21: Being the Church through our gifts
- Sunday, January 28: Being the Church through our service
- Sunday, February 11: Being the Church through our witness

AND... Mark your calendars for our first-ever Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4! More information coming soon.



Mid-Month Holy Eucharist Wednesday, Jan. 17 5:30 pm in the Chapel Come and be blessed by the prayers, the scriptures, the time of quiet contemplation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion Celebrated in the Anglican Tradition



Worship

Sunday, January 7 Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Sunday, January 14

Sunday, January 21

Sunday, January 28

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:** To be elected in January Finance Chair: Jim Brown (903) 886-7439 FUMC Foundation President: To be elected in January **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 <u>communications@fumccommerce.org</u>, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office. **The next deadline is Tuesday, January 23 by 9:00am**

Bois d'Arc Christmas Parade Winner

Congratulations to our Children's Department's for their Bois d'Arc Christmas Parade float winning the "Best Parade Theme Presentation" trophy. The "What Christmas Means to Me" theme was best expressed by their nativity scene made by our church's children which represented our morning and evening Sunday School kids, Children's Choir, and Little Ark.

Thank you to the Children's Council for getting this fun and meaningful event together for our kids!







Our children's Sunday school classes took a field trip on Sunday, December 3rd. They went through The Compassion Experience and had a peek into the lives of 2 precious children and how God's love changed their lives.



The Children's Choir has been busy this season! We performed at the Merry Marketplace on Saturday, December 2nd. We also performed our Christmas Program for our church's 10:50am service on Sunday, December 10th. We had our Christmas party Wednesday, December 13th.



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Merry Marketplace



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Raising Up Pastors

Campus Ministry not only provides young adults with a vital faith community during a time where many leave the Church, campus ministry also helps students discern their calling to ministry! Your own Associate Pastor and Wesleyan Pastor is fruit of campus ministry. I know that I would not be an ordained Elder without my experience in campus ministry. Campus ministry is where I started to seriously discern my calling to ministry, it is where I started to serve, it is where I decided to attend seminary and start the ordination process.

I am not alone, several clergy have discerned a call to ministry while active in campus ministry. Below is David Owsley's story. David is currently the Assistant Campus Minister at the Wesleyan, he is a certified candidate for ministry, he is attending Brite Divinity, and now he is serving as Senior Pastor of Poetry UMC!!!



David Owsley's Call Story:

For many years, I experimented with different faith traditions but I ultimately gave up. Until I found the United Methodist Church; this was after graduating from my undergrad and I had just started at my first job outside of college. It was at this point that I started to attend First United Methodist Church in Commerce and participating in the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. Here I was 25 years old and rediscovering my faith. It was in these communities that I found grace and love. I found what my heart had always been looking for. As Augustine expressed it, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." This was the kind of serenity that I found within the United Methodist Church. I fell in love with Wesleyan theology that spoke to my very soul and heart but also to my reason. It was in this tradition that I found Christ again.

After joining the United Methodist Church, I found myself doing a great amount of soul-searching and discernment. I found myself being drawn to the ministry. At first I could not describe what this feeling meant. But I knew that God was leading me somewhere. I ultimately found out that God was leading me to serve the Church and to further the ministry of Jesus Christ. I want to serve as an Elder in the United Methodist Church because I want to extend what I have experienced in this Church so that everyone can know the love of Jesus Christ. I want to serve by Word, Sacrament, Service and Order. I want to be there for people in the joyous times of marriage and I want to be there in their grief when they've lost a loved one. I want people to know that Jesus is always with them in these moments. Because of my experiences and spiritual gifts, I feel called to serve the people of God. I feel called to reach those who have been hurt by churches just like I was or who have never heard that God loves them. I'm currently doing that now as the associate campus minister for the Wesleyan. I want to be an instrument for the love of God here and now. I want to continue this path that I have started on so that I can keep growing and learning how to best serve in my calling. Now I am currently serving as Senior Pastor of Poetry UMC!

Congratulations FUMC, because of your grace-filled community and your on-going support of the Wesleyan, you all have raised up a pastor! Contact <u>Brian@fumccommerce.org</u> for more opportunities to support the Wesleyan.



Luigi's Gives Back Sunday January 21 If you take your bulletin after church , Luigi's will send us 10%.

Lucy Potts

Ruth

Lampe

By: Julie, Nancy, Denise,

Barbara Gish & Susan

Help support our church by eating some good food!

In memory of...

Bill Crook By: Jim & Janet Latham Jim & Susan Patton

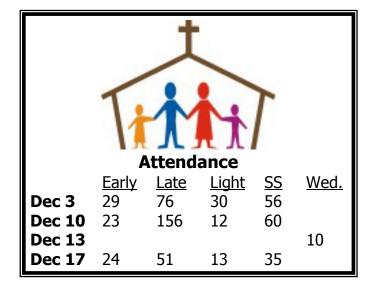
Mary Nell Roberts
By: Pat & Janet Skauge

<u>**Ruth Ann White</u>** By: Pat & Janet Skauge</u>

Ahtrell Dalton

By: Carolyn Burt Barbara Gish & Susan Lampe







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.



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, Jan 1 Tuesday, Jan 2 Wednesday, Jan 3 Thursday, Jan 4 Friday, Jan 5 Saturday, Jan 6 Sunday, Jan 7 Monday, Jan 8 Tuesday, Jan 9 Wednesday, Jan 10 Thursday, Jan 11 Friday, Jan 12 Saturday, Jan 13 Sunday, Jan 14 Monday, Jan 15 Tuesday, Jan 16 Wednesday, Jan 17 Thursday, Jan 18 Friday, Jan 19 Saturday, Jan 20 Sunday, Jan 21 Monday, Jan 22 Tuesday, Jan 23 Wednesday, Jan 24 Thursday, Jan 25 Friday, Jan 26 Saturday, Jan 27 Sunday, Jan 28 Monday, Jan 29 Tuesday, Jan 30 Wednesday, Jan 31

Revelation 21:1-6a Psalm 148 Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Luke 2:22-40 Galatians 4:4-7 Ephesians 3:1-12 Acts 19:1-7 1 Samuel 3:1-20 1 Samuel 3:10-20 Psalm 139:1-6 Psalm 139:13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51 John 1:43-51 Psalm 62:5-8 Psalm 62:9-12 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Mark 1:14-18 Mark 1:19-20 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Psalm 62:5-8 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Mark 1:21-28 Mark 1:21-28 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Psalm 111 Isaiah 40:21-31 Isaiah 40:21-24 Isaiah 40:25-26

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Lewis Compton (Dana Coker's father) Judy Fane Mary Means Jack Roberts

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, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley, his brother, and his 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, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson), Betty Morton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert Seay, Billy Stocker (JD Short's uncle), Madeline Sullivan, 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 Oak Manor: Barbara Gish (Susan Lampe's mother) and George McFarland 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).

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

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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

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





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 <u>Tuesday, January 23 by 9:00am</u>