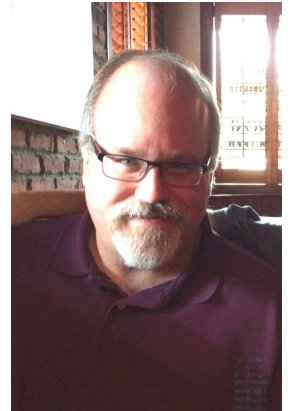


# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 12, Issue 7

July 2014

# Welcome, Dr. Greg Neal

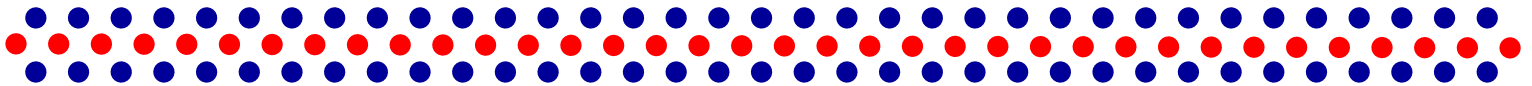


Sunday, July 6th

Join us for a reception to welcome our new senior pastor,

Dr. Greg Neal.

It will be a come-and-go event held during the Sunday School hour.



## CHURCH LUNCH & GAME SHOW

**Sunday, July 13**  
following the 11:00am service

**All Church Luncheon provided by the UM Army Youth**  
(free will offering welcome to support this mission team)  
and

a fun-filled game show highlighting the ways FUMC-Commerce lives our mission to  
Connect, Grow and Serve...Methodist Jeopardy--FUMC Style

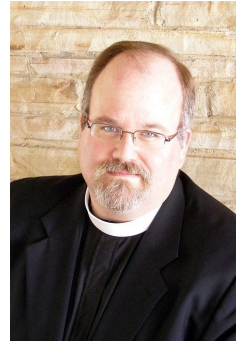
Mark your calendar...don't miss this time to join with our church family for worship,  
fellowship, a delicious meal and a lively program!

### Inside this issue:

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### Saying Hello

When pastors move to new churches there is always the quandary of how we introduce ourselves: how do we best present our theology, character, beliefs, and pastoral approach to our new congregations? For instance, should a new pastor's first sermon be a special, topical message designed to lay out all of these matters, and more, in a logical structure? Should we present our personal systematic theologies so that our new people will understand where we're coming from? Or, should we just follow the Lectionary appointment of scriptures and introduce ourselves by simply being ourselves, and allow our people to come to know us over time through the process of preaching, teaching, and personal interaction? There is no simple answer to this question, and I suspect that there are about as many opinions as there are clergy. And the same holds true for any and all interactions during one's first few weeks or months in an appointment. "Putting one's best foot forward" is a challenge in the best of times, for "first impressions" are invariably the longest lasting ones.



Over the past 22 years of my ministry in the North Texas Conference, across 6 full-time appointments, I have come to the conclusion that, for me, the best approach is to simply be myself. Rather than attempt to lay out my entire systematic theology in one sermon, or chart my vision in one newsletter article, I have learned to simply trust God and trust that God will use the scriptural appointments within the Lectionary, and the events of the first few months of my pastorate, to guide my preaching, teaching, and interactions as I make an entrance into a new church.

And, so, I praise and give thanks to God as I say "hello!" Some of you have already had some interaction with me over the internet, "befriending" me on Facebook or subscribing to my Video Sermon page, and so some have already had a bit of an introduction to my ministry. For those of you who haven't, I invite you to visit my website: Grace Incarnate Ministries at [www.RevNeal.org](http://www.RevNeal.org). Here you can find many of my writings on a broad range of topics, audio sermons going back to 1999, Bible Studies going back to the early 2000s, and video sermons back to 2010. You'll also have a chance to virtually meet me if you befriend me on Facebook, "Like" my Facebook ministry page, or follow my Twitter feed. In truth, I'm an easy person to contact and get to know. I'm also an easy person to meet "in the flesh," for if anything my ministry is one of "presence." My door, both physical and virtual, is always open. After July 1<sup>st</sup> please drop by and say "hi!" I want to meet all of you, get to know you and your vision and dreams for First Commerce!

Grace and Peace,  
Greg

### Upcoming Worship

*July 6*

*Pastor Greg's First Service*

*July 13*

*July 20*

*July 27*

*8:45am ~ Chapel*

*Midweek Eucharist*

*Wednesdays*

*@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel*

### **Committee Chairs**

#### **Leadership Team Chair:**

Gene Lockhart  
(903) 886-3498

#### **Lay Leader:**

John Heatherly  
(903) 886-7070

#### **Personnel Chair:**

Wes Underwood  
(903) 886-1503

#### **Property Chair:**

Jim Brown  
(903) 886-7439

#### **Stewardship Team Chair:**

Mike Roberts  
(903) 886-2142

#### **Connect Team Chair:**

Melinda Reid  
(903) 886-7623

#### **Grow Team Chair:**

Sabrina Green  
(903) 886-1902

#### **Serve Team Chair:**

Angela Roberts  
(903) 886-2142

#### **FUMC Foundation President:**

Anne Mills  
(903) 886-6792

#### **Lay Member:**

Carole Walker  
(903) 886-4450

#### **UMW President:**

Mary Lou Heatherly  
(903) 886-8381

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at [communications@fumccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Monday, July 21 by 9:00am\*\***

# VBS 2014



## What a great week we had at the Workshop of Wonders!



“You are the God who Works Wonders.”  
Psalm 77:14a

This week with the help of 23 youth and 21 adult volunteers from our church and community, 80 kids came through the “workshop” and learned many wonderful lessons and stories from the Bible. Each day we explored the wonders of God.



Monday we Imagined with God: While studying the story of Esther, we saw how Esther used her imagination to save her people.

Tuesday we Built with God: We met Zerubbabel and other workers as they returned to their homeland and rebuilt their church.

Wednesday we Grew with God: We experienced Jesus sharing the parable of the mustard seed in a story from the New Testament.

Thursday we Worked with God: Jesus used something ordinary (a child’s lunch) to create something extraordinary (a meal to feed 5,000).

Friday we Walked with God: We walked with the disciples as they discovered Jesus.

The mission this year was our very own quest for a minibus! The kids all together raised \$140.

It is awesome to work with these kids alongside such a loving and supportive congregation dedicated to programs such as VBS that lead our kids to know more of God. I am deeply grateful for your support.

Joanna Thrift



# VBS 2014 Volunteers

## Adult Volunteers

- Haley Benson
- Christina Canzary
- Harold Coker
- Marc Corazao
- Michelle Corazao
- Jenny Dempsey
- Mimi Dobbs
- Robyn Elwell
- Sabrina Green
- Tiffany Harrison
- Mary Lou Heatherly
- Katy Jensen
- Jennifer Knight
- Mark Reid
- Melinda Reid
- Angela Roberts
- Sarah Seago
- JenAnne Shumway
- Sharon Smith
- Alison Walker
- Ruth Ann White



## Youth Volunteers

- Jayla Demidio
- Faith Dickson
- Claire Dobbs
- Sammy Elwell
- Connor Green
- Maria House
- Aislinn Jones
- Jacob Ladd
- Sarah Martin
- Madison McCracken
- Mak Morgan
- Emily Polk
- Rockney Reid
- Maggie Robinson
- Luke Scarcelli
- Jakob Scarcelli
- Rachel Scarcelli
- Philip Shumway
- Jackson Singleton
- Sarah Stogner-Dickinson
- Phillip Weise
- Allie Wittkopf
- Eric Yen



## Snack Providers

- Mary Carolyn Dye
- Sally Grove
- Tiffany Harrison
- Kay Jensen
- Linda King
- Jessica Morgan
- Mary Nell Roberts
- Madeline Sullivan
- Susan Patton
- Lori Polk
- Donna Spinato
- Amy Stark



# FLY: YOUTH CORNER

## Youth Update:

25 youth participated in the FLY Youth Weekend June 13-14! We went to Hawaiian Falls and held a Lock-In at church-lots of sun, fun and very little sleep! Youth and their parents are invited to check out our upcoming activities through Facebook (FLY United Methodist Church of Commerce) and Twitter (#FLYFUMC).

Dear Church Family-

Thank you for the support you showed our UM Army Mission Team as we held our garage sale to raise funds for our trip to Lubbock. Thanks to your generous donations we made over \$1,100! We are blessed to be part of the FUMC-Commerce church family!

The Youth, Jim & Susan Patton, Mark & Melinda Reid

## Help the UM ARMY March to Lubbock!

We are preparing to feed 100 + Youth as they work each day doing painting, ramp building, and yard work.



To keep this army happy and full of energy we request you send your love to them in the form of baked goods:

- cookies or brownies (no frosting) wrapped 2 per package, ready for freezing
- cakes (no frosting) in foil pans, ready for freezing

Please leave your donations in the freezer in the church kitchen on or before July 19. Thank you!



Jim Patton preparing dinner at the UM ARMY work camp in Wichita Falls. He and Susan will also take the lead in the kitchen in Lubbock.





# BE GREAT next

The Mission of the Month for June is the Summer Day Camp hosted by the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) at A.C. Williams Elementary School. The drop-a-dollar giving totals \$357 as of June 22. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate on June 29 will be added to this gift.



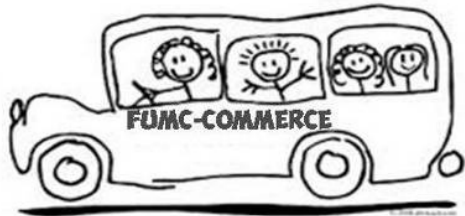
The Summer Day Camp runs eight weeks from June 9 to August 1 from 7:30am to 6:00pm, five days a week, and is jammed packed with fun activities. Kara Hendricks, BGC Site Director, is enthusiastic about the curriculum they're implementing called Summer Brain Gain. It is designed by teachers aimed to help bridge the gap of what students tend to lose over the summer. There are weekly themes such as Alien Invasion, outside games, art projects, gym activities, science projects, and weekly events such as water day and field trip. BGC also provides one meal and one snack a day.



Kara has plans for putting our donation to work this summer. She says, "Your generosity will help us buy supplies for our art room as we strongly believe in providing kids a with a place to express themselves."

You can discover ways to follow your financial gift by stopping by A.C. Williams to see what the BGC is all about or becoming a volunteer. Contact Kara Hendricks, at 903.886.3758, ext. 1430, or [khendricks@begreatnext.org](mailto:khendricks@begreatnext.org) for more information.

## MINIBUS FUNDRAISER



Commitment cards for minibus fundraiser are now due. Please turn in cards at church office or call in commitment amounts to office personnel.

Reminder: Commitments should be fulfilled by December 31, 2014.

As you travel and take vacations this summer, don't take a break from your giving. We are grateful for your faithfulness.





UMW will meet **Tuesday, July 15** at 10:00am. The program will be brought by Pastor Marc about the Wesley Campus Ministries. Our July project is collecting school supplies. **All women are invited to join us!**

## Summer Office Hours

The church office hours for the summer (through August 1) will be 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00.



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



## Financial Update

### General Operating Fund

	as of May 31, 2014	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 34,799	\$157,437
Expenses:	\$ 30,425	\$159,312
	\$ 4,374	-\$ 1,875



## Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
<b>May 28</b>		4		
<b>Jun 1</b>	33	—	121	91
<b>Jun 4</b>		6		
<b>Jun 8</b>	36	—	73	48
<b>Jun 11</b>		8		
<b>Jun 15</b>	32	—	83	60
<b>Jun 18</b>		6		
<b>Jun 22</b>	24	—	110	60

### In memory of...

#### Virginia Gibbs

By: Dale & Elaine Stotts  
Ted & Ellen Oats

#### Duane Kerbow

By: Bob & Norma Monday  
Roger & Jean Arnold  
Lena Faulkner

#### Jessie Short

By: Edna O'Quinn

#### Gary Shafer

By: Lena Faulkner  
Roger & Jean Arnold

#### Janice Currens

By: Roger & Jean Arnold

#### Pauline Frazier

By: Harriet & Wyman Williams  
Roger & Jean Arnold

#### Bill Rainey, Jr.

By: Jim Ainsworth

#### Peggy Wheat

By: Mariann Andrews

## MEMORIALS



## Daily Scripture Readings:

Tuesday, Jul 1	Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67
Wednesday, Jul 2	Psalms 72
Thursday, Jul 3	Romans 7:15-25a
Friday, Jul 4	Romans 7:15-25a
Saturday, Jul 5	Matthew 11:16-19
Sunday, Jul 6	Matthew 11:25-30
Monday, Jul 7	Genesis 25:19-34
Tuesday, Jul 8	Genesis 25:19-34
Wednesday, Jul 9	Psalms 119:105-112
Thursday, Jul 10	Romans 8:1-11
Friday, Jul 11	Romans 8:1-11
Saturday, Jul 12	Matthew 13:1-9
Sunday, Jul 13	Matthew 13:18-23
Monday, Jul 14	Genesis 28:10-19a
Tuesday, Jul 15	Genesis 28:10-19a
Wednesday, Jul 16	Psalms 139:1-12
Thursday, Jul 17	Psalms 139:23-24
Friday, Jul 18	Romans 8:12-25
Saturday, Jul 19	Matthew 13:24-30
Sunday, Jul 20	Matthew 13:36-43
Monday, Jul 21	Genesis 29:15-28
Tuesday, Jul 22	Romans 8:26-34
Wednesday, Jul 23	Matthew 13:31-33
Thursday, Jul 24	Romans 8:31-37
Friday, Jul 25	Romans 8:38-39
Saturday, Jul 26	Matthew 13:44-52
Sunday, Jul 27	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
Monday, Jul 28	Genesis 32:22-31
Tuesday, Jul 29	Genesis 32:27-31
Wednesday, Jul 30	Psalms 17:1-7, 15
Thursday, Jul 31	Romans 9:1-5



## Prayer Lists

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

Mariann Andrews, Loretta Kibler, Lori Polk, Linda Liston, Wendy Neat, Suzanne Bailey, Gabe Wittkopf, Roger Arnold, Steve Staub, Nadine Yeager, Allen Martin, Michelle Bone, Billie Patterson (Chris Patterson's mother), Warren Dunham, Dorothy Carlton, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Cindy Klingbeil, Jean McKinney, Doris Kerbow, Norma McNew, Clyde Robnett, Clay Yeager, Jaron and Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's son and daughter-in-law), Gene Casselberry, Pat Skauge, Sue Taylor, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

### Others to Remember in Prayer...

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Edna O'Quinn, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, and Euple Walker

**Briarcliff:** Glenna Siebenhausen

**Laurell's Retirement Home:** Lewis and Faye Jackson

575 Knights Cross

Box D-212

San Antonio, TX 78258

*"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...

2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division      Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Col. Peter Bailey      Garrett Johnson  
Nathan Grove      Lt. Col. Keith Williams  
Lt. Dan Barton  
CW2 Courtney Phillips (Afghanistan)-Sharon Smith's cousin  
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

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[www.fumcccommerce.org](http://www.fumcccommerce.org)

[office@fumcccommerce.org](mailto:office@fumcccommerce.org)

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due  
**Monday, July 21 by 9:00am**