



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 17, Issue 7

July 2019



Supper served at 5pm
each evening

**VBS 2019:
TO MARS AND BEYOND**
Wednesdays @ 5pm-8pm
July 17 * July 24 * July 31 * August 7
Children entering K-6th grade
Register online at www.fumcccommerce.org

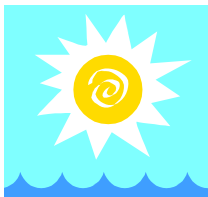
Wanted: Leaders who want to explore the Word of God with children!

To Mars and Beyond VBS invites us to explore where God's power can take us! This space adventure includes music, science, crafts, recreation, Bible stories and lots of fun!

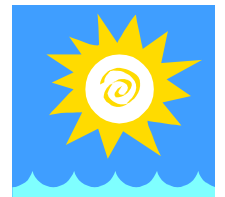
Ways to Help:

- Sign up to help a station leader (music, crafts, science, recreation)
- Volunteer to help as a star guide (shepherd)
- Invite family and friends to attend
- Donate any of the following:
 - Empty water bottles with lid
 - Space dress up items (helmets, vests, gloves, boots)
 - 5 sets of LED fairy lights (battery operated)
 - 5 large wide-mouth mason jars

Contact Amy Stark at 903-246-1487 to volunteer or donate.



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



Inside this issue:

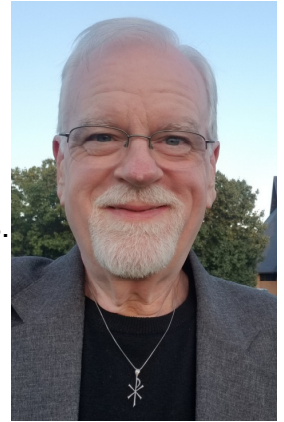
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Living our faith together in Christ is vital. Worship together every week!

BUCKLE UP!

All men and women, youth and children: BUCKLE UP! And stay in the vehicle!

Older folks may remember when we had to be convinced to wear those seat belts. I remember when my dad had to take his 1963 Chevrolet down to the garage to have basic (front only) seat belts installed in the car so it would pass State Inspection. I think he never did wear them much. There were stories, he would say, of people who died strapped into their vehicles after a wreck because “they couldn’t get out”. And he also drove with the driver’s door unlocked--for the same reason!



Now, of course, we wear seat belts automatically because we know the safest place in any road trip or space shuttle landing is BUCKLED IN THE VEHICLE! The same is true of our faith in Jesus Christ. And the vehicle is the church! Church life can be cumbersome at times, but it is the safest place (the only place!) to take refuge and provide refuge for others. We face our challenges together.

The word “sanctuary” means “safe place” or “refuge”. Here **together**, we can find refuge from some of the digs and dings of life in a broken world. **Together**, we raise our families--and each other-- to trust Christ and live for him. **Together**, we cooperate to grow our strength and make disciples of Christ to transform the world. And sometimes it is a rocky ride.

The secret is to buckle up and stay in the vehicle! By that, I mean come to worship and serve in the church. Stay in the relationship for fellowship and growth--and for accountability. The church has its problems because it is made up of people. But here, we bond together and band together to serve! Here our care for each other and for our world is rooted and nurtured.

There is no doubt that the vehicle of the church can provide a rocky ride. But with all the dangers of the world, the family of faith is the safest place to be. It is good to see your family sitting in the sanctuary side by side and worshipping together.

Please buckle up and stay in the vehicle! And bring a friend along to share the joy!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Sam".

Sam Caldwell

“Seven days without fellowship in Christ makes one WEAK.”

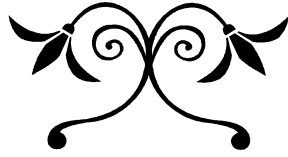
A step further...

I like the image of the church as a vehicle. It implies that we are moving, and that we are going somewhere. We have a destination. How would you describe our destination?

Another step further...

The role of the pastor is easy to misunderstand. Some of you may think the pastor is the pilot of the vehicle--or should be! I do not see my role in that way. I am a passenger who helps other passengers along. I need to be buckled in beside you. How do you understand who is **(or who ought to be)** the pilot of this vehicle we call the church?

RSVP rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com



The SPRC Committee

Invites you to a

Celebration Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, June 30

in honor of

Pastor Brian

Immediately following the 10:50 a.m. service

In the Family Ministries Center

Please bring your favorite dish or dessert to share.




connect grow

**Connect/Grow
Team Meeting
Monday,
July 8
@ 6pm**

*Upcoming
Worship*

Sunday, July 7

Sunday, July 14

Sunday, July 21

Sunday, July 28

8:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary



Our Year of Jubilee:

Re-Member the Future

A call to serve as we celebrate 50 years at this location.

Volunteers are needed for fundraising, publicity, history, special events, worship, and communications!

How do you want to help?

Contact Pat Skauge @ 903-259-9875 or pats61@icloud.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Pat Skauge (903) 259-9875

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:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

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, July 23 by 9:00am****

CONFIRMATION IS COMING

Confirmation is an exciting moment in a child's faith journey! As they're getting ready to make the transition into middle school and experiencing a little more independence and taking on a little more responsibility, they get the amazing opportunity to make their own decision to "live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ." Leading up to a celebratory worship service, those who participate in confirmation will be able to spend time with Pastor Sam and other adult leaders talking about deep questions like: Who is God? How are we saved by grace? What do Baptism and Holy Communion mean to us? How is the United Methodist Church different from other churches? And, perhaps most importantly, how do I live a Christian life?



In the fall, we will be forming our next Confirmation class made up of students who will be in sixth grade or older for the 2019-2020 school year. More details will be coming soon, and you can talk to Pastor Sam or Nevin if you have questions or would like to be involved. In the meantime, let us as a church begin praying now for the special group of young people preparing to take the next step in their faith journey.

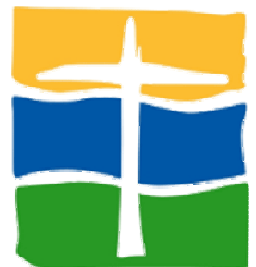


BRIDGEPORT CAMP 2019

Last month, a group of seventeen middle school youth from our church joined a group of 150 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from North Texas United Methodist churches at Bridgeport Camp. Campers spent the week doing traditional camp activities such as fishing and archery, and they enjoyed time each day in the pool and on the sand volleyball courts.

The theme of camp this year was "Blueprints of the Church." Twice a day our youth met in family groups with ten of their peers and talked about what it means to be the church. The curriculum demonstrated how different parts of a church building (narthex, sanctuary, classrooms, fellowship hall, and parking lot) connect to different tasks that we as the church are called to do: welcome our neighbors, worship God, teach our faith to the next generation, and use our gifts both inside and outside the church to serve others. Through scripture, discussion, and activities, we considered why we are called to these tasks and ways that we could carry them out when we returned home. At sundown each day, the camp gathered for worship at the iconic Bridgeport cross overlooking the lake.

It was a fun week, and we left feeling inspired to live into our calling to be the Church to the world. Look for next month's newsletter for quotes from our campers about what they learned and lots of pictures documenting their experiences. A big thank-you goes to everyone who enabled these youth to go to camp: everyone who came to the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner; those who gave additional donations; Mariann, who was amazing and saw to all the administrative details; to Sam and Cathy Caldwell, and Christina and Ashlyn from Little Ark, who drove the bus and the van to camp; and of course, to the parents who sent their kids for a week to grow in their faith. An especially big thank-you to Fred Blohm who cared so much about the youth of this church that he provided funds to ensure that so many of our youth could have this experience. We honor his memory and his family for their caring and generous gift.



JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Did you know that the average family spends \$110 per child on back-to-school expenses?! Would you like to help Commerce ISD students and families in need get off to a GREAT start for the 2019-2020 school year? Please help us "STUFF the BUS" with new school supplies for our students!

School Supplies Collection Drive



Most Needed Items:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Bottled School Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Map Pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Spiral/Composition Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Pencil Boxes/Zippered Pencil Bags
- Pocket Folders with brads
- ***Monetary Donations***

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desires of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday
Isaiah 58:10



3rd grade

BIBLE PRESENTATION

Bibles were presented to Breezlyn Barton, Brianna Bourcy, and Brit Smith on Sunday, June 9.



Happy 4th of July!

The church office will be closed Thursday July 4th for the holiday.

Have a happy & safe celebration!

MEN'S BREAKFAST
FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast
Monday, July 29 @ 7am
at Omega's Restaurant!

Come and have breakfast with Pastor Sam, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!



Summer @ The Wesleyan
 7/27: Host Eco-friendly Health Fair @ 11a-1p
 8/24: Wesleyan Work Day @ 10a

Wesleyan Wednesdays (through 8/7):
 5p @ Mugs- Coffee and Contemplation
 6:15p @ WCM- Marvel Movie Night

As of July 1, 2019, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry will be its own entity. To continue your support of the campus ministry, please make checks payable directly to the Wesleyan Campus Ministry.

As of July 1, Pastor Brian's email address will be Wesleyancampuspastor@gmail.com.

In memory of...

Tom Collier

By: Wyman & Harriet Williams

Allen Martin

By: Wyman & Harriet Williams

Fred Blohm

By: Wyman & Harriet Williams



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.

By the Numbers

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
June 2	33	57	26
June 9	29	73	36
June 16	32	64	37
June 23	33	50	29

**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of May 31, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 25,554	\$142,377
Expenses:	\$ 30,237	\$149,376
	\$ 4,683	-\$ 6,999

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, July 1	2 Kings 5:1-8
Tuesday, July 2	2 Kings 5:9-18
Wednesday, July 3	Luke 10:1-11, 16
Thursday, July 4	Luke 10:17-20
Friday, July 5	Galatians 6:1-10
Saturday, July 6	Galatians 6:11-16
Sunday, July 7	Psalms 30
Monday, July 8	Amos 7:7-9
Tuesday, July 9	Psalms 82
Wednesday, July 10	Colossians 1:1-14
Thursday, July 11	Amos 7:10-17
Friday, July 12	Colossians 1:9-12
Saturday, July 13	Luke 10:25-28
Sunday, July 14	Luke 10:29-37
Monday, July 15	Amos 8:1-12
Tuesday, July 16	Psalms 52
Wednesday, July 17	Psalms 52
Thursday, July 18	Colossians 1:15-28
Friday, July 19	Luke 10:38-42
Saturday, July 20	Luke 10:41-42
Sunday, July 21	Luke 10:38-42
Monday, July 22	Hosea 1:2-10
Tuesday, July 23	Psalms 85:1-7
Wednesday, July 24	Psalms 85:8-13
Thursday, July 25	Colossians 2:6-15
Friday, July 26	Colossians 2:15-19
Saturday, July 27	Luke 11:1-4
Sunday, July 28	Luke 11:5-13
Monday, July 29	Luke 11:13-21
Tuesday, July 30	Hosea 11:1-7
Wednesday, July 31	Hosea 11:8-11



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Natasha Astudillo
Lois Cranford
Eddie Haynes
Betty Morton
Rachel Oats
Pat Reid (Mark Reid's mother)

Continued Prayers (long term)

Our world and country and our leaders, Debra Burton, Pete & Ann Chamberlain, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Rev. Tom Dudley, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Danny House, Kaylee Jensen, Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father), Zachary Madden, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Mary Ogletree (Mimi Dobbs' mother), Billie Patterson, Robert Seay

Oak Manor: Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Joe & Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Gayle Shumate

Briarcliff: Gene Casselberry, Schelly Porter

Christian Care Center (Mesquite): Roger & Jean Arnold, Virginia Collier

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson in Japan)
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).



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcommerce.org

office@fumcommerce.org

**First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Tuesday, July 23 by 9:00am