

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 5

June 2016



**VBS 2016:
Surf Shack
Mon, July 18-
Wed, July 20
5:00-8:30pm**

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

At *Surf Shack* VBS, we will help our children catch the wave of God's amazing love through missions, dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and lots of fun!

Ways to Help:

- Sign up for a VBS leadership role and join us in the excitement at *Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!*
- Donate any of the following:
 - Pool noodles
 - Big cardboard boxes
 - Leis
 - Blue plastic tablecloths
 - Fishing nets
 - Beach balls or blow-up swim rings
 - Sand buckets
 - Beach towels
 - Shells
 - Grass Table Skirts

3rd Annual UM Army Garage Sale!
Saturday, June 11th
@ Huffman's Farm Supply
 (next to the Farmer's Market in downtown Commerce)

As you begin your spring cleaning, please consider donating your items to our youth who will be going on a UM Army Mission Trip this summer. These hard-working youth will pick up your donations at your convenience. We can store your items until the day of the sale.

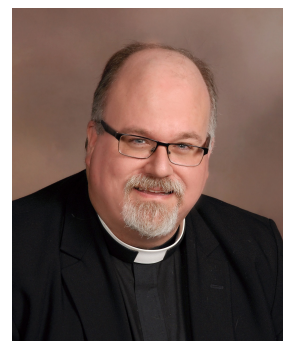
To donate: Call or text Melinda Reid at 903-366-6493 or email melreid@yahoo.com.

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General Conference 2016

The United Methodist Church's highest legislative body is called the "General Conference." It meets every four (4) years and is comprised of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates representing United Methodists all over the world. It meets to articulate the church's vision and objectives for the subsequent four years while also celebrating the ministries conducted in the previous quadrennium. It determines the principles, rules, organizational structure, and by-laws which govern the life of the denomination: it passes budgets for the boards and agencies which extend our common ministries together; it plans and funds missions and ministries that reach the entire world, sets the minimum requirements for ordained clergy while also outlining what their duties and responsibilities are; it affirms our doctrines, formulates our social principles, and gives our denomination direction and a unified voice. Unfortunately, when deeply contested and controversial matters take center-stage, the overall atmosphere of the event can be quite a bit less than "unified."



The 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church met May 10 – 20 in Portland, Oregon. As always there were many wonderful things that happened at the Conference. The worship services were uplifting, the sermons challenging and exciting, and the reports of lives being changed and Disciples of Jesus Christ being made all over the world were a blessing. Sadly, there were also several serious controversies which impacted the Conference's ability to effectively conduct its business. Everybody knew that the biggest issue was going to be that of the full inclusion of those in the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer+) community. For a very long time the United Methodist Church has called for full, equal rights in our society for all people, and that has included LGBTQ individuals; we simply haven't extended those rights to marriage within the church. The desire to push for their full inclusion has mounted over the past decades, and it came into the forefront in 2015 after the United States Supreme Court ruled that homosexuals have the civil right to access legal marriage in all 50 States. Many groups sent petitions to the General Conference calling for the removal of all discriminatory language against homosexuals from our Discipline; other groups, championing the conservative side, sent petitions calling for harsh penalties for those clergy who would do such weddings or, indeed, even for the expulsion of gays and lesbians from the life of the church. The church's supreme court (the Judicial Council) ruled some of the proposed legislation as out-of-line with the denomination's constitution before it ever made it to the floor for a vote; what remained promised to be a huge, contentious, acrimonious mess that promised to leave the Conference devastated, with little time to do anything else, and with nobody being happy with the result. How is this possible? As the vote tallies were already showing, the General Conference was nearly evenly divided between its conservative and progressive halves. Voices from both sides were openly using the words: "schism," "division," and "break-up" to describe their expectations of what would happen.

Rather than face such a disaster, the General Conference implored the Council of Bishops to take their duty to provide Temporal and Spiritual Leadership seriously and to provide a proposal to give us a "way forward. Their proposal was to set aside all proposed legislation on human sexuality and to call for a commission to study the matter and report to what would probably be a called special session of the General Conference (in 2018 or 2019) with the purpose of completely revising the Book of Discipline on these matters and settling the conflict in ways that would be acceptable to all sides. While not entirely agreeable to everybody, this plan was approved by the Conference. In other words, rumors of the break-up of The United Methodist Church are premature; indeed, there is hope that some resolution may be forthcoming within the next couple of years. Please pray for the Council of Bishops as they lead us forward, pray for the Commission which they are calling together to chart our path, and pray for a special session of the General Conference which may actually negotiate that path.

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



Congratulations TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

MICHAEL ELWELL WAS AWARDED THE KIBLER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AND THE EUNICE & ORPA DENNIS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP.

ERIN JENSEN WAS AWARDED THE LELAND & MARY CASEY SCHOLARSHIP AND THE EUNICE & ORPA DENNIS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP.

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



Worship

Sunday, June 5

Sunday, June 12

Sunday, June 19

Sunday, June 26

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

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Vice Ad Council Chair:

Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487

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:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Amy Stark (903) 246-3177

Lay Member:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly

(903) 886-8381



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 6/19, 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!

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
June 2 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES

RECYCLE

Saturday, June 4
9:00-11:00

At the intersection of
Walnut and Campbell Streets

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, June 20 by 9:00am****

May & June

MISSION of the MONTH

May drop-a-dollar and designated giving to the Commerce Boys & Girls Club Summer Day Camp is \$366 as of Sunday, May 22. Thank you all for your donations thus far! We have one more Sunday to give. The SERVE team has agreed to donate the difference to make the donation total \$500. Let's see if we can go beyond that! Or you can give in other ways by donating much needed school and art supplies (paper, glue, crayons, and markers) or volunteering your time for the summer or a special event. If interested, please contact Ashley Dupuis at adupuis@begreatnext.org.



The June Mission of the Month is the pastor's discretionary fund, which enables Pastor Greg to provide confidential financial support to persons in need.



#1 Way to Reuse Your Handled Bags

Donate to the Food 4 Kids program! Please drop your handled brown bags like the ones from Braum's by the church office. We need to build up a supply for when the program resumes in the Fall. Volunteers use the brown bags when NTFB-issued backpacks are not returned and eldest children need to carry home



FOOD 4 KIDS

multiple snack packs for themselves and younger eligible siblings. Sometimes backpacks are forgotten and sometimes they are repurposed as backpacks for their school supplies.

Volunteers Needed

*Will You Lend
a Hand?*



We need a volunteer or two to lend a hand or two to help our volunteers fold the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter and calendar. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (903) 886-3220.

Save the Date!



Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016
Family Ministry Center

UM ARMY

(United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) coming and going from FUMC Commerce this summer



A UM ARMY team will be leaving Commerce on June 20 to travel to Vernon and on June 26th youth from Wesley UMC Huntsville, Cypress UMC, Grand Prairie UMC, Franklin UMC, and FUMC Huntsville will arrive at FUMC Commerce for a one-week mission of service and worship. These groups will spend a week working on projects to assist homeowners who are unable to make repairs themselves.

Previous projects have included painting homes and churches, cleaning up yards, repairing fences, shoring up porches, digging drainage ditches, and building wheelchair ramps. The campers will also celebrate being the hands and feet of Christ with morning and lunch devotionals and evening worship and group activities. Using photos taken before camp, they will restore all the rooms and areas they use to their original condition before they leave.

Everyone who becomes involved with this effort—campers, supervisors, clients, and church members will report that the experience is transforming. Many volunteers and campers return year after year for the fellowship and spiritual uplift they receive.

If you would like to assist in this mission, you can help provide for the always-hungry teenagers who are going away and coming to camps this summer. For the Commerce group, you can bring the following items to church on June 19th:

- Cookies—Homemade cookies should be packaged two in a bag. Store-bought cookies can be left in their packages. Please do not send any with peanuts or other kinds of nuts.
- Chips- Individual packages for lunches
- Individual Gatorades and waters.

For the campers coming on the 26th the Connect and Serve teams will be hosting a welcome dinner on the night of the 26th in the Family Ministries Center. This is the most helpful thing we can do as most of the teams have unloading and setting up to do as soon as they arrive at church.

The menu will be taco salad, corn casserole, watermelon, and dessert. Sunday school classes have already volunteered to buy the meat, but you may help by signing up for any of the following items:

- Shredded lettuce and chopped tomatoes
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Chips
- Ranch Style beans (the really big cans)
- Picante (the really big containers of original flavor-not mild or chunky)
- Desserts-cake or cookies that can be served on a napkin-leftover cookies will be bagged for lunches

For the rest of the week individual chip packets for lunches, cookies (no nuts) and fruit, boxes of cereal, paper towels, individual drinks, and wet wipes will come in handy if you want to donate.

Some large cardboard boxes for recycling would also be useful. The camp creates a mountain of recycling so if you want to volunteer to haul it off during the week, that would be helpful.

If you want to help provide, prepare, or serve the welcome dinner (expecting to feed 120) please contact the church office or call Judy Rudoff (903.456.2412) or Susan Patton (903.886.4612). Participation in this event is 100% guaranteed to enrich your life!



Old Walls New Life

Wesleyan Campus Ministry has started a Capital Campaign for our existing building. Go to: www.zola.com/registry/ownl.

Over the past year WCM has been fundraising monies to pay for building repairs/upkeep, thank you to everyone who has contributed! As many of you know there is still a LOT of things that we need fixed. The Old Walls New Life campaign's site has an extensive list of needed repairs, wanted remodels and wish list items.



Some things are just broken. Other things will break soon. In some cases, our ministry has outgrown the resources. These repairs will help our ministry operate more smoothly and give a fresh look. We chose to host the repair campaign on zola.com because there are not surprise fees or advertisement. To process payments, this site adds 2.65% (phenomenally low cost).

Thanks to Emily Waddle, who did an amazing job setting up this site! The entire East District has been invited to contribute to this fundraising effort.

Thanks for your support,
Brian and the WCM Board



Electronic Giving: Fast, easy, & secure

Support the work of our church through Electronic Giving. Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically—you'll never have to remember your checkbook again!



UMW will meet **Tuesday, June 21** at 12:00pm for a covered dish luncheon. Jennifer Knight will bring the program about Little Ark. Our June project is the Food Pantry, so we will collect food pantry items.

All women are invited to join us!

In memory of...

Marilyn Jackson

By: Clarence & Kay Jensen

Helen Dickson

By: Lena Faulkner, Lynne & Suzanne

Dough Rollins SS Class

Harry & Rheba Icenhower

Jacqueline Garrett

Robert Garrett

Bobby & Kathy Hill

The Cranford Kids

Pat & Janet Skauge

Loretta Kibler

Clarence & Kay Jensen

Betty & Beth King

Kathleen Cozart

By: David & Luann Huffman

Pete & Mary Smith

Harry & Rheba Icenhower

Loretta Kibler

Clarence & Kay Jensen

Pete Robinson

By: Harry & Rheba Icenhower

Clarence & Kay Jensen

Do Heitholt

By: Pete & Mary Smith

Clarence & Kay Jensen

Kathy Benton

By: Clarence & Kay Jensen

Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Apr 27		10		
May 1	27	—	85	56
May 4		6		
May 8	27	—	93	58
May 11		10		
May 15	28	—	126	70
May 18		8		
May 22	29	—	76	42



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	as of April 30, 2016	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 25,275	\$115,961
Expenses:	\$ 37,263	\$118,328
	-\$11,988	-\$ 2,367

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, Jun 1	Psalm 146
Thursday, Jun 2	Psalm 146
Friday, Jun 3	Galatians 1:11-24
Saturday, Jun 4	Luke 7:11-17
Sunday, Jun 5	Luke 7:11-17
Monday, Jun 6	Luke 7:36-8:3
Tuesday, Jun 7	Luke 7:36-8:3
Wednesday, Jun 8	1 Kings 21:1-21a
Thursday, Jun 9	1 Kings 21:1-21a
Friday, Jun 10	Psalm 5:1-8
Saturday, Jun 11	Galatians 2:15-21
Sunday, Jun 12	Galatians 2:15-21
Monday, Jun 13	1 Kings 19:1-15a
Tuesday, Jun 14	Psalm 42
Wednesday, Jun 15	Psalm 42:9-11
Thursday, Jun 16	Galatians 3:23-29
Friday, Jun 17	Galatians 3:23-29
Saturday, Jun 18	Luke 8:26-39
Sunday, Jun 19	Luke 8:26-39
Monday, Jun 20	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Tuesday, Jun 21	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Wednesday, Jun 22	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Thursday, Jun 23	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Friday, Jun 24	Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Saturday, Jun 25	Luke 9:51-62
Sunday, Jun 26	Luke 9:51-62
Monday, Jun 27	2 Kings 5:1-8
Tuesday, Jun 28	2 Kings 5:9-14
Wednesday, Jun 29	Psalm 30
Thursday, Jun 30	Galatians 6:1-6



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Sidney Stewart (Ruth Warren's son-in-law)
Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother)

Continued Prayers:

Jean Arnold, Sally Grove, Dr. Mark Godat, Allie Underwood, Larry Chaloupka, Bill McCarthy (Brian Dierolf's family friend), Danny House, Jim Anderson, Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Bob McFatrige (Jessica Morgan's friend), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Gayle Shumate, Jack and Gladys Gray, Amy Novicke Cryan, Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Gladys Gray and Glenna Siebenhausen

The Haven (San Antonio): Lewis and 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 Danaycurce Childress
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-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



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office@fumcccommerce.org

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, June 20 by 9:00am