

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 11, Issue 3

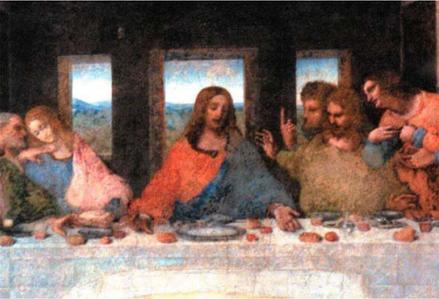
March 2013

Holy Week at FUMC Commerce:

A Service of Palms

Sunday, March 24

Worship in the Chapel at 8:45 am with gospel hymns and scripture;
at 9:45 am in the Chapel, celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday;
and at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary featuring special music by the Chancel
Choir, scripture, and prayer



Maundy Thursday worship

with Holy Communion
at 6:30pm in the Chapel
Thursday, March 28

A Good Friday Service in the manner of Taize

at 6:30pm in the Chapel
Friday, March 29



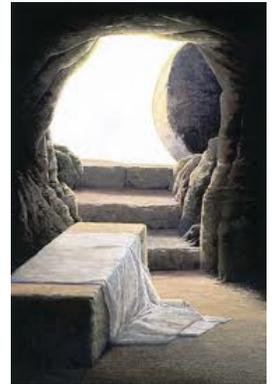
The Day of Resurrection: Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

Led by FUMC youth

Worship:

at 8:45 am in the Chapel
at 9:45 am in the Chapel, celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday
at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary featuring special music
by the Chancel Choir



Bring a breakfast treat to share! Fellowship and hospitality will be
ongoing in the Family Ministries Center throughout the morning.
Come fellowship and worship!



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24
2:00-4:00pm.

Bring your Easter basket and
get ready for the hunt!



*Easter lily orders will be
taken March 10-25. See
the insert in the
bulletin or call the church
office at 903-886-3220 to
reserve yours today.*

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Since moving to Commerce, I find that I have a bit more quiet time on my hands than I've experienced in the past. This is mostly because of my husband's business being in Dallas, and him needing to split his time between Dallas and Commerce. We're also empty-nesters, with our daughter making her way wonderfully in the world, so the raucous activity and schedules of a teenager have morphed into a different lifestage.

But there is something about Lenten silence that seems more, well, *silent*. Perhaps it's because the beginning of Lent is marked in such a definite way with Ash Wednesday. Perhaps it's the taking on of a specific practice that occurs no other time of year. For whatever reason, I find that I'm more aware of the silence around me, and the opportunities that present themselves in that silence for more prayer and introspection.

Tools for prayer and introspection may come from interesting and surprising sources, too. I've been drawn to the lyrics of Mumford & Sons, an English band that has made a big splash on American airwaves. There is something in their music that gives me pause. Consider these words from their song "Roll Away the Stone":

*'Cause you told me that I would find a hole
within that fragile substance of my soul,
And I have filled that void with things unreal,
and all the while my character it steals.'*

Those words hit a little too close to home this Lent, as I go deeper into the Carbon Fast some of us have taken on as a spiritual discipline this season. It's amazing how much space – both externally and internally – noise and stuff take up in our lives. How often has my stuff obscured the message of grace?

*'It seems that all my bridges have been burned,
But you say that's exactly how this grace thing works.
It's not the long walk home that will change this heart,
But the welcome I receive upon the restart.'*

Receiving God's welcome – that message of unconditional love and grace – is often more of a challenge for those us who have everything we need and want (or so we think). How much does it take to get us to attend to that cry within us that begs for relief and welcome?

Or rather – how much do we need to slough away from our busy lives so we can hear the groaning of the Spirit within us?

These questions, and others, don't have easy answers. But I'm happy to take Mumford & Sons' lyrics on the Lenten journey with me.

May you find a surprising source of Lenten inspiration –

God's peace –
Valarie

Did you know?

Cutting your shower time by three minutes can save 715 pounds of carbon and 5,500 gallons of fresh water per year.



Upcoming Worship

March 3

Luke 13:1-9

March 10

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 17

John 12:1-8

March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28

Maundy Thursday @ 6:30pm

March 29

Good Friday @ 6:30pm

March 31

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Linda King
(903) 886-3734

Property Chair:

Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
(903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Teresa Heatherly
(903) 886-7070
Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142

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, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, March 18 by 9:00am****



\$640.94 was raised for the Commerce Alliance of Ministry to support food assistance programs at the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 3.

Thanks to all

who participated in the pre-game potluck luncheon and special thanks to Kay and Clarence Jensen who brought team spirit to the Family Ministry Center with decorations.



Volunteer March 2nd on Recycling Day

Curious how this whole recycling thing works locally? Come learn by doing this Saturday at the City Wastewater Treatment Plant along FM 3218, south of Hydro Aluminum. Join fellow FUMC-C members on either of two shifts: 8:45am to 11am or 11am to 1pm. To sign up, call the church office at 903.886.3220. For more information about this initiative, contact Anne Mills.



2013 Lenten Offering

FUMC-C has a long tradition of giving generously through our special Lenten offering. This year, the Connect-Grow-Serve team invites you to continue to support the mission work of our church by designating your gift Easter Sunday, March 31. We will dedicate your gift and the dollar bills dropped in the offering plate during Lent to the North Texas Food Bank and to the youth summer mission trip.



A Member of Feeding America

Half of the Lenten offering will support the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB), which is the lifeline to food assistance programs here in Commerce. The Food 4 Kids backpacks that go home every Friday with food-insecure elementary school children and the bags of food that the Commerce Food Distribution clients receive twice a month come from the NTFB. And the Emergency Food Pantry is on the path to becoming a NTFB food assistance partner! Know that your gift will be used wisely. 94 cents of every donated dollar goes toward fulfilling the NTFB's mission. 6 cents goes toward administration/funding.

The other half of the Lenten offering will support FUMC-C youth in mission. Pastor Valarie and high school student are heading to Lake Dallas from June 23 to 29 with the U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth). They will combine their strengths to meet home repair and maintenance needs for low income, elderly, and disabled homeowners all the while deepening their Christian growth. Our youth will "camp" at an area United Methodist Church for the week just as U.M. ARMY campers will do so come July here in Commerce. Adult volunteers are needed to accompany our youth that week. Please talk to Pastor Valarie if you're interested.



SAVE THE DATE



From July 14 to 20, our church will again serve as base camp for the U.M. ARMY, which stands for United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth. A mission team of youth and adult volunteers will be sleeping, eating, worshiping, and calling

FUMC-Commerce "home" while they serve people in our community. Their projects will include home repairs and maintenance for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners. It's not too early to begin thinking of potential projects for these servants of God. There will also be opportunities to extend your hospitality during this special week. For more information, contact Angela Roberts.





Most of you are familiar with the folktale Stone Soup - a story of poor, weary travelers who wander into a town hoping to find a bite to eat. What they encounter, however, are distrusting villagers, unwilling to share what precious little they have. The clever travelers are able to coax the villagers out from behind their locked doors and, in the end, they all learn that with the secret ingredients - kindness and generosity - there is always plenty to go around!



A few weeks ago, we read this story at M&M and decided that we, too, have plenty to share! Each child brought one ingredient, and together we had enough to make 6 gallons of delicious vegetable stew for Meals on Wheels, and we provided one gallon for the FUMC Souper Bowl of Caring!





VBS 2013

We are already looking forward to this summer and VBS 2013. Our VBS dates are June 17th-21st. This year's theme is "God's Everywhere Fun Fair". We'll be taking the kids on a whirlwind tour around the world! We've come up with an early list (and I'm sure there will be more to come!) of items that could be helpful as we prepare to set the stage for the fun this summer! Needs for VBS 2013:

- Old white (flat) sheets (that can be cut &/or painted)
- Paper lanterns
- Any decorating items (flags, posters, souvenirs, etc....) from: Japan, Mexico, Australia, Zimbabwe, or The United Kingdom
- Any decorating items that could create a carnival/fair atmosphere (balloons, ticket booths, old popcorn cart, etc....)



Bishop's Rally

The FUMC 5th and 6th graders – and many of their friends had an amazing weekend! Alison, Sabrina Green, and Alicia Wittkopf accompanied 21 kids to the North Texas Conference's annual event, "The Bishop's Rally".

We traveled to Treitch Memorial UMC and spent the day with 5th-7th graders from churches across the Conference. We worshipped, sang, played games, ate, and participated in an UMCOR flood bucket mission project. We were able to meet the Bishop, Mike McKee, and even got to visit with our old friends, former Associate Pastor Aleze Fulbright and her son Myron! What an uplifting day it was – and what an amazing group of kids!!



First Thursday Honors 80+
The First Thursday Potluck luncheon group honored everyone in the church who is 80 years old and above.



Mary Lou Heatherly, Alta Fay Peden, and Loretta Kibler enjoying a bite in-between hostess duties.



Madeline Sullivan and Priscilla McFarland are all smiles.



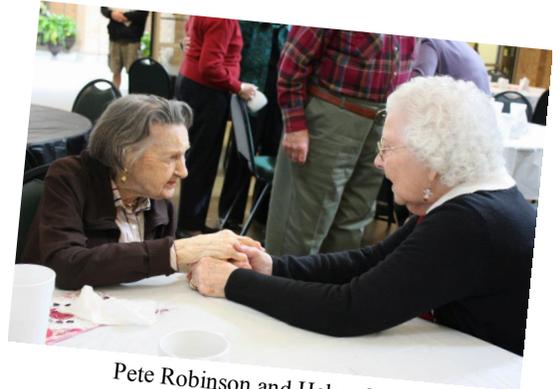
Bob and Sally Grove and Helen Dickson



Mary Dye and Nell Avery



Steve Siebenhausen



Pete Robinson and Helen Cole



Between Margaret Floyd and Euple Walker, there are 186 years of wisdom!



Harry Icenhower and Joe McMahan



UMW will meet **Tuesday, March 19** at 10:00am. Our March project is: Nursing Home Bingo Prizes, sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small). **All women are invited to join us!**

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



In memory of...

Gary Kibler

By: Pete & Mary Smith
Keith & Nancy McFarland

Bill Terrell

By: Elnora H. Geer
Mary Jane Williams
William & Carolyn Scherrer
Frieda Branom & Geraldine Branom
Harry & Rheba Icenhower
Joe & Mary Louise McMahan
Roger & Jean Arnold
Mary Casey
Steve Siebenhausen
Dick & Brenda Latson
Ronald & Kathy Roberts
Ed & Rue Abdelhak
John & Betty King
The Keith Bearden Family
Jim & Cindy Dustin



Attendance

	Early	9:45	Late	SS
Feb 3	21	13	111	71
Feb 10	23	11	100	68
Feb 17	18	8	100	76
Feb 24	20	14	105	72

Financial Update: General Operating Fund as of January 31, 2013

Income: \$ 28,157
Expenses: \$ 30,935
-\$ 2,778



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:

- Friday, Mar 1 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 13
- Saturday, Mar 2 Luke 13:1-5
- Sunday, Mar 3 Luke 13:6-9
- Monday, Mar 4 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-19
- Tuesday, Mar 5 Joshua 5:9-12
- Wednesday, Mar 6 Luke 15:20-21; Psalm 32:1-7
- Thursday, Mar 7 Luke 15:25-32
- Friday, Mar 8 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
- Saturday, Mar 9 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
- Sunday, Mar 10 Luke 15:22-24; Psalm 32:8-11
- Monday, Mar 11 Isaiah 43:16-21
- Tuesday, Mar 12 Psalm 126
- Wednesday, Mar 13 John 12:1-8
- Thursday, Mar 14 Philippians 3:4b-14
- Friday, Mar 15 Philippians 3:4b-14
- Saturday, Mar 16 Isaiah 43:16-21
- Sunday, Mar 17 Psalm 126
- Monday, Mar 18 Psalm 118:1-2
- Tuesday, Mar 19 Psalm 118:1-2
- Wednesday, Mar 20 Psalm 118:19-29
- Thursday, Mar 21 Luke 19:28-34
- Friday, Mar 22 Luke 19:28-40
- Saturday, Mar 23 Luke 19:37-40; Psalm 118:21-23
- Sunday, Mar 24 John 12:1-11
- Monday, Mar 25 John 12:20-36
- Tuesday, Mar 26 John 13:21-31
- Wednesday, Mar 27 John 13:21-31
- Thursday, Mar 28 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Friday, Mar 29 John 18:1-18
- Saturday, Mar 30 John 19:38-42
- Sunday, Mar 31 John 20:1-18



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss. Condolences to...

The Family of Bailey Sparks (Rev. Carol Sparks' 2-month old grandson)

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

Sue Taylor, Wyatt Bourcy (Bob & Sally Grove's friend's grandson), Cindy Klingbeil, Gene Casselberry, Mack Andrews, Bob Grove, James Teel, Pat Skauge, Melissa Wal-droup, Jim Schnutt, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother), Glenda Helton (Jeff Helton's sister-in-law), Becky Bosque (the Englerts' friend), Braden Murray (little boy with leukemia in Waco area), Ralph & Alma Moyer, Josh Madena, Clay Yeager, Lana Fallis, Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's daughter-in-law), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Louella McIntyre, Sharon Brewton, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Sam Duckworth, Ray Sandifer, Jim and Diane Price, Billy Guinn, Chris Sterzik (Shelley Jackson's son-in-law), Sondra Feduccia, Frederick Lucas, Pam Allgood, Kay Webber, Judy Greenwood, George O'Kelley

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, and Jessie Short

*"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 nd Marine Division	Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey	Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton	Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker (Korea)-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law	
Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law	
Jason Timmons-seriously injured, recovering	
Ensign Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Christopher Kendrick-Navy (Helen Rowe's friend)	
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother	
Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson	
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son	
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson	
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith	
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor	
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law	
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe- Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins	
Garrett Johnson	



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, March 18 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 50
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert