

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 13, Issue 3

March 2015



FUMC-Commerce invites you to begin Holy Week with your church family...

All Church

Palm Sunday Luncheon

**Sunday, March 29 12:00 Noon
at Under the Oaks**

Bob and Julie McLeroy's Barn
(directions below)



Bring: A picnic side dish to share
(The Connect Team will provide the meat and beverages.)

Activities for all:

- o Hymn Singing
- o Kite flying
- o Washers
- o Croquet
- o Board games
- o Relaxing under the lovely oaks



Directions to Under the Oaks:

Take Highway 11 East towards Sulphur Springs. After passing A.C. Williams Elementary, the house is approximately 1.5 miles on the left. You will see a black pipe fence. Turn left in the drive. The house is white with red trim. The barns are located behind the house. Bob will direct the parking as members arrive.

Shuttles will run between the church and the McLeroy's if you would like to check out the new church bus!

Mark your Calendar!

April 19, 2015

Dr. Vic Casad, our District Superintendent, will be preaching at both services!

May 3, 2015

Rev. Dennis Wilkinson will be with us for a special Sunday, one service only (11 am), with a luncheon reception following the service.

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Lent and Belly Button Lint By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



When I was a precocious little boy of five, before I learned how to spell “lint,” I thought that “Lent” was the fuzz found in my belly button. It was never there in the morning, when I got dressed, but at night, when I took off my clothes, I usually found a small scrap of lint in my navel. My mother will probably kill me for saying this, but I can remember her telling me that an angel had put it there to remind all little boys to take their baths at night. I must have believed that the “lint angel” was related to the tooth fairy because I would put my lint under my pillow before going to bed at night, even though no money ever appeared in the morning.

As I got a little older, I discovered that “lint” was also what my Mom called the blue-white stuff that she took out of a special slot in the dryer door and threw away. Its origin was as much a mystery to me as was “belly button lint;” after all, it wasn’t there when you put the clothes in the dryer, but it was when you took them out! One day, Dad explained to me that dryer-lint was “left-over clothing,” but that theory was never satisfying to me. (Confidentially, I have developed my own solution to this particular mystery. I believe that dryer-lint may be the remains of that proverbial sock which the dryer always seems to eat to ensure that I don’t have a matching pair in the morning.)

When I got old enough to understand what was going on at Church, I learned that “Lent” was also a term that popped up just before the Easter Bunny came. Well, you don’t have to be told what a little boy’s imagination did with that one! The one thing I was sure of was that Lent was not a happy time in Church, and everybody seemed to be expecting me to beat on myself for all the bad things I had done. Well, as long as Mom and Dad didn’t find out, I was happy.

The mystery of Lent is an on-going saga in the Church. Every year, the 40 days prior to Easter (not counting Sundays!) are set aside as a period of self-examination and preparation. During these days it is appropriate for us to spend some time considering our lives, our Christian walk, our dreams and aspirations. When I was a child, I thought that meant that we were to “beat on ourselves” because we had done so many bad things. But, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, “beating on ourselves” is absolutely the wrong thing to do during Lent.

As a boy I couldn’t separate the same-sounding words “lint” and “Lent,” and confusion reigned as result; today, many Christians – not just little boys with overactive imaginations – are confused about the Lenten Season. We’re not supposed to feel bad in this season. We not supposed to be depressed about our failure to follow God as faithful disciples. We are not even supposed to focus upon our sins, which drove our Lord to the cross. We are supposed to focus upon the cross, and upon the One who hung upon the cross, for us. Yes, we crucified Jesus, but recognizing this should compel us to look at why Jesus came in the first place!

Why did Jesus come? Why was he incarnate in human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary? Why did he grow up, hammering nails in the carpenter’s shop? Why did he gather the disciples and preach and teach about the coming Kingdom of God? Why was he nailed to the cross? Why did he suffer and die? God the Son became one of us, taught us, and then died for us because God loves us all so very much. We separated ourselves from God through our sins, making it impossible for us to reach God. And so, in Love, God reached across the gap we had dug to reclaim us as children. God became flesh, dwelt among us, died for us, and was raised from the dead for us because God loves us.

My mother has a wooden plaque on her kitchen wall at home. On it is a picture of Jesus, standing in the clouds, and underneath are the words:

I asked Jesus how much he loved me, and he said “This much” ... and he stretched out his arms and died.

I can never shake these words from my mind. They echo through my head whenever I “survey the wondrous cross.” That God would give the Divine Son to die for us really goes beyond our ability to understand. It is part of the mystery of Lent, a mystery which we experience each and every Sunday when we come to hear the Word proclaimed, pray, and receive the blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion. The mystery of God’s real presence, with us and within us through the power of the Holy Spirit, is a glorious mystery which we proclaim as a forgiven people. It is a promise of Divine presence which God desires to give to all the world, if only they will receive the gift which was offered, so long ago, on Calvary.

In Lent we are called to examine our lives while keeping our eyes fixed upon the cross and upon the One who died for us there. Instead of focusing on ourselves as we engage in this self-examination, let’s focus upon Christ!

Oh, and a final word to all the little boys and girls out there with big imaginations: “lint” is not “Lent.” They’re not even spelled the same way. But, you should still take the lint out of your belly button.

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." John 21:12 (MSG)



**Last Saturday Breakfast(LSB)
Community Gathering**

Free Breakfast

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Fresh Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Coffee



Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

**Saturdays,
February & March 28, 2015
9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
1504 Lee Street, Commerce

The Chancel Choir is volunteering to prepare and serve the meal in February. The Friendship Class is volunteering in March.



Get ready for a WEEKEND VBS!

We are excited to announce G-FORCE, a weekend VBS for 2015 that is all about God's LOVE in ACTION.

It will be Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21. (Please see website for times)

www.fumccommerce.org

Please consider volunteering this year, it is sure to be a great time!

Bridgeport Summer Camps!

Dates: July 28 - Aug 1	Children's Camp (C-4) Check-in: 3:00 P.M.	Completing Grades 3-5 Max 220*	Registration Fee: \$300 Early Bird \$350 After 2/28/15
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Registration is now open for Bridgeport Children's Camps. I highly suggest **registering early**. I have talked to the Camp, and they are filling up fast. You can register online using the instructions enclosed on the other side of this page.

We are in need of some **volunteer counselors**. If you would be interested in having an amazing time with the kids at camp this year, please let me know.

Joanna Thrift
Director of Children Ministries



\$1,000 Given to Help Tackle Hunger Locally

Our Souper Bowl of Caring potluck and drop-a-dollar giving in February raised \$683 to support food assistance programs serving our community. The Serve team voted to designate \$317 of mission funds to bring the grand total to \$1,000, which allows the church to issue \$250 to each of the following organizations: North Texas Food Bank, Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH, Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Church of the Nazarene, and Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce.

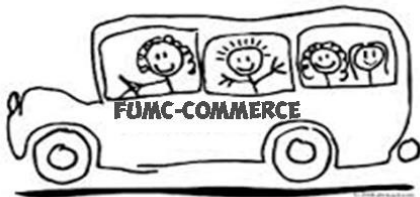


Around 100 stayed to sample the variety of soups during the Super Bowl pre-game potluck luncheon

Special thanks to Kay and Clarence Jensen who brought team spirit and humor to the Family Ministry Center with decorations



CHURCH BUS



The church now has a new vehicle to transport children and adults. This vehicle is known as a "Multi Function Student Activity Bus" or MFSAB. This bus is just like a school bus from a safety standpoint except that it doesn't have the flashing stop lights and the pop-out stop sign.

Since this bus only carries 14 passengers, the driver does not have to have a commercial driver's license. However, it is recognized that driving this bus is much different than driving a personal vehicle or even a van like the one the church has been using.

To assure safety, drivers will be required to undergo a certain amount of training before driving this bus with passengers. Being unable to find a simple MFSAB training program, it has been decided that drivers should review the insurance carrier's 15 passenger training video. Although not perfect, it does cover a lot of points that apply to the MFSAB. Also, a simple driving exercise has been devised to expose drivers to most of the things they are likely to experience.

DRIVERS MUST COMPLETE THESE TWO SIMPLE EXERCISES BEFORE DRIVING THE BUS WITH PASSENGERS.

Potential drivers are encouraged to begin this process as soon as possible and are encouraged to make arrangements to drive the bus around the parking lot or around town to gain experience on their own.

2015 Lenten Offering



FUMC-C has a tradition of giving generously through our annual Lenten offering. Your Serve team invites you to continue your generous support for this year's offering, a fund for upcoming U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) and Proyecto Abrigo mission trips. Lenten gifts and all dollar bills dropped in the offering plate through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015, will ensure our continued participation in these vital missions.

Our church's previous accomplishments and upcoming plans for these mission trips include:

- o Mark & Melinda Reid, Jim & Susan Patton, and Rebekah Shumway led a group of high school students to Lubbock in July for a week of spiritual and personal growth. They also developed skills they never new they had as they met home repair and maintenance needs for low income, elderly, and disabled homeowners. Adult volunteers are urgently needed to accompany a group this summer! For more information call Melinda Reid at 903.366.6493 or email melreid@yahoo.com.
- o Pastor Marc led volunteers from the Wesleyan Campus Ministry and the congregation over winter break to the impoverished community of Tierra Nueva on the outskirts of Juarez, Mexico. Under the guidance of skilled maestros, they worked alongside the Villanueva family to build a new 12' x 24' cinderblock home and experienced God through one another. Pastor Marc is ready to return! Contact him at marc@fumccommerce to learn more.



Youth upon arrival in Lubbock for U.M. ARMY



Mission team with the Villanueva family after the blessing of their new home in Mexico

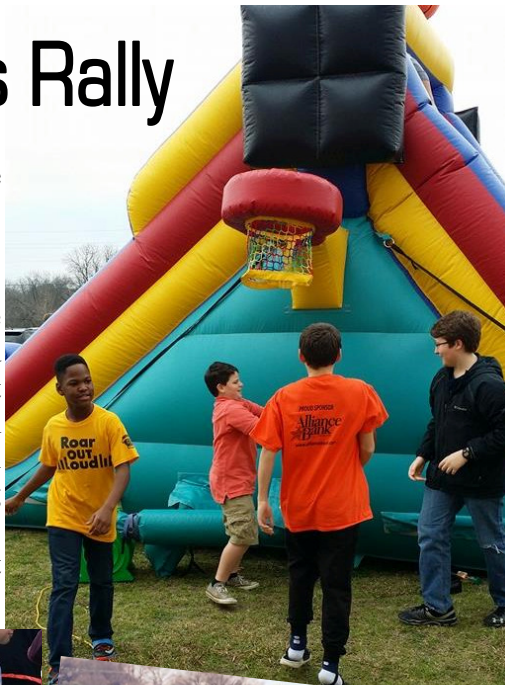
As you share your financial gifts, consider sharing yourself by participating in one or both of these missions. If you are interested in helping with other missions throughout the year, please contact your Serve Chair, Angela Roberts, at 972-765-6547.



The participants in our monthly communion service at Country Home Estates

2015 NTC Bishop's Rally

Our FUMC-Commerce Tweens (Grades 5-7) celebrated our spiritual gifts with Bishop McKee at the Bishop's Rally 2015 on Sunday, Feb 15. Twelve of our youth traveled to FUMC-Plano and joined with others from all over our conference to worship, eat pizza, zip-line! We got to know our Bishop through a Question and Answer session and worked on a mission project to build Little Libraries full of books for children to enjoy across our conference. Our youth played, laughed and experienced the joy being part of a vital, loving Christian community. Thank you to FUMC-Commerce for your support of opportunities like these for our young people!



Worship

Sunday, March 1
 Sunday, March 8
 Sunday, March 15
 Sunday, March 22
 Sunday, March 29
 Palm Sunday

8:45am ~ Chapel
 11:00am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist
 Wednesdays
 @ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Gene Lockhart
 (903) 886-3498

Lay Leader:

John Heatherly
 (903) 886-7070

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood
 (903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Jim Brown
 (903) 886-7439

Finance Chair:

Gil Naizer
 (903) 886-1961

FUMC Foundation

President:

Anne Mills
 (903) 886-6792

Connect Team Chair:

Melinda Reid
 (903) 886-7623

Grow Team Chair:

TBD

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts
 (903) 886-2142

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 3/15, 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!



UM ARMY needs a few good men and women!

Our youth are hoping to find a couple of adult volunteers to go on a life-changing mission

trip with them this summer. It could be you!! If you feel even a glimmer of interest in taking part in this wonderful program, call (903-336-6493) or email Melinda Reid (melreid@yahoo.com) for more details.

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

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, March 16 by 9:00am****

Service Saturday the 7th

Putting Our Faith in Action

Saturday, March 7

Meet at church at 8:30 a.m.

Projects will be around the community

Childcare available

Check your e-mail and Facebook for more information or contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547



UMW will meet **Tuesday, March 17** at 10:00am.

Our March Nursing Home Bingo Prizes: sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small).

All women are invited to join us!

In memory of...

Marjorie Dreher

By: Kay & Clarence Jensen
Judy Rudoff

Steve Culberson

By: Harry & Rheba Icenhower

Betty Robinson

By: Kay & Clarence Jensen



Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Jan 28		13		
Feb 1	23	—	103	85
Feb 4		10		
Feb 8	35	—	93	67
Feb 11		11		
Feb 15	33	—	126	76
Feb 18		10		
Feb 22	39	—	93	58

Financial Information General Operating Fund

as of January 31, 2015

Income: \$ 27,766
Expenses: \$ 30,272
-\$ 2,506



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:

Sunday, Mar 1	Mark 8:34-38
Monday, Mar 2	Psalm 19:1-6
Tuesday, Mar 3	Psalm 19:7-14; Exodus 20:1-17
Wednesday, Mar 4	Exodus 20:4-6
Thursday, Mar 5	John 2:13-22
Friday, Mar 6	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Saturday, Mar 7	Psalm 19
Sunday, Mar 8	Reread the week's scripture that most spoke to you
Monday, Mar 9	Numbers 21:4-9
Tuesday, Mar 10	Psalm 107:1-3
Wednesday, Mar 11	Psalm 107:17-22
Thursday, Mar 12	Psalm 107:20
Friday, Mar 13	Ephesians 2:1-7
Saturday, Mar 14	Ephesians 2:8-10
Sunday, Mar 15	John 3:14-21
Monday, Mar 16	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Tuesday, Mar 17	Jeremiah 31:33-34
Wednesday, Mar 18	Psalm 51:1-5
Thursday, Mar 19	Psalm 51:6-12
Friday, Mar 20	Hebrews 5:5-10
Saturday, Mar 21	John 12:20-26
Sunday, Mar 22	John 12:27-33
Monday, Mar 23	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Tuesday, Mar 24	Psalm 118:19-24
Wednesday, Mar 25	Psalm 118:1-2, 25-29
Thursday, Mar 26	Mark 11:1-3
Friday, Mar 27	Mark 11:4-7
Saturday, Mar 28	Mark 11:8-11, 15-18
Sunday, Mar 29	Psalm 118:26-29; Mark 11:8-10
Monday, Mar 30	Psalm 36:5-11
Tuesday, Mar 31	Psalm 71:1-14; John 12:20-36



Prayer Lists

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

The Family of Melba Rushing
The Family of Rev. John Besse

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

DDeby Leos, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Buck Johnson, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Andrea Watson, Delores Smith, Johnnie Robertson, Lois Cranford, James Tucker (Judy and Dennis Anderson's friend), Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), David Polk, Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Doris Kerbow, Norma McNew, Clyde Robnett, Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Christians in the Middle East

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Dorothy Ingram, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, Euple Walker, and Jean Ward

Briarcliff: Jean Funderburk and Glenna Siebenhausen

Laurell's Retirement Home: Lewis and Faye Jackson

Wesley House (Sulphur Springs): Jo Parker

*"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
Mike Dempsey-Basic Training
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
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

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcccommerce.org

office@fumcccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, March 16 by 9:00am**

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