

First United Methodist Church

Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 3

March 2018

HOLY WEEK AT FUMC COMMERCE:



A Service of Palms
Sunday, March 25
hip in the Changlet 8:

Worship in the Chapel at 8:45am and at 10:50am in the Sanctuary

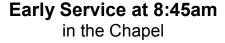


A Service of the Lord's Supper Thursday, March 29 at 6pm in the Chapel

A Service led by WCM Friday, March 30 at 6pm in the Chapel







Late Service at 10:50am in the Sanctuary

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

Come fellowship and worship!



Joining Sunday at First United Methodist Church Commerce

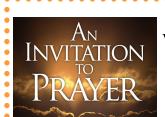
Joining Sunday

If you've not officially joined the congregation at FUMC Commerce, and would like to do so, we've got an opportunity for YOU!

Palm Sunday March 25, 2018

Meet with the pastor for coffee and light refreshments in the Family Ministry Center during the Sunday School hour to talk about the church and to ask any questions you may have bout the UMC in the general or specifically about FUMC Commerce.

We also extend this invitation to those who have worshipped with us for years but have not made membership "official." There's no time like the present!



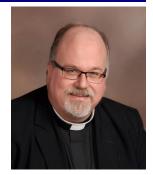
Prayer Vigil Wed., Feb. 28 @ 5:30pm Wed., Mar. 28 @ 6pm in chapel

You are invited to come together for a half-hour of focused prayer for our church.

Inside this issue: Pastor's Article pq. 2 The Light, Upcoming Worship pg. 3 Committee Chairs, Prayer Chain Min. pg. 3 Palm Sunday Luncheon, Easter Egg Hunt Children's Dept.: Choir, SS, LA, VBS pg. 5 pg. 4 Youth Confirmation WCM pq. 7 pg. 6 Serve pp. 8&9 Shrove Tuesday Pics, Announcements pg. 10 Prayer List Announcements, Numbers, Scriptures pq. 11 pq. 12

The Sayings of Jesus from the Cross by Dr. Gregory S. Neal

During the Season of Lent we will be looking at what is known in Christian tradition as "The Seven Last Words from the Cross." These are actually phrases, sentences, prayers, and scripture citations that Jesus uttered while he was dying upon the cross and which were recorded in at least one of the four canonical Gospels. Three of them appear only in the Gospel of Luke, three appear only in the Gospel of John, and one appears only in the Gospels of Mark and Matthew. They are:



- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34)
- "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)
- "Behold your son: behold your mother" (John 19:26-27)
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34)
- "I Thirst" (John 19:28)
- "It is finished" (John 19:30)
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Our Sunday messages during Lent will focus upon these last sayings of Jesus in order to see what we can discern about our Lord's self-understanding and experience. In the process it is my prayer that we will also discover a little bit about ourselves: about our relationship with God and with each other.

By the time you read this we will have already examined two of these saying: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" and "Today you will be with me in paradise." Regarding the first of these sayings, we learned that Jesus prayed for those who were killing him, as they were killing him, that they would be forgiven. This prayer for forgiveness extends even to us, for we put Jesus to death through our own sins just as assuredly as the Romans drove the nails into his flesh or the Sanhedrin sentenced him to death. It is through this prayer of our Lord that we can find, exemplified, God's grace and the power of the cross to redeem: the one who sacrificed himself for us offered this prayer even amidst his own suffering, thinking not of himself but of others. Truly, that is amazing grace!

In the second saying, we learned that Jesus' promise to the thief on the cross is one that we also must hear: when Jesus says "today you will be with me in paradise" we are reminded that salvation isn't a prize that we attain in the future but, rather, a way life for *today* which sees us even through death and into eternity. We, like the thief on the cross, simply have to recognize who Jesus is and ask him: "Remember me, when you come into your kingdom." This is also a logical progression from the word of forgiveness: we go from Jesus praying for us to be forgiven to Jesus promising us that he will be with us. Even when the circumstances are difficult, the pain is real, and the future appears bleak, Jesus assures us that we will not go through our "dark night of the soul" alone: God is right here, suffering with us, and so we have nothing to fear for paradise is ours.

Come to worship and join us in our Lenten journey through these seven last words from the cross. We would love to see you there.



Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 1pm
in the Friendship Room.

We're working our way through the Book of Genesis. If you've not yet joined us, it's never too late to start! There's always room for more!



We need scripture readers! Being a scripture reader is a great opportunity to serve the church. If you are interested in reading scripture in our 10:50am service, please contact the church office at 903-886-3220.



Contemporary Service

Sundays @ 6pm in the Family Ministry Center

Come observe Lent with us at The Light as we draw close to the cross of Jesus and tell the story of our

salvation in emotional and passionate worship. Pastor Greg and Pastor Brian will be taking us into the heart and mind of Christ each week as we examine his last words on the cross. You are invited to join us we consider what these words tell us about God's love and mercy for humankind and what they mean for us as followers of Jesus. Check out the schedule below, and don't forget to be part of our first Sunday potluck on March 4 at 5:00. Bring a dish, bring a friend, bring your appetite!

This month at The Light:

- o Sunday, March 4: "Behold your son; behold your mother" (John 19:26-27)
- Sunday, March 11: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
- o Sunday, March 18: "I thirst" and "It is finished" (John 19:28, 30)
- Sunday, March 25: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

Prayer Chain Ministry

We are looking for people who love to pray! If you feel God calling you to pray for your family, friends, others, our church, and our world, if you are graced by God as a pray-er, or if you just want to try, then please take this



opportunity to join our new Prayer Chain Ministry

We are looking for someone who would be willing to:

- work closely with Pastor Greg in setting up this ministry of prayer,
- organize the prayer chains, and
- start the prayer requests down each chain as they come in to the office or pastoral staff.

We're looking for caring souls who are willing to be vital links in our Prayer Chains, who would be willing to pray and write note cards of encouragement and blessing to those for whom we are praying. Put simply, we're looking for YOU!

Please contact Pastor Greg, Pastor Brian, or the church office if you would like to participate in this vital Prayer Ministry!

upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 4

Sunday, March 11

Sunday, March 18

Sunday, March 25
Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 30 Good Friday

8:45am ~ Chapel 10:50am ~ Sanctuary 6:00pm ~ Family Ministry Center

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lav 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

Connect Team Chair:

Dr. Greg Neal (972) 953-7866

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, March 20 by 9:00am



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

All Church **Palm Sunday Luncheon** Sunday, March 25 12:30pm

Bob and Julie McLerov's Barn (directions below)

at Under the Oaks



Bring:

- A picnic side dish to share (The Connect/Grow Team will provide the meat and beverages.)
- Games to play (e.g., crochet, bag toss, horseshoes)
- Kites to fly

Activities for all:

- The official FUMC-C Easter Egg Hunt
- Hayride



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.









- The Children's Choir will wave palms and sing in the Palm Sunday 10:50am service.
- The Children's Choir performed at Oak Manor on Valentine's Day.





Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:40am** and each evening at 6:00pm.

This month's theme is "In the Name of the Lord."

Our Bible verse: Matthew 21:9—Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



* Our Bible verse for March: Luke 12:34—"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be

* Little Ark celebrated Valentine's

Day with parties in both preschool and Pre-K. Our amazing parents showed us love by providing lunch for all of the teachers.

* Pre-K celebrated the letter S by visiting Commerce Elementary School. They stopped and read with Ms. Harris' first grade class.

*Little Ark will be closed on Friday, March 16th for Spring Break and Friday, March 30th for Good Friday.





VBS 2018:

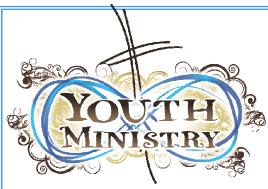
Rolling River Rampage

Mon, June 18- Fri, June 22 5pm-8pm

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! This year's VBS theme will be Rolling River Rampage!! The dates are June 18-22 and will take place from 5-8 each evening.

We need volunteers for stations, as shepherds, and groups to provide meals and drinks for each evening. For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at shelly@fumccommerce.org.

First United Methodist Church Commerce



We are delighted to announce that Nevin Jackson will be serving as our church's Youth Minister. Nevin has been leading worship at The Light here at FUMC Commerce since October; prior to that, he served for over a decade as Youth Minister at First United Methodist Church in Wolfe City, Texas, overseeing the growth and development of that church's youth ministry into a thriving program. Nevin is one of the adult members of the North Texas Conference Council on Youth Ministries and is the adult representative from the East District to that committee.

He has helped direct camps and youth retreats in the North Texas Conference and has served for the last two summers as the Music and Worship Director at Texas Youth Academy, a two-week summer program for high school youth sponsored by the Texas Conference. He is excited to begin working in ministry alongside the youth of our church and getting to know them and their families! Watch the bulletins and listen for announcements for more news about the youth ministry; in the meantime, you can contact Nevin by email at nevin@fumccommerce.org or by call/text at 903.461.9752.

Save the Date! ONE Youth Event: April 29, 2018

ONE is a can't-miss opportunity for our confirmands through senior high youth on Sunday, April 29, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at First UMC Rockwall.

ONE will offer great food, fun games, youth-led worship and powerful discussion. Rev. Ray Jordan will lead us in engaging our differences and the filters we put on our stories.

Look for sign up information soon.





The 2018 Confirmation Class participated in an afternoon of fun, games, and faith at Christ UMC in Plano. Bishop McKee shared his thoughts on confirmation, the future for our youth, and the creation of all boys and girls in the image of God.



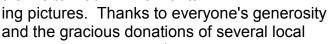
Pictured are Sally Walker, Rachel Pearce, Holly White, Carrigan Oats, Mcclaine Clark, Bree Swinson, Matthew Liston, Sam Underwood, and Oliver Roberts.



TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

Thanks FUMC for showing your love of the Wesleyan!

On the Sunday before Valentine's Day, the Wesleyan had an extremely successful fundraiser. An enormous THANK YOU to all those you participated, donated, provided silent auction items, helped cook, set up, clean up, etc. A special thanks to Robin Elwell for tak-



businesses we raised over \$1,500!!!





Everyone enjoyed the spaghetti dinner the students prepared. It was a joy to hear testimonies from David Kemp and Mikey Elwell as they both shared how much the Wesleyan means. Because of their experiences at the Wesleyan and FUMC, both students are starting to consider discerning a call to ministry!!! Oh and by the way David Owsley, Co-Assistant Campus Minister, could not be at the event because he is now serving Poetry UMC as

Senior Pastor! Thanks to your support, the Wesleyan is not only making

disciples, we are raising up Pastors!

THANK YOU and May God continue to Bless our ministry together!

Brian WCM Pastor & FUMC Associate Pastor





When you make a contribution by check, please make payable to FUMC. You can make your designation (e.g., WCM, pastor's discretionary fund, Children's Department, Drop a Dollar) in the "Memo" line. Our bank will not accept checks unless they are payable to FUMC.



Proyecto Abrigo Mission Trip Update

Where can you go for \$30 per day that includes your lodging and three meals a day? Proyecto Abrigo! That's where! All you need is a willing spirit, your passport, \$150 (\$30 per day for 5 days), and expense money for meals and incidentals on the 2 travel days (going and coming home). This is a trip of a

lifetime and THE trip for you! Your life will be enriched beyond measure. There are 3 generous scholarships available for the full amount needed. There are no age limits. So pack your bag, grab some sleeping gear, and let's go! You can text or call Jan Helton at 903-450-7335 or email jheltons@hotmail.com for more information. Departure date is Sunday, March 11, and return is Friday, March 16. Please prayerfully consider blessing a family in Juarez with your presence. If you go, we can build it! (Apologies to Kevin Costner!)

We are very nearly there, but more is still needed. Funds will be accepted right up until the very last moment! Superintendent Vic Cassad commented, and rightly so, that this church has always had a heart for supporting this mission. Many, many thanks to all who have so generously contributed thus far to the building costs of the home for a needy family in Juarez, Mexico. The financial outpouring of this church to the mission has been very gracious indeed. We just need that last third to meet the goal.

Gifts of soccer balls, coloring books, crayons, toothbrushes, travel sizes of toothpaste (or even full size tubes), vitamins, children's cough syrup, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, ace bandages (even clean used ones), pregnancy tests, or any other medical supplies will be welcome. Many, many thanks to those of you who have already provided such gifts. A very special thank you goes to Karla Roffe for her gifts of time, yarn, and knitting skills to provide the children of Mexico with a plethora of handmade mittens. Gifts of tools such as trowels or shovels will also be welcome.

Blessings on you, FUMC-Commerce!!! We can DO this!!!

What is U.M. ARMY?

U. M. ARMY stands for United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth. U. M. ARMY began in 1979 with a youth mission trip to Athens, Texas, where youth groups from several Houston churches gathered to provide home repair assistance to people in need.

Today this organization has grown to more than 30 separate missions throughout East and Southeast Texas with over 3,500 youth and adult volunteers annually. The mission is two-fold: serving people in need, and providing young people an opportunity to mature in their faith-walk and life skills through Christian service.

The mission is accomplished every summer when thousands of youth and adult volunteers sacrifice a week of their vacation to join God's ARMY. Using a local Methodist church as a base where they gather to have their meals, sleep in classrooms, and worship in the Sanctuary, participants spend each day of the week providing free home repairs for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners in the surrounding area.

Our church will be the host to a group of God's ARMY this summer, July 22-28, 2018. And our community will benefit from their service projects. Please mark your calendars, as there will be many ways to support the campers while they are here.

U.M. ARMY (continued)

U.M. ARMY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Participant fees and individual donations provide a large part of the budget for mission operational costs and administrative overhead. Individual donations and in-kind donations of building materials and food are another important source of funding that helps keep participant fees as low as possible.

U.M. ARMY is the mission for our Lenten Offering this year. All designated gifts and \$1 bills will be donated to U.M. ARMY. Donations will be used to provide meals and supplement supply costs this summer. Any remaining donations will go to our area chapter.

Some of our own members are very involved in U.M. ARMY. Jim Patton has served on the Board of Directors and Mike Elwell served on the Youth Advisory Board. Ask Jim or Mike for more information or check out www.tx.umarmy.org



2018 Missions of the Month

Below are the 2018 missions of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during each month will benefit the named mission. In addition, your Serve team seeks ways to put our faith in action each month. Look for service opportunities throughout the year!

- > January: Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- ➤ **February**: Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church and Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce
- ➤ March: Lenten Offering to benefit U.M. ARMY (We are hosting July 22-28)
- > April: FISH (Join us for Annual FISH fundraiser BBQ, April 6)
- ➤ May: Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp
- > June: SCRPT (Senior Citizen Resource Public Transportation)
- > July: Adopt-a-Tiger (formally Communities in School)
- > August: Wesleyan Campus Ministry
- > September: North Texas Food Bank
- > October: Commerce Clothe-a-Child
- > November: Thanksgiving Dinner
- > December: Proyecto Abrigo

The Serve team is looking for new team members. Currently our monthly meetings are held first Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Sunday school classroom, but we are open to change to accommodate new members. Contact any of the Serve Team members for more information or to share ideas for how the church can serve: Chair: Amy Stark (903.246.1487), Pastor Brian Dierolf, Jan Helton, Bill Heitholt, Jim Patton, Judy Rudoff, and Carolyn Trezevant.

Souper Thanks!

Way to go team for making a tackle against hunger at the Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon! \$589 was collected through drop-a-dollar giving and donations placed in the soup pot at the lunch on February 4! The Serve team allocated additional funds bringing the total to \$1,000 so that the food pantries at First Presented.



additional funds bringing the total to \$1,000 so that the food pantries at First Presbyterian Church and Bread of Life Church of Nazarene in Commerce each received \$500. Thank you to all who decorated, cooked, served, cleaned-up and gave to make this one of the best Souper Bowls yet!

First United Methodist Church Commerce





Easter lily orders will be taken until March 26.
See the insert in the bulletin or call the church office at 903-886-3220 to reserve yours today.



Luigi's Gives Back Sunday March 18

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!



Men's Breakfast Monday, March 26 @ 7am

at McKay's Restaurant!

Come and have breakfast with

Pastors Greg and Brian, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!



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.



Potluck Luncheon March 1 @ 12pm



Spring Break Office Hours

The office will be open Monday, March 12 – Thursday, March 15 from 9:00am-12:00pm and will be closed Friday, March 16. Have a fun and safe break!

In memory of...

Bill Crook

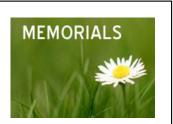
By: Sheryl & Pau Zelhart

Eleanor Sandifier

By: Sheryl & Pau Zelhart

George McFarland

By: Sheryl & Pau Zelhart Keith & Nancy McFarland





Attendance					
	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>	Wed.
Feb 4	31	78	24	49	
Feb 11	29	93	13	54	
Feb 14					40
	31	70	17	57	
Feb 25	36	63	17	43	

Financial Information General Operating Fund

as of Janua	ry 31, 2018	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 25,546	\$ 25,546
Expenses:	\$ 29,60 <u>5</u>	<u>\$ 29,605</u>
-	-\$ 4,059	-\$ 4,059

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:

Thursday, Mar 1	John 2:13-22		
Friday, Mar 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-25		
Saturday, Mar 3	Psalm 19:1-6		
Sunday, Mar 4	John 2:18-22		
Monday, Mar 5	Numbers 21:4-9		
Tuesday, Mar 6	Psalm 107:1-3		
Wednesday, Mar 7	Psalm 107:17-22		
Thursday, Mar 8	Numbers 21:7-9; John 3:14-21		
Friday, Mar 9	John 3:16		
Saturday, Mar 10	Ephesians 2:1-10		
Sunday, Mar 11	Ephesians 2:4-10		
Monday, Mar 12	John 12:20-26		
Tuesday, Mar 13	Psalm 51:1-9		
Wednesday, Mar 14	Psalm 51:10-12		
Thursday, Mar 15	Jeremiah 31:34		
Friday, Mar 16	Jeremiah 31:31-34		
Saturday, Mar 17	John 12:27-33		
Sunday, Mar 18	Hebrews 5:5-10		
Monday, Mar 19	Philippians 2:5-8		
Tuesday, Mar 20	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		
Wednesday, Mar 21	Isaiah 50:4-9a		
Thursday, Mar 22	Mark 15:1-16		
Friday, Mar 23	Mark 15:21-40		
Saturday, Mar 24	Psalm 31:9-16; Phil. 2:9-11		
Sunday, Mar 25	Mark 11:1-11		
Monday, Mar 26	Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11		
Tuesday, Mar 27	John 12:20-36		
Wednesday, Mar 28	Psalm 70		
Thursday, Mar 29	John 13:1-17, 31b-35		
Friday, Mar 30	John 18:1-19:42		
Saturday, Mar 31	Matthew 27:57-66		



Prayer Lists

Joy for the marriage of Rev. Tom Dudley's daughter

Recent Concerns

Rev. Tom Dudley Sally Grove

Colton McPherson (Marsha Shepherd's grandson)

Janice Pena

Tonya & Josh Shepherd (Marsha Shepherd's daughter-in-law and son)

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Roger Arnold, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Rachel Cramer, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley's brother and niece, Jack and Gladys Gray, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Freda Lambert, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Mary Means, Betty Morton, Richard Norton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert Seay, Dana Shelton, Nancy Stewart, Billy Stocker (JD Short's uncle), Geneva Teel, Charlie Wilkinson (P.K. Kirkpatrick's cousin), Rev. Clay Yeager

<u>Draughn's/Country Home Estate:</u> Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Gayle Shumate

Oak Manor: Barbara Gish and Euple Walker

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde

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



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton

Daniel Chamberlain

Mike Dempsey

Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law

Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

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).

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:

www.revneal.org www.youtube.com/revneal www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo





Phone: 903-886-3220 Fax: 903-886-3240 www.fumccommerce.org office@fumccommerce.org

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