


First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 11

November 2012



**Ushers' Stew Luncheon Benefiting Local Food Assistance Programs
Following TAMU-C Chorale in Worship, Sunday, November 11**



Annual Church Conference
 Clustered with UMCs
 of Wolfe City,
 Cooper, Shooks
 Chapel, and Enloe
 Sunday, Nov. 11
 at 5:00pm
 (Childcare will
 be provided.)

On Sunday, November 11, at the 3rd annual Ushers' Stew Luncheon, you will have the opportunity to add to our October drop-a-dollar giving total of \$204 to help local food assistance programs provide for those who are hungry. Not only are the chicken and beef stews sure to be delicious at the luncheon, but every bill or check given will benefit the Commerce Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Commerce Food Distribution/Manna Movers, and FISH – Hunt County Shared Ministries. For the past two years, the luncheons have raised over \$900 each year.

Prior to the luncheon during the 10:50 a.m. worship service, the Texas A&M-Commerce University Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Randall Hooper, will be singing. Please join us for these wonderful opportunities to worship and fellowship.



Church Clean Up Day
Saturday,
November 10
 8:00am-12:00pm
 with lunch to follow

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Sometimes wisdom comes from people close at hand – people we know and love. I received such a gift this week through my daughter’s blog. I hope you receive her thoughts here as a gift in this very busy season. And may we all be convicted to see Jesus in “the least of these.”

Blessings –
Valarie



“Coming Full Circle”

Eva Englert

There is a homeless man whom I have encountered a few times during my commute to work the past week. He has approached me twice asking for money for food, usually prompted by his calling me "lady" or "ladybug" and getting a bit too close to me for comfort. I won't lie--it makes me downright uncomfortable. I respond with, "I'm sorry, I don't have anything," and usually that's enough to deter further requests. This morning, however, after asking once again for money for food, he looked down at my iPhone and responded with something like, "You have a phone that does pictures and film. Why can't you help the homeless?" Feeling two parts offended and three parts absolutely exposed to my choosing not to assist, I didn't respond. I recognize that his manner of approaching others for money is manipulative--using pet names and drawing attention to one's hypocrisy is not exactly the most open place from which to enter into conversation. After all, the phone was a gift from my parents, I make very little money in the service internship I am currently undergoing, and how can I know that if I were to hand him a \$5 bill it would indeed go toward purchasing food?

All things considered, I still cannot deny that I play a part in the injustice that this man faces every day. I participate in societal structures that are linked to why this man is homeless and hungry in the first place. The system is much larger than me alone, yes, but I cannot turn a blind eye and ear to a person within whom I see Jesus approaching me, feebly and in his humble but ever so challenging manner, whispering the words, "What you do for the least of these my BROTHERS, you do for me."

Well, Jesus, you are an inconvenience to me. But praise God for inconveniences and interruptions in a lifestyle that is often bent toward satisfying my own personal needs before loving others fully and sacrificially. This man, whose name I don't even know, has been on my mind a lot today. As I research and contact church members and community organizers about a community garden project I am hoping to begin in the near future, it becomes very real to me that the purpose of such a garden--which aims to provide food insecure families in the city of Medford healthy food to eat--is for people exactly like this man. If I don't find some way to incorporate him into that purpose and theology, I am walking about with a very great plank in my eye.

I am grateful for the challenge to direct love and justice in all areas of my life. May we all have our hearts, minds, and eyes open to the least of these all around us.

Upcoming Worship

November 4

John 11:28-44

“Tears at the Tomb”

All Saints Sunday

Remembering Otha Spencer,

Lucille Pemberton,

Gerry Huffman, and

Jessie McKenzie

Theme:

“Jesus for President”

November 11

TAMU-C Chorale in 10:50 service

November 18

November 25

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton

(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart

(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson

(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Donna Tavener

(903) 886-7891

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts

(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd

(903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Ladonna Patterson

(903) 886-4630

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, November 19 by 9:00am****



thanksgiving DINNER

JOIN US!

*Roasted Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans,
Sweet Potatoes & Homemade Pie*

Hosted by the Commerce Faith Community

Thursday, November 22

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Family Ministry Center

Want to get involved?

Volunteer an hour or two between 8:30am and 1:30pm.

Make a monetary donation.

Help spread the word by inviting others.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Meal Delivery on November 22

Last year nearly 150 people came through our doors to find a place at the table and 135 meals were delivered to homebound Commerce residents. This year, we are planning to serve in excess of 300 meals!

Ways to get involved?

- *Soup for the Soul* – Make a pot of your family’s favorite soup, stew or chili to provide additional home-cooked meal for homebound people during the holiday weekend.
- *Pie Baking*
- *Hosting* – Assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean-up Thanksgiving Day. (Clean up crew will be home for Cowboys kick-off!)
- *Home Deliveries* – Deliver a Thanksgiving meal and a blessing to those who are homebound.
 - *Monetary Gifts* – Give a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the dinner. Expenses for the 2011 dinner totaled around \$1,000.



**** Sign-up tables will be available during the
Sunday School hour and before and after
worship November 4, 11 & 18.**

You may also contact the church office. **

M&M Update

Greetings church family!

Well, Fall is well under way, and M&M is in full swing! We have 48 kindergarten-5th graders participating this year!! We've already completed several projects, and are looking forward to some of our favorite Holiday-themed projects coming up!



We kicked-off the M&M year with a fun project called "Warm Fuzzies." We made super cute little pom-pom critters, and bagged them up with a sweet story titled "A Warm Fuzz Tale". The bags have been distributed to local Emergency Rooms, and will be given to children who find themselves there. We hope our Warm Fuzzies help to calm, comfort, and bring a smile to these little patients who are scared, injured or ill.

Our next project was in partnership with a non-profit called More Than Warmth. More than Warmth is an educational project for students of all ages to learn about world cultures. This group makes beautiful quilts, which are given to relief agencies and workers worldwide. Each of our kids was able to design a quilt square, which will be hand-sewn into a lovely quilt. Our quilt(s) will become a gift of hope and love to a child/ children who may be living in a war-torn region, in extreme poverty, or in childhood slavery. Visit the website MoreThanWarmth.org for more information.

We've also had some fun helping to support and cheer some of our favorite home-town heroes! Coach Scott Wells and our Commerce High School Varsity Football team meet here at our church prior to their home games. We surprised them one week with a home-made snack mix and a HUGE spirit poster – complete with personalized messages for each one of our Tigers! (This may have been the kids' FAVORITE project so far!!) Go Tigers!

Coming up, we'll be doing our annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, making center piece arrangements for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and Christmas tree ornaments for the Homemade Holiday Bazaar (our ornaments will benefit Heifer International). We are also hoping to squeeze in a visit with our friends at Country Homes Estates Assisted Living Center.

There's never a dull moment at M&M – and we wouldn't have it any other way!!

FLY

NEWS FOR YOUTH

November – The Hunger Games

"Yeah, yeah, but what on earth do Katniss, Prim, Gayle, Peeta, Haymitch, District 12, and Panem have to do with us?" More than you might think. Come and see...

November 4, 4:00-6:00 pm – *Living in the Hunger Games...* Do you have what it takes? Play and live the challenge on Sunday night!

November 11, 4:00-7:00 pm – *Movie Night: The Hunger Games...* Watch (or re-watch (or re-re-watch)) where it all began. Popcorn's ready!

November 18, 4:00-6:00 pm – *Do You Want a Revolution?* Oppression & freedom, starvation & enough, despair & hope... Change Panem, Change the World! Get ready for a Jesus-revolution!

November 25 – No FLY... Have a Happy Thanksgiving weekend!

The Kelsey Hall Music Internship

FUMC Commerce has been blessed by a generous gift – the Kelsey Hall Music Internship.

Kelsey Hall, former CHS head volleyball coach, was known by many people in the church and the community as being extraordinarily dedicated and caring. This was especially apparent in his strong fight with cancer. Throughout this fight, the FUMC family also played a crucial role in Kelsey’s life.

John Heatherly writes, “Kelsey felt he had found a church home at FUMC Commerce.....but more importantly, a church family. The rides to Baylor, the concerned ‘how are you today?’ and support he felt, made a difficult time a little more bearable. He wanted to show his appreciation by leaving a gift to the church.”



James Williams is our Kelsey Hall Music Intern. He will be with us for the 2012-2013 school year. His position includes playing piano and organ for the 9:45 a.m. service, accompanying for the children’s choirs, and substituting in the 10:50 a.m. service. We are pleased to have him as part of the music ministry and our FUMC church family.

Read more about James...

James Michael Williams was born in Longview, Texas and attended the Longview Christian Academy, graduating in 2006. Upon graduation, James attended Texas Baptist College for one year, and transferred to Kilgore College, where he began his studies in Piano Performance. In the spring of 2009, James transferred to Texas A&M Commerce, where he currently studies with Dr. Luis Sanchez. James is an avid traveler and enjoys sports including kayaking, fishing, and hunting. James looks to complete his undergraduate studies in the spring of 2013 and begin his Masters studies.



Craft for a Mission

Make the gift that gives twice! We’re seeking small groups and individuals who will craft for a mission supported by our congregation. Gifts will be available for purchase on Sunday morning, December 9, at the Handmade Holiday Bazaar.

Missions & More (M&M) is crafting again for Heifer International, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry is already busy crocheting. United Methodist Women (UMW) is offering the popular soup in a jar. To get involved, contact Jamie Moore (903.413.2882) or Angela Roberts (903.886.2142).



SAVE the DATE
Saturday, December 22



FUMC-C will serve as a distribution site for Christmas food baskets



The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree will be up the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Help an incarcerated parent connect with their child by serving as a personal shopper for that special Christmas gift. For more information, contact Tricia Dempsey at tricia.dempsey@commerceisd.org or Judy Rudoff (903) 886-2039.

NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates

Day 7 Sabbath Retreat! Friday-Saturday, November 2-3... You need a break... You need some rest... You need some fun with friends... You need God... Sundown to sundown... Come, see, let God show you what a difference 24 hours can make! Home-base at the SMU Wesley House. Cost is just \$20. Scholarships are available.



Regenerate 727! Mondays at 7:27 pm... If you haven't been to Regenerate 727 worship in a while, it's time to jump back in! Take a look at what's been happening and what's coming up...

- October 15 – **ArtSpirit Worship** – Immersed in music, drums, paints, drawings, creativity, and the Spirit!
- October 22 – **Emmanuel Worship** – Worship at the Table with Christ as our host... God is with us!
- October 29 – **Child-Like Worship** – Play, create, dance, and sing like a child in God's kingdom!
- November 5 – **Lifeline Worship** – Taking in the journeys and stories that God has led us through, praying blessing and grace over one another!
- November 12 – **Creation Worship** – Drinking from the River of Life and worshipping the Creator of our lives, our love, and our world!
- November 19 – **Thanksgiving Worship** – Gratitude for the work of God among us that propels us to join in!
- November 26 – **Silent Worship** – What happens when instruments, music, even voices are removed from life? What happens when we encounter God in the silence?



UMW will meet **Tuesday, November 20** at 10:00am. The program will be brought by Edna O'Quinn and Priscilla McFarland. Our November project is the Food Pantry. **All women are invited to join us!**

In memory of...

Gary Kibler

By: Eunice, Kathy, & Bobby Hill
 Glenn & Janet Moore
 Ed & Kay Roof
 Glenna Julian
 David & Luann Huffman
 Paul & Sheryl Zelhart
 Rose Marie & Doug Carlson
 Lena Faulkner
 Alta Fay Peden

Tom Walker

By: Edna O'Quinn
 Wyman & Harriet Williams

Sarah Langford

By: Richard & Susan Lampe



Attendance

	<u>Sep 30</u>	<u>Oct 7</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Oct 21</u>	<u>Oct 28</u>
Early	28	20	26	29	13
9:45	8	21	7	10	7
Late	106	101	121	104	91
SS	79	73	70	68	48

Financial Update: General Operating Fund

General Operating Fund

as of September 30, 2012 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 32,316	\$286,559
Expenses:	\$ 30,363	\$295,755
	\$ 1,953	-\$ 9,196



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, Nov 1	Isaiah 25:6-9
Friday, Nov 2	Mark 12:28-30
Saturday, Nov 3	Mark 12:31
Sunday, Nov 4	Mark 12:28-32
Monday, Nov 5	Hebrews 9:24-28
Tuesday, Nov 6	Psalms 127:1-2
Wednesday, Nov 7	Ruth 3:1-5
Thursday, Nov 8	Ruth 4:13-17
Friday, Nov 9	Psalms 127:3-5
Saturday, Nov 10	Mark 12:38-40
Sunday, Nov 11	Mark 12:41-44
Monday, Nov 12	Mark 13:1-2
Tuesday, Nov 13	1 Samuel 1:4-11
Wednesday, Nov 14	1 Samuel 1:12-20
Thursday, Nov 15	Hebrews 10:11-18
Friday, Nov 16	Hebrews 10:19-25
Saturday, Nov 17	Mark 13:3-8
Sunday, Nov 18	Psalms 113
Monday, Nov 19	2 Samuel 23:1-7
Tuesday, Nov 20	Psalms 132:1-12
Wednesday, Nov 21	Revelation 1:4b-8
Thursday, Nov 22	Joel 2:21-27
Friday, Nov 23	Psalms 126
Saturday, Nov 24	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Sunday, Nov 25	Matthew 6:25-33
Monday, Nov 26	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Tuesday, Nov 27	Luke 21:25-33
Wednesday, Nov 28	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Thursday, Nov 29	Luke 21:34-36
Friday, Nov 30	Psalms 25:1-3



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss.
Condolences to...
the family of Richard Lampe

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...
Henry & Jeannette Heiberger (Mary Dagenhart's grandparents), Ralph & Alma Moyer, Michael Klinck (Ryan Klinck's brother), Jean Stachowiak (Bob Stachowiak's mother), Pete Verchinski (Gina Sullivan's father, Josh Madena, Pat Reid (Mark Reid's mother), Helen Dickson, Sandy Rudoff (Judy Rudoff's brother-in-law), Clay Yeager, Jerry Lambert, Lana Fallis, John Burkett, Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's daughter-in-law), Nancy Doughty, Gene Casselberry, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Louella McIntyre, Sharon Brewton, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Sam Duckworth, Ray Sandifer, Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother), Jim and Diane Price, Billy Guinn, Chris Sterzik (Shelley Jackson's son-in-law), Sondra Feduccia, Frederick Lucas, Dorothy Ingram, Pam Allgood, Jan Chapman (District Office), Kay Webber, Judy Greenwood, George O'Kelley

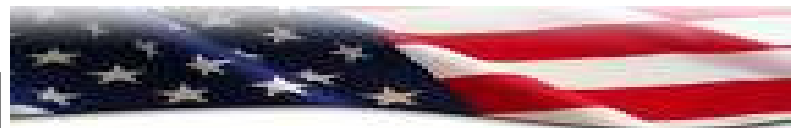
Others to Remember in Prayer...

Those affected by Hurricane Sandy
Draughn's/Country Home Estate:
Pete Robinson & Helen Dickson

*"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	
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, November 19 by 9:00am**

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