

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 12, Issue 11

November 2014



Food, Games and Fun for ALL!

**Chili Cook-Off and
42 Tournament/Game Day
Saturday, November 8
FUMC-C**

It's time to break out your crock-pots and dust off your dominoes!

Grab a partner and come out for the 42 Tournament! Brackets will be set up and play will begin at 1:00 p.m.. We will play through the afternoon with the final rounds concluding just in time for the meal to begin.

Don't play 42? Folks who like to play all kinds of games are welcome! Card and board games will also be starting at 1:00 pm and continue through the afternoon.

All individuals and small groups are challenged to bring a pot of their favorite chili to enter in the judging for the Chili Cook Off. Chili Judging at 5:30pm; everyone will eat at 6:00pm.

For more information call or text Melinda Reid 903-366-6493 or email: melreid@yahoo.com



All Saints' Day

November 1 is All Saints' Day on the church calendar. On that day, we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have died and gone on to join the communion of saints. FUMC's remembrance of our saints will be in worship on Sunday, November 2. Come worship with us as we celebrate their lives, and offer support and prayers to their family members.

Our All Saints are:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Janice Currens | Wanda Robnett | Phyllis Talbot |
| Bill Tom Knight | Jessie Short | Fred Tarpley |
| Bob Mills | J.W. Stogner | Martha Walker |
| Glenda Parks | | |

- o Family members and dear friends
- o Military service men and women
- o Those who have generously left gifts to the church foundation to carry out the missions of our church



**Charge Conference
Sunday, November 2
3:00pm Combined Worship
with local conferences following
at FUMC-C**



**Sunday,
November 9
@ 9:45am**

Ask Pastor Greg about anything theological! He will provide answers to all questions from all comers, but be listening carefully... if you can correctly detect when Pastor Greg is trying to "bluff" an answer there will be prizes!

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Why Go To Church?

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25 NRSV)

The word being translated “provoke” is one which is often used to describe a “severe argument based upon an intense difference of opinion.” The word can be used of true disputes, or it can be used idiomatically to describe an emotionally intensive compulsion of another into action. The NASB renders “provoke” as “stimulate,” the NIV translates it with “spur on,” while the ESV phrases it “stir up.” In all translations, however, the idea is the same: we are called to be actively involved in encouraging, compelling, pushing, and urging one another forward in acts of faith and Christian love. This is why Church is so important.

One of the few places where the means of grace can be found gathered together is in the Church. Scripture, fellowship, hymn singing, prayer, the sacraments – all of these are wonderful examples of the means grace. They are instruments through which we can receive the life transforming, heart-cleansing power and Real Presence of Jesus; they are essential for the Christian life of faith. And, they can be known, received, and applied most readily in and through the Church.

Yes, churches can be very disappointing; they are, after all, made up of human beings, and human beings sometimes fail to be gracious, faithful, and welcoming. When this occurs – when the Gospel is denied and people are hurt – the truth is that we are the ones who are at fault, not God. So many will blame God for the failure of the Church to live up to its calling, when the true culprits are the sinners – yes, you and me – who make up the Church. The good news is that the love of Jesus can overcome even our most egregious failures. Even despite our worst fumbles, the Holy Spirit still works within us to transform our brokenness.

This miracle is nothing new with God. Throughout the Bible we find God working with broken vessels and speaking through imperfect messengers. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jonah, Peter – each of these “saints” was far from perfect and, yet, God worked through them to reveal the Divine Will to the world.

The Church is much the same. It is filled with broken and chipped vessels, with imperfect messengers and awkward (and often reluctant) servants. When we fail, we usually do so in a very big way. It is no wonder that many are turned away from the Church by our failure to live up to the high calling which we have received. However, no one should ever turn away from God because of our failures! Even despite its brokenness, the Church is still the best place to both receive the grace of God and put that grace into action through acts of faith.

This does not mean that it’s impossible to receive God’s grace apart from the Church – or, indeed, apart from the obvious, long established means of grace. Quite the contrary, God’s grace can flow beyond the normal channels of provision; to proclaim anything less would be to place human limitations upon the love, power, and presence of God. Nevertheless, it is still true that the Church is the normative channel through which the other means of grace function. This is attested to by Scripture, by nearly two thousand years of Church history, and by the Christian experience of many saints.

I am sometimes asked: “Does one have to go to church in order to be a Christian?” The literal answer is, of course, “no.” That being said, it must also be recognized that it is far more difficult to live a life of faith apart from the Body of Christ than it is to be a Christian within the family of God. Lacking the support of fellow believers, their love, care and concern, not to mention the advice and guidance of spiritual mentors – in short, lacking direct access to the visible means of grace – can spell disaster for even the best-intentioned person. No matter how strong the belief, without a continual infusion of God’s grace, faith eventually shrivels up and dies. Faith must be continually nourished in order to flourish into action; the Church provides a wonderful means for receiving this nourishment. After all, faith is not a passive prospect; we are called to live in Christ, and to express the love of Christ to others. Indeed, we are even called to be means of grace to each other ... how can we be a conduit of grace for others if we’re off, on our lonesome, doing our own thing? We can’t.

If you’ve been feeling cut-off from the means of grace, from the Real Presence of Jesus, from the life of faith that God has for you to live, why don’t you return to the Church and to “provoking one another to love and good deeds?” I guarantee you that the Family of God would love to see you, again. And so would God.



**Friday-Sunday, November 7-9
Open to all TAMUC Students**

Join the Wesleyan Campus Ministry on a weekend retreat to "Camp Talbert", a big ol' relaxing house in Wichita Falls, Texas. Why? Well, on Day 7 of Creation, God rested. How about you?

Retreat Cost: \$50 includes all meals, travel, housing, and entertainment at The Plex. Partial and Full Scholarships are available, so don't let money stop you!

Worship

- November 2
- November 9
- November 16
- November 23
- November 30

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

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

**Sunday, November 16
6:00-7:30 p.m.
at FUMC-C**



**Buy Tickets @ The Wesleyan
or FUMC, or buy online @ HomeStew.eventbrite.com**

Delicious food, live music, and wonderful auction items! And all of this to build a home this winter for a family in need in Juarez, Mexico!

This event is coordinated and led by The Core of the Wesleyan Campus Ministry in our work with Proyecto Abrigo.

NOTE: If you would like to donate silent auction items (theme baskets, giveaways, art items, etc), please contact Pastor Marc Corzaao (940-613-6492) by **Sunday, November 9**. Thank you!

- Committee Chairs**
- Leadership Team Chair:**
Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498
- Lay Leader:**
John Heatherly
(903) 886-7070
- Personnel Chair:**
Wes Underwood
(903) 886-1503
- Property Chair:**
Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439
- Stewardship Team Chair:**
Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142
- Connect Team Chair:**
Melinda Reid
(903) 886-7623
- Grow Team Chair:**
Sabrina Green
(903) 886-1902
- Serve Team Chair:**
Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142
- FUMC Foundation
President:**
Anne Mills
(903) 886-6792
- Lay Member:**
Carole Walker
(903) 886-4450
- UMW President:**
Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



On Sunday October 5th, we celebrated St. Francis Day with a "Blessing of the Animals" service. A couple-dozen humans and fur-children gathered on the church lawn, by the statue of St. Francis of Assisi, for a brief service which included a reading of scripture, a general prayer for all pets and creatures of God, and then specific individual blessings of each fur-child present. This was then followed by a blessing for the humans.

In 2015 we will celebrate St. Francis Day with another "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, October 4th!



Thanksgiving & Christmas Basket Distribution

150+ families are registered to pick up their Hunt County Gives holiday food baskets at FUMC-C. This seasonal assistance is provided by Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) in Greenville.

Volunteer to unload non-perishables at FUMC-C:

- > Friday morning, November 21
- > Friday morning, December 19

Volunteer to greet, assist with "Last Saturday Breakfast" hosted in Family Ministry Center, load up carts and cars, or break down boxes at FUMC-C:

- > Saturday, November 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- > Saturday, December 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Contact Angela Roberts to volunteer at 972.765.6547.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us for a traditional Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Family Ministry Center. Volunteers are needed to bake pies, make soup, and help with hospitality, kitchen duty, and home deliveries.

Last year over 300 people were served. There were about 140 to-go plates, including deliveries to home-bound residents, and about 170 guests who enjoyed the delicious meal and shared blessings of fellowship.

Contact Sabrina Green at 903.366.6533 or the church office at 903.886.3220 to volunteer, or stop by the sign-up table in the Gathering Area during November.



Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Look for the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree in the narthex beginning Sunday, November 23. You can select an angel off the tree and purchase the clothing or toy requested on behalf of the angel's incarcerated parent. Unwrapped gifts should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 14.

We will distribute gifts again this year at a Christmas party hosted by our Fun Loving Youth in the Family Ministry Center on Sunday, December 21, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts and bake cookies for the party. Date and time for wrapping will be announced soon.

Contact Tricia Dempsey at 903.366.1055 or Judy Rudoff 903.456.2412 if you would like to help.

MISSION
of the
MONTH
November

Help clothe Commerce ISD students in need by giving to the November Mission of the Month: Clothe-a-Child. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, December 10, from 5:30am to 8:00am at the Commerce Wal-Mart to assist families with shopping. Contact Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School counselor, at 903.886.3757 if you would like to help.



Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions

On Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., we will host the second annual Merry Marketplace and Lunch for Missions in the Family Ministry Center.

The Marketplace will include a variety of items including Christmas decorations and gifts, antiques, vintage finds, baked goods, and knitted and crocheted items.

For those seeking a different kind of shopping experience, an alternative gift table will be available where donors can make contributions to missions in honor of family and friends. Donors will receive gift cards to notify honorees of the donations made in their names.

The U.M. ARMY Youth will serve up Jim Latham's and Jim Patton's hot stew along with cornbread and tea for lunch priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and students. Quart-sized jars of stew will also be available for \$8.

The youth and children's choirs will perform at 11:30 a.m. Children will have an opportunity to make a Christmas ornament to take home.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Prayer Shawl Ministry and missions in Commerce and beyond, and its success depends on the generosity of your donations and time. Please review the list below for what's needed and plug into preparations!

- ★ Christmas trees strung with or without lights for market decorations. Bring on Sunday, November 30, to set up after church. You may take home on December 7.
- ★ Donations for the marketplace:
 - Crafted or new Christmas decorations such as wreaths, centerpieces, garlands, pillows, signage, and ornaments
 - Vintage and antiques pieces such as jewelry, linens, crystal, china, silver, pre-1940s books, and small furniture
 - Home-baked cakes, pies, cookies, breads, jams and candies
- ★ Donations for the lunch:
 - Glass quart-sized jars for stew to go. Bring to church kitchen by Sunday, November 30.
 - Home-baked cornbread to serve with stew
- ★ Volunteers to:
 - Set up in the Family Ministry Center on Thursday, Dec. 4
 - Work the marketplace on Saturday, December 6
 - Serve as cashiers on Saturday, December 6
 - Spread the word – start inviting your friends and neighbors now!



Stop by the Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions sign-up table in the Gathering Area during November to let us know how you're plugging in. You may also contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547. Together, we can make it merry!

● Help build a home this winter for a family in need in Juarez, Mexico, by giving to the
 ● December Mission of the Month: Proyecto Abrigo. The mission team traveling to Mex-
 ● ico the last week of December is raising the \$3,200 needed to cover the cost of the
 ● cinderblock house. This includes all construction materials plus pay for two profes-
 ● sional maestros who will lead the building project. Doors and windows are also in-
 ● cluded in the cost of the home. Contact Pastor Marc Corazao for more information.

MISSION
of the
MONTH
December

Family Literacy Nights at the Commerce Public Library

The Commerce Public Library is now open later on Thursdays for Family Literacy Nights, extending hours on Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The library invites families and individuals of all ages to visit during these extended hours for activities designed to promote literacy in our community.

Here is our schedule of special programs for each Thursday night this fall. We will be adding programs so check back often!

- October 30 – Lego Club – all ages welcome - 6-7pm
- November 6 – Dog Safety program with Judie Grau 6-7pm
- November 13 – Lego Club – all ages welcome – 6-7pm
- November 20 – Family Game Night – 6-8pm
- December 4 – Anti-Bully program with Judie Grau – 6-7pm
- December 11 – Lego Club – all ages welcome – 6-7pm
- December 18 – Holiday Story time and craft – 6-7pm



Mark your calendars and add Family Literacy Nights, Thursdays 6-8pm, at the Commerce Public Library to your weekly schedule. If you have any questions, please call (903) 886-6858 or e-mail director@commercepubliclibrary.org

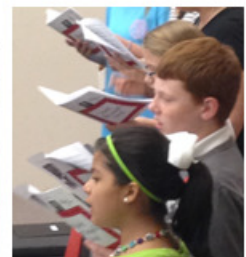
For the last three weeks, the *Auxano* Children's Choir has been worshipping together during our *Godspace* time. At the end of each Monday rehearsal, we go to the Chapel to sing, read scripture, pray, and have silence. Each member of the choir leads a different part of the worship time each week.



Look for the *Auxano* Children's Choir in the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 9th.

Confirmed

On Sunday, October 5th, the *Confirmed* Youth Choir participated in the Dallas Chapter Choristers Guild Youth Choral Workshop at St. Andrew UMC in Plano. We had a wonderful time!



Look for the *Confirmed* Youth Choir in the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 2nd.



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 11/16, 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!

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



**Last Saturday Breakfast
Community Gathering**

Free Breakfast

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



Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

at FUMC-C
Family Ministry Center

Saturday,
November 22, 2014
9:00-10:30 a.m.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Saturday, Nov 1	Revelation 7:9-17
Sunday, Nov 2	Matthew 23:1-12
Monday, Nov 3	Joshua 24:1-3a
Tuesday, Nov 4	Joshua 24:14-18
Wednesday, Nov 5	Joshua 24:19-25
Thursday, Nov 6	Psalms 78:1-4
Friday, Nov 7	Psalms 78:5-7
Saturday, Nov 8	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Sunday, Nov 9	Matthew 25:1-13
Monday, Nov 10	Psalms 123
Tuesday, Nov 11	Judges 4:1-9
Wednesday, Nov 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-5
Thursday, Nov 13	Matthew 25:14-30
Friday, Nov 14	1 Thessalonians 5:6-11
Saturday, Nov 15	Judges 4:1-9
Sunday, Nov 16	Matthew 25:14-30
Monday, Nov 17	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Tuesday, Nov 18	Ephesians 1:15-19
Wednesday, Nov 19	Ephesians 1:20-23
Thursday, Nov 20	Ezekiel 34:20-24
Friday, Nov 21	Matthew 25:31-46
Saturday, Nov 22	Matthew 25:31-40
Sunday, Nov 23	Psalms 100
Monday, Nov 24	Psalms 65
Tuesday, Nov 25	Isaiah 64:1-9
Wednesday, Nov 26	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Thursday, Nov 27	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Friday, Nov 28	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Saturday, Nov 29	Mark 13:24-37
Sunday, Nov 30	Mark 13:24-37



UMW will meet **Tuesday,
November 18** at 10:00am.

The program will be our
World Thank Offering/Pledge
Service. Our November project
is Food Pantry Items.

All women are invited to join us!

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



In memory of...

Wanda Robnett

By: James and Wyvonne Moody
Dorothy Ward
Alta Fay Peden
Joyce McCord



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of September 30, 2014 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 33,098	\$290,393
Expenses:	\$ 29,201	\$288,296
	\$ 3,897	\$ 2,097



Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Sep 24		13		
Sep 28	34	—	130	77
Oct 1		11		
Oct 5	25	—	134	79
Oct 8		10		
Oct 12	40	—	95	68
Oct 15		8		
Oct 19	31	—	109	71
Oct 22		14		
Oct 26	28	—	90	77

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 17 by 9:00am****



Prayer Lists

Congratulations to...

Emma Paulin for passing the US Citizenship Test

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

Alvin Boyd, Kenneth Davis, Harold and Priscilla McFarland, Betty Robinson, David Polk, Sally Grove, Kate Mangual, Wally Jeffers, Garrett Cramer, Derek Humphries, Betty Morton, Kay Harvey, Steve and Brenda Culberson, Pam Allgood, Ronnie Ellison, Jean Arnold, Vicky Vicker, Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Rick Miller, Mitzi Oltman, Roger Arnold, Clay and Nadine Yeager, Al-len Martin, Warren Dunham, Dorothy Carlton, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Jean McKinney, Doris Kerbow, Norma McNew, Clyde Robnett, Jaron and Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's son and daughter-in-law), Gene Casselberry, Sue Taylor, Lois Cranford, 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, Edna O'Quinn, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, Euple Walker, and Jean Ward

Briarcliff: Mildred Davis, Sally Grove, Mary Louise McMahan, Glenna Siebenhausen

Laurell's Retirement Home: Lewis and Faye Jackson

*"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
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



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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, November 17 by 9:00am