

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 12, Issue 10

October 2014



Food, Games and Fun for ALL!

Chili Cook-Off and 42 Tournament/Game Day

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

Saturday, November 8 our church will host an all day event!

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.

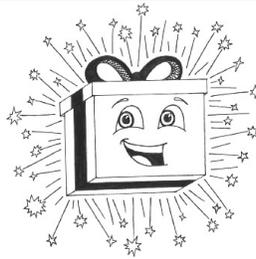
All individuals and small groups are challenged to bring a pot of their favorite chili to enter in the judging for the Chili Cook Off. Chili Judging at 5:30pm; everyone will eat at 6:00pm.

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

2015 Stewardship Campaign

Our campaign theme is "Surprising Gifts."

"Having been surprised by God's Gifts, let us now return to God our gift's to the ministry of the church"



Pledge cards have been mailed. Please return by Sunday, September 28 by placing card in the "Surprising Gifts" box on Sunday mornings, mailing pledge card, or calling in your information in to the church office.



Church Work Day Saturday, October 25

The property team will have a list of things that need attention so you can plan your day.

Drinks and a sandwich lunch will be provided. We will try to start about 8:00 and finish around noon. Please come.



Sisters starting October 2nd
Thursdays at 6:30 pm
at Ladonna Patterson's home
book: Spiritual Rhythm by Mark Buchanan



We are pleased to welcome new church family members:

- Richie, Kim, Cole, Anna, & Logan Bruister
- Barbara Gish
- Janelle Stogner

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Worthiness to Receive Communion
 By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



Please take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

This has been a difficult passage of scripture for many faithful Christians, but not because of anything St. Paul actually said. The difficulty comes in vs. 27-29, and especially with the 29th verse as it reads in the *King James Version*: “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

To put it simply, this does not mean that you have to be worthy to partake of our Lord’s body and blood. “Worthy,” in this passage, is used as an adverb, never as an adjective, and, as such, it modifies the act, not the actor. The manner of partaking is in question, not the one who is partaking. What we are called to examine is the way we are partaking, and our focus as we partake. While this may have a personal dimension, the worthiness to receive was never the question. The simple fact is that no one is worthy to receive the Lord’s body and blood in Holy Communion. Indeed, we come to the table precisely *because* we are unworthy. All we have to do is receive with our faith focused upon Christ Jesus and we will be receiving worthily.

Now, I understand that this is not how some pastors have taught this passage. On the western frontier it became common to hear a judgmental call for people to examine their spiritual lives. Instead of having their congregations focus upon the worthiness of Jesus, preachers told their flocks that they had to be “worthy” of admission to the Table. They had to be “worthy” to receive because, if they partook of Communion while being unworthy, they would profane the Table and bring sickness and maybe even death upon themselves. As a result, thousands were made to feel guilty when they came, for they knew they were not perfect. And, of course, many refused to come to the Table at all. This kind of thinking resulted in the closed communion rules which were very common among Protestants until quite recently. And it was, all of it, *absolutely unscriptural*.

St. Paul never said we had to make sure we were worthy before we received Communion. Only Christ is worthy. We are capable, however, of receiving in a worthy manner through faith in Christ. Indeed, as I have already said, it is because we are unworthy that we *must* receive. *Our unworthiness makes it imperative that we receive, and receive frequently.*

And this brings up another question. I am sometimes asked about the frequency with which one should partake of the sacrament. To put it simply, one should partake of the sacrament as frequently as possible, and as often as it is offered. I say this because Methodists look upon the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a Means of Grace: it is a gift through which we are reminded of, and reconnected to, the powerful love and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through receiving the Sacrament that we are empowered by the mysterious Real Presence of Jesus to live a Christian life. Personally, if I go too long without receiving Holy Communion, I begin to get “spiritually hungry.” To put it another way, I crave the Sacrament; and, without it, I begin to starve.

As the pastor of the church I am free to determine how frequently we receive Communion. While I would love for us to celebrate the sacrament every Sunday, I am also aware that it doesn’t contain the same worshipful experience for some as it does for me. At First UMC Commerce we offer Communion on the first Sunday of every month, as well as on other “high holy days,” like Easter and Christmas. We will also, occasionally, receive Communion on other Sundays – as we did on September 21st – when either the lectionary reading(s) or other need arises, calling for the sacrament. Additionally, we offer Holy Communion weekly at our Wednesday evening Anglican service. I encourage all to come and receive the wonderful grace of God, the very real presence of Jesus Christ our Lord, in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Worship

October 5
 October 12
 October 19
 October 26

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

Midweek Eucharist
 Wednesdays
 @ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

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

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.

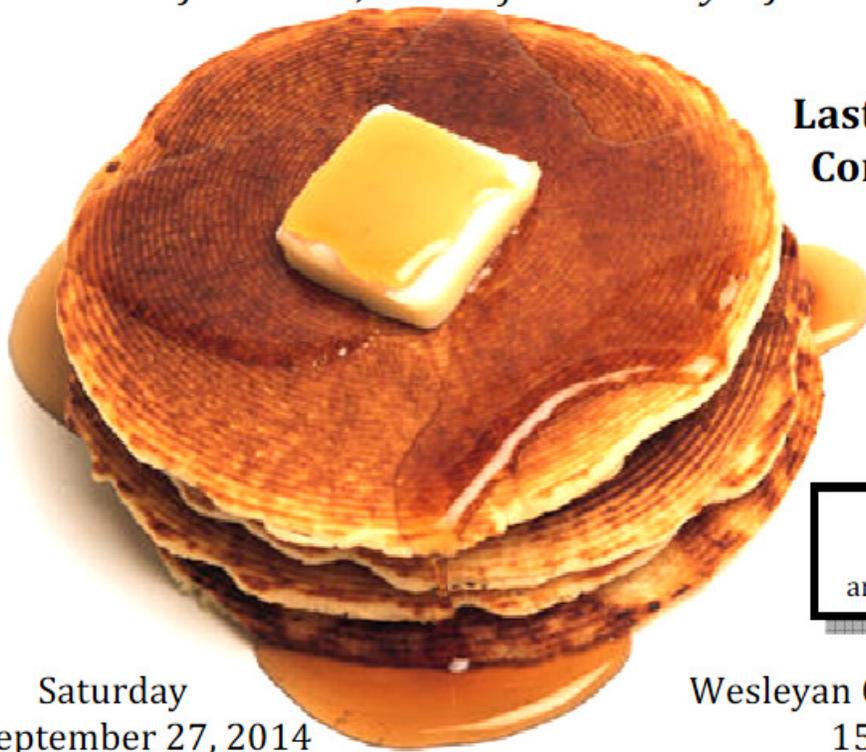
****The next deadline is Monday, October 20 by 9:00am****

MISSION *of the* MONTH

Mission of the Month for October is the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be hosted Thanksgiving Day, November 27, from 11am to 1pm in the Family Ministry Center. All \$1 bills placed in the offering plate and designated gifts during October will be used to cover the cost of the dinner, which averages \$1,000. Volunteers will be needed to bake pies, make soup, and help with hospitality, kitchen duty, and home deliveries. Sign-ups will begin in November. Please contact Sabrina Green, our Community Thanksgiving Dinner coordinator, at 903.366.6533 for more information.



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

Saturday
September 27, 2014
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
1504 Lee Street, Commerce



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 10/19, 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!

Last Saturday Breakfast - A Community Gathering

The idea of the Last Saturday Breakfast was born out of the Serve team and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry Core dreaming of how to foster community among people who may not otherwise know each other. What's a better way to accomplish this goal than gather around a table to eat! We're all hungry, right? So the Last Saturday Breakfast is about offering radical hospitality and good food. It's also about recognizing how God makes sisters and brothers out of people who are often from a variety of backgrounds.

The Last Saturday Breakfast had a "soft opening" on August 30 and was hosted by members of the Wesleyan Core, the Friendship Sunday school class, and the Serve team. We served a small but promising turnout of community supporters, and we were encouraged to pursue this evolving ministry.



Here are answers to questions you may be asking.

Q: *When and where is Last Saturday Breakfast?*

A: It is the last Saturday of the month from 9am to 10am at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building located at 1504 Lee Street. The next breakfast is September 27.

Q: *What's served and how much does it cost?*

A: Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, orange juice and coffee are offered. The meal is free though donations are accepted. Drop-a-dollar giving and a donation from the Friendship Class covered the start-up costs. \$75 was received in the basket at the "soft opening" which will be used for future meals.

Q: *How are you spreading the word?*

A: We are distributing flyers at local food assistance organizations, on campus, and on KETR. We'll also be going door-to-door in the neighborhood of the Wesleyan on Thursday, September 25, starting at 4:30pm to issue invitations. This breakfast is open to anyone.

Q: *Whom do I contact if I want to get involved?*

A: We'll be reaching out to small groups to partner with Wesleyan Campus Ministry students to host different months. The success of this new ministry is dependent on cooperation between the congregation and students. Contact Pastor Marc Corazao for more information.

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



Plug into the Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions!

Planning is underway for the second annual Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions open to the community on Saturday, December 6, from 10am to 1pm. This fundraiser benefiting general missions and the Prayer Shawl Ministry depends on the generosity of your donations and time.

Volunteers have graciously agreed to lead areas. Find your point-of-contact and take that step to plug into preparations!

- **Ann and Vance Underhill** for the Antiques Corner offering vintage jewelry, china, crystal, vases, antique linens, silver, pre-1940 books, picture frames, framed art, small furniture that one person can lift. Now is the time to review the contents of your attic to see what treasures you can donate!
- **Harriet Williams and Kay Jensen** for the Boutique stocked with handcrafted or purchased Christmas decorative items such as wreaths, garlands, centerpieces, signage, pillows, and ornaments as well as gifts for the giving. Now is the time to act on those Pinterest ideas!
- **Judy Anderson and Frances Sartwell** for the Bakery enticing shoppers with homemade baked goods, sweets, preserves, jellies, pickles, and novelty foods. Now is the time to practice those favorite recipes!
- **Amy Stark and Judy Rudoff** for Alternative Gifts where donors can make contributions to missions such as Heifer International or the Winter Missional Trip to Juarez, Mexico in honor of family and friends
- **Susan Patton** for the Prayer Shawl Ministry
- **Mimi Dobbs** for the children's activity table where they can make an ornament
- **Jim Latham, Jim Patton, Melinda Reid and U.M. ARMY Campers** for Stew Lunch

We will also need lots of volunteers to help promote, set up, decorate, price, and sell. Please contact Angela Roberts at 903.886.2142 for more information. Together, we can make it merry!



Let's Go Build a House!

Winter Mission Trip to Juarez, Mexico
Work Days: Dec 30, 2014 – Jan 1, 2015

Information Session

Sunday, October 5, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Family Ministry Center

Want the scoop sooner?

Contact Pastor Marc Corazao

Your Drop-a-Dollar at Work!

Twins Andrea and Diana Flores just started 6th grade for the 2014-15 school year in El Paso. Your drop-a-dollar giving has funded annual scholarships of \$180 each for these girls to attend school since they started kindergarten! Our sponsorship is organized through the Wesley Community Development Fund (WCDF).

Linda Twigg with WCDF recently visited the family on her trip to Juarez, Mexico. She observed that both girls appear to be happy, well-adjusted children eager to discuss school and interests despite economic hardships. Andrea was a final contestant in the school spelling bee in Spring 2014 and took two weeks of summer school to improve her math and English language skills. She wants to become a chef and enjoys making pineapple and chocolate cakes. Diana won the Citizenship Award and was Outstanding Student in Spring 2014. She likes to sing, do crafts, and play soccer. See thank you notes from the girls posted on the bulletin board near the church office.



Andrea (mustache shirt) and Diana (Minnie Mouse shirt) are surrounded by their family. Mr. and Mrs. Flores, who previously worked with Proyecto Abrigo, moved their family to El Paso a couple of years ago in order for their children to have a better education.

Start the Year Off

Fresh Haven

Regenerate
Monday, Aug 25
7:27 pm
Music, Friends, Food,
& life with God

FYI Lunch
Wed, Aug 27 &
Thu, Aug 28
Noon - 1 pm
Free Home-Cookin'

Mobius Coffee House
Thursday, Aug 28, 9-11 pm
Coffee house drinks & open mic fun

Whirlyball
Friday Night, Sep 5
Road trip to
the tournament
of a lifetime

**Wesleyan
Campus Ministry**
1504 Lee Street
Next to Prairie Crossing



UMW will meet **Tuesday, October 21** at 10:00am.

The program will be a book review from the UMW Reading Program

Our October project is items for the nursing home

All women are invited to join us!

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



In memory of...

Mary Gandy

By: Lena Faulkner
Loretta Kibler
Jean Funderburk
David & Luann Huffman

Phyllis Talbt

By: Susan Lampe

Wanda Robnett

By: Dough Rollins SS Class
Jean Funderburk
David & Luann Huffman

MEMORIALS



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:

Wednesday, Oct 1	Psalm 19:7-14
Thursday, Oct 2	Matthew 21:33-46
Friday, Oct 3	Matthew 21:33-46
Saturday, Oct 4	Philippians 3:4b-11
Sunday, Oct 5	Philippians 3:12-14
Monday, Oct 6	Psalm 106:1-6
Tuesday, Oct 7	Exodus 32:1-6
Wednesday, Oct 8	Exodus 32:7-14
Thursday, Oct 9	Philippians 4:1-9
Friday, Oct 10	Matthew 22:1-14
Saturday, Oct 11	Matthew 22:1-14
Sunday, Oct 12	Psalm 106:19-23
Monday, Oct 13	Exodus 33:12-16
Tuesday, Oct 14	1 Thessalonians 1:4-10
Wednesday, Oct 15	Matthew 22:15-22
Thursday, Oct 16	Psalm 99
Friday, Oct 17	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Saturday, Oct 18	Exodus 33:17-23
Sunday, Oct 19	Matthew 22:15-22
Monday, Oct 20	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Tuesday, Oct 21	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Wednesday, Oct 22	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Thursday, Oct 23	Psalm 90:16-17
Friday, Oct 24	Matthew 22:34-36
Saturday, Oct 25	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Sunday, Oct 26	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Monday, Oct 27	Joshua 3:7-17
Tuesday, Oct 28	Joshua 3:7-17
Wednesday, Oct 29	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Thursday, Oct 30	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Friday, Oct 31	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Aug 27		12		
Aug 31	34	—	73	64
Sep 3		12		
Sep 7	37	—	129	94
Sep 10		12		
Sep 14	35	—	95	104
Sep 17		12		
Sep 21	44	—	98	82



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	as of August 31, 2014	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 36,889	\$257,295
Expenses:	\$ 32,647	\$259,095
	\$ 4,242	-\$ 1,800



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss.
Condolences to The Family of Mike Mayo

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...
David Polk, Betty Morton, Kay Harvey, Steve and Brenda Culberson, Pam Allgood, Ronnie Ellison, Jean Arnold, Vicky Vicker, Ahtrell Dalton, Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Rick Miller, Mitzi Oltman, Sally Grove, Roger Arnold, Steve Staub, Clay and Nadine Yeager, Allen 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, Pat Skauge, Sue Taylor, Lois Cranford, Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Christians in the Middle East

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

Briarcliff: Mildred Davis, 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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office@fumcccommerce.org

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

Place Label Here

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