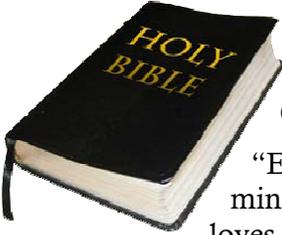


# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 13, Issue 10

October 2015



## 2016 Stewardship Campaign

Our campaign theme is "God Loves A Cheerful Giver."

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

(2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Pledge cards have been mailed. Please return by October 8 to the Church office by mail or by hand or in the offering plate.

God bless you, and thank you for all that you do for the life of our Church!

**FIRST THURSDAY**

First Thursday Potluck Luncheon  
October 1 @ noon

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 3:30pm, we will celebrate St. Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals. It will take place on the front lawn, beside the statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Bring your fur-children – Dogs, Cats, and other creaturely friends – for a short, special service of blessing.



## Men's Breakfast

*Come and have breakfast with Pastors Greg and Brian, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!*

**Monday, October 26th @ 7am  
McKay's Restaurant!**



# MINISTRYSAFE

**Make-Up Training  
Sunday, October 18  
@ 12:00-2:00pm  
Light lunch will be served**

When the North Texas Conference (NTC) of the United Methodist Church changed insurance companies to MHBT (of the Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC) on April 1, 2012, Ministry Safe became mandated for every local church — meaning **every** local church in the NTC **must** comply with the Ministry Safe screening process, policies, and procedures. Therefore, everyone who is currently volunteering or is interested in volunteering with FUMC-C's children and youth ministries is required to attend our Ministry Safe training session on Sunday, Oct. 18.

By completing this training session, you will fulfill (upon review) your Ministry Safe requirements which include:

- Sexual Abuse Awareness Training
- Screening Process & Paperwork
  - Application
  - Interview
  - References
- Review of Policies and Procedures
- Background Check Form

The purposes of this training are to ensure the safety of our children and youth and to protect our staff and volunteers by requiring the presence of two Ministry safe trained adults at all times.

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My Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you, and Peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! It is with joy that I am writing to you regarding the amazing ministries of our congregation and our calling to participate in them through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Why should we be givers? God, being the Creator of the Universe, has no needs, but we have the need to be givers. Jesus reminds us that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We love God and our neighbor by reaching out with hearts and hands of faith, giving grace to others. We do this through our prayers to God for each other, for our church, for our nation, and for the world. We do this by being present in worship, study, and service. We do this by giving of our resources to our united ministries. We do this by volunteering for the tasks that we have before us as the church. And, we do this by witnessing to others about the love of God that we have received and about how God has changed our lives.

But how are we supposed to give? How much should we give, and to what ministries should we be giving, and with what kind of attitude? As Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth:

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

That word “cheerful” translates the Greek word *ἡλάρων*, from which we get the English word “hilarious.” In other words, we are called to be “Hilarious givers.” We are called to give with much thanksgiving, rejoicing, joy, and cheer. We are called to give *not as a “have to do” but as a “get to do.”* It is a **privilege** to be a giver to the ministries of the Church. Through giving we are blessed to be a part of an amazing work here in Commerce, at the University, in East Texas, and across the entire world. Through our giving we ensure that the Gospel is preached, souls are cared for, the hungry are fed, and the Kingdom of God is brought a little closer here on earth. And, in everything, we are called to be givers from the very depths of our grateful souls, in thanksgiving for the amazing grace we have received.

When we give this way the promise, which Paul also mentioned, becomes true for us to receive into our lives, today:

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.  
(2 Corinthians 9:8)

May this promise be true in your life, and in the lives of your loved ones, this year and for all the days that are to come.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Gregory S. Neal,  
Senior Pastor

## EXCITING NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN!

The semester is off to a great start! We are seeing some new faces, enjoying fellowship, and growing in our faith. From the first Wednesday to the second, attendance at lunch and Bible Study more than doubled. We utilized our new backyard and had a cookout. New folks have stopped in to play games, because they saw we had a ping-pong table.



The most exciting updates are two special events in early October:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm—Illuminate: Worship @ the Wesleyan:** We will have our first worship service in a long time and FUMC is invited to join us with the New Beginnings Gospel Choir and Uniquely Binded Dance, Poetry, Arts group. We plan to have worship every first Tuesday of the month and transition into weekly worship.
- **Thursday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> @7pm—"We Are All Kin":** Students will have the unique opportunity to meet a Buddhist monk. "We Are All Kin" is an interfaith conversation and Q&A with myself and my brother Travis, whose Buddhist title/name is Shastri Loden Nyima. We are very fortunate to have him visit as he travels the world teaching and leading retreats. His title of Shastri means "master teacher!" This event is targeted towards college students, but FUMC members are more than welcome to join us.

Thank you for your on-going support. God bless,  
 Brian and WCM  
 Associate Pastor, Wesleyan Pastor

## Upcoming Worship

Sunday, October 4

Sunday, October 11

Sunday, October 18

Sunday, October 25

8:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ 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: TBD

#### 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



**WCM Fundraiser**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 7th**  
**11am-2pm.**  
 Dos Gringos Locos food  
 truck @ the Wesleyan.  
 WCM gets 20%  
 of all sales!



**WCM Breakfast Bake Sale**  
**Sunday, October 18**  
**9:30-10:50am**  
 Proceeds go to WCM repairs



**COMMERCE  
CARES**

**RECYCLE**

**Saturday, October 3**  
**9:00-1:00**

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](mailto: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 19 by 9:00am\*\***



## ***Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Adds Evergreens!***

On Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host our third annual Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions in the Family Ministry Center. This fundraiser benefits general missions, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. It's also a wonderful opportunity for neighbors and friends to experience the hospitality of our church family!

The Merry Marketplace will once again offer beautiful handwork from the Prayer Shawl Ministry as well as your donations of antiques and vintage finds, Christmas decorative items, gifts for giving, and homemade baked goods and treats. Following our strong tradition of alternative gifts, donors can contribute to missions in Commerce and beyond in honor of family and friends.

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry will make and serve chicken and beef stews to enjoy either at the Merry Marketplace or later in a to-go jar.

New this year is the opportunity to order fresh evergreens from Sherwood Forest Farms in Washington for pick-up at the Merry Marketplace. You'll be able to choose from 22" and 28" mixed evergreen wreaths as well as 10' western cedar garland. Look for a sample wreath on display starting October 11 in the Gathering Area where you can also place an order and find information to share with friends. Orders may be made through November 4.



And as always, we rely on you! We need lots of folks to craft, bake, donate, promote, set up, price, sell, and clean-up. Please contact Angela Roberts, Serve team chair, at 972.765.6547 to get involved. Together, we can make it merry!



# BBQ

Barbara Gish and Angela Roberts prepare to board the church bus after enjoying lunch with fellow FUMC-C members at FISH's BBQ fundraiser held at Wesley UMC in Greenville. Special thanks to Mike Roberts for driving the bus and to Pastor Greg Neal for serving as the attendant.



## Could I coordinate the Community Thanksgiving Dinner?

This annual tradition held in the Family Ministry Center on Thanksgiving Day is a celebration of community and an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings we have. But it will not happen this year unless a volunteer comes forward to serve as coordinator. Sabrina Green, coordinator for the past two years, has created a Thanksgiving-in-a-Box for the 2015 coordinator. You'll find a timeline, templates, and to do lists (all on USB drive) for the tasks necessary to bring leads, volunteers, and guests together. Sabrina is ready to brief you and is able to provide assistance up until the week of Thanksgiving. Please consider opening yourself to share and receive the blessings of this mission. Contact Sabrina at 903.366.6533 for more information today!



Thanksgiving Dinner coordinator position comes with much of the pre-work done!



Ruth Ann White & Laura Milligan help social worker Sabrina Foster load backpacks

## Food 4 Kids Back to School

The Food 4 Kids backpack program of the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is again providing snacks to eat over the weekend to Commerce children who are at risk of food insecurity or chronic hunger. Commerce Elementary School and A. C. Williams Elementary School are two of the 330 North Texas elementary schools across 40 school districts participating in this program. Each backpack

sent home includes roughly four pounds of food and features items such as milk, juice, fruit, cereal bars, and trail mix at a cost of just \$5 for the NTFB. Food 4 Kids is free for school districts but relies on dedicated CISD staff to manage the program and faithful volunteers to transport the food from the NTFB in Dallas to Commerce and to load backpacks.



Tyler King, Austin King, Katlyn Gilmer, & John Pollock from the WCM help unload Jim Patton's delivery from the NTFB

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



**Last Saturday Breakfast  
Community Gathering**

*Free Breakfast*

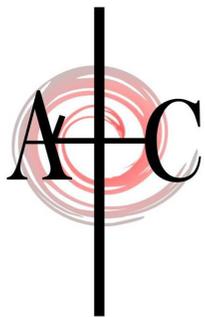
- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Fresh Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Coffee



Sponsored by  
First United Methodist Church  
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building  
1504 Lee Street, Commerce

**Saturday,  
October 31, 2015  
9:00-10:00 a.m.**



**Art for Christ  
will NOT meet  
in October due  
to the small  
number of  
interested  
students.**

Dear Church Family,

Indeed, you are a wonderful church family. Thank you so much for your prayers, books, visits, and cards. Many of you whom I look forward to seeing on Sunday dropped by the hospital. That was such a pick-me-up!

Thanks again for being a wonderful family.

In Christ, Judy Rudoff

**MISSION  
of the  
MONTH**

Help students in need experience the pride in selecting a few new articles of clothing for winter by giving to the October Mission of the Month: Clothe-a-Child. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during October will benefit this important program, which can help boost a student's self-confidence. Last year 212 Commerce students referred by teachers and counselors each shopped for \$50 worth of clothing and shoes at our local Wal-Mart. For more information or to help with shopping days in early December, contact Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School counselor, at 903.886.3757.

**The Pastor's Bible Study** meets **Tuesdays** from **1-2:30pm**. Dr. Neal is leading "The Pastor's Bible Study," a weekly study dealing with the books of Luke & Acts.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, October 20** at 10:00am. The Pledge to Mission will be brought by Priscilla McFarland. Our October project is Nursing Home Bingo Prizes: sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small). **All women are invited to join us!**

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



*In memory of...*

**Robert Cozart, Sr.**

By: Linda & Jessica King  
Loretta Kibler  
Lena Faulkner

**Stone Whitener**

By: Lena Faulkner



**Joe Allen**

By: Ben & Nancy Doughty  
Lena Faulkner

**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
<b>Aug 26</b>		11		
<b>Aug 30</b>	33	—	99	68
<b>Sep 2</b>		12		
<b>Sep 6</b>	30	—	81	53
<b>Sep 9</b>		—		
<b>Sep 13</b>	28	—	99	59
<b>Sep 16</b>		9		
<b>Sep 20</b>	25	—	129	64
<b>Sep 23</b>		7		
<b>Sep 27</b>	30	—	78	59



**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of August 31, 2015</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 30,279	\$239,644
Expenses:	\$ 26,359	\$254,500
	\$ 3,920	-\$ 14,856

**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, Oct 1	Mark 7:24-30
Friday, Oct 2	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday, Oct 3	James 2:1-13
Sunday, Oct 4	James 2:14-17
Monday, Oct 5	Proverbs 1:20-33
Tuesday, Oct 6	Psalms 19:1-6
Wednesday, Oct 7	Psalms 19:7-14
Thursday, Oct 8	James 3:1-5a
Friday, Oct 9	James 3:5b-12
Saturday, Oct 10	Mark 8:27-30
Sunday, Oct 11	Mark 8:31-38
Monday, Oct 12	Psalms 1
Tuesday, Oct 13	Proverbs 31:10-31
Wednesday, Oct 14	James 3:13-18
Thursday, Oct 15	James 4:1-8
Friday, Oct 16	Mark 9:30-34
Saturday, Oct 17	Mark 9:33-37
Sunday, Oct 18	Psalms 1
Monday, Oct 19	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10
Tuesday, Oct 20	Esther 9:20-22
Wednesday, Oct 21	Psalms 124
Thursday, Oct 22	Esther 9:20-22
Friday, Oct 23	Mark 9:38-41
Saturday, Oct 24	Mark 9:42-50
Sunday, Oct 25	James 5:13-20
Monday, Oct 26	Job 1:1, 2:1-3
Tuesday, Oct 27	Job 2:4-10
Wednesday, Oct 28	Psalms 26
Thursday, Oct 29	Mark 7:24-30
Friday, Oct 30	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday, Oct 31	James 2:1-13



## Prayer Lists

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

**Condolences to...**

Luanne Huffman and Family in the death of her brother

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

Mary Carolyn Dye, Don Roy (James and Geneva Teel's son), Carolyn Burt, David Polk, Kathy Benton, Roger Arnold, Eliana McPherson, Diane Price, Frances Robinson, Kent Rice (hospice), Will Dorsey, Jack Gray, Donna Galvan, Judy Rudoff, Luanne Huffman, George McFarland, Doris Kerbow, Jessica Coe, Warner Reeder (Harry and Rheba Icenhower's friend), Evonne Richardson, Lavonne Wells, Collette Ustry (Lauren Dierolf's friend), David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Sally Grove, Clay Yeager, Louella McIntyre, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Buck Johnson, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Robert Seay

**Others to Remember in Prayer...**

**Christians in the Middle East**

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

**Briarcliff:** Dorothy Ingram and Glenna Siebenhausen

**Laurell's Retirement Home:** Lewis and Faye Jackson

**River Point (Kerrville, TX):** Lucy Potts

*"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<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division      Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Col. Peter Bailey      Garrett Johnson  
Nathan Grove      Lt. Col. Keith Williams  
Lt. Dan Barton      Mike Dempsey (Washington)  
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  
www.fumccommerce.org  
office@fumccommerce.org

**First United Methodist Church**  
**1709 Highway 24**  
**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, October 19 by 9:00am**