

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 8

September 2016

Back to School

Commerce elementary schools are gearing up to participate again in the

Food 4 Kids backpack program of the North Texas Food Bank. Teachers and staff are working to identify kids who are at risk of food insecurity or chronic hunger. The need is great. During last school year, 77.6% of the students in Pre-K through 5th grade qualified for free or reduced price lunch.



Starting mid-September, eligible children will take home a backpack on Fridays with shelf-stable, kid-friendly snacks such as individual cereal boxes, granola bars, tuna salad kits, fruit rollups, and milk.

FUMC-C is continuing its support of this critical program at A.C. Williams Elementary. Special thanks to Judy Anderson, Anne Mills, Susan Patton, Judy Rudoff, and Harriet Williams for interviewing referrals during the last week of August. Additional volunteers will be needed on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. during the school year to load backpacks. If you would like more information or to volunteer, contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 (cell) or AQRoberts@hotmail.com.

MISSION of the MONTH

September Mission of the Month

Our drop-a-dollar giving during September will benefit Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH), which has been caring for those most in need in Hunt County for over 30 years. Assistance includes help with food, utilities, rent, and medical expenses.

During the past year, FISH has served 190 Commerce households from its downtown Greenville office. Some, but not all, of these families were also blessed by the Hunt County Gives Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket distribution. In 2015, 128 local families participated in this program. FUMC-C will again host the Commerce distribution and pancake breakfast on November 19 and December 17 so mark your calendars now!

Our giving coincides with FISH's BBQ annual fundraiser on Friday, September 30. FISH's challenge this year is to raise \$85,000. Consider helping FISH meet this goal by giving to drop-a-dollar and enjoying the ultimate Hunt County combo plate served up at Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville for lunch or dinner! Cost is \$15.

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The Relativity of Time.

Have you ever thought about how time tends to vanish and nothing ever seems to get done? Time is like the proverbial left sock in a dryer: it disappears into thin air, never to be seen again. And, just like your missing left sock, once time is gone you're sure to need it.

Why is time like this? Why does there never seem to be enough time? It wasn't always this way, you know. When I was a little kid, I can remember how long the weeks were; 5 days of school was almost an eternity! And months? Months were an unreal measurement of time!

The same was even more true when the summer arrived. There was, apparently, no end in sight to the long weeks of summer vacation. I grew up in the city, and so when the summer came I would go visit my friend, Scott, at his farm in the country. We would spend the long, fun-filled days horseback riding, playing, roaming through the woods in search of "little green men from Alpha Centauri." Those were great days, days filled with lazy speculation about the future and with joyful flights of fancy. When I was a young boy it always seemed like there was more than enough time to do everything I wanted, needed, or had to do. When I was a young boy the old saying: "as slow as Christmas" meant something. Today, it is meaningless.

The great physicist, Albert Einstein, said that the passage of time was always relative to the motion and location of the observer. The faster one is moving, the slower time appears to be passing—but not to the person in motion, only to the person watching from a "stationary" location. In other words, if I were traveling at almost the speed of light I would think that time was passing normally but, to somebody watching me from the Earth's surface I would appear to be frozen in time! Not only would I be aging much more slowly than a person watching from Earth, but for me the trip I was making would appear to take much less time than it would to the observer. What a wonderful idea! Just get going fast enough, and time slows down and you age more slowly! Unfortunately, from our perspective it would appear that Einstein missed an important point in his Relativity Equations: the passage of time is not only relative to how fast we are moving, it is also relative to how old and how busy we are. As we get older and busier, and as we pine after those glory days long gone by, time appears to move faster and faster. It doesn't seem fair, does it? When we're young, and have more time on our hands, it feels as though we have all the time in the world. But, as we age we come to realize that time is quite limited and, horror upon horrors, it is moving way too fast!

Albert Einstein was right: time is relative. For me, time is relative to how much I have to do. In other words, the more I have to do, the less time I have to do it in.

We all face this dilemma. "I can't afford the time to do that" is a very common complaint among us these days. And the sad thing is that it's true.

"I can't afford the time to go to one more board meeting."

"I can't afford the time to go to one more training seminar."

"I can't afford the time to teach that Sunday School Class."

"I can't afford the time to come to Church."

"I can't afford the time to pray today."

Sound familiar? More times than I would like to admit, I have heard many of these same phrases coming out of my own mouth. And, at the time, they too seemed true.

It is also true that we cannot afford not to make the time to do many of these things. And notice, I said make. Time is not found, it is not rescued, and it certainly is not saved. Time is made.

Many years ago I had a serious problem with a friend. We both live very busy lives. Our schedules clashed horribly. When he was coming, I was going; when I was going, he was coming. Needless to say, this resulted in some serious

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The Relativity of Time, continued

misunderstandings, and our friendship suffered as a result. It is sad, but true: if you don't make time for others, if you don't make time for your relationships, if you don't make time for the things that are important to you, they will quickly fade into the background and become less important as time slips away. A friendship can be easily starved to death if it is not given any time.

The same is true for our spiritual lives. Yes, we've all got 10 thousand things to do by yesterday, and yes there are a million more things to do by tonight, but it is possible to make time for God. It is possible to make time for a strong, healthy prayer life. It is possible to make time for service to the Church. Just like with human relationships, if we don't make the time for our relationship with God it too will falter.

Time, as I said, is relative; but not to God. We often talk about God as if God were trapped in time, or were subject to the passage of time. For God, however, time is truly non-relative. I believe that God perceives time – past, present, and future – as if it was all *now*. If God created time, then certainly God must be beyond time, right? And, assuming this, does this not make some sense out of all those difficult ideas like predestination and Divine foreknowledge? Word additives like “pre” and “fore” are temporally based, and therefore have meaning for us. But not for God. For God, all things, be they past, present, or future, happen at once: *they happen now*.


Which means, my friends, that we don't have to be worried about time, or our lack of it. Even if it appears to be passing way too quickly for us, God has all the time in eternity to take care of you and me.



Your Serve Team designated \$500 of mission funds to the UMCOR Louisiana Conference to support the response to the flooding in Louisiana. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the humanitarian aid agency of the United Methodist church. Additional donations can be made by check to FUMC-Commerce with LA Relief in the memo line.

Committee Chairs

- Ad Council Chair:**
Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142
- Vice Ad Council Chair:**
Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776
- Lay Leader:**
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- SPPRC Chair:**
Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503
- Trustees Chair:**
Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487
- Finance Chair:**
Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961
- FUMC Foundation President:**
Anne Mills (903) 217-2615
- Connect Team Chair:**
Susan Patton (903) 886-4612
- Grow Team Chair:**
Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713
- Serve Team Chair:**
Amy Stark (903) 246-3177
- Lay Member:**
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- UMW President:**
Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381



Adult Confirmation Congregation-Wide Confirmation begins on Sunday, September 25th during the Sunday School Hour and EVERYBODY is welcomed to come. The Confirmation books will be available for people to pick up beginning Sunday September 11.

Class dates: Sep. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 21 (the final few dates are tentative and open to adjustment).

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

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



Online Sermons

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 Monday, September 19 by 9:00am****

Annual Bois d'Arc Bash
COMMERCE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
BBQ

Friday, September 23, 2016 | Starting at 5:00 p.m.
On the Square | Commerce, Texas

Ticket Price: \$5.00 in advance
\$6.00 on the square

Purchase advance tickets at:

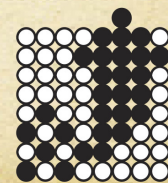
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Lunch delivery available for group orders

For lunch delivery or more information, e-mail sales@CLIBBQ.com

Meal Includes BBQ Brisket Sandwich, Chips, Cookies & Bottled Water



Hunt County Shared Ministries (Fish)

Invites you to enjoy the Ultimate Hunt County Combo Plate at

"Best of the Best" BBQ

Friday, September 30th

Lunch 11:00 - 1:00 Dinner 5:30 - 7:30

Wesley United Methodist Church
5302 Hwy 69 South

Also serving lunch at L-3 Mission Integration

Raffle & Door Prizes!



Sponsored by



Mission Integration

Brisket • Sausage • Pulled Pork • Ribs
Beans • Cole Slaw
Potato Salad • Banana Pudding
ALL for only \$15

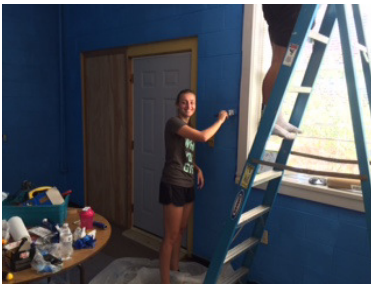
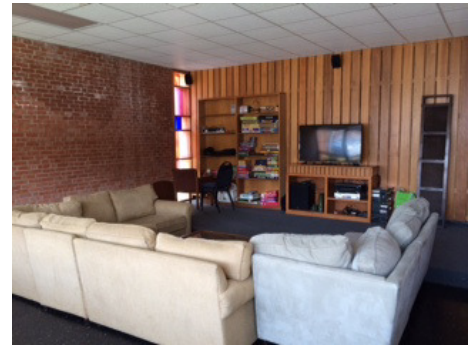
LUNCH DELIVERY
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New Ways for New People

Where did the Summer go!? Students coming back to campus will notice new things about the Wesleyan. We've been busy doing building improvements! We have a new wheelchair ramp leading to a new entry door; and when you walk in through the new door, you will see a remodeled welcome room.



This Summer we have created new ways for new folks to enter into the Wesleyan. From a practical standpoint we now have a handicap accessible entrance and are working on a handicap bathroom. From a theological stance, high school missionaries paved a way where there was no way (a ramp into what was a wall)! Then at our work day, members of the TAMU-C Women's Soccer Team transformed the new entry room from a barely used student office

into a warm welcoming room. The soccer team and FUMC volunteers transformed something old into something new—the room has been resurrected! Amazing what a little paint and hard work can do.



Speaking of hard work, we are incredible grateful for the Alcoholics Anonymous group, which has met in the WCM since 2014, for their outstanding lawn care; they mowed, trimmed, cleaned-up litter, etc about 40 times! Thank you for helping keep the property appealing to passers-by, your work helped welcome students into the building.



We hope that all our work over the Summer in making the building more welcoming, will bring in the harvest of new faces joining us in ministry in this new school year.

Save the Date!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 MERRY MARKETPLACE & LUNCH FOR MISSIONS
 COMMERCE

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016
Family Ministry Center

Happy Fall y'all

FIRST THURSDAY

First Thursday
 Potluck Luncheon
 Sept. 1 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES

RECYCLE

Saturday, Sept. 3
 9:00-11:00

At the intersection of
 Walnut and
 Campbell Streets



UMW will meet **Tuesday, Sept. 20** at 10:00am. The program is a Mission Study. Our September project is collecting socks and undies boys/girls size 4T-8.

All women are invited to join us!

In memory of...

Lamont Cunningham

By: Jerry & Sandra Hutton
Carole Walker



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Jul 27		6		
Jul 31	26	—	84	56
Aug 3		5		
Aug 7	37	—	77	56
Aug 10		7		
Aug 14	24	—	92	47
Aug 17		6		
Aug 21	25	—	84	48
Aug 24		5		
Aug 28	29	—	89	47



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of July 31, 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 26,241	\$211,231
Expenses:	\$ 36,236	\$214,066
	-\$9,995	-\$2,835

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, Sep 1	Luke 14:28-33
Friday, Sep 2	Psalm 139:1-6
Saturday, Sep 3	Psalm 139:13-18
Sunday, Sep 4	Philemon 1-21
Monday, Sep 5	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-26
Tuesday, Sep 6	Psalm 14
Wednesday, Sep 7	Jeremiah 4:27-28
Thursday, Sep 8	1 Timothy 1:12-14
Friday, Sep 9	1 Timothy 1:15-17
Saturday, Sep 10	Luke 15:1-7
Sunday, Sep 11	Luke 15:3-10
Monday, Sep 12	Jeremiah 8:18-22
Tuesday, Sep 13	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Wednesday, Sep 14	Psalm 4
Thursday, Sep 15	Psalm 4
Friday, Sep 16	Luke 16:1-9
Saturday, Sep 17	Luke 16:10-13
Sunday, Sep 18	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Monday, Sep 19	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Tuesday, Sep 20	Jeremiah 32:6-15
Wednesday, Sep 21	Psalm 91:1-6
Thursday, Sep 22	Psalm 91:14-16
Friday, Sep 23	1 Timothy 6:6-11a
Saturday, Sep 24	1 Timothy 6:11-19
Sunday, Sep 25	Luke 16:19-31
Monday, Sep 26	Lamentations 1:1-6
Tuesday, Sep 27	Psalm 137:1-6
Wednesday, Sep 28	Psalm 137:1-9
Thursday, Sep 29	2 Timothy 1:1-8
Friday, Sep 30	2 Timothy 1:8-14



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Family of Glenna Siebenhausen
Family of Dee Marshall (Mikey Elwell's friend)
Tom Collier
Odeana Stewart

Continued Prayers

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Sue Davis, Harry Icenhower, Loretta Kibler, Gayle Shumate, Danny House, Pamela Haskin, Easley Henderson, Michelle Sundeen, Wendell Bryant, Mike Duncan, Rebecca Sneed, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Linda Liston, Pete Chamberlain, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan's sister), Jayne Williams, Dave Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's father), Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother), Dr. Mark Godat, Larry Chaloupka, Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Doris Kerbow, Rev. Clay Yeager Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Euple Walker, and Ruth Ann White

Briarcliff: Gladys and Jack Gray

The Haven (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde

"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
Danaycurce Childress
Mike Dempsey
Col. Peter Bailey
Garrett Johnson
Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad & Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
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

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcccommerce.org

office@fumcccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, September 19 by 9:00am

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