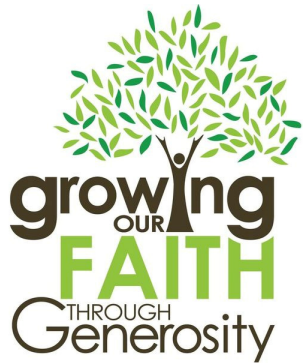


# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2017



## 2018 Stewardship Campaign

# “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

It's time for us to give prayerful consideration to how we're going to give to the ministries of our church in the coming year. What is God placing on our hearts to do? How will our faith in God grow through the giving of our gathered prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

During our Sunday morning services, the sermons will focus upon our theme with the following thoughts...

### Sunday, September 10, 2017

1 Thessalonians 5:18—*“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

### Sunday, September 17, 2017

Psalms 107:1—*“O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.”*

### Sunday, September 24, 2017

Colossians 3:17—*“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

We know you have been asking yourself, “How can I help the hurricane and flood victims?” UMCOR (United Methodist Core of Relief) has set up a special fund to help our South Texas residents. Your donation (the entire 100%) will go to assist those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.



Please make your check payable to FUMC and write UMCOR #293 Hurricane Harvey Relief in the memo line. We will send a check to north Texas Conference so it will begin to help those that have lost so much.

### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	Pastor's Bible Study, Confirmation	pg. 2
The Light	pg. 3	Children's Ministry News	pg. 4
Mission of the Month	pg. 5	Worship Comm., Youth Calendar	pg. 6
Committee Chairs, Announcements	Pg. 6	Memorials, Attendance	pg. 7
Finances, Scriptures	pg. 7	Prayer List	pg. 8

## Children’s Chapel


By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



As I wrote in last month’s newsletter, Little Ark is a vital mission and ministry of our congregation through which we are reaching children and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In their lessons, crafts, playtime, and in how they treat the children and their parents, the teachers and administration at Little Ark are building a strong foundation of faith in, and love for, God. I’ve been very impressed with the lesson-plans, the structure of the program, and the character and dedication of those involved in Little Ark. And, it has been my privilege to participate in a small way.

I have been enjoying weekly chapel time with the kids. About 20 children come into the chapel, along with their teachers, and they settle on the floor in front of me while I sit on the step-up into the chancel. I usually begin our time together by leading them in singing “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jesus Loves the Little Children,” both being my personal favorites from my own days in pre-school and kindergarten. I will sometimes also teach them another song, like “This Little Light of Mine” or “Zacchaeus,” especially if the song goes along with what we’re doing that day. I then tell them a Bible story, using one of several picture-book Bibles to help illustrate the stories. I explain why something in the story happened and how we can know that God loves us. The most important thing that I want the children to learn and come to accept for themselves is that God loves them just the way they are, that God made them to be who and what they are, and that *nothing* they might do will ever cause God to stop loving them. Then, I lead them in a prayer, which they follow, and we close the chapel time with the singing of one of the songs that we sang at the beginning. They then go out and play. It’s a very simple yet meaningful time with the children and I pray that they are learning something in the experience. At the most recent Little Ark graduation (in late April 2017) some parents thanked me for the story-telling I’ve been doing with their kids; one mother said that she enjoyed hearing her child re-tell the story the way I did, and that the songs were also special to them.

As we move into the Fall here at FUMCC we have many opportunities for mission and ministry with the families and children of our community. In a time when the world is shaken by wars and rumors of wars, by hatred and bigotry and racism, we must be about speaking the truth of the Love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord to all. Be it with Little Ark, the local Elementary, Middle, or Senior High Schools, we must be in ministry with and to young people. Our Children’s and Youth ministries must continue to be a principle priority of this Church, and I thank God for all those who are working hard in these areas.



**Pastor’s Bible Study**  
 Beginning Tuesday,  
**September 12**  
**at 1pm**  
 We will be studying the  
 Book of Genesis  
 All are welcome!



To watch or listen to Dr. Neal’s sermons online, go to:  
[www.revneal.org](http://www.revneal.org)  
[www.youtube.com/revneal](https://www.youtube.com/revneal)  
[www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo](https://www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo)



Online Sermons

# THE LIGHT

## FUMC COMMERCE

### Contemporary Worship that really jams!!

Come and worship with us at 6pm in the Family Ministry Center!  
On the First Sunday of the month we also have a Potluck at 5pm.  
So, bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship!

Dr. Greg and Pastor Brian share the evening preaching duty on an alternating basis, and most of the evening messages are different from the morning sermons. During September we will continue our exploration of the parables of Jesus, applying them to everyday life.

### A Message about "The Light" from Bill Heitholt:

I want to commend Vickie, the musicians, Dr. Greg and Pastor Brian for their wonderful leadership of our Sunday evening contemporary services. I go to both morning and evening church, and am touched by both! They are very different!

I, for one, am not musically inclined, but I do feel the rhythm and enjoy the stimulating, satisfying feeling I get listening to their gospel singing. The various crescendos of the electric guitars, piano and drums are a welcome stimulus to help feel the Holy Spirit in your soul. I would like to see more of our congregation make a concentrated effort to have a good attendance at upcoming services of "The Light"! I know this is not everybody's cup of tea, but with the College kids coming back in September, we should really turn out and support this powerful service.

# THE LIGHT

Contemporary Service

Sundays @ 6pm

Childcare & Sunday School available

Email: [vickie@fumccommerce.org](mailto:vickie@fumccommerce.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @TheLightWorship

Instagram: @TheLightWorship

Join our Facebook page: The Light - Contemporary Service @ FUMC Commerce

## Worship

*Sunday, September 3*

*Sunday, September 10*

*Sunday, September 17*

*Sunday, September 24*

*8:45am ~ Chapel*

*10:50am ~ Sanctuary*

*6:00pm ~ Family*

*Ministry Center*

### Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, Sept. 13  
5:30 pm in the Chapel**

This is a special service of prayer, contemplation, and Communion conducted in the Anglican Tradition.

All are welcome!



### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



### Worship Assistants Needed

The 10:50 service needs children, youth, and adults who are willing to serve as Acolytes! We also need men, women, and youth who are interested in serving as Ushers and as Greeters! Please contact the church office if you would like to serve.



# Children's Ministry

## children's choir

FUMC-Commerce  
Children's Choir

3rd – 5th grade

Every Wednesday, Beginning 9/6

3:30-5:00pm  
(snack provided)

We will provide transportation from ACW to the church. Space will be limited, so sign-up early.

You can register at the church office or call 903-886-3220 to add your child to the list.

Contact:

Jelisa Baker at

Jelisabaker21@gmail.com or

Shelly Oats at

shelly@fumcommerce.org



Little Ark adopted a new Bible based curriculum offered through the Mother Goose company. This month's theme is "God Cares about My Body." Chapel time will also focus on this subject for the month of September. The

Bible verse for the month is "I praise you God, I am wonderfully made."

(Psalm 139:14)



Little Ark Pre-K has added "enrichment" classes to their school day. They will have Chapel with Pastor Greg on Mondays, PE with Joanna Thrift on Tuesdays, Music and Movement with Ms. Caitye on Wednesdays and Art with Joanna Thrift on Thursdays. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to a lot of new learning opportunities.

Little Ark will host Griddlecakes for Grandparents on Monday, September 11 at 8am. We will serve pancakes, juice, and coffee. We would love church members to be around to meet, greet, and help serve.



Confirmation Class  
Starting Soon...

Confirmation begins

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

during the Sunday School hour!

If you have 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> grade youth whom you believe are ready for Confirmation and membership in the church, please contact the church office! Dr. Greg and Craig Jensen will be leading this class again!

## fume-c children's council

Our Children's Council is focused on the mission of making disciples of the children of Commerce and all children we reach in the broader community, while strengthening our own faith through our ministry. We are meeting and working together to plan programs, Sunday school education, and activities to meet the needs of our children. We are planning Christian-based, kid-centered events throughout the year. Look forward to seeing our active kids!

SEPTEMBER IS  
**HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

donate | volunteer | advocate

ntfb.org

## Mission of the Month

We are recognizing Hunger Action Month by making the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) our September mission of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts to missions during September will benefit the NTFB. Financial support is needed now more than ever to meet the

food assistance needs of Hurricane Harvey disaster victims as well as the increased need for food at partner agencies.

Feeding America established Hunger Action Month in 2008 as a nationwide effort to get people involved with the hunger crisis across the county. Advocates work together to shine a light on this pressing issue, affecting 17,260 of our neighbors right here in Hunt County. Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, and the North Texas Food Bank is a member of it.

As a member of Feeding America, the NTFB distributes donated and purchased foods to more than 200 partner agencies in 13 counties. Three of those partner agencies serve our food-insecure neighbors in the Commerce area:

- Bread of Life Food Pantry located at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce
- Commerce Food Pantry located at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce
- Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH in downtown Greenville

## How to Participate in Hunger Action Month

- ✓ Place your \$1 bills and designated gifts in the offering plate throughout September, which will go directly to the NTFB.
- ✓ “Meat the Need” by bringing in canned protein such as Spam for the Commerce Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the collection box outside the church office during September.
- ✓ Drop your handled brown bags like the ones from Braum’s by the church office. Food 4 Kids and the Commerce Food Pantry will reuse them.
- ✓ Volunteer at Bread of Life Food Pantry on Sunday, September 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. We will help pantry manager Becky Glass prepare boxes for the pantry’s upcoming distribution. Contact Angela Roberts by Wednesday, September 13, to sign up. (972.765.6547 | [AQRoberts@hotmail.com](mailto:AQRoberts@hotmail.com)) We will meet after the 10:50 worship service for a light lunch before going to the Church of the Nazarene.
- ✓ Visit one of the local food pantries to see how these programs are making an impact in our community and who knows, you may be moved to become a regular volunteer!
  - Bread of Life Food Pantry on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. Home deliveries made earlier in day. Contact Jan Helton at 903.450.7335 for more information.
  - Commerce Food Pantry on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 for more information.





# Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been meeting, looking at the worship life of the congregation and the structure, form, and style of the 10:50 am Sunday service. It is our view that the 8:45 am Sunday service is functioning well and meeting the needs of those who attend. The 10:50 service, which is our more formal Methodist style service, is always undergoing minor adjustments, and so we spent some time looking at the nuts-and-bolts of how it functions, what its needs are, and how we might want to adjust the service in terms of format and music. This will continue to be an on-going process, so if you have any recommendations or suggestions, please feel free to tell the pastors or any of the committee members: Virginia Collier, Nancy Doughty, Mary Lou Heatherly, Craig Jensen, Carolyn Trezevant, Angela Roberts, Jelisa Baker, Frances Sartwell, Judy and Dennis Anderson.

At our most recent meeting we projected plans for the special services throughout the remainder of the year, including All Saints and Christmas. Also, the First Sunday of September will be a little different experience in the 10:50 am service because we will be using the Hymnal for our order of worship rather than one laid out in a bulletin. If you want to see what that will be like, just look in the Red UM Hymnals beginning on page 6.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Ad Council Chair:**  
Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142
- Lay Leader:**  
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- SPPRC Chair:**  
Jim Patton (903) 886-4612
- Trustees Chair:**  
Virginia Collier (903) 367-7588
- 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) 246-1487
- Lay Member:**  
Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

## Nominations Committee

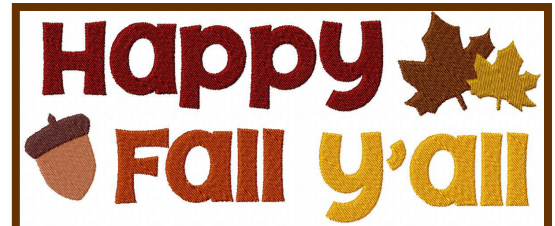
The Nominations Committee will meet on **Sunday, September 17**, following the 10:50 worship service.

## YOUTH NEWS

Date	Time/Location	Youth Event
August 27	4-6P FUMC	We are having a Nerf War Challenge. Bring your own Nerf gun
September 3	4-5:30P FUMC	Come and join us at the Light Service and Potluck
September 10	4-6P WCM	Food and Games
September 17	Cancelled	
September 24	4-6P FUMC	Game Night
October 1	4-5:30P FUMC	Come and join us at the Light Service and Potluck

**FIRST THURSDAY**

Potluck Luncheon  
September 7  
@ 12pm



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](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Tuesday, September 19 by 9:00am\*\***





**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday  
September 17**

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!

*In memory of...*

**Faye Jackson**

By: Lena Faulkner  
Dough Rollins SS Class  
Novidel Burkett  
Ben & Janet Harvey  
Norma Shotts



**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
<b>Jul 30</b>	—	79	34	32	
<b>Aug 6</b>	20	71	32	38	
<b>Aug 13</b>	24	62	40	38	
<b>Aug 16</b>				4	
<b>Aug 20</b>	28	67	39	22	
<b>Aug 27</b>	25	71	53	30	



**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of July 30, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 31,701	\$ 194,104
Expenses:	<u>\$ 37,376</u>	<u>\$ 211,290</u>
	-\$ 5,675	-\$ 17,186

**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:**

Friday, Sep 1	Romans 12:18-21
Saturday, Sep 2	Matthew 16:21-23
Sunday, Sep 3	Matthew 16:21-28
Monday, Sep 4	Exodus 12:1-11
Tuesday, Sep 5	Exodus 12:11-14
Wednesday, Sep 6	Psalms 149
Thursday, Sep 7	Romans 13:8-10
Friday, Sep 8	Romans 13:11-14
Saturday, Sep 9	Matthew 18:15-17
Sunday, Sep 10	Matthew 18:18-20
Monday, Sep 11	Exodus 14:19-31
Tuesday, Sep 12	Psalms 114:1-2
Wednesday, Sep 13	Psalms 114
Thursday, Sep 14	Romans 14:1-12
Friday, Sep 15	Matthew 18:21-35
Saturday, Sep 16	Exodus 14:19-25
Sunday, Sep 17	Romans 14:10-12
Monday, Sep 18	Psalms 105:1-6
Tuesday, Sep 19	Psalms 105:37-45
Wednesday, Sep 20	Exodus 16:2-15
Thursday, Sep 21	Philippians 1:21-26
Friday, Sep 22	Philippians 1:21-26
Saturday, Sep 23	Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday, Sep 24	Matthew 20:1-16
Monday, Sep 25	Exodus 17:1-4
Tuesday, Sep 26	Exodus 17:5-7
Wednesday, Sep 27	Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Thursday, Sep 28	Matthew 21:23-27
Friday, Sep 29	Matthew 21:28-32
Saturday, Sep 30	Philippians 2:1-5



## Prayer Lists

### Recent Concerns

Flood & hurricane victims  
 Family of Harry Icenhower  
 Family of Frances Thompson  
 Debra Burton  
 Martha Clevenger  
 Rev. Tom Dudley  
 Audrey Hucks (Stephanie Davies' mother)  
 Chad Oats  
 Dave Polk

### Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world,  
 Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Nell Brown, Gene Casselberry, Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Sue Davis, Sammy Elwell, Mel Fox, Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson), Betty Morton, Gayle Shumate, Robert Seay, Pat Skauge, Madeline Sullivan, Rev. Clay Yeager

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Gayle Shumate, and Euple Walker

**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...**

Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins  
 Lt. Dan Barton  
 Daniel Chamberlain  
 Mike Dempsey  
 Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law  
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
 Col. Keith Williams  
 Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

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

[www.revneal.org](http://www.revneal.org)  
[www.youtube.com/revneal](http://www.youtube.com/revneal)  
[www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo](http://www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo)



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