

REV. CHERYL MURRAY JOINS FUMC-COMMERCE FAMILY

By Gene Lockhart

After hearing Sam's announcement during worship service that he would be leaving us at the end of June, I reflected on his life with us. I turned to Matthew and the "Parable of the Talents" ...you remember how the different servants invested the gifts they were presented with varying degrees of accomplishment. Sam and Cathy certainly epitomize the mantra "well done, good and faithful servants" as they have led an examined life, a controlled life, and a sacrificial life throughout their many years of ministry together. We have been blessed by their talents and dedication.

Our District Superintendent Reverend Cassie Wade, working with the Bishop's Cabinet and our Pastor, Parish Relations Committee has announced the appointment of Reverend Cheryl Murray as our new pastor effective July first.

District Superintendent Rev. Cassie Wade has announced the appointment of Rev. Cheryl Murray as senior minister of our church effective July 1, 2022. Cheryl graduated cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology in 2001. She is completing her fifth year as pastor of Valley View UMC and previously served eight years as senior pastor of Wesley UMC, Wichita Falls. She is blessed beyond measure to have adopted her daughter Alex, who is now a freshman in high school.

Pastor Cheryl is open and intentional about connecting with people of all ages and walks of life. She believes that authentic, invitational, meaningful and imaginative worship creates space for the Holy Spirit to lead people to encounter the living Christ. She desires to build connections to the church from outside the walls of the building through community groups and events, along with school outreach. She has a genuine concern for people who are lost, and have no connection to a faith community. She longs to be a light that points to Jesus.

Reverend Cheryl and her 14 year old daughter Alex look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday July 3rd.

Palm Sunday Activities Planned!



We are planning a church wide lunch/Easter Egg hunt on April 10th after the Palm Sunday church service. The celebration will be a pot luck, with the Connect team providing barbeque for the meat dish. Side dishes such as salads, vegetables, and desserts are all welcome! The lunch will take place at the McLeroy Farm, located at 8994 State Highway 11 East, Commerce .



Shake it Off and Step Up!

(Borrowed from Keith Wagner, Possibilities Unlimited)

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule braying and went to the site. After assessing the situation the farmer sympathized with the mule but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead he called his neighbors and asked them to bring their shovels and bury the poor mule and put him out of his misery.

The mule seemed hysterical. When the dirt struck his back he shook it off. As the farmer and his friends continued to shovel a thought struck the farmer. After each shovel of dirt was thrown onto the mule he said, "Shake it off and step up." The mule did what he asked, after every shovel of dirt. After a time the old mule stepped triumphantly out of the well. What seemed to bury him actually became his road to freedom.

There is an alternative to every impossible situation. The way is not always visible to us. But our task is not to work miracles, that is up to God. Our responsibility is to prepare the way, committing every ounce of energy we have to the possibility of the transforming power of God, remembering that a single act of kindness can bring hope to generations yet to come. And sometimes, it means shaking off the leaves that fall, the challenges, the dirt of the earth that settles on us, and stepping up.

Keep stepping up!



F.I.S.H.--Lenten Mission continues

F.I.S.H., Hunt County Shared Ministries, has been designated our Lenten mission. This organization grew from the idea of Presbyterian minister, Bill Hunt, to join with the neighboring Lutheran church to meet the food and clothing needs in Hunt County. Located at 2805 King Street in Greenville, the facility is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am till noon. Currently it offers a wealth of services but F.I.S.H. continues to provide a number of services to address food insecurity.

The MARKS--Meals for At-Risk Kids-- program sends a backpack full of nutritious foods home with qualified kids every weekend to tide them over since they can't have breakfast or lunch at school. People may also "shop" the shelves at the facility. Monday, Wednesday and Friday anyone may drive by and pick up fresh produce and the 3rd Thursday of each month they may pick up a box of food supplied by the North Texas Food Bank. F.I.S.H. also supplies the groceries for Hunt County Shares at Thanksgiving and Christmas. People may also rent a plot in the community garden.

Over the years services have expanded to include payment for doctor's appointments, prescriptions and eye glasses. F.I.S.H. will help individuals to obtain Social Security cards so they can apply for jobs. During the pandemic Hunt County Shared Ministries has expanded its rent and utilities assistance to aid those who have fallen behind as a consequence of Covid. Your Lenten offering will help underwrite the \$100,000.00 spent on this effort and the \$60,000.00 spent each year on the MARKS program. All dollar bills and checks designated for Lent in the memo line will support F.I.S.H. If you give online, just click the Mission of the Month button.

Hunt County Shared Ministry was nicknamed F.I.S.H. in reference to the Biblical story of the loaves and fishes. Wally Jeffers, executive director, has created the acronym **Faithfully Instilling Shared Hope**. Let's join in this effort by making a generous donation.



holy week

April 10th

**Palm Sunday Service at
10am in the Sanctuary**

**Holy Week in a Bag
(available to pick up)**

**Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic
following Palm Sunday
Service**

April 14th

**Maundy Thursday Service
at 6pm in the Chapel**

April 17th

**Easter Sunrise Service at
7am in the Gathering Area**

**Traditional Easter Service
at 10am in the Sanctuary**

Prayer List 3-29-22

Recent Concerns:

- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bishop Eduard Khegay, Bishop of UMC in both Ukraine and Russia
- Family of James Teel
- Family of Lester Wevers, father of Cathy Caldwell
- Will and Cassandra, named byi Dewey Haight
- Sabrina Allen and mother
- David West
- Mack Andrews
- Bill Heitholt
- Frances & Mark Sartwell
- Linda Baron
- Richard Norton
- Mary Baker
- Family of Janet Skauge
- Sharon Brown (named by the Webster family)
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ***Our world, country, & leaders***
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Discovery Village Rehab:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):

- Jerry & Sandy Hutton

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole

Those serving in our military:

- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer

April Birthdays

- 4/1 McClaine Clark
 - 4/2 Michael Naizer
Mariann Andrews
 - 4/3 Al Stapleton
Betty Martin
 - 4/4 Judy Rudoff
 - 4/6 Paul Zelhart
 - 4/10 Carrigan Oats
 - 4/19 Claire Dobbs
 - 4/21 Michael Stark
Jayne Williams
Carolyn Lockhart
 - 4/22 Luke Hooten
 - 4/25 Julie McLeroy
 - 4/28 Zachary Jensen
Jerry Hutton
 - 4/30 Dylan Borders
- April Anniversaries**
- 4/9 Charles & Christi Webster
 - 4/16 Clarence & Kay Jensen

**Pancake Break-Fast and Ash
Wednesday Service**

Thanks to everyone involved for such a successful Pancake supper and Ash Wednesday service. Thank you Connect team for the delicious meal. There were forty-five people in attendance, along with several students from TAMU-C, who attended the service. It was a lovely evening of fellowship and faith.





We're Hiring!

Little Ark is currently hiring loving, kind, and flexible full and part time teachers. Please apply in person at Little Ark between 8-5. Applicants must be 18 and have a high school diploma.

Top left: Celebrating National Candy Day in Pre-school; Top center: Toddler 1 teacher Mrs. Tiffany hanging out with Toddler 2 class! Top right: "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" learning centers; Bottom: Pre-K: Donuts with Dad to end the Letter D unit.

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**

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Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell