

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 4

April 2021 Newsletter

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HOLY WEEK AT FUMC COMMERCE

Holy Week Service
Thursday, April 1

at 6pm in the Sanctuary

A service including communion and ending with the silence and darkness of Tenebrae

easter
SUNDAY



EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 4

Easter Celebration Service
Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary

Holy Week in a Box

Holy Week in a Box uses simple objects tucked into a small box, along with scripture, to tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning.



Holy Week in a Box is available for families with children. Call or text Amy Stark at 903-246-1487 to reserve yours. Kits will be available for pick-up at church on Palm Sunday or porch delivery.

Holy Week in a Box was originally created by Linda LeBron and posted online in 2013 by her daughter, Camille LeBron Powell. This version was adapted by the Rev. Mary Hawes, who has created a Facebook page, The Holy Week Box.

Pastor's Article: "Turning Again"

Lent is a time for confessing. I confess, I can easily take people for granted. I am not proud of that, but, well, to be fair, I take myself for granted too.

(I'm not bragging but confessing!)

Many human relationships come to an end because of taking another person for granted. How many times have you heard of a couple coming apart because one or the other feels "taken for granted?"



I said I take myself for granted. Such is not fair to me; nor is it fair to everyone else who depends upon me. I have grown to have a very strong memory of places and events. Even details. Over the decades, I have worked on recalling names and learned how to improve memory with systems.

I have bragged about that and even entered contests and challenges. But I find that with age, the ability to purposefully remember facts and details takes more and more effort where it used to come easy. That reality must be compensated with systems for remembering. And more discipline.

Because of having a well-cultivated memory, I grew to take that for granted. So now I return to my systems and my discipline.

Failing to remember something is often sprinkled with some hidden anxiety and a good bit of distraction (combined with a sprinkling of not listening well to begin with--Lack of Attention). I'm pretty sure that ADD is a big part of that.

But I've been working on focus and paying attention. I have revived a process of growing more mindful and becoming a better listener. Pastors can be so engaged with presenting, that we become less and less attentive to listening well ☹--even failing to listen to ourselves, or to God!

And...

THAT THERE is a good definition of self-centeredness and sin.

I repent. (Pent means "to turn" And RE-pent means "to turn again"). Seems like I have to keep on repenting. (Human condition!) Thankfully, Jesus is in the forgiving business and also the Great Healer.

All of us have our areas of strength and shortcomings. Let us "turn again". Let us help one another heal. And let us give God the glory for all of our blessings, AND the challenges that help us grow!

Humbly I remain,

Your friend and pastor.



Rev. Sam Caldwell
rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com
214.842.9252 talk/text



Little Ark

Little Ark is closed on Good Friday, April 2.



PreK enjoying Green Eggs and Ham!



Chapel with Pastor Sam for the PreK class.



Toddler 2 Class enjoying the sunshine!

Blessings Table

If you should come to the church in person any time soon, you will notice a table placed outside the office door on the east side. On it are many food items and personal hygiene items. There's a sign taped to the table that reads: Take What You Need Leave What You Can.

Why such a table? The answer lies first in disappointment then in serendipity. While in Farmersville a few weeks ago, Pastor Sam thought it might be nice to pay a visit to our former pastor, Greg Neal, who is currently serving in Farmersville. Disappointingly, Pastor Greg was not at the church nor was anyone else. Serendipitously, however, Sam noticed a table much like the one we now have and thought it would be a good idea for us to have such a table with offerings for the many individuals who come to the church needing assistance or some other need.

In these days of Covid-19, having these items available just outside the office is far preferable to seeing people who may or may not be wearing a mask up close and in person. All in all, it is a win-win situation.

If you have items that would be useful to others in need such as pop-top cans of ready-to-eat foods or self-contained microwavable foods such as mac 'n cheese or any of a variety of noodle soups or personal hygiene items, please feel free to put them on the table. All those packaged plasticware forks, knives, and spoons that you've accumulated over the past year from all your take-out orders are perfect for the table. If you have travel sized shampoos, body wash bottles, or unopened soap bars from any of your past travels, those would be perfect for the table. Any item/s you feel would be useable/useful for someone in need, please place them on the table and let's see where those blessings take us.



"...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

April Mission of the Month: S.C.R.P.T.

MISSION
of the
MONTH



S.C.R.P.T. (Senior Center Resources and Public Transportation) will be the Mission of the Month for the remainder of April after Lent. This organization provides free or low-cost services throughout Hunt County. Its most well-recognized service is transportation. The Connection buses zip around all over Hunt County. For individuals 60 and over, many destinations are free. The maximum cost is \$4.00 a person. The Connection can also get you into the Metroplex with its Park and Ride program. Again, for those 60 or older, the charge is \$5.00 going in and \$5.00 coming back. For people under 60, the cost is \$10.00 each way. The Connection takes you to the Rowlett DART rail station and picks you up there at the end of the day to return to Hunt County.



A lesser known but vital service is nutrition. S.P.R.P.T. provides meals for qualified individuals that are cooked early each day and delivered to homes. It also sponsors congregate meals in Commerce and Greenville. These meals include time for basic health screenings, games and speakers. The pandemic has put a temporary hiatus on the meal with the hope that they can resume in the near future. In the meantime, S.C.R.P.T. is conducting Parking Lot Bingo in Greenville. The organization receives funding from the county and the state; however extra funds can make the difference between providing milk instead of powdered milk weekly and delivering 5 meals a week to someone who only qualifies for 3.

Your dollars (which can be designated online) or your designated checks will enhance the health and well-being of seniors throughout Hunt County.

Memory Garden

A Memory Garden is coming together in the gathering area near the Family Ministry Center . A flowering plant and or cut flowers honoring those in our fellowship who have passed will grace the pedestal behind the atrium. A small card will acknowledge their passing. The flowering plants will in due time be moved into the atrium. A whiteboard has been mounted behind the pedestal for messages. Pens, cards, and plastic display picks are available in a box on a smaller pedestal. Most recently, a geranium in memory of Mary Culbertson and a vase of flowers, in memory of Pete Robinson have been added to the garden. *May the souls of the faithful departed, by the mercy of God, rest in peace. May we be blessed by remembering them and their connections to us and our church.*



Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: I'm sure I'm not the only one who eagerly awaited a performance of the children's choir. They might not have always been right on pitch, but the joy in their voices and on their faces is heartwarming. One time they held up big signs when the congregation was to join in and another memorable time the chancel choir joined them for a presentation. Wonderful!!

Music and More was a huge attraction for my grandson, Zaek, the LIVE. WIRE. We had an agreement. He could be part of the choir as long as he behaved. I got a weekly report. He never missed a week!

I wish others would also submit memories. I keep thinking if I do others will. I know members have memories of Annie Louise Huggins that I wish they'd share.

Women at FUMC-Commerce

Pastor Lisa Greenwood at the Jubilee Luncheon complimented the congregation on taking the groundbreaking step of hiring a woman as their senior pastor. That step was followed by having the Reverends Dana Coker, Alize Fulbright, and Valerie Englert serve as senior or associate pastors. Each had a profound impact on the church and on many members' hearts. Although women senior pastors came later in the history of the church, women have historically played vital roles at FUMC-Commerce. Harriet Williams remembers Louise Drake being the first woman on the Board of Trustees when the church was still on Park Street.

Harriet's mother, Linnie Atchley, was on the building committee for the Highway 24 Church. Youth were also included on the building committee. Harriet Williams remembers her cousin, Betsy Robinson Chapman, was the youth representative on that committee. Mary Means recalls her daughter Debbie representing youth at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new church.

SEEK Camp

Harriet Williams remembers that senior pastor Dennis Wilkinson introduced FUMC-Commerce to SEEK Camp for special-needs children. FUMC youth would serve as one-on-one counselors for campers with mental and physical challenges. The campers had fun, but the counselors experienced a profound sense of satisfaction. In fact, Harriet Williams reports that her daughter, Meredith Williams Hinton, continues to spend two weeks at SEEK every summer, one as camp director and one as camp counselor. Meredith even resigned from one company that would not work with her camp scheduling, Harriet reported. Mac Robinson also continues to counsel every summer, and Campbell and Rockney Reid still counsel, schedule permitting.

What do you remember?

You can share your memories by e-mailing them to fumccommerce@gmail.com

In Memory of

Mary Culberson

by: Jim & Nell Brown
Carole Walker
Lena Faulkner
Jim & Susan Patton

Ahtrell Dalton

by: Jim & Janet Latham

Marilyn Heath

by: Jim & Janet Latham

Carolyn Wiley

by: Jim & Janet Latham

Margaret Floyd

by: David & Mary Ross
Jim & Janet Latham
Betty Martin
Lena Faulkner

Peggy Hanak

by: Carole Walker
Gil & Tammy Naizer
Jim & Janet Latham

Sally Grove

by: Susan Lampe
Jim & Susan Patton



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

By the Numbers

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
as of February 28, 2021	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 19,681	\$48,142
Expenses:	\$ 24,331	\$45,142
	-\$ 4,650	\$ 3,000

Worship Service LIVE	
Video Views	
2/28	15
3/7	23
3/14	28
3/21	8
3/28	12

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:
Chester Robinson
(903) 366-2125

Lay Leader:
Jeff Helton
(903)456-3982

SPPRC Chair:
David Giles
(817) 366-2026

Trustees Chair:
Gene Lockhart
(903) 513-8676

Finance Chair:
Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation Pres.:
Tammy Naizer
(903) 886-1961

Worship Chair:
Nancy Doughty
(903) 886-6328

Connect/Grow Chair:
TBD

Serve Team Chair:
Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Those affected by the shootings in Atlanta, GA and Boulder, CO
- Those affected by the tornadoes in Alabama and Georgia
- Those affected by the train collision in Egypt
- Oscar, Charlie, and Stacy (Webster family's friends)

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Our church committee chairs and members
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in quarantine
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going
- Students, Teachers, & Parents
- Betty Casselberry
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Angus Finn
- Jack Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Robert Seay
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Briarcliff:

- Bob Grove

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Jean Arnold

Discovery Senior Living:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole

Those serving in our military:

- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson in Japan)
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer



April Birthdays

4/1 McClaine Clark
4/2 Mariann Andrews
4/3 Betty Martin
Al Stapleton
4/4 Judy Rudoff
4/6 Paul Zelhart
4/9 Brian Dierolf
Greg Hooten
4/10 Carrigan Oats
4/13 Jennifer Knight
4/15 Chamblee Morgan
4/19 Claire Dobbs
Rachel Pearce
4/20 Judy Fane
4/21 Carolyn Lockhart
Michael Stark
Jayne Williams
4/22 Luke Hooten



April Birthdays (continued)

4/24 Kassady Todhunter
4/25 Julie McLeroy
James Teel
4/28 Jerry Hutton
Zach Jensen
4/30 Dawn Crow
Joe Williams

April Anniversaries

4/9 Charles & Christi Webster
4/16 Clarence & Kay Jensen
Chris & Ladonna Patterson

