

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 18, Issue 6

August 2020 Newsletter

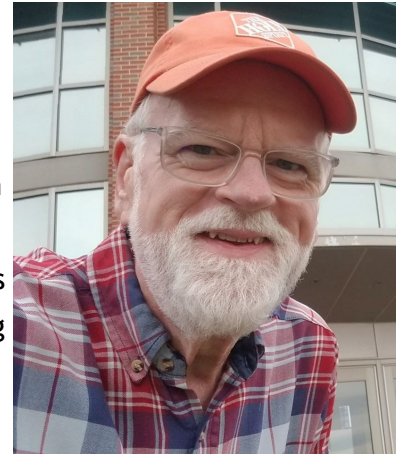
In this issue:

- Pastor's Article
- Trustees Report
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Children's Ministry
- Little Ark Activity
- Youth Ministry
- Carter BloodCare
- Memorials
- Financial & Viewership Numbers
- Committee Chairs
- Prayer List
- August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Pastor's Article:

The WORD in the Words

Pastors are called to say a lot of words. Some wish I would say more. Some, less. Or different. My ideal wish is to be quiet and listen more of the time. But the reality is that I am always in the middle of a sermon. One is being written, one or two are brewing, and I am getting some feedback on one I just preached. Anyone who says that many words is going to go off the map occasionally.



There are plenty of sources where you can download a tame ready-made "plastic theology" sermon to read to your congregation. Not my style. Preaching the Word is a holy task. It is a struggle in which one is pinned between God's voice and the voices of the world. And while I am always up for it, I am not ALWAYS up TO it. No one is.

It is understood that God speaks in some way through each of us and so I try to do my share of listening. God may speak through you and I need to hear from you. I welcome your comments and conversations. Reflecting my mediocrity I guess, it often seems that I get very little feedback. Sermons should start fires in the spirit (at least occasionally!) And sermons should call for action (at least *always!*) I am always willing to listen and talk about OUR sermons.

I welcome your constructive and owned input; such dialogue will help us grow and grow together. Let all of our words bring honor to the WORD! (John 1:1)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam".

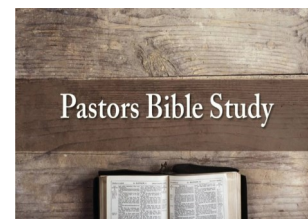
Trustees Report

Church Trustees

Now that the replacement of the Chapel roof is completed Trustees have turned to work in the keyhole. Handicapped parking will be brought up to state standards. The crushed rock area will be replaced with concrete to improve access and provide better control of rain water drainage. The slope on the north side of the Chapel and on the wet side of the West Parking Lot will also be graded to better accommodate drainage. A power surge during a storm three weeks damaged the Sanctuary lighting and the HVAC unit on the northside of the Sanctuary. The lighting and air conditioning systems were repaired including new cooling controls panels as of July 23rd all systems are working. Stay Cool!

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 12pm. Please don't be afraid of Zoom! You can participate by watching without talking. Talk only if you want to! Don't be intimidated; you will find it friendly! Decide whether you would like to watch on your phone or your computer and then send me an email at rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com or a text at 214-842-9252. Then I can send you either an email or a text with a safe link to click, a meeting ID number, and a password. We are looking at the lectionary scriptures each week. These are ones that will be used in the worship service for the coming Sunday.



Children's Ministry



We had over 50 families sign up for our 2020 online/at home VBS: Knights of North Castle! We distributed free bags of craft supplies and daily booklets on July 15.

We have also been working on weekly Children's sermons and determining our plans for the fall.

If you know of any children who would like to join our program, please email Amy at stark.amy1@gmail.com or Bonnie at bonnie.smith@hotmail.com.

Thanks!

Amy Stark and Bonnie Smith



Little Ark Activity

Little Ark starts their 2020-2021 school year on August 6th. Griddlecakes for Grandparents has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Other events will be planned as they come up and the status of the virus.

We look forward to having everyone back!

We are continuing with the protocol of parents not being allowed in the building at this time. We take daily temps (kids and employees) with a no-contact thermometer and are very vigilant in our cleaning.



Youth Ministry

We are in touch with our youth families, sharing Bible verses, and sending out grade level devotional to all of our kiddos.

If you know of any youth who would like to join our program and/or participate in these activities, please email Mandy and Jennifer at fumccommercemyouth@gmail.com.

Thanks! Jennifer Knight and Mandy Swinson





SHARING YOUR IMMUNITY ... GIVING HOPE

DONATING YOUR COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA

Plasma collected from individuals like you that have recently recovered from COVID-19, can provide hope to a currently ill COVID-19 patient. Even though it is still experimental, convalescent plasma has been approved for emergency use in the management of COVID-19.



EACH DONATION COULD
HELP THREE PATIENTS

WE NEED TO SEE

40 donors

DAILY TO KEEP UP WITH THE
LOCAL PATIENTS' NEEDS

requirements for convalescent plasma donors:

- 🩸 HAVE HAD A POSITIVE TEST RESULT FOR COVID-19 OR ANTIBODIES
- 🩸 NO SYMPTOMS FOR 14 DAYS
- 🩸 MEET REGULAR BLOOD DONATION GUIDELINES

YOU CAN GIVE
PLASMA EVERY

14

DAYS

ARE YOU READY TO SAVE LIVES?

Visit the Carter BloodCare website to
check eligibility and register.

carterbloodcare.org

#GIVEFORLIFE

In Memory of

Joe McMahan

Pat & Janet Skauge
August & Robin Haenel
Todd Haenel
Lisa, Mike, & Michael Olivarez
Dairy Chem Staff
John & Judy Gay and Family
Carol Baskin Tatum
Bill & Sheri Shulenberger

Glenna Anderson

Carole Walker
Susan Lampe
Joe & Laura Milligan

Gene Casselberry

Jim & Janet Latham
Neil & Michelle Morris
Pete & Mary Smith
Dennis & Judy Anderson
Kathy & Bobby Hill

Myra Terrell

Steve & Teena Shipp
Alta Fay Peden
Dennis & Judy Anderson



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

By the Numbers

Financial Information as of June 30, 2020

	MTD	YTD
Income: General Operating Acct	\$20,754	\$153,372
SBA Income Transfers:	\$0	\$16,065
Total Income:	\$20,754	\$169,437
Expense: General Operating Acct	\$28,639	\$168,495
Balance:	-\$7,885	\$942
Income: SBA Loan Account	\$37,708	\$37,708
Expenses: SBA Loan Transfers	\$16,065	\$16,065
Balance:	\$21,643	\$21,643

Worship Service Video Views

7/5 1.4K
7/12 216
7/19 135
7/26 284

Committee Chairs

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

Lay Leader:
Bill Heitholt
(903) 886-6819

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:
Bonnie Smith
(903) 782-5312

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

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Students, Teachers, and Parents in transition and getting ready to start school this fall
- Family of Glenna Anderson (Dennis Anderson's mother)
- Family of Mack Poole
- Rheba Icenhower
- Priscilla McFarland
- Mary Louise McMahan
- Susan & Jim Patton's family (job related concerns)
- Harriet & Wyman Williams
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Sue Boykin
- Betty Casselberry
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Garrett Cramer
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Cindy French (Marsha Shepherd's coworker)
- Jack & Gladys Gray
- Sally Grove
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Bill W Heitholt's nephew-in-law
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Gail Levey (Bill & Diane Duffy's friend)
- Zachary Madden
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- Richard Norton
- Jim Posinello (Diane Duffy's brother-in-law)
- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart

- Donna Tavener
- James and Geneva Teel
- Dr. Richard Watts (Chester Robinson's friend)
- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Dennis Wilkinson
- Rev. Gene Wisdom

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Mary Culbertson
- Nick Heath

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Roger & Jean Arnold

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

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



August Birthdays

- 8/3 Nelson Chapman
Emma Wittkopf
- 8/7 Suzanne Bailey
- 8/10 Derrell Harrison
Rockney Reid
- 8/11 Wyman Williams
Gabe Wittkopf
- 8/13 Tiffany Harrison
Allie Wittkopf
- 8/14 Dick King
Mary Lambert Smith
Carolyn Trezevant
- 8/15 Vance Underhill
- 8/16 Sandy Hutton
- 8/18 Joe Spinato
- 8/19 Maggie Robinson



August Birthdays, continued

- 8/20 Tom Bailey
Diem Casselberry
- 8/21 Becky Adams
Linda King
- 8/22 Betty Morton
- 8/23 Luanne Huffman
Priscilla McFarland
- 8/27 Ron Elwell
Ladonna Patterson
- 8/30 Bonnie Smith
- 8/31 John Mark Dempsey



August Anniversaries

- 8/2 Sam & Alison Walker
- 8/7 Joel & Janeen Kvanli
- 8/16 Jim & Donna Tavener
- 8/23 Jim Bob & Janet Latham
- 8/29 Vance & Ann Underhill