

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 20, Issue 8

August 2022 Newsletter



Notes from Pastor Cheryl

Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. (Rev. 3:20, CEB). What a difference a few weeks make in the life of a pastor and her daughter! Lots of you knocked on the door and brought dinner too! Alex and I have been settling in – well, in the little time Alex has actually been here! She and I both are looking forward to school and athletics and a “normal” schedule getting started soon.


I hope if you are a teenager or know one, you are aware of our plans for the GOAT youth group (Greatest of All Time) which will begin the first week after school starts (Sunday, August 21) with a gathering after worship (11 a.m.) in the Family Ministry Center. We will organize and plot and make plans for a super year of learning, having fun, and serving others.

Lest you think I only care about youth having fun, learning, and serving others – we have a chance for each and every one of you (any and all ages) to get involved in a small group this school year. It may be a study/learning group such as Disciple Bible Study, short-term Bible and Theology studies, classes that meet right after worship – Sunday School hour – or weeknights or weekdays, whenever we can make it work, or whether it is mission group whose purpose is to gather and serve others, such as our Prayer Shawl group, Blessing Table group, Food Bank Egg Gatherers, and others only limited by your imagination! A group is invited to join me weekly on Wednesdays (details to come) to worship at Oak Manor of Commerce Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Sunday, August 14th you will have an opportunity after worship at our Indoor Back to School Picnic to sign up for the small group(s) that interest you. Some groups may choose to serve at various mission projects in our community, or dream up new ways to serve. Basically everyone should have a chance to get involved, get to know new people, and invite others to join us. Here God will be creating new doors, entryways to come and see what's going on at First Commerce.

God has work for us to do! Let's go!

*Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.
It's bursting out! Don't you see it?
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.
Wild animals will say 'Thank you!'—the coyotes and the buzzards—
Because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sun-baked earth,
Drinking water for the people I chose, the people I made especially for myself,
a people custom-made to praise me. (Isaiah 43:19-21, The Message)*




Kindness
is a language which
the deaf can hear
and the blind can see."
-Mark Twain

Be kind whenever possible.

Pro Tip:

It's always possible!

If you are interested in giving flowers for the altar, please visit with Luann Huffman before worship on Sunday or contact her at lhuffman01@cumbytel.com.



Altar Flowers

CISD Family Services (Stuff the Bus) August Mission of the Month by Judy Rudoff

BREAKING NEWS! School will begin in about two weeks. It's an exciting time for students, but it can be very stressful for parents who must get their children ready for the school year. It is not an inexpensive undertaking, noted Allison Walker. The cost of school supplies alone can run into hundreds of dollars, especially if there is more than one child enrolled. Enter CISD Family Services (Stuff the Bus) administered by Allison Walker and Kathy Myers. It provides school supplies so that kids will be self-confident and have a positive attitude towards school on that first day. FUMC traditionally partners in this effort by dropping dollars and donating school supplies.

Obviously, our donations will not help at the start of school. They will be used to replenish supplies throughout the year.

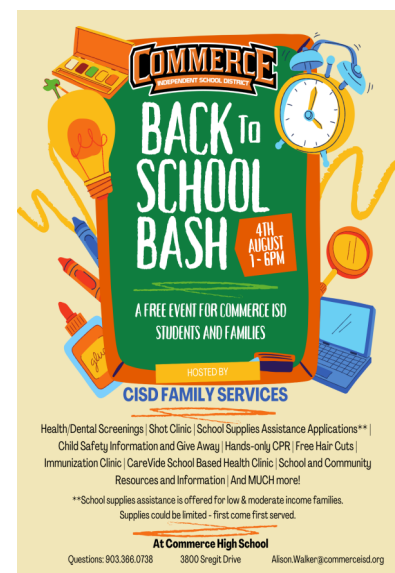
The agency will stage its annual "Back to School Bash" Thursday, August 4 at the high school from 1 to 6 p.m. Basic school supplies will be available, along with health and dental screenings, a shot clinic, haircuts and much more! All are free for CISD students and families.

CISD Family Services also works quietly throughout the year to meet the needs of CISD students and their families, according to Mrs. Myers. It can supply clean clothes and has assembled washers, dryers and supplies for washing clothes. There are also showers, soap and shampoo for those needing them. The agency also works quickly to mobilize community resources when a family experiences a house fire or other devastating emergencies.

If you would like to be part of this endeavor to support Commerce schoolchildren, just drop some dollar bills or a check with CISD Family Services in the memo line in the collection plate Sunday mornings in August. If you give online, click the button for August Mission of the Month. Let's also stuff a box, placed outside the office door, to overflow with school supplies. Children are our future.

Mrs. Walker suggests the following supplies:

- No.2 lead pencils
- Blue, black and red pens
- Large pink erasers
- Pocket folders with and without brads, red and blue
- Glue and large glue sticks
- Composition books
- Watercolors
- Highlighters



Operational Streamline Review Underway by Gene Lockhart

The church's administrative functions and financial outlook are currently under review by the Administrative Board, Finance, Trustees, and Personnel committees. Our goal is to create efficiency in our administration and find areas of possible savings including:

- Office Staffing
- Automatic Data Processing
- Finance support
- Maintenance and operations
- Utilities
- Personnel – Youth & Family Life
- Teaching

As part of this review process, the decision was made to change church office hours. The office is now open from 9:00-2:00 Monday through Thursday. The office is closed on Friday.

All members are invited to consider what gifts and talents you have to offer and share as we go through this process. Please contact any of the chairs or committee members with your comments and suggestions.

Prayer List 7-25-22

Recent Concerns:

- ***Our world, country, & leaders***
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- Bill Heitholt
- Families of Uvalde
- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bishop Eduard Khegay, Bishop of UMC in both Ukraine and Russia

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Janet & Jim Payne, sister of Becky Coker
- Rev. Payton Parker & family
- Georgia Gholston
- Melanie Cortea
- Frances Sartwell
- Sharon Brown (named by the Webster family)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- 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

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Harbor Chase-Southlake:

- 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:

- Celeste Young, (Marines) & Chandler Teague (Navy), great-grandchildren of Lee Riddle
- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Lt. Colonel Bob Farmer

August Birthdays

- 8/4 David Kemp
- 8/7 Suzanne Bailey
- 8/10 Derrell Harrison
- 8/11 Wyman Williams
- 8/13 Tiffany Harrison
- 8/14 Dick King
Mary Lambert Smith
Carolyn Trezevant
- 8/15 Vance Underhill
- 8/16 Sandy Hutton
- 8/19 Maggie Robinson
- 8/20 Tom Bailey
- 8/21 Linda King
- 8/23 Priscilla McFarland
Luanne Huffman
- 8/27 Ron Elwell
- 8/30 Bonnie Smith
- 8/31 John Mark Dempsey



August Anniversaries

- 8/3 Dewey & Ginny Haight
- 8/7 Joel & Janeen Kvanli
- 8/29 Vance & Ann Underhill

Back to School Blessing & Picnic

Join us Sunday, August 14th, for our annual Back to School Blessing. All children, youth, college students, educators, and administrators are invited to worship to receive a Back to School Blessing and a bag tag. Backpacks are our children's constant companions as they go about their school days, so Pastor Cheryl would like to send a blessing with them. After the blessing, each will receive a tag to put on their backpack to remind them that God is with them in their daily lives and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year.

After worship, you are invited for an indoor picnic in the Family Ministry Center, hosted by the Connect Team. During the picnic, we will highlight ministry opportunities and small groups that are seeking new members. Please consider joining a group and sharing your ideas.



Little Ark Beating the Heat!



Top row: Water Day!! Toddler 2; Toddler 1 trying to beat the heat! Pre-K and Preschool ready to load the bus for a field trip! Bottom row: Baby room water day!; Ms. Ashlyn helping one of her kiddos down the water slide.



In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Cheryl at 940-613-5375.

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