

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 8

August 2021 Newsletter

Back to School Blessing August 8th during the 10am service

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FUMC-Commerce would like to send children back to school with a blessing and a bag tag!

All children, youth, college students, educators, and administrators are invited to worship on Sunday, August 8 at 10am 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 Sam would like to send a blessing with them. After the blessing, each will receive a tag to put on their backpack at home to remind them that God is with them in their daily life and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year.

We would also like anyone involved in education (all teachers, principals, custodians, secretaries, etc.) to join us in this blessing. You make such an impact on our children each and everyday and you need a blessing too!

Church Work Day Saturday, August 14 @ 7:30am

The Trustees will serve donuts and coffee starting at 7:30am to launch a Church Work Day for much needed projects.

Projects include:

- Remove bushes & brush at the north end of the sanctuary
- Remove bushes, brush and materials from the site of the former Commerce Gardens
- Repaint parking stripes on parking lots
- Clean & remove candle wax on Sanctuary seating
- Fill potholes in all entrances to parking lots
- Trim ground cover in front of the church including the pond area
- Remove mud and dirt accumulated in the keyhole area
- Grade & shape the hillside northwest of the Sanctuary to facilitate proper drainage

If you have equipment pertinent to these tasks, please contact Gene Lockhart at (903) 513-8676.



Chancel Choir

The FUMC Chancel Choir has resumed practice on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the choir room. The choir will join John Burkett on the organ starting at 10am on Sunday, August 1st. Join us!



Friendship Sunday School Class

The Friendship Sunday School Class is meeting after the 10am worship service in the Friendship Room. Come join us!



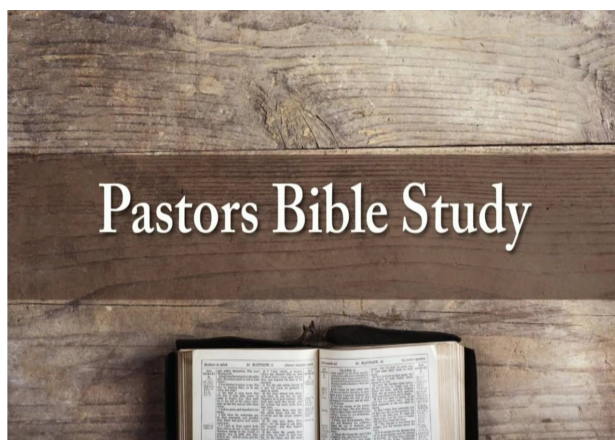
Pastor's Bible Study

Now that we are meeting back in person, our Wednesday noon pastor's Bible study group has decided that they would rather meet in the evenings.

We have changed our Bible study to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday in-person in the Friendship classroom and also live on the church Facebook page for anyone who would rather join us remotely.

We are discussing and studying the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday and sharing in the formation of our Sunday worship and preaching.

Please spread the word. Come join us at church or online!



Jam

August Mission of the Month: Wesleyan Campus Ministry



The Wesleyan Campus Ministry, a mission long supported by FUMC-Commerce, is the August Mission of the Month. This year the campus ministry has a new leader, the Reverend Payton Parker.

Reverend Parker's journey to Commerce began in Chicago, Illinois, where he was adopted by a Baptist minister. (His maternal grandfather also was a preacher.) After graduating from high school, he attended Arkansas Pine Bluff, an Historically Black College, majoring in business and living in the Wesley Campus House. Though the board was free, the stipulation was that he clerk six hours at the local Methodist church, St. Stevens, where Methodist theology and missions began to appeal to him.



WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

From Arkansas, he traveled to Dallas where he studied theology at Perkins Theological Seminary on the SMU campus on a full scholarship. Simultaneously he worked as a youth pastor at St. Luke's FUMC where he met his wife, Tahvia. They married in 2019 just when the pandemic started. He was ordained at the Annual Conference this year and appointed to Lancaster FUMC.

A self-described "Kingdom guy," Reverend Parker is eager to spread the message that Jesus preached, that one doesn't have to wait to experience salvation until after they die. Salvation can be experienced right here on earth.

Parker is excited to direct the campus ministry and hopes it will attract many young college students. He is anxious to meet students where they are, pointing out that Jesus didn't remain in the synagogue. He met people in their homes for dinner, at a well and the countryside to teach his message. Reverend Parker intends to

use video games and e-sports to start the conversation. He also contemplates leading Wesleyans on mission trips, local and international, to encourage students to believe in doing something bigger than themselves.

Every dollar bill dropped in the collection plate—or check with Wesleyan on the memo line—in August will support this ministry. You may also donate online at www.fumccommerce.org (be sure to select Missions of the Month).

Reverend Parker will join us for worship on Sunday, August 1, as our guest pastor, while Pastor Sam is on vacation. Let's give Reverend Parker a warm FUMC welcome to Commerce by donating to this mission so that he will have the tools to work toward his goals!

Written by Judy Rudoff

Little Ark Happenings



Our baby through preschool classes start back to school on Monday, August 2nd.

Pre-K starts back to school on Monday, August 16th. Susie Chappell is our new pre-k aide.



Finance Committee Report

Hello fellow members!

I have been seeing some of you at the Sunday service but not nearly enough of you. I know after the pandemic, it is hard to get back in the habit of church on Sunday. However, what better way to thank the Lord for getting us through the hardship than to show up for Sunday worship. We really miss you! (God does too!)



For your information, the services are currently slightly shorter than normal and a little less formal. The service is kind of a mix of Early Service and 10:50 Service. Three hymns are selected by those in attendance during the “singing time,” but we also do the affirmation of faith and sing the Doxology as in the formal service. It is a good mix you are sure to enjoy. I hope to see you there soon!

Now, being the Finance Committee chair, this is what I set out to write about. Nope, not bad news. I am not here to beat on you. Actually I want to thank you for your continued support during the time we were not having in-person services. Many of you continued your loyal contributions right through the worst of it. We are 25% to 30% below past giving levels but that should improve as people return to church. Giving will have to improve if we are to return to our full slate of activities, especially since we recently lost some loyal contributors. Rest assured, your church leadership is working hard to find ways to build attendance and membership. You can help by just following what we said we would do: Support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

I hope to see you at church soon. By the way, in case you didn't know, the service is at 10:00 now.

May God bless you.

Jim Brown, Finance Chair



The CARTOON KRONICLES

In Memory of

Scot Chaney

by: Jim & Janet Latham
Horace Joe & Janice Tabor
Bobby, Kathy, & Robert Hill
Scott & Jennifer Ward

Chester Robinson

by: Pat & Janet Skaug
Jim & Janet Latham
Al & Rose Stapleton

Walt Parker

by: Jim & Janet Latham
Pat & Janet Skaug

Bob Grove

by: Kenny & Nancy Phillips
Jim & Janet Latham

Bob & Sally Grove

by: Charlene & Paul Lenchner



Pray for students,
educators, and parents as
schools start back.

By the Numbers

Worship Service LIVE

	Video	In-Person
7/4	12	44
7/11	4	47
7/18	12	45
7/25	7	39

Committee Chairs

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 Doughy
(903) 886-6328

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

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

Prayer List

Joy for Betty Casselberry's great health report!

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Scoot Chaney
- Family of Sara Gibson
- Erin & Heath LaFevers (Janeen Kvanli's daughter & son-in-law)
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Khloe Pulido's grandmother and family (Little Ark student)
- Lana Stapleton (Al & Rose Stapleton's granddaughter)
- Donna Tavener
- Our church committee chairs and members

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- 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

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Jean Arnold

Discovery Senior Living:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

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



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
Diem Casselberry
8/21 Becky Adams
Linda King
8/22 Betty Morton



August Birthdays, continued

8/23 Luanne Huffman
Priscilla McFarland
8/27 Ron Elwell
8/30 John Heatherly
Bonnie Smith
8/31 John Mark Dempsey

August Anniversaries

8/3 Dewey & Ginny Haight
8/7 Joel & Janeen Kvanli
8/16 Jim & Donna Tavener
8/23 John & Teresa Heatherly
Jim Bob & Janet Latham
8/29 Vance & Ann Underhill

