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Merry Market Online Auction for Mission

Start: December 3 @ 7am

End: December 5 @ 3pm

The Merry Market for Missions is online this year! Time to do some Christmas shopping and support missions. We have some fabulous donated items this year; delicious homemade cakes, beautiful handmade wreaths, and much more.

Biddings starts online on December 3rd at 7am and ends December 5th at 3pm. Please spread the word and let everyone know about this unique shopping opportunity that supports local missions.



Mark your calendar! Shop [HERE](#).



The Angels Are Coming!

Once again FUMC-C will be involved in the Prison Ministries Fellowship Angel Tree Project, where we buy gifts for inmates' children on behalf of the incarcerated parent. This year, for safety's sake, it will be a bit different.

If you would like to support this mission, a few ways you can help are:

1. Adopt an angel—or 2—and WRAP the gift, placing the child's name and number on the package, so we can write the prisoner's personal message on a gift tag. The packages need to be returned to the church no later than Friday, December 18th.

If you want to adopt an angel, please call Judy Rudoff at 903-366-2634.

2. Bake cookies that the church will give to each family to show our support and love.

3. Pray for the children and the inmates. This year they really need to experience the fun and JOY the season represents!



Pastor's Article: Coverage Agreement



The words “warranty” and “guarantee” are very close. They share some linguistic heritage. I recently looked at a warranty document on my truck that is called a “Coverage Agreement”. It makes some (limited!) promises of covering expenses for repairs. Reading the warranty got me to thinking about the value of it. When that Coverage Agreement expired it became worthless. The way to use the benefit is to exercise that warranty--bring the truck back to the dealership and have it tested for needed repairs--before it is too late.

I used to teach voice, piano, and guitar lessons. Music is one of the greatest joys of the human spirit and I love to share it. I had one young student whose parents were not paying her lesson fees. I kept teaching her piano lessons but they were a couple of months behind with payments. She was not learning well because she was not investing time and energy in practicing at home. So she was not able to demonstrate much success. When it had to come to an end, her mother said to me, “Well, I guess we still have to pay you; we can’t exactly return those lessons!” I agreed. My time and creative energy were already spent. However, I don’t remember ever getting that check.

We like things that are free. However, when we invest little or nothing in a project, our benefits are limited as well. With any warranty or promise, the measure you give will be the measure you receive. So the young lady really did not receive much benefit from the lessons that were never paid for because she didn’t do her part. She didn’t invest herself in the practice of what she was learning.

This is true in our faith as well. In God’s great gift of hope in Jesus Christ, there is more amazing grace than we could possibly purchase or pay for. However it was not free. It is offered to us at a tremendous cost. That cost has been paid on our behalf but we can’t really appropriate that gift until we invest in it. It is the gift of God through Jesus Christ! But to fully accept that gift we have put it into practice! We need to spend time and energy to learn how to walk with him, to suffer with dignity and hope with him, and to live in confident joyful resurrection with him!

God’s grace is definitely a gift that we cannot earn or pay for. But it is not without cost! And we cannot really appreciate it unless we invest our trust in that grace, follow Jesus, and lead others to follow him too. As we do that, the Guarantee grows and remains effective!

Thanks be to God for the gift of eternal life! One of the best ways we can show our gratitude is to share that grace with our neighbors!



Rev. Sam Caldwell

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214.842.9252 talk/text



December Mission of the Month: Operación Abrigo (Formerly Proyecto Abrigo)

For many years, this church has been helping to support Proyecto Abrigo on the outskirts of Juárez, Mexico. Several of the congregation have made the 13- hour trip to Juárez to assist in building a home for a family whose flimsy shelter has been a hastily constructed cardboard and trash bag shack. Those who have been know the incredible joy of serving God in this way. In the past, FUMC-Commerce has been wonderful in providing funds for the homebuilding supplies for multiple families to have homes. Most of you know, too, that the home, when finished, is a basic 12' X 24' cinder-block structure with two windows, a door, a concrete floor, and a slightly pitched roof. There is no heating or air conditioning. There is no running water. There is no electricity. It's merely a bare shell of a building, yet to the recipient family living in the cardboard shack, it is a gift of love that provides shelter, and is for all intents and purposes, a palace for the family.

Your generous donations are needed now more than ever. Renamed Operación Abrigo (Operation Shelter) earlier this year, the mission is now delivering groceries to families who have lost jobs or whose job hours have been drastically cut due to the pandemic and can no longer afford to put food on the table since there is no local food pantry. Grocery goods being delivered include rice, beans, cornmeal, canned meat, flour, pasta, oil, salt, sugar, and occasionally a chocolate bar for the children. Mission director José Luís says that these foodstuffs are just as important as the houses built by various teams who travel to Mexico to work for the mission efforts of Operación Abrigo. He and one or two others are personally serving 60 families per week. A gift of \$25 will feed a family for a week, and a gift of \$100 can feed a family for a month. \$1200 will feed a family for an entire year. By contrast, the average family of four in the Dallas metroplex spends approximately \$600 per month on food. (Statistics were not found for Commerce specifically.)

Serving God and becoming the literal hands and feet of Jesus are what this mission effort is all about as indicated by the motto of the mission: “sirviendo con amor,” or “serving with love.” In the nearly three decades of José Luís’s mission efforts, thousands of cinder-block homes, five churches, a medical clinic, and a community center have all been built through the love and giving hands of volunteers who travel to stay at the compound (also built with volunteer help) on the eastern outskirts of Juárez. And now, that mission is focused on providing groceries to these same families.

Operación Abrigo is our December Mission of the Month. With church attendance currently being so limited due to the coronavirus, it is difficult to collect our usual funding provided through Drop a Dollar. Please consider providing what you can to help support this worthy endeavor that has done so much and continues to provide a coat of warmth, a cover of security, a shelter in this pandemic storm. The literal translation of abrigo is coat, but metaphorically it is the far-reaching shelter provided by God’s hand. “...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

Gifts can be made by check, through your online church gift giving, or directly to www.operacionabrigo.org.

Little Ark

The Little Ark children had TONS of fun at their Halloween parties!



Little Ark is doing a Reverse Advent Calendar this year. They will start right after Thanksgiving break (Nov. 30) and go to December 17th. The last time this was done, SO much food was donated! The class that brings the most gets a prize!

Little will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas.



Little Ark REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

On December 18th, we will take all of the donations to the Commerce Food Pantry.

*It is more blessed to give
than to receive
Acts 20:35*

- Nov. 30 - toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Dec. 1 - peanut butter
- Dec. 2 - crackers
- Dec. 3 - boxed potatoes
- Dec. 4 - box macaroni and cheese
- Dec. 7 - toilet paper/laundry detergent
- Dec. 8 - canned tuna/canned chicken/spam
- Dec. 9 - diapers (size 2-5)
- Dec. 10 - evaporated milk
- Dec. 11 - can ranch style beans
- Dec. 14 - canned spaghetti/ravioli
- Dec. 15 - dish soap
- Dec. 16 - jelly/jam
- Dec. 17 - can mixed vegetables
- Dec. 18 - bar soap/Kleenex/Braum's brown paper bags

FUMC-C Word Search Puzzle

X Q M W O E L Y M C H U R C H
 J F L I E T M O O E B K G T C
 E Y M I S S C E V U R Z O R O
 S O I S T S L G T E T C D I M
 U P N C E T I E R H F H Y N M
 S A I K H R L O Y O O J C I E
 A S S O A A V E N L W D H T R
 N T T U B S P E A G J G I Y C
 C O R S V X Y E X R W A L S E
 T R Y M U S I C L A K T D H T
 U F C O N N E C T C S H R O H
 A I H X J K Y D Z E A E E L C
 R R O D O R G A N C M R N Y V
 Y S I R E M K K D F A M I L Y
 V T R U N I T E D A Q U C E J

Chapel	Gather	Mercy	Sanctuary
Children	God	Methodist	Serve
Choir	Grace	Ministry	Trinity
Church	Grow	Mission	United
Commerce	Holy	Music	Wesley
Connect	Jesus	Organ	Youth
Family	Little Ark	Pastor	
First	Love	Sam	

In Memory of

Gladys Gray

Jim & Janet Latham

Judy Rudoff

Lena Faulkner

Jim & Nell Brown

Rheba Icenhower

Jim & Janet Latham

Steve Siebenhausen

Jim & Janet Latham

Roger Arnold

Jim & Janet Latham

Edna O'Quinn

Jim & Janet Latham



A Note from the Finance Committee



**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

First of all, a big thank you to all of our loyal members who have continued to support the church during this unusual time. Although attendance is very low contributions have come in fairly well. The income is well below that needed for full church operation but it is supporting current operations. Much of the staff is on furlough and operating expenses are down due to the facilities not being used as they are normally. Just in round numbers, at full operation the church needs about \$30,000 per month and at present income is around \$23,000. Many members are using one of our alternate ways of giving, such as credit card or bank draft. If you are interested, call Mariann at the church and she can give you the details. As people come back to church income should increase some but a large deficit is anticipated as the church resumes normal operations. It appears staffing will need to be reduced and other cuts are being reviewed. We will try to keep you informed. Meanwhile, THANKS AGAIN for your support.

The Finance Committee

By the Numbers

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
as of October 31, 2020	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 21,938	\$ 282,060
Expenses:	\$ 21,337	\$ 275,582
	\$ 601	\$ 6,478

Worship Service LIVE

Video Views

11/1	21
11/8	19
11/15	21
11/22	21
11/29	17

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:

- Our country and leaders
- Family of Margaret Divinia (Al Stapleton's sister)
- Family of Marguerite Trull (Christi Webster's friend)
- Diane Duffy
- Margaret Floyd
- Joe Hall (Harriet Williams' cousin)
- Smitty Harris
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those is quarantine

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going
- Students, Teachers, & Parents
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Sue Boykin
- Betty Casselberry
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Lena Faulkner
- Jack Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Gail Levey (Bill & Diane Duffy's friend)
- Zachary Madden
- Priscilla McFarland
- 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)
- Mark Sartwell
- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart

Continued Prayers (continued):

- Donna Tavener
- James & Geneva Teel
- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Mary Culbertson
- Nick Heath

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Briarcliff:

- Bob Grove
- Sally Grove

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- 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



December Birthdays

12/1 Glenna Julian
 12/2 Dick Latson
 12/6 Becky Coker
 Zach Smith
 12/10 Helen Cole (94!)
 12/11 Cameron Oats
 12/15 Jim Bob Grove
 Anna Knutson
 Teddy Walker
 12/22 Julia Robinson
 12/24 Mary Louise McMahan (91!)
 David Reid
 12/26 Will Latson



December Birthdays, continued

12/27 Nicole Pearce
 Katy Jensen
 12/28 Mike King
 12/29 Pepper Mackie
 12/30 Lynette Gill
 Jessica King
 12/31 Jon Parker
 Mac Robinson

December Anniversaries

12/17 Sam & Cathy Caldwell
 Chris & Christy Jensen
 12/26 Dick & Brenda Latson



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

First United Methodist Church
 1709 Highway 24
 Commerce, TX 75428
 Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell