

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2021 Newsletter

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TACKLE



HUNGER

This year is different for many reasons. But, one thing that is the same: the need to tackle hunger with the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year, the need for hunger relief in our country has grown. Our local food charities need our help!

Ways you can help tackle hunger this year:

Canned Soup Drive
Saturday, February 6
11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Drop off canned soup or chili to volunteers
on the curb outside MUGS on the Square
All donations benefit the TAMUC Lion Food Pantry
(Rain Location: covered Farmer's Market pavilion on Bonham Alley)
OR

Donate to local food pantries online at:
<https://map.tacklehunger.org/>
<https://lionpride.tamuc.edu/food-security>

To volunteer to help with the drop off please contact
Judy Rudoff at 903.366.2634



In-Person Worship Starts back February 21

You are cordially invited to join us for "Sunday Live" in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10am beginning on February 21.

Every effort has been made to help keep you safe in a huge but welcoming atmosphere. In addition to *social distancing*, all participants have their *temperatures taken* and *masks are required*.

Come join us!

Pastor's Article: A Trail, A Guide, and A Companion

The lectionary scripture readings each week contain a reading from the Old Testament, from a psalm, from one of the gospels, and from a new testament epistle. The readings are usually related along a theme. They are rich and it seems impossible to get all of them in a sermon each week. So I prayerfully seek to find a common point or relevant lesson for the time. (Here is a link to the readings to use as we move along through the seasons and the year: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/calendar/lectionary>)

When I can identify a theme and try to blend the scriptures together the sermon can seem pretty scattered. It comes out better usually when I pick one and go with it. I invite you to follow along and when you have an idea, I would welcome hearing it! But I always consult the others for balance.

These scriptures become a theme for our Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesdays at noon. Your encouragement and input on these texts would be a great companion on the journey each week. The link I often use is <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

This week's epistle lesson is from I Corinthians 8: 1-13 and speaks of knowledge. In the common culture around us, knowledge seems all-important. But in our faith, knowing is shadowed by BEING KNOWN by God who made us, loves us, knows our steps, and loves us STILL!

First Corinthians 8:1 says, "Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up!" And verse three... "but if someone loves God then they are known by God." So God is the first actor. I John 4:19 says "we love because God first loved us. But it goes on saying in verse 21, saying "The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

And remember Jesus said whoever follows me is my mother, father, sister, or brother. Friends, that counts YOU, and me! I'm glad we get to follow him together!

Proud to Be your pastor,

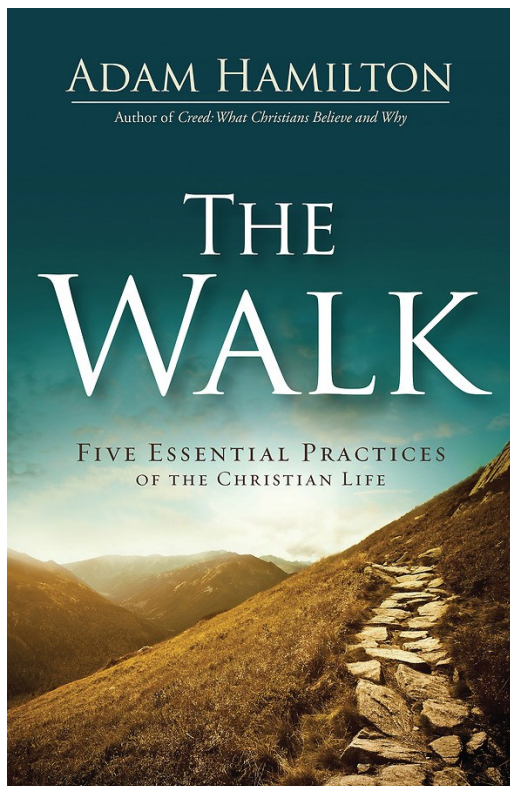


Rev. Sam Caldwell
rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com
214.842.9252 talk/text



All Church Lenten Study

Watch for more details to come.



**For the 6 weeks of Lent we will offer
The Walk video series by Adam Hamilton**

Watch one video a week at
your convenience.

Keep a journal.

Meet virtually with a small group
for discussion and study.

**Let's join together this Lenten season to
study, grow and WALK.**

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the 10 Angel Tree families and 31 children, we want to thank you for your loving participation in this mission. It was a bit different this year, but our church stepped up to provide happiness and meaning for prisoners, caregivers, and children.



Thanks to:

- Those who lovingly purchased gifts-- sometimes checking to confirm sizes-- and beautifully wrapped the packages. Then quickly said, "Yes", when asked to buy another gift.
- The Prayer Shawl ministry whose generous donation
- helped defray expenses and buy gifts for some children.
- Judy Anderson Jan Helton, Kay Jensen, Linda King and Frances Sartwell who baked cookies on behalf of the church to show our love and support for these families.

For safety's sake, we were unable to have prolonged contact with the children or caregivers or give them lots of hugs. Nevertheless we hope and pray that all involved were able to be conduits of God's love to them and to the prisoner's as well.

Thank you again!

Patricia Dempsey and Judy Rudolf

Prayer Shawl Ministry



“Dear Sir or Ma'am,

My Master Sergeant delivered one of your care packages to me, today. I want to say so much, but none of the words seem sufficient to express my gratitude.

This was the first Christmas I have spent away from my kids and husband, and found myself entering into a quarantine situation on Christmas day. Isn't life a trip? So, more so than perhaps even the average soldier, I found myself quite grateful for your generosity. Our meal situation is limited, and the lunch here consists of an MRE. I don't know if you know, but an MRE isn't the most pleasing meal, and the snacks in your package were a most pleasant surprise.

I'd like to say I kept myself from forming favoritism towards any particular gift, but I cannot. This knitted scarf around my neck is the perfect shade of green, and I do believe Kuwait winter evenings are chilly enough to don such a treasure.

The wide expanse of volunteers who help you there at Operation Gratitude must know that when they thank a soldier for their service, given time to respond, a soldier will normally respond in a humble manner. The more elaborate the thanks, the more I just do not know how to respond.

Many men and women before me have given more than I have. I know you know that. If I ever said, "You're welcome," I don't even know what that would mean.

Perhaps it is that you are welcomed into my heart, into a place I keep the memories of my girls' smiling faces. You are welcomed into the place where my home hearth burns warmly and all my loves are snuggled in close.

I hope you know that you have made a difference. The fruits of your labor are smiling faces, this side of the Atlantic.

Your selection of items to send were very thoughtful, and that did not go unnoticed.

Thank you, again. From the bottom of my heart.

Very Respectfully,
SPC J.W."

This eloquent note is truly amazing. Thank you SPC J.W. for welcoming us in! #bridgethedivide #actionsspeaklouder #forgestrongbonds #MondayMotivation



2020 Mission Dollars in Review

During 2020, like always we gave our \$1 bills and designated gifts. We hosted the Merry Marketplace Online Auction as well as the Stay Home, Stay Safe for a Cause letter to assist financially the missions supported by our church. These missions need our support now more than ever. Our direct giving plus fundraising, rather than a line item in the general operations budget, fund these missions. Your Serve team is responsible for administering these mission funds. Below is a summary of the gifts received and the gifts made in 2020.

Inflow	
2019 Carry Over Balance	4,365
Drop-a-Dollar & Designated gifts to Missions of the Month during 2020	1,596
2020 Merry Market Online Proceeds	1,522
Inflow Total	9,018

Summary	
Inflow	9,018
Less Outflow	6,132
2021 Carry Over Balance	2,886



Outflow	
Serving Our World	
Proyecto Abrigo	500
Heifer International Alternative Gifts	290
Subtotal	790
Serving Our Community	
Wesleyan Campus Ministry <i>2019 Merry Marketplace Lunch proceeds & 2020 Mission of the Month</i>	1,333
Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>2019 Merry Marketplace proceeds</i>	546
2020 Pastor's Benevolence Fund <i>(January Mission of the Month)</i>	500
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of Nazarene <i>(Souper Bowl of Caring)</i>	110
Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church <i>(Souper Bowl of Caring)</i>	110
Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH <i>(Serve Donation)</i>	535
Northeast Texas Food Bank <i>(Serve Donation)</i>	500
CISD Stuff the Bus & Family Services <i>(August Mission of the Month)</i>	804
Commerce Clothe-a-Child <i>(October Mission of the Month)</i>	504
Community Thanksgiving Meal hosted at Omega's Restaurant	400
Subtotal	5,342
Outflow Total	6,132



Lenten Offering: UMCOR

As many of you are aware, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR as it's better known, provides relief assistance both nationally and internationally. I was surprised to learn of all the ways UMCOR provides assistance in the world. I naively thought they were pretty much restricted to the familiar hurricane/flood clean-up buckets. Their relief efforts go FAR beyond that. They help to relocate refugees from Syria's horrific war and devastation to Lebanon and Jordan. UMCOR units were dispatched to battle the deadly diseases Ebola and measles in the Congo just this past summer and helped get them under control. They resettle displaced families in places like El Salvador and Honduras, they provide materials for building temporary shelters in refugee camps, they provide medical care, food, clean water, and health care items. They even help to clear landmines! That's definitely putting your own life on the line.

Closer to home, there were 101 emergencies in the US alone in 2020. Remember the California wildfires, 1,022 tornados claiming lives and doing over \$4.4 BILLION in damages, plus the repeatedly hit Texas and Louisiana coasts from deadly hurricanes? UMCOR was there.

Hunger, poverty, global health, water and sanitation, disaster response and recovery, migration, sustainable development, specific health needs for women and children—whatever is called for, UMCOR's US and International Response Teams provide it. They are literally the hands and feet of Jesus doing God's work throughout the world.

Please prayerfully consider generously giving to this very worthy effort that is our Lenten Offering mission. There's no better way to show God's love and to be the hands and feet of Jesus when you yourself can't be there. Please either designate a separate offering by writing "Lenten Offering" in the memo line of your check or when giving online from fumcommerce.org choose Mission of the Month to give to the UMCOR Lenten offering.

Matthew 25:40 "...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Finance Committee

As the church continues to be semi-shutdown, the income is sticking close to expenses. However as activity resumes the pressure on finances will increase. The CARES loan obtained has been forgiven so we don't have to pay that back. This is as expected. That money let the church finish 2020 in decent shape. It should be noted that the normal year end surge in giving did not occur. In fact, December giving was significantly below typical Decembers and even "normal" months. The church usually depends on this boost to balance out the year. In the next few months, church leadership will be working on ways to operate on a lower income level when full activity resumes. Likely all of us will have to sacrifice some activity/program that is dear to us.



Just a note on giving. We all got, or will be getting \$600 from the government. A lot of us are retired and haven't been hurt financially by the Covid problem so how about passing along a portion of that check to the church.

Thanks, Jim Brown, Finance Chair

Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: I actually have no memories of the Park Street church but I do remember a story Reverend Jimmy Garrett shared at our Sesquicentennial celebration. When the weather threatened, ladies often brought their umbrellas to the sanctuary. Then if it started raining, they raised them to protect themselves from the leaky roof as the service continued.

As I watch Sam go from lectern to guitar to piano, I'm reminded of Harriet Williams describing how Reverend Garrett climbed over a railing to play the organ on occasion, I smile and think "the beat goes on".

Music

John Burkett, organist for FUMC for 45 years, recalls that music has always been important to the congregation. Dorothy Richards was the organist at Park Street and the new facility when it opened. When her husband took a position in Arlington, Dr. Burkett, a professor at the University, applied for and got the job, continuing his career as a church organist that began when he was just 13. According to Dr. Burkett, Reverend Garrett, a musician himself, urged the building committee to approve a design that would provide space for a good organ and its pipes. Many years later, thanks to the generosity of Bill Tom Knight, a Steinway grand piano was added to the sanctuary.

Through the years, in addition to the glorious music for services, Dr. Burkett and Bill Gorham, a university associate and choir director at FUMC- Commerce, combined their talents to present concerts like Handel's Messiah. That tradition was carried on when Dr. Chris White, music department head at the University and choir director at FUMC, created the Bluebonnet Chorale, a combination of various choir members and other area singers that provided spectacular performances that included orchestral elements. Other musical highlights have included appearances by the University Chorale during Sunday morning services. The Sanctuary was frequently used for various performances by university singers until the new TAMUC music building was completed. The organ is also used for lessons and recitals of TAMUC organ students.

Mary Means has also provided music for many, many years at FUMC, playing for Sunday School classes and early services in the McKnight Chapel, where congregants could call out the hymns they wanted to sing and she would accompany them. Mary gave up the early service a few years ago but continued to play for the Dough Rollins Class on the keyboard furnished by Bill Tom Knight. She also played for the weekly service at Oak Manor Nursing Home.

Little Ark

Little Ark will have their Valentine's Day parties on Friday, February 12.



Delicious Dish

TOMATO BASIL QUICHE

Author: Karoline Boehm Goodnick / Shared by Bonnie Smith



PASTRY INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ cups flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cold and cut up
- ¼ cup ice water mixed with 1 teaspoon vinegar
- Extra flour (for sprinkling)

PASTRY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a food processor, pulse the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar to sift them. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture forms crumbs.
2. Sprinkle the water mixture over the flour mixture. Pulse dough just until it forms clumps (it should not come together to form a ball). Turn the clumps out onto a lightly floured counter, shape into a 4-inch disk, and wrap in foil. Refrigerate for 20 minutes.
3. Set the oven at 400 degrees. Have on hand a 9-inch deep pie pan.
4. On a lightly floured counter, roll the dough to a 12-inch round. Lift it onto the rolling pin and ease it into the pan, letting the excess hang over the edge. Fold the overhang under and crimp the rim with a fork or your fingers. Prick the pastry all over with a fork. Chill for 20 minutes or until firm.
5. Line the pastry with foil, shiny side down, and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until the pastry is set but slightly soft. Carefully remove the foil and weights. Continue baking for 7 to 10 minutes or until the shell is lightly golden. (It may puff and shrink a little, but that's OK.) Total baking time is 19 to 25 minutes. Cool to room temperature.

FILLING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Set the oven at 375 degrees. Have on hand a rimmed baking sheet.
2. In a bowl, whisk eggs, flour, salt, pepper, nutmeg, cream, and milk.
3. Sprinkle cheese on the bottom of the crust. Layer tomato slices and basil in the pastry. Gently pour egg custard on top. Sprinkle with cheese.
4. Set the quiche on the baking sheet. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes or until eggs are set but still very slightly jiggly in the center. Custard will puff and brown.
5. Cool slightly. Cut into wedges and serve warm or at room temperature.

FILLING INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons flour
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Pinch of ground nutmeg
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup grated smoked or plain mozzarella
- 2 tomatoes, sliced ¼-inch thick
- ½ cup torn fresh basil leaves

February Newsletter Word Search

Search for words found in this issue of the church newsletter.

HINT: Most words are vertical.

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

Angel Tree

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Companion

Dough Rollins

Drop A Dollar

Food Drive

Food Pantry

Guide

Hunger

In Person

John Burkett

Lectionary

Lenten

Mary Means

Merry Market

MUGS on the Square

Offering

Operation Gratitude

Prayer

Prayer Shawl

Scripture

Sesquicentennial

Souper Bowl

Study

Tackle

The Walk

Trail

UMCOR

Worship

In Memory of

Sally Grove

by: Carole Walker
 David & Luann Huffman
 Walt Parker
 Brent & Amanda Turner
 Medley & Barbara Wilson
 Pat & Janet Skauge
 Mariann Andrews
 Tod & Susan Byrd
 Jeff & Jan Helton
 Monty & Lisa McGuyer
 Gil & Tammy Naizer
 Jim & Janet Latham
 Dough Rollins SS Class
 Jim & Nell Brown
 Donna Tavener

Tom Dudley

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Gladys Gray

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Rheba Icenhower

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Roger Arnold

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Steve Siebenhausen

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Joe McMahan

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Gene Casselberry

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer

Barbara Gish

by: Gil & Tammy Naizer



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 December 31, 2020	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 19,933	\$ 322,497
Expenses:	\$ 18,900	\$ 316,819
	-\$ 1,833	\$ 5,278

Worship Service LIVE	
Video Views	
1/3	28
1/10	28
1/17	22
1/24	29

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:

TBD

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark
 (903) 246-1487

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Randy Jones (Mike Smith's uncle)
- Family of John St. Clair (Brenda Latson's father)
- Scoot Chaney
- Joe Hall (Harriet Williams' cousin)
- Lori Jones (Dixie Turman's cousin)
- Andy Martinez
- Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother)
- Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's son)
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in 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
- Sue Boykin
- Betty Casselberry
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Diane Duffy
- Lena Faulkner
- Margaret Floyd
- Jack Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Zachary Madden
- Priscilla McFarland
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Richard Norton
- Jim Posinello (Diane Duffy's brother-in-law)
- Mark Sartwell
- Robert Seay
- Odeana Stewart
- 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

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



February Birthdays

- 2/6 Robert Barton
- 2/13 Zaek Basden
- 2/14 Jean Arnold
- 2/16 Betty Casselberry
- 2/19 Brooks Clark
- 2/21 Richie Bruister
- 2/22 Ben Doughty
- 2/26 Wesley Jensen
- 2/27 Cathy Giles



February Anniversaries

- 2/8 Harriet & Wyman Williams
- 2/12 Jan & Jeff Helton
- 2/16 Katy & Craig Jensen
- 2/17 Suzanne & Tom Bailey
- 2/26 Amy & Joe Williams

