

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2022 Newsletter

“Rebirthing” Our Church in a Forever Changed World

As we all are acutely aware, we’re still fighting a world pandemic and that has changed all of us forever. On Wednesday, December 8, a joint ministries team meeting of the Connect, Grow, and Serve Teams met in the Family Ministries Center. The topic of discussion was how to move forward in the aftermath of the (and still ongoing) pandemic.

The good news is that the meeting proved that we still have some old spark left and can ignite that spark into a flame to “rebirth” this church. Programming discussed included starting small and moving forward as we are able. From Jefferson Helton’s survey results, the most desired things to bring back are three-fold. They are: (1) Children’s and youth programming, (2) Fellowship (pot luck and small groups), and (3) Sunday school classes

For anyone not familiar with what each team does or what its purpose is, here are the ways that the teams’ collective talents serve the church and the community:

- **Connect:** outreach to the community and to grow our numbers.
- **Grow:** to deepen our spiritual roots. New women’s Bible study group to start meeting early next month (3 signed up so far). Projected start date is January 4.
- **Serve:** putting God’s love to work for others by using our available resources for missions.

Topics discussed included: restarting Adult and Children’s Sunday School classes, starting a Confirmation Class, beginning a women’s Bible study group, make use of the building in various ways and ministering to those enduring hard times.

Our **next joint team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th at 6pm** in the Family Ministries Center.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE MERRY MARKET A SUCCESS!

Thank you all for supporting the Merry Market Online Auction! The auction sales plus designated giving totals \$2,800 for missions in Commerce and beyond in the coming year.

A big thank you to everyone who donated an auction item, especially our generous local businesses: Fix n Feed, Personalized Printing, Too Good, & MUGS to name a few.

Thank you to all the bidders and winners of items! This year the auction included 64 items and generated more bidding from church and community members.

Some of the missions that will benefit from your giving are: Hunt County Clothe-a-Child, Raffa Clinic, FISH, local food pantries, Boys & Girls Club and SCRPT to name a few.

Thanks again for your generosity and support,
FUMC Serve team



Christmas and New Year

It's a chance to start again. Oh I'm not talking about New Year's resolutions. I'm talking about Jesus being born. To be born means that someone has to bear you-- to carry you, to give birth to you! What is it going to be like when you give birth to Jesus in your life? Jesus gives people new birth, of course, but you give birth to him again and again-- by giving Jesus a place in your spirit and reign in your motives and paths.

Giving birth to Jesus again means we need to bear him, to carry him as Mary did, and to give birth to him in our own steps and actions. What does it mean for the Holy Child to live in you and you in him? If you claim to be Christian (and we do!) you shall remember that the word "CHRISTIAN" has two "I's" in it... an "I" in Christ and an "I" following Christ.

The first is a claim and the second is an ACTION STEP! Both are vital and essential.

Christian is less a noun and more an adjective! Being a **Christian Person** means so much more than claiming to BE something. Christian Person describes LIVING actively in the steps of the Christ! It means following Jesus, patterning after him, stepping in his steps. Being Christian means living his main verbs:

Teach, Heal, Feed,
Live, Love,
Give, and Forgive.



Living in Christ is discipleship!
BELIEVE AND FOLLOW...
BELIEVE AND IMITATE!

***Christian has two "I's" in it.
An "I" in Christ, and an "I" following Christ.***

Upcoming Training Opportunities

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

January 15, 2022 at FUMC Winnsboro

These teams are trained using curriculum prepared by UMCOR. Most teams have a fully-equipped trailer with all the necessary equipment, but this is not required. Teams are available for blue-tarp and mud-out. Some teams are chain saw certified as well.

The basic track will last five hours; the recertification track is three hours. Lunch is included for both tracks. The cost for participants is \$20 and will include printed materials, a T-shirt, snacks and lunch.

Basic and Recertification Classes: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 15, 2022 at First UMC Winnsboro.

Register at:

<https://ntcumc.org/missional-outreach/disaster-response/early-response-teams>



(scan code to go to webpage)

Contact Rev. Sue Gross for more information at 903-767-6339

! SAVE THE DATE !

North Texas Conference's

2022 District Laity Training Event

for Local Church Lay Leadership and Clergy

FEBRUARY 6, 2022 2:00 P.M.

All newly elected chairpersons and members of local church committees are encouraged to attend the annual Leadership Training Event.

[Tentative Schedule]

- 2:00 PM Opening Keynote Presentation via ZOOM for everyone (EXCEPT SPRC folks will meet in person at FUMC Sulphur Springs)
- 2:45 PM Finance Committee folks stay connected to ZOOM call for a focused session with Christy Drenner, Director of Center of Connectional Resources (All others leave the meeting and proceed as instructed below)
- 2:45 PM All other committee members can access a recorded presentation focused on their area of service via the NTC Center for Leadership Development <https://ntcumc.org/district-laity-training>



(Scan to go to webpage)

- 2:45 PM SPRC Chairpersons and Committee Members will stay for a focused in-person meeting led by Rev. Cassie Wade, District Superintendent.

Be watching for more information and ZOOM registration in early January!

Prayer List 12-21-21

Recent Concerns:

- Carol Alden
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Ginny Haight
- Priscilla McFarland
- Meredith Hinton (Wyman & Harriet Williams' daughter)
- Family of Kathleen "Kay" Grove
- Janet & Pat Skauge
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ***Our world, country, & leaders***
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Cindy Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's mother)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- 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
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Jean Arnold

Discovery Village Rehab:

- 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
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer

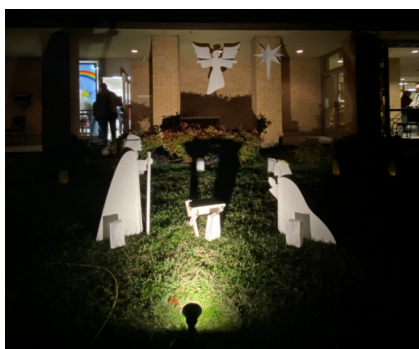
January Birthdays

- 1/3 Anna Blohm
- 1/4 Linnea Smith
- 1/9 Tonda Barton
- 1/11 Christi Webster
Jim Tavener
- 1/13 Linda Ball
Laura Milligan
- 1/15 Jim Peek
Kris Ann Clark
- 1/17 Brian Bourcy
- 1/20 Chance Webster
- 1/22 Nell Brown
- 1/23 Samuel Elwell
- 1/24 Rose Stapleton
- 1/25 Emma Dobbs
- 1/27 Janet Latham
Becky Mackie
- 1/28 Logan Bruister
- 1/31 John Avery

January Anniversaries

- 1/6 Pat & Janet Skauge
- 1/14 Bill & Anna Knutson
- 1/17 Joe & Laura Milligan
- 1/18 Ben & Nancy Doughty
- 1/22 Mike & Trish King

Luminaries & Light Highlights



Little Ark Reverse Advent Calendar Success

Every year, Little Ark families donate goods everyday during the first half of December. This year we also had the amazing women of the Prayer Shawl and Mary Lou participate!, as well All donations go to the Commerce Food Pantry. Pictured below are donations and some of the kiddos who brought items.



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

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