

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2021 Newsletter

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## Members Remember... (A Special Recurring Feature)

In preparation for the church's Jubilee Celebration in 2019, several members, most of whom experienced worship in both the Park Street Church and the current building, recorded their memories. We had intended to have listening stations at the Jubilee luncheon which had to be cancelled. Not all memories are included as I quickly realized that there were many more people who could be interviewed than could fit in the time allowed. One such memory was the Bible Breakfast on Wednesday conducted first by Bob Newsom and then cooked for by Janet Skauge. Other members conducted the Bible study.

This report is a summary of the memories we were able to collect. Some are funny, a few are sad, many are inspiring. Our church has a proud history of connecting, growing, and serving, a legacy that we can carry on, although in new ways. Hopefully, when people see the cross on the sanctuary spire, they will be re-

mindful of a loving congregation that cares for its members and its neighbors wherever they are!

The first installation is on page 4: **The Park Street Church.**

Sincerely,  
Judy Rudoff



## In-Person Worship Every Sunday

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

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!

(903) 886-3220 \* [www.fumccommerce.org](http://www.fumccommerce.org) \* [office@fumccommerce.org](mailto:office@fumccommerce.org)

## Pastor's Article: A Real Good Connection

Everybody needs a good connection. And I'm not talking about the internet. I am talking about support and encouragement! I am talking about living your prayers two ways: Talking with God and Listening with God. And I am talking about fellowship with each other -- beyond social media! No one will disagree that both talking and listening are vital. We need human connection-- Genuinely hearing another's voice and responding with your voice. And your perspective.

The radio and internet communication signals we share and have come to depend upon are important too. But I mean a deeper connection that shows us the confidence of knowing we are not alone. I've been wearing a T-shirt that says "United Together--Six feet apart!" A few months ago, a stranger commented to me about that shirt, saying "Well, its better than six feet under!" I agreed. We are mostly apart but I have been eager to keep us connected.

Some of the ways I have attempted to connect have been fruitful and others have not worked so great. But we do have a connection spiritually. And THAT is to be celebrated! Many of you are attending worship either live or on Facebook. But the numbers do not lie. Many more are absent. I hope you will find ways to stay connected with your church family. None of us is alone. God is with us! But it is also good to know we have someone to see and even touch. Don't you *miss* that? I do!

I am resolved to use the phone more, especially with folks who don't connect with Facebook. But what can *you* do to improve your connection with God and with each other? Don't let it depend on me! Call someone. Write a letter (a lost art). The Post Office is pretty busy these days but a first class stamp is still a bargain.

How can you take the initiative to stay connected? I am keeping hours at the church office now (as a minimum: 11am-2pm Tuesday through Friday) We humans need fellowship with God-- and with each other! If you are lonely, or know of another who is lonely, please reach out! Call the church office 886-3220, and if I miss you there I will call you back!



Rev. Sam Caldwell  
[rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com)  
214.842.9252 talk/text



## Little Ark



Little Ark will be closed:

- December 24-25 for Christmas
- January 1 for New Years Day
- January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Pre-K and preschool will start back on Tuesday, January 12.



Donations from the reverse advent calendar.

## Say Cheese!

We want to see you!

Send us your best selfie for a New Year greeting!

We will combine all photos to create a video and send a link to view it in January.

Please email your photo to [fumccommerce@gmail.com](mailto:fumccommerce@gmail.com) by January 4th.



## Merry Market Online Auction for Mission

The Merry Market for Missions Online Auction was a success! We earned \$1,600 for missions. The mission funds will be distributed throughout 2021 to many worthy organizations that will benefit our community.

Many thanks to many people! A big thanks to:

- the fabulous donors of the auction items! We had 25 fabulous items donated by many generous local businesses and church members.
- the bidders and shoppers who generously purchased items.
- the Serve team who coordinated and created the online auction.

Thanks again for supporting missions in our community and beyond.



## The Park Street Church

For many years, the First United Methodist Church-Commerce stood on Park Street across from the current U.S. Post Office. Rheba Icenhower remembered a lovely white stucco building with beautiful stained-glass windows. In fact, before the old church was demolished, parishioners could buy them. Rheba bought one for her mother that then graced Rheba's home. Two of the windows can be seen in the hallway leading to the children's wing.

The sanctuary was semi-circular which for Rheba provided an intimacy that was special. Behind the lectern was the organ, then the choir and an iron screen.

The pastor who moved from the Park Street church to the current location was Jimmy Garrett, an accomplished musician who could substitute for the organist, Dorothy Richards, when she was absent. Harriet Williams remembers Reverend Garrett leaving the lectern, climbing over a rail, playing the organ, and returning to the lectern.

Dick Latson describes the church as being large with many nooks and crannies for inquisitive kids to explore. He loved the dank, dark basement where the Boy Scouts, under the leadership of Eddie Robertson, met. (Our church still sponsors those scouts.) Both Latson and Mary Means remember that sometimes mischievous kids would sneak into the sanctuary behind the wire screen and if you knew what to look for, you could see eyes peering out on the congregation.

Harriet Williams recalls that as a young person, she and her friends were slightly jealous of the Baptists because their church was located close to the Dairy Queen. The Methodist Church only had the city jail, where you could actually see who was incarcerated nearby.

Having a Baptist mother could work to your advantage, especially in the summertime, according to Wyman Williams. Since the building was not airconditioned, the large windows were opened, and on a hot summer evening, you could sneak out a window during a prayer and head over to the Dairy Queen!

Both Harriet and Wyman recall several reasons why the Park Street building had to be abandoned despite its beauty, its intimacy, and its nooks and crannies. At one point the roof was so leaky that the ceiling had to be propped up by a beam attached at the floor to a cross beam. In its final years, usher duties included picking up pieces of plaster that had fallen from the ceiling and dusting off the plaster powder on the pews. The sound system was also faulty. Sometimes in the middle of services, the police scanner interrupted with announcements such as "accident involving two cars on Hwy 224."

What do you remember? Email your memories to [communications@fumcommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumcommerce.org).

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## Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl has suspended meetings for the time being. However, we are still functioning in our homes, and we have a great supply of yarn in the Prayer Shawl room. Please let us know about any needs!



# New Year, New Giving

## Service Times

### Sunday Worship Services:

10:00am Service in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

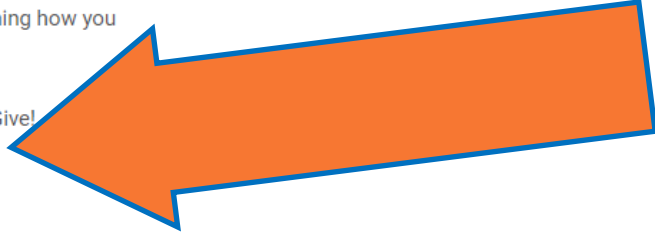
We welcome you!

## Ways to Give

Are you interested in learning how you can give?

There are many Ways to Give!

**Give Online**



Did you know you can give your offering online from the church website? You can!

When giving online, you have 3 options for your offering: General Operating, Mission of the Month, and Merry

Market. You can make a one time offering or create a profile to give weekly or monthly. During these times when we are staying home more, please consider making your offering online from the comfort of your home. Visit [fumccommerce.org](http://fumccommerce.org).



# In Memory of

## Gladys Gray

Mark & Frances Sartwell  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Betty Martin



## 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

# By the Numbers

| Financial Information  |                         |              |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| General Operating Fund |                         |              |
|                        | as of November 30, 2020 | Year-to-Date |
| Income:                | \$ 20,504               | \$ 302,564   |
| Expenses:              | \$ 22,337               | \$ 297,919   |
|                        | -\$ 1,833               | \$ 4,645     |

| Worship Service LIVE |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Video Views          |    |
| 12/6                 | 15 |
| 12/13                | 20 |
| 12/20                | 29 |
| 12/24                | 15 |
| 12/27                | 19 |

## Prayer List

### Recent Concerns:

- Family of Sally Grove
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Caden Mize (Chase Webster's friend)
- Donna Tavener
- Wanda Williams
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- 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
- 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
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- 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

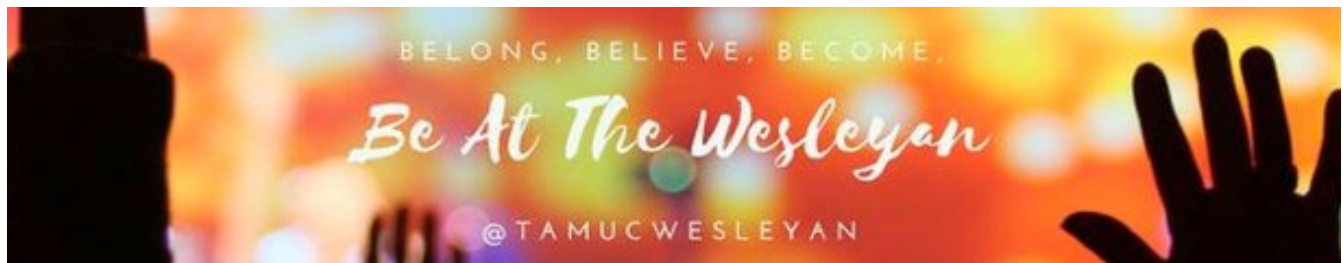
### Austin:

- 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





## Our Mission:

*Making disciples of Christ  
for the transformation of  
the world; by offering  
students an inclusive and  
welcoming faith community  
where ALL God's diverse  
children:*

*BElong, BElieve, BEcome...  
BE @ the Wesleyan!*

**GoEPIST**

## Contact Us

wesleyantamuc.com

wesleyancampuspastor@gmail.com

1504 Lee St., Commerce, TX 75428

Building opens 12:00 pm Mon - Thu

# Wesleyan

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

*"We are all family in  
Christ."*



A ministry of the United Methodist Church



## January Birthdays

1/3 Anna Blohm  
 1/4 Linnea Smith  
 1/9 Tonda Barton  
 1/11 Jim Tavener  
 Christi Webster  
 1/13 Linda Ball  
 Laura Milligan  
 1/15 Kris Ann Clark  
 Jim Peek  
 1/17 Brian Bourcy  
 1/18 Jessica Morgan  
 1/20 Chance Webster  
 1/22 Nell Brown  
 1/23 Sammy Elwell  
 1/24 Rose Stapleton



## January Birthdays, continued

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  
 1/7 Brian & Lauren Dierolf  
 1/14 Bill & Anna Knutson  
 1/17 Joe & Laura Milligan  
 1/18 Ben & Nancy Doughty  
 1/20 Greg & Kathleen Hooten  
 1/22 Mike & Trish King  
 1/28 Chad & Shelly Oats



**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