

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas

Volume 19, Issue 7

July 2021 Newsletter



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Discovery on Adventure Island

It was so great to see the children at Adventure Island VBS! We had 36 children, ranging from 5-12 years old, attend VBS in the Family Ministry Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We enjoyed crafts, science, music, Bible lessons, games and snacks!

Arise! Shine with Faith! We explored the Bible lesson about the four friends of the paralyzed man who had faith that Jesus could heal their friend. They had to "Bust Through the Roof" to get their friend to Jesus. That was our VBS favorite song! We painted a wooden cross to remind us of God's love.

Arise! Shine with Joy! We explored 3 "Lost" parables from Luke 15. The sheep, coin and son were lost and then found! Celebrations and joy followed! We decorated a treasure chest to remind us of the parables.

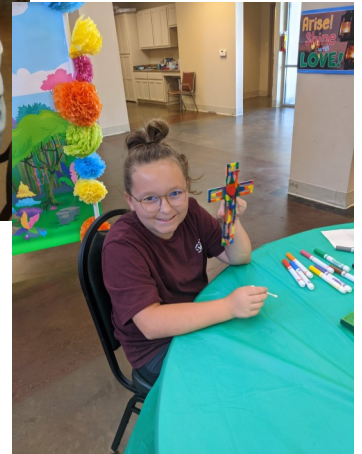
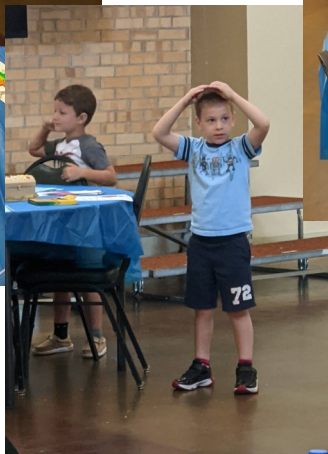
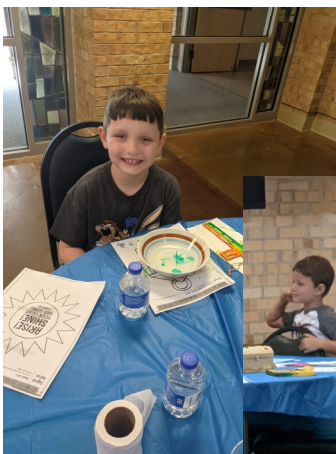


Arise! Shine with Hope! We explored the Bible lesson of Mary finding the empty tomb! At first she was filled with despair, but once Jesus revealed himself to her she was filled with hope! And she ran to share the good news with all the disciples.

A big thank you to all the families who participated in VBS this year! Also thank you to the volunteers who shared their time and talents at VBS: Ms. Cathy, Ms. Jill, Ms. Jamie, and Pastor Sam!

The snacks and drinks you donated were very much appreciated! The few extra snacks were placed on the Blessing Table outside the church office. And thanks to Jim and Susan for donating hula hoops!

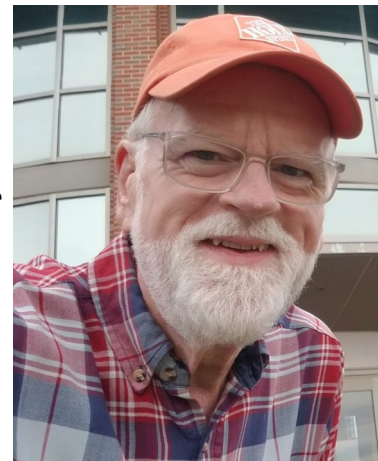
Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you! Isaiah 60:1



Pastor's Article: How do your Words Taste?

Words make a difference in any recipe! How do your words taste? Short simple words to a child can be the most profound-- "I love you." "I'm sorry." "You mean everything to me."

Preachers sometimes use too many words and the crowd nods (or nods *off!*) The shortest words are often the most profound words like "Yes", "No", or "I do" (or "I don't!") **Words Matter!** The smallest spark can be a catalyst that causes great power to be released as in an explosion.



I decided to clean up my language... to use words that are a blessing even when I speak to myself and no one else can hear me (if that is ever true!) I think words matter! Anxious words are sometimes not well thought out and bring brokenness instead of healing. Words can discourage or demean. Words can draw the life out of a person or words can bring a new breath of hope.

I'm writing this at one of our tables in the middle of Vacation Bible School... with children's words coming from every direction as they do their crafts. Their words may be joyful or teary. Or words of the song we just sang. Words matter. Words last and careless words may never be forgotten. In fact, many times (especially with kids!) words will be repeated!

What words stick with you? Words that matter? Words that help and heal? Or words that wound? How do your words sound? How do they taste? And where do they land?

Taste your words before you serve them. Chew them well and make sure they are words of building and not tearing down. If we sample them, you and I may choose to swallow some of those words ourselves before we launch them.

All who admire you will want to be more like you! Your spouse, your partner, neighbors, co-workers, and especially our children! As the reach of our influence through words is extended, many people will be further broken or further blessed.

Proud to be your Pastor,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam".

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



Little Ark Happenings



The Little Ark Summer Program is going well! Our fall schedule starts August 2nd.



PreK



PreK



Preschool

Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: Many of the programs that Dennis Wilkinson began at FUMC gave my father, Bert Kidd a reason to get up every day after my mother died. He loved Blue Jean church and the meal served beforehand. Dennis also "chaperoned" him at SEEK camp, another program he introduced the church to.

Not only were Dennis' sermons-- though I didn't get to hear many--inspirational to me, but it only took one Thanksgiving lunch--another program Dennis started--for me to know that that's where I wanted to be on Thanksgiving morning!

Blue Jean Church

Wednesdays were full days at FUMC Commerce. In the morning there was the Bible Breakfast; and at night there was Blue Jean Church, an informal service initiated by Pastor Dennis Wilkinson. Harriet Williams remembers that before the service there was a dinner. Then after the dinner came the service in the McKnight Chapel. After the service, members attended meetings, and the choir had rehearsal. A full day indeed!

MISSION of the MONTH

July Mission of the Month: Stuff the Bus

Believe it or not, the 2021-22 school year is just around the corner, which means it's time to Stuff the Bus with school supplies! Since this year many more kids will be attending school in person, having the necessary school supplies is vital.

Alison Walker, who oversees this program, has pointed out that supplies for one child can be costly. If a family has two or three children, the cost can run into several hundred dollars. Families living on tight budgets can find this very challenging, and students are embarrassed if they don't have their supplies when school starts.

Your dollars dropped into the collection plate or checks with "Stuff the Bus" in the memo line will allow Alison to purchase supplies, so that students can start off the school year on a positive, confident note. You may also donate online through the church website and choose Mission of the Month. A box will be outside the church office that you may stuff with school supplies. Among the items needed are:

- no. 2 lead pencils
- boxes of 24 crayons
- watercolors
- glue and glue sticks
- wide-ruled binders
- folders with pockets
- folders with brads
- protractors
- scissors (including left-handed)



Let's show our support for education and children in Commerce by Stuffing the Box or the Bus to the gill!

Trustees Report

The new tread covers for the stairway by the office door have been ordered and received. They should be installed in the next two weeks.

The Trustees are securing estimates from companies recommended by the Conference that specialize with roof leaks. Over the years the seams of additions to our facilities have deteriorated resulting in ongoing water leaks and damage to the interior walls and ceilings.

Updated COVID-19 Protocols:

- **Masks are recommended** for those not vaccinated.
- Please **observe social distancing** with marked pews.
- **Hand sanitizer** is positioned at each door.
- Nursery and children's activities are suspended as are all Sunday School classes. All children and youth are encouraged to join in worship in the pews.

Church Trustees

Lay Leader Report

My name is Jefferson Helton, and I have the honor of being your Lay Leader this year.

On June 14th and 15th, I represented our church by attending the annual North Texas Conference via zoom as your Lay Leader. The conference, held at St. Andrews in Dallas, sent a very positive message regarding love and unity within the FUMC community. There was a lot of great music and highly moving prayers and sermons.

The challenges that all churches faced during the pandemic were presented not as detriments but as opportunities. As evidence of the new opportunities, the conference opened new churches during the pandemic. Overall, the conference not only survived but often thrived and helped maintain and assist the churches that were hit the hardest. Bishop McKee thanked all members of the conference and the clergy for holding the churches together during this difficult time.

Financially, the conference is recovering, but it did take a financial hit during the pandemic. Bishop McKee said that the temporary prohibition of in-person church attendance was the right thing to do in order to protect members of our congregations from Coronavirus and to save lives.

The overall message was one of following Jesus's commands of loving one other and connecting and striving for unity within our church in spite of political and racial divides our country is currently experiencing. There were a lot of testimonials from a variety of lay and clergy that expressed gratitude to the conference for the help and counseling they received that was provided by the conference.

The General National Conference has been delayed until 2022.

From information provided at the conference, various churches have had different experiences from the impact of the pandemic. As a long-term member of our church family and your current Lay Leader, I have observed that our church family in particular has been hard hit by the number of deaths that have occurred not just this past year but in the last couple of years. The loss of our friends, our church family members, our mentors, and people who brightened our days and lives with their smiling presence has been very hard. I miss them but am so grateful they came into our lives. In remembering them and their contributions to our church, I am reminded of the tenants of Methodists.

Our prayers: These were people who I always felt prayed for everyone who needed prayers within our community whether the prayer recipients were fellow church family members or not. They made meals, drove people to doctors appointments, sat with friends in need, and offered help and support by any means they could.

Our Presence: As I look out on the pews when I attend church now, I can't help but notice where our friends sat. It reminds me of the same feeling that I get in my own home looking at the empty chairs around holidays: missing them, loving them, and yet sensing their presence and feeling gratitude that they came into my life.

Our Gifts: These were people who faithfully and loyally contributed in all ways they could. Not only financially but by sharing all their talents and abilities to strengthen and encourage everyone they met. They were people who reached out into the community within the church and beyond. Their legacy is continued through those of us left behind.

Our Service and our Witness: These were people involved with our church and community in all aspects of their lives and we are all richer for knowing them. They were Christians in the truest sense.

(Continues on next page...)

Lay Leader Report (Continued)

In my humble opinion as your Lay Leader, the very best way we can honor our friends' memories is to do our best to fill in the holes left by their passing by following their examples and mentorship. Be kind to each other. Support one another. The pandemic has amplified many of our feelings of isolation. Reach out to all people you know especially to those who feel alone now. Each one of you is important and you matter to the church. By reaching out, you are providing your witness by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Lastly, as Lay Leader, please feel free to call me (cell 903-456-3982) or email jheltons54@gmail.com or call the church office (903-886-3220) or Sam and let us know if you have needs and what we can do as a church to serve you better. We would love your input regarding what direction/programs you would like the church to have as well as any suggestions. Your input is very valuable as are you personally.

In Christ's love,
Jefferson

In Memory of

Bob Grove

by: Medley & Barbara Wilson
Mariann Andrews
Gil & Tammy Naizer
Donna Tavener
Mark & Melinda Reid
Lena Faulkner



Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 366-2125

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 Doughty
(903) 886-6328

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

By the Numbers

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
as of May 31, 2021	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 29,311	\$129,877
Expenses:	\$ 25,610	\$120,242
	\$ 3,701	\$ 9,635

Worship Service LIVE

	Video	In-Person
5/30	5	44
6/6	5	40
6/13	6	48
6/20	n/a	34
6/27	7	45

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Kelly (Tom & Suzanne Bailey's daughter-in-law)
- Nancy Doughty
- Chester Robinson
- Director of Family Ministry search
- Our stewardship
- Our church committee chairs and members

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Betty Casselberry
- Scoot & Carolyn Chaney
- 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)
- Mary Louise McMahan
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Donna Tavener
- 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:

- Jayne Williams

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

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



July Birthdays

7/1 Breezelyn Barton
7/4 Amy Stark
7/5 Faith Crow
7/6 Lynne Faulkner
7/8 Chad Oats
7/9 Cason Oats
Jim Patton
7/10 Nancy Stewart
7/12 Lisa McGuyer
7/16 David Pearce
7/18 Lena Faulkner
Jerald Thomas
7/22 Virginia Collier
7/28 Ray Patton
7/29 Dixie Stachowiak
7/30 Betty King



July Anniversaries

7/3 Bob & Julie McLeroy
7/7 Robert & Tonda Barton
7/9 Shay & Jennifer Bunch
7/13 Michael & Amy Stark
7/15 John Mark & Tricia Dempsey
7/17 Jerry & Sandy Hutton
7/24 Mike & Bonnie Smith
7/26 Dewey & Ginny Haight
Dick & Linda King
7/30 Brian & Jamie Bourcy



**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