

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 20, Issue 7

July 2022 Newsletter

Welcome Rev. Cheryl Murray and Alex!

By Gene Lockhart

Our Personnel Committee and District Superintendent Rev. Cassie Wade are pleased to present Rev. Cheryl Murray as our new pastor at morning worship beginning on July 3, 2022.

On a choir trip to Switzerland, she heard the call of God to leave her teaching position at a technical community college and go to work in the church full time. Cheryl holds a BA with honors in Business from Baylor in 1980 and a Master of Divinity, Cum Laude in 2001 and was later ordained as an Elder in the North Texas Conference.



Cheryl served as pastor of Wesley UMC Wichita Falls (2011–2018) and Valley View UMC (2018 – 2022). Previous church service includes a pastor position at Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at MSU Wichita Falls (2007- 2010) and positions at Highland Park UMC Dallas, All Saints Episcopal Church, Allen, and organist & choir director in Harlingen.

Cheryl loves church life, especially worship music of all kinds. She loves being around youth and children. She also lives for musical theater, movies, good television, and reading. She has learned to appreciate sports because her daughter Alex is a gifted athlete, playing volleyball, basketball, and softball.

Cheryl is open and intentional about connecting with people of all ages and walks of life. She believes that authentic, invitational, meaningful, imaginative worship creates space for the Holy Spirit to lead people to encounter the living Christ. She desires to build connections to the church from outside the walls of the building through community groups and events, along with school outreach. She has a genuine concern for people who are lost, with no connection to a faith community, and she longs to be a light that points to Jesus. Welcome Pastor Cheryl and Alex to FUMC Commerce!

VBS Fun!



It was great to see the children at Food Truck Party VBS! About 30 children, ranging from ages 4-12 years old, attended VBS in the Family Ministry Center on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. We enjoyed crafts, science, music, Bible lessons, games and snacks! A big thank you to all the families who participated in VBS this year!



Our VBS service mission was the Blessing Table. Many families donated items to share with others, over 60 items total! Thank you! Thanks also to the Connect team for serving a fabulous hot dog lunch to all the chefs and volunteers on Friday! We ended the week with Kona Ice!



BIG THANKS to Jill Grove, Jamie Bourcy, Christi Webster, Rita Sims and Pastor Sam! Thanks also to our 2 youth volunteers: Michael Bourcy and Madeline Harrison. Another thanks to Dennis Anderson for audio, Mike Roberts and Tiffany Harrison for the banner, and our fabulous custodian Sandra who cleaned up after us! Finally, thanks to all who offered up prayers, snacks and monetary donations!

July Mission of the Month-UMCOR by Judy Rudoff

“...the voice of conscience among Methodists in relief of human suffering without distinction of race, color or creed” is the goal of UMCOR, as it has been for the 87 years since its creation in 1940. Bishop Herbert Welch organized the agency in response to the humanitarian need brought on by WWII. Today, UMCOR operates in 62 countries, spanning 5 continents.

Operating under the General Board of Global Ministries, the program most familiar to us is the Scrub Buckets that are filled with cleaning supplies for households cleaning up after a hurricane. That, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. UMCOR helps food-insecure countries ravaged by war and/or drought with aid including water wells, irrigation systems, drought-resistant seeds and grain, all of which root out the causes of hunger and poverty. It helps underwrite the expense of resettling refugees, as it is currently doing for those countries that are accepting Ukrainians.

UMCOR builds relationships within each country so it can funnel cash directly to those in the greatest need. Even after the U.S. left Afghanistan, UMCOR could get cash payments to individuals whose lives had been torn apart by war, the Taliban, and years of drought. UMCOR has an EXCELLENT reputation for delivering the assistance it pledges, and **100% of the money raised goes to the cause for which the appeal was made.**

The suffering in today’s world can be daunting. We ask, “What can I do to help?” Methodists have UMCOR, a tool whereby we can help to alleviate the many humanitarian crises our world faces. We can send volunteers to the Sager Brown Depot to assemble boxes of supplies. **Every dollar or check with UMCOR in the memo line dropped in the collection plate in July supports this mission.** If you contribute online, just click on the July Mission of the Month.

Please help us do our part to support our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Pictures from the Celebration Luncheon honoring Sam & Cathy Caldwell in appreciation for their service to FUMC Commerce. Our love and prayers go with you!

Prayer List 6-28-22

Recent Concerns:

- **Our world, country, & leaders**
- Sam & Cathy Caldwell during this time of transition
- Family of Robert Jenkins, Tiffany Harrison's father
- Families of Uvalde
- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bishop Eduard Khegay, Bishop of UMC in both Ukraine and Russia
- Mary Louise McMahan

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Janet & Jim Payne, sister of Becky Coker
- Rev. Payton Parker & family
- Georgia Gholston
- Melanie Cortea
- Bill Heitholt
- Frances Sartwell
- Sharon Brown (named by the Webster family)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- 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

Harbor Chase-Southlake:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Jayne Williams

Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):

- Jerry & Sandy Hutton

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole

Those serving in our military:


- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Lt. Colonel Bob Farmer

July Birthdays

- 7/1 Breezelyn Barton
- 7/3 Mary Carolyn Dye
- 7/4 Amy Stark
- 7/6 Lynne Faulkner
- 7/9 Jim Patton
- 7/10 Nancy Stewart
- 7/12 Lisa McGuyer
- 7/18 Lena Faulkner
- 7/22 Virginia Collier
- 7/29 Dixie Turman Stachowiak

July Anniversaries


- 7/3 Bob & Julie McLeroy
- 7/9 Shay & Jennifer Bunch
- 7/13 Michael & Amy Stark
- 7/15 John Mark & Tricia Dempsey
- 7/17 Jerry & Sandy Hutton
- 7/26 Dick & Linda King
- 7/30 Brian & Jamie Bourcy



Prayer Shawl Ministry has decided to continue our meetings through the summer months. Our next meeting will be Monday, July 11 at 9:30. We hope to see everyone and, as usual, extend an invitation to those interested in joining our really FUN, growing group! We are finally moving into the Dough Rollins classroom, and our meeting will be there.

"Lead your life so you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip."

— Will Rogers



Little Ark Happenings



Top Row: Two very generous families had a petting zoo come and visit Little Ark!

Bottom Row: Toddler 1 class enjoying popsicles!

In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Cheryl at 940-613-5375.

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