

# First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 18, Issue 5

July 2020 Newsletter

## In this issue:

- Pastor's Article
- Pastor's Bible Study
- Children's Ministry
- Little Ark Activity
- Trustees Report
- Memorials
- Financial Numbers
- Committee Chairs
- Prayer List
- July Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Restarting In-Person Worship Service on Sunday, July 12, 2020

We have all longed to worship together. Starting Sunday, July 12, we now have that option. Sunday Worship Services will be in the Sanctuary at **10am** and online through Facebook Live. Your safety and wellbeing are our primary concern. We urge you to continue worshipping online if you are:

- at high risk,
- have been sick, or
- are uncomfortable in any way

For the 10:00 Service please enter:

- (1) by the ramp door from the southwest corner of the main parking lot or
- (2) by the southeast stairs from the main parking lot (by the church office).

- Ushers will assist at each doorway before and after the service.
- **Temperature scans and hand sanitizers** will be positioned at each door.
- Please **observe social distancing** while entering and exiting the church. Sanctuary seating will be appropriately identified for household and individual seating.
- **Face masks must be worn.** Masks will be available at the entrances if you do not have one.
- Please **refrain from any form of touching** to greet others.
- Please **bring your own Bible** as all worship materials will be removed from the pews.
- Congregational **singing and choir will be suspended** until further notice.
- **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.

We will also provide a link to the recordings of these services in the newsletter, on the website, on Facebook, and through email blasts.

Our Day Care Program is operating and following the many state guidelines.

Special events requiring church usage will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

## VBS 2020

We are bringing the VBS experience into your home with Knights of North Castle curriculum and videos. Young Knights will meet the Armorer and Sparky (the ice-breathing dragon puppet), learn motions, and sing along to songs from Knights of North Castle VBS, see craft and science demonstrations, and most importantly, see the Bible Story told in memorable ways and accompanied by helpful discussion.

We will have bags with VBS booklets and craft supplies available for pick up on Sunday, July 12—the first in-person service. For those who cannot make it to the service, we will have a drive-up distribution on Wednesday, July 15. Information about online registration is coming soon on the church's website and Facebook page.



## WALKING IN THE BALANCE

Alone or Online: A Look at Isolation and Community  
rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com

There is always a tension between isolation and community. Some beings thrive when they are alone; others come alive when they are interacting with a bustling community of others. Maturity can help one to manage well in both worlds. Success in that comes usually because someone learned to work outside their comfort zone. We can hone our skills and discipline to adapt.

While some struggle with being alone or lonely, I tend to thrive in the quiet and personal times. But God is a Windy Presence and we are never really alone. We humans are designed to be in community with God and with others. "It is not good," God said, "For the human to be alone. I will make a helper" ...a partner. [from the second creation story, specifically Genesis 2:18]

Some individuals long for being alone; others may long too much for interaction. All of us must find the balance and walk in it to protect our sanity and our productivity. Life is full of "polar opposites" which we have to learn how to balance--light and darkness, together and separate, "The Force" and its darker side.

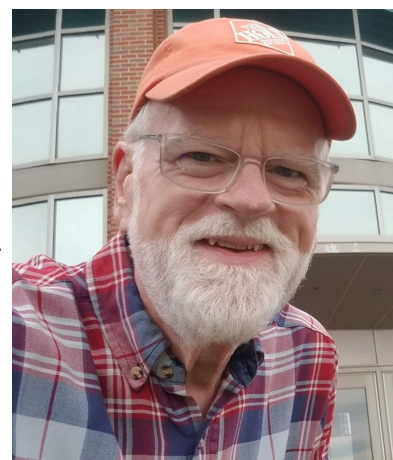
We could speak of centering and walking in the balance. To say "Walk in the balance" seems odd. But *it is easier to maintain your balance if you are moving compared to when you are still. Balance is important. Standing still puts one at risk. How can you make this time of stillness or isolation into a time of moving forward in some way or another? How about writing some new resolutions, calling a forgotten friend or relative, or reaching out to a new friend?*

People do seem *friendly* these days, like other walkers in the neighborhood or on our streets and campus. Friends become friends because we have something in common--we both like to read or we both play the trumpet. These days we **ALL** have something in common and it makes us share an understanding smile even with a stranger on the street.

That is... IF they can see it through the mask. But *if you smile, they can see it and, almost all the time, the other mask will stretch and smile back. You know, your eyes smile as much as your mouth does. Your sweet smile can shine through-even when your mask is on!*

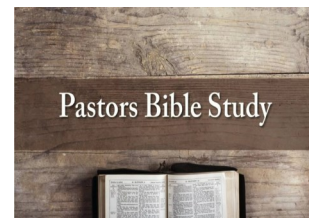
Reach out to bridge the gap and bring others into community! We share our hope in God for the future and THAT is a reason to smile! Even when masked and shaded by some doubt, that glowing hope shall still sparkle through!

In Confident Hope,



## Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 12pm and 6pm. Please don't be afraid of Zoom! You can participate by watching without talking. Talk only if you want to! Don't be intimidated; you will find it friendly! Decide whether you would like to watch on your phone or your computer and then send me an email at [rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com) or a text at 214-842-9252. Then I can send you either an email or a text with a safe link to click, a meeting ID number, and a password. We are looking at the lectionary scriptures each week. These are ones that will be used in the worship service for the coming Sunday.



## Children's Ministry

Hello! In the Children's Ministry department, we have been contacting our families and checking in, sending out online Sunday school lessons, and doing children's sermons for the video service. We also delivered around 20 bags filled with Summer goodies to all the kiddos in our ministry: choir, Sunday school, acolytes, and their siblings. We are also gearing up for an online VBS (details on the front page).



If you know of any children who would like to join our program and/or receive these resources, please email Amy at [stark.amy1@gmail.com](mailto:stark.amy1@gmail.com) or Bonnie at [bonnie.smith@hotmail.com](mailto:bonnie.smith@hotmail.com).

Thanks!

Amy Stark and Bonnie Smith

## Little Ark Activity

We currently have 25 kiddos that are attending—27 next week. We have more kids coming back every week.



The state lifted restrictions for child care as of June 12th; however, parents are not allowed in the building at this time. We are taking daily temps (kids and employees) with a no-contact thermometer and are being very vigilant in our cleaning.

We have openings in the Toddler 2 and preschool classes. If you know of anyone in those age groups that need childcare, please send them our way.

## Trustees Report

Church Trustees

Chapel Repair: The repair and replacement of the Chapel roof is complete.

Eagle Scout Project: The Boy Scouts completed the repair and painting of the two storage sheds.

Other Activity: We are securing a contractor for the removal and replacement of Accessibility Parking in the keyhole/courtyard area. We have planned for and secured supplies for reopening the sanctuary as per plan submitted to Conference Office

## In Memory of

### Gene Casselberry

David & Luann Huffman  
Walt Parker  
Mary Lou Heatherly  
Ronnie & Jonette Almon  
Kenneth & Sue Taylor  
Mack & Mariann Andrews  
Stefani Griffis Dunn  
Barba McCord  
David & Catherine Frazey  
Kappa Alpha Order Alumni  
John & Debra Chenautt  
Paul & Norman Johnson  
Judy Rudoff  
Carole Walker  
Jack & Gladys Gray  
Eddie & Roberts Brister  
Anne Mills

### Gene Casselberry (continued)

Lena Faulkner  
Don & Virgie Mangham  
Alice Jane Harris  
George & Betty Bryant  
Anna Blohm  
Donna Tavener

### Edna O'Quinn

Carole Walker  
Mariann Andrews  
Mary Lou Heatherly  
Susan Lampe  
Alta Fay Peden

### Myra Terrell

Carole Walker  
Jim & Cindy Dustin



## By the Numbers

### Financial Information as of May 31, 2020

	MTD	YTD
Income: General Operating Acct	\$23,433	\$132,617
SBA Income Transfers:	\$16,065	\$16,065
Total Income:	\$39,498	\$148,682
Expense: General Operating Acct	\$25,216	\$139,856
Balance:	\$14,282	\$8,826
Income: SBA Loan Account	\$37,708	\$37,708
Expenses: SBA Loan Transfers	\$16,065	\$16,065
Balance:	\$21,643	\$21,643

### Worship Service Video Views

5/10	351
5/17	357
5/24	480
5/31	206
6/7	261
6/14	239
6/21	710
6/28	192

## 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

## Prayer List

### Recent Concerns:

- Family of Gene Casselberry
- Family of Edna O'Quinn
- Family of Myra Terrell
- Glenna Anderson (Dennis Anderson's mother)
- Sue Boykin
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Daniel, Kris Ann, McClaine & Brooks Clark as they rebuild and recover of their house fire (Gratitude for Trish & Mike King for their help and support)
- Jim Bob and Janet Latham as they recover from their structure fire close to their home (Gratitude to the local fire departments for their quick response and professional service)
- Joe & Mary Louise McMahan
- Cindy Thomas
- Rev. Gene Wisdom
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going

### Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Betty Casselberry
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Garrett Cramer
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Cindy French (Marsha Shepherd's coworker)
- Jack & Gladys Gray
- Sally Grove
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Gail Levey (Bill & Diane Duffy's friend)
- Zachary Madden
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Priscilla McFarland
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- Richard Norton
- Jim Posinello (Diane Duffy's brother-in-law)

- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart
- Donna Tavener
- James and Geneva Teel
- Dr. Richard Watts (Chester Robinson's friend)
- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Dennis Wilkinson

### Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Nick Heath

### Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

### Colonial Lodge (Tender Care):

- Joe McMahan

### Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

### Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Roger & 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



## 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  
7/11 Rheba Icenhower  
7/12 Lisa McGuyer  
Campbell Reid  
7/16 David Pearce  
7/18 Lena Faulkner  
Bob Grove  
Jerald Thomas  
7/22 Virginia Collier



## July Birthdays, continued

7/25 Sally Grove  
7/28 Ray Patton  
7/29 Dixie Stachowiak  
7/30 Betty King

## July Anniversaries

7/2 Bob & Sally Grove  
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 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