

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2021 Newsletter

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Discovery on Adventure Island

One Room Vacation Bible School

June 22, 23, 24, 2021

9:30am - 11:30am

Family Ministry Center

Children Ages 5-12



We are looking forward to hosting one-room-VBS this year for families with children ages 5-12. We will meet in the Family Ministry Center to discover and explore God's Great Light! Arise & Shine with faith, joy and hope!

Families are invited to join us on the adventure, one household per table. We will explore music, Bible lessons, science, and crafts. Weather permitting we will end each day outside with recreation and snacks. We will share our adventure on **VBS Sunday, June 27, at 10am** in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to help, we need the following:

- **individually-wrapped, store-bought snacks** (pretzels, crackers, granola bars, etc.—NO nuts please.)
- **individual drinks** (small individual water bottles, juice boxes/pouches, etc.)
- **families to attend**
- **volunteers** to help on the Adventure!

Please contact Amy Stark at 903-246-1487 to let us know how you can help. The registration link will be emailed soon.

Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Sydney Martinez was awarded the Weldon & Annie Reese Kibler Scholarship.

Katie Marcos and Trinity Hall were each awarded the Leland & Mary Casey Scholarship.

Mikaela Basden was awarded the Orpa & Eunice Dennis Endowment.



(L to R): Sydney Martinez, Trinity Hall, Katie Marcos, Pastor Sam

Pastor's Article: Kids Rule

Children are to be cherished, but that does not mean they are royalty! In some families, the kids RULE. They should be cherished but also guided. Children should be given choices—encouraged to make decisions with certain safe boundaries. Being cherished does not mean that they do as they please and get to make all the choices. Being cherished means they are loved unconditionally and guided with care and boundaries.



The default rule that kids follow is to learn everything they can from their adults. They do that naturally. They learn parenting from their parents, and so they inherit bad habits and traits as well as good ones. Perhaps the best thing they can learn is to discern what to adopt and what to leave behind. No parents are perfect—even in the best of family settings. And, ALL parents have influence, even in the worst.

Parenting or mentoring IS A HOLY TASK—one we never get completely right. When we are at our best, we DO our best and trust God for the REST.

Here we are—right between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Let us be confident, unafraid, and let us be humble. Let us realize that we ALL need guidance and parenting! So we have mentors and bosses and saints to admire. And we have a persistent guide within that we too often ignore—the conscience, the teaching, the spirit of the elders and saints. And the Holy Spirit of God.

We are all Children of God, we say. Let us all learn from the Spirit how to let ourselves be molded and learn to thoughtfully mold and influence each other—*especially the young ones who come into your influence.*



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

Congrats Class of 2021!

Let's celebrate our FUMC family graduates:

Katelyn Heatherly graduated from Greenville High School.

Claire Dobbs graduated from TCU Summa Cum Laude with a BA in History and BS in Political Science.

Cameron Lehr (Betty Casselberry's grandson) will graduate from Tarleton on May 15 with his Bachelor's degree and will be a Second Lt in the Army.

Tawny Naizer, John Naizer's wife, graduated from Colorado State University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Brian Naizer, Gil and Tammy Naizer's son, completed his residency in Family Medicine with Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio.



Little Ark Happenings



The Little Ark Summer Program starts June 1st.

Little Ark hosted Pre-K graduation and open house on May 12th at 9:00am, and it was wonderful!

The last day of Pre-K was May 21st, and was, sadly, Mrs. Oats' last day. She is leaving Little Ark to focus on her health and family. We will miss her very much.



Little Ark Preschool planted flowers

Pre-K had a fun trip to a farm!





June Mission of the Month: Boys and Girls Club/ACE



June 7, 2021 is the starting date for a 6-week program sponsored by ACE (After school Center for Education) at Commerce Middle School for middle school students. From 7:30am to 5:30pm students will experience a full day of activities, recreation and food, according to site director, Anna Jordan. Each day will include breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

A new feature this year is Future Focus. Every Thursday kids will go on a field trip to TAMUC to visit various departments, including the Athletics Department, to explore their opportunities after graduation. They will meet with professors, and Ms. Jordan is hopeful that university president, Mark Rudin, will also visit with the boys and girls.

Participants will receive tutoring in those subjects that they need to catch up or remain on grade level. They will also attend “club” meetings where they will take a deep dive into a subject. They can join the Cooking Club, Art Club, Sports Club, Journalism Club, or Anime (Japanese art) Club. If cooking interests the students, they'll be learning not only cooking techniques but also about the nutrition of the food—including vitamins—and how it contributes to a healthy diet.

Middle School students may register by picking up a packet at Commerce Middle School or calling CMS at 903-886-3795 to request a packet be e-mailed to them. To ensure everyone's safety, temperatures will be taken before entering the building and masks will be required.

Although there is no fee for the boys and girls, there will be programming expenses. Your Drop-a-Dollar donations will support a vibrant six weeks. You may write a check, designating ACE in the memo, or give online at by clicking [HERE](#) and marking Mission of the Month.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting six weeks, you can call Ms. Jordan at 817-845-4002 for more details. “We are really excited to give back to the community and serve our students,” concluded Ms. Jordan.

Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: My two oldest grandsons, Dalton and Dylan, were in UMYF when Haley Jobe directed the program. She organized a vibrant program for middle schoolers and high schoolers that included fun activities as well as mission trips. Dalton remembers particularly getting to greet troops returning from the Middle East at Love Field.

Maxwell Wymore was in UMYF when Wes and Dian Underwood directed the program. Painfully shy, Maxwell developed an ability to pray and was often asked to pray at youth meetings. His prayer at a sunrise service garnered several compliments. Max also entertained youth by playing the piano by ear. I was stunned to learn from Dian that he had this talent! Because of Youth, Maxwell emerged a more self-assured and faith-filled person.

(Continued on following page)

Members Remember... (continued)

Methodists Make A Difference

Dick Latson remembers Methodists Make a Difference was a joint effort between FUMC Commerce and Griffith Chapel CME. The goal was to work together on spiritual and secular needs. The organization met once a month for breakfast cooked by Dick and Brenda at FUMC Commerce.

The project that initiated this partnership was the Magic School Bus. Dick Latson and Reverend Mitchell Scott both served on the Commerce ISD board of trustees at a time when bus transportation was available only to students who lived two miles or more from their school. Those who lived inside the two-mile limit had to walk to school or be a car rider. In bad weather, many students could not get to school or were very late.

The men joined their churches' forces to acquire an old school bus, purchased by community donations, which also paid a stipend to the driver. The bus picked up students who did not qualify for bus service. Driver Joe Reynolds made sure children got to school safely and on time and were returned home in the afternoon. CISD, at the urging of Superintendent Loretta Kibler, soon budgeted the money so that every child in the district was eligible to ride the school buses.

Other projects of Methodists Make a Difference included a pastor exchange for a Sunday service and joint Vacation Bible Schools plus workdays at Griffith Chapel.

MMD soon expanded and the name was changed to Christians Make a Difference as members of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and other Christian churches joined. The group began meeting at the Community Center in the Norris Community and undertook projects like providing money for clothes, haircuts and school supplies each year. It also endorsed the Manna Movers suggested by Robert Seay so that individuals who could not pick up the monthly Bread of Life food distributions could have their food supplies delivered. Jan Helton and Chester Robinson continue to be Manna Movers.

Pastors Remembered

Rheba Icenhower remembered Jimmy Garrett fondly in a previous audio recording. Reverend Garrett served in both the Park Street facility and the present building. She remembered him as a fine minister and an accomplished musician. Mary Means recalls several past ministers, including Tom Peel, Dana Coker, Aleze Fulbright, and Greg Neal. When Reverend Peel was here, his daughter and Mary's were best friends. When the Peels needed a babysitter, Mary did the job, and when she needed a sitter, the Peels returned the favor. She keeps in touch with Reverend Peel as well as Aleze Fulbright. She also remembers Scott Jones after he convinced her to allow her children to give her a 50th Anniversary celebration. She was adamant that they not until Scott reminded her that it was worth celebrating such a milestone.

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Pastors Remembered Continued

Mary also recalls many associations with Reverend Neal but was especially grateful when she broke her hip. As soon as he found out about it, he came to the hospital and stayed until the surgery was completed and she was back in her room.

Harriet Williams and Nancy Doughty remember Jack Gibson as a very friendly and outgoing great pastor. Nancy was part time church secretary typing individual notes—there were no copy machines—to members and to visitors. Harriet recalls Dennis Wilkinson as outstanding. She mentioned specifically his tireless efforts to reach out to the community at large, but particularly those who did not have a church home. As part of this ministry, he initiated the Thanksgiving luncheon, open to everyone. Harriet feels that Pastor Sam Caldwell is like Dennis in his efforts to reach out to the community at large to make FUMC-Commerce a home for everyone.

What do you remember?

You can share your memories by emailing them to fumccommerce@gmail.com

In Memory of

Bob Grove

by: Jim & Susan Patton
Carole Walker
Walt Parker
David & Luann Huffman
Pat & Janet Skauge



Margaret Floyd

by: David & Mary Ross
Jim & Janet Latham
Betty Martin
Lena Faulkner
Jim & Susan Patton

Gene Casselberry

by: James & Pat Hutto
Nell & John Avery

Conner John

by: Andy & Jennifer Martin

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 April 30, 2021	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 22,332	\$100,566
Expenses:	\$ 23,753	\$ 94,632
	-\$ 1,421	\$ 5,934

	Worship Service LIVE	
	Video	In-Person
5/2	6	44
5/9	6	41
5/16	11	50
5/23	9	50

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Bob Grove
- Family of Dr. Patricia Pope
- Scoot and Carolyn Chaney
- Billie Garrett
- Jason Peace
- Thony (Janelle Stogner's son-in-law)
- Peace in Jerusalem
- Graduates of the Class of 2021

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Our church committee chairs and members
- Students, Teachers, & Parents
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Betty Casselberry
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- 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)
- Mary Louise McMahan
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Donna Tavener
- 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



June Birthdays

6/3 Michael Bourcy
Ruby Vander Velde
6/4 Luke Pearce
6/5 David Huffman
6/8 Glenn Crow
Connor Green
6/10 Shay Bunch
6/12 Sarah Martin
6/14 Dru Casselberry
6/15 Bill Duffy
6/21 Madeline Harrison
6/22 Kay Jensen
Sarah Staton
6/23 Anne Mills
6/24 Harriet Williams
6/25 Bill Heitholt
Mark Sartwell
6/28 Mason Bunch



June Anniversaries

6/2 Richie & Kim Bruister
6/4 Jim & Susan Patton
6/9 Dennis & Judy Anderson
6/10 Ricky & Mimi Dobbs
6/12 Gene & Carolyn Lockhart
6/18 Bob & Dixie Stachowiak
6/19 Pepper & Becky Mackie
6/21 David & Nelda Reid
6/22 Chester & Julia Robinson



**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