

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 3

March 2021 Newsletter

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Lenten Offering: UMCOR

What is UMCOR?

United Methodist
Committee on Relief

How does UMCOR help?



UMCOR provides relief assistance both nationally and internationally. I was surprised to learn of all the ways UMCOR provides assistance in the world. I naively thought they were pretty much restricted to the familiar hurricane/flood clean-up buckets mentioned above. Their relief efforts go FAR beyond that. They help to relocate refugees from Syria's horrific war and devastation to Lebanon and Jordan. UMCOR units were dispatched to battle the deadly diseases Ebola and measles in the Congo just this past summer and helped get them under control. They resettle displaced families in places like El Salvador and Honduras, they provide materials for building temporary shelters in refugee camps, they provide medical care, food, clean water, and health care items. They even help to clear landmines! That's definitely putting your own life on the line.

Closer to home, there were 101 emergencies in the US alone in 2020. Remember the California wildfires, 1,022 tornados claiming lives and doing over \$4.4 BILLION in damages, plus the repeatedly hit Texas and Louisiana coasts from deadly hurricanes? UMCOR was there.

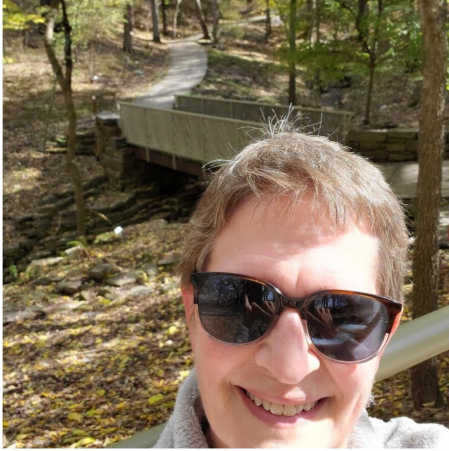
Hunger, poverty, global health, water and sanitation, disaster response and recovery, migration, sustainable development, specific health needs for women and children—whatever is called for, UMCOR's US and International Response Teams provide it. They are literally the hands and feet of Jesus doing God's work throughout the world.

How can I help?

Please prayerfully consider generously giving to this very worthy effort that is our Lenten Offering mission. There's no better way to show God's love and to be the hands and feet of Jesus when you yourself can't be there. Please either designate a separate offering by writing "Lenten Offering" in the memo line of your check or when giving online from fumcccommerce.org choose Mission of the Month to give to the UMCOR Lenten Offering.

**Matthew 25:40 " ...just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me."**

Members' Photo Collage



MISSING YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO
FUMCCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM



Little Ark

Little Ark will have their belated Valentine's Day parties on Friday, February 26.



Souper Bowl of Caring

On a dreary, chilly, misty day they drove by and dropped off cans of soup and/or money to benefit the Lion's Food Pantry on the TAMUC campus. By the end of the two hour event, this generous community had left well over 300 cans and \$300.00, much more than we had expected!

Any time an event is very successful, there are lots of people to thank. Once the Serve Team had decided to try a canned soup drive to observe The Souper of Caring in lieu of an in- person event, we went about trying to flesh out the plan and publicize it. The following individuals and groups helped:

Angel Roberts suggested that we stage a drive-by , drop-off and that we focus on a lesser know food source, the Lion's Food Pantry.

Bonnie Smith and Pastor Sam began promoting the drive early and often via e-mail blasts and announcements at church.

John Mark Dempsey used his venue, the Blacklands Cafe to spread the word about the event.

Cathy Giles, whose office oversees the Lion's Food Pantry, charged student volunteers with creating on-campus publicity, recruited volunteers to accept donations that Saturday, and tasked student to make the large, easy-to-read posters that signaled the drop off site.

David Giles loaned his truck to load up some of the donations and deliver them to the food pantry.

Jan Helton , Susan Lampe , Monty Mc Guyer, and Susan Patton teamed up with campus volunteers to accept the canned soups.

This generous community, including many FUMC members, who dropped off 300+ cans of soup.

Our world today is so fraught with negatives and anxiety. Isn't it heartwarming to be part of something positive and so successful?



Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: I have many wonderful memories of music at FUMC including:

1. The Bluebonnet Chorale's performance of Handel's Messiah. – I had invited friends over for dinner and then the concert. By the time we got to the church, the only seating left was to the side directly across from where the choir sits. We sat behind a group of university musicians that included a bass drummer. As the performance continued, all the musicians accompanied the singers EXCEPT for the drummer. I thought to myself, "Why is he even here"? Then came the Hallelujah chorus, and the bass drum boomed out. It reverberated throughout the sanctuary. What a glorious evening of music!
2. John Burkett playing a jazz piano piece. – It was summer, and we were meeting in the Family Life Center. John played a jazz piece written especially for church. In no time we were all tapping our toes. With a little imagination, one could see John in a bowler hat with a cigar and garters around his sleeves playing in a very different venue. I've been angling ever since for him to reprise that performance.
3. The Chancel Choir's spoofs including, among others, "Because She's a Woman", and the 2 songs they sang at the Jubilee luncheon. They are hilarious!!

On a more serious note, I remember a medley of Spirituals they sang for the anthem. Beautiful. I certainly wouldn't mind hearing it again.

Also, I would like to thank Susan Patton for proofreading, typing from hand-written documents, printing, and submitting the "Member's Remember" interviews.

Children's Music

Children and youth have also been a vital part of the music program. For many years, Annie Louise Huggins directed the children and youth choirs, assisted by Nancy Doughty.

Together, Annie Louise and Nancy produced several Christmas pageants. Mary Means remembers one where the children were arranged as a Christmas tree, with her daughter Davia as the top of the tree. Davia sang a solo that moved the pastor so much he gave her a big hug.

Later Carolyn Lockhart and Pam Russell directed numerous children's choir groups and produced "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with youth and adult performers.

Following Carolyn and Pam, Smitty Harris led the children's choirs and taught the children to ring handbells. Nancy Doughty recalls a pageant when her son Brad and Ray Patton were to sing a duet. After the rehearsal, Nancy got a call from Smitty saying there was a problem. The duet was beautiful, but Brad refused to wear the red choir robe. Nancy said she would be right there to resolve the matter, thinking it could easily be worked out.

(Continues on Next Page)

Children's Music Continued

After some cajoling, Brad agreed to wear the robe—he was not the only choir member who did not like them—but he would not sing. In the play, Brad held a stick with a picture of a donkey, which Nancy emphasized was significant. When it came time to sing the duet, Brad and Ray stepped forward, the music began, and Ray began singing, but not Brad! Nancy began with a smile and praying hands gestures to implore Brad to sing. When that did not work, the expression and gestures changed to “when we get home young man.” For those who witnessed the scene, the drama playing out between mother and son upstaged the drama of the pageant!

Children's music and choirs have also been under the direction of Donna Cottle, wife of associate pastor Drew Cottle and Michelle Corazao, wife of associate pastor Mark Corazao. Michelle Corazao also served as Chancel Choir director. More recently the children's choir program, Music and More, was directed by Jalisa Davis, TAMUC music major and director of the chancel Choir.

Annie Louise

Like saying “Reba” and everyone knowing that was Reba McIntyre or saying “Dirk” without the Nowitzki, all one had to say was “Annie Louise” and everyone knew they were referring to Annie Louise Huggins, whose name always brought a smile or a chuckle. Annie Louise and her sister, Lib Huggins, have left their footprints on our building and on many hearts. She combined her love of children and music to preside over the children and youth music programs for many years.

Nancy Doughty remembers being recruited to help Annie Louise with the choirs in a unique way. When Annie Louise first approached her to help, Nancy declined. Annie Louise suggested that she come to a rehearsal just to see what they did. At that rehearsal, Annie Louise said, “Children, I want you to meet our new assistant.”

Nancy remembers that Annie Louise's love of children led her to insist on creating a Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary. Her thinking was that by using familiar symbols, children would better understand the true meaning of Christmas during Advent. She dispatched Ben Doughty and helper Chris Jensen to get the tallest evergreen they could find. They brought their find into the Sanctuary through the keyhole entrance and then cleaned up the needles that had fallen in the process. In the meantime, Nancy recalls that Annie Louise invited several women to lunch at various times. After lunch, they made decorations for the tree.

When Advent was over, the dying tree was taken out by that same side door dropping piles and piles of brown needles that took hours to clean up. The next year, the church had a very tall artificial tree thanks to the generosity of Annie Louise's sister Lib. In recent years, Mimi Dobbs has carried on the tradition of children decorating the Chrismon tree, as she explained the significance of each decoration.

What do you remember?

You can share your memories by e-mailing them to fumccommerce@gmail.com



In Memory of

John St. Clair

by: Carole Walker

Sally Grove

by: Mark & Melinda Reid



In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.

By the Numbers

Financial Information
General Operating Fund
as of January 31, 20201

Income:	\$ 28,461
Expenses:	\$ 20,811
	\$ 7,650

Worship Service LIVE
Video Views

1/31	33
2/7	19
2/14	13
2/17	1
2/21	24

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:
Chester Robinson
(903) 366-2125

Lay Leader:
TBD

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:
TBD

Serve Team Chair:
Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Shelagh Fane (Judy Fane's mother-in-law)
- Family of Nick Heath
- Family of Eddie Brister
- Family of Peggy Hanak
- Mary Baker
- Angus Finn
- Shelly Oats
- Our neighbors taking refuge in the Family Ministry Center at FUMC
- Those without heat and/or water

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in quarantine
- 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
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Diane Duffy
- Lena Faulkner
- Margaret Floyd
- 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
- 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

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



February Birthdays

3/2 Ricky Dobbs
3/4 Mary Lou Heatherly
3/5 Mikaela Basden
Alicia Wittkopf
3/7 Cole Bruister
3/8 Gene Lockhart
Charles Webster
3/9 Luann Huffman
3/11 Matt Casselberry
3/14 Oliver Roberts
3/16 Daniel Stark
3/17 Pat Skauge
3/21 Kathleen Hooten
3/25 Hurley Buford
Mike Roberts
Pete Smith



February Birthdays (continued)

3/26 Shelly Oats
3/29 Charlie Walker
Sally Walker
3/30 John Burkett
3/31 Anna Bruister

February Anniversaries

3/2 David & Luann Huffman
3/5 David & Nicole Pearce
3/8 James & Geneva Teel
3/9 Mack & Mariann Andrews
3/17 Jim & Nell Brown
3/30 Jon & Mitzi Parker

