

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 5

May 2021 Newsletter

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Congratulations to Rev. Brian Dierolf

Pastor Brian has been appointed as Senior Pastor at FUMC Farmersville.

Let's congratulate him on his success after 6 years with the Wesleyan Campus Ministry!

A large event poster for "Hunt County Shared Ministries Drive Thru BBQ and Fundraiser" on Friday, May 7, 2021. The poster is set against a background of a wooden deck. It features a blue circular logo with a white cross and a flame. The text is in various fonts and colors, including blue, black, and white. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with white text that says "FEED OUR FRIENDS! DONATE THE PRICE OF A TICKET AND HELP EVEN MORE!".

Hunt County Shared Ministries
DRIVE THRU BBQ
and Fundraiser
Friday, May 7, 2021

Ridgecrest Baptist Church
6801 Wesley St, Greenville, TX
(enter parking lot from Stonewall St.)
Lunch 11:00 - 1:00 Dinner 5:30 - 7:00

First Baptist Church
1401 Washington St., Commerce, TX
Lunch 11:00 - 1:00

Food catered by
Johnson Street Smokehouse
\$15 Ticket price includes
2 Meats, Sides & Dessert.

FEED OUR FRIENDS!
DONATE THE PRICE OF A TICKET AND HELP EVEN MORE!

Pastor's Article: Meet You at the "Corner"

I live on a corner. Every time I leave the parsonage to take a walk or drive somewhere, I decide which way to go. Such decisions might seem insignificant but the direction one chooses DOES matter. Invariably we come to corners where a decision must be made, sometimes with horns honking behind us.

Such a corner appeared where I started to voice the words of this article. I often use my phone to construct a document or at least to begin it. Lets just say my typing skills are clumsy. The first time I "voiced in" the title of this article, "Meet You at the Corner", my phone wrote "Coroner" instead of "Corner". I'm glad I caught that! For I would surely rather meet you at the corner! (My father would say... "One can be so easily misunderstood!")

It's not wise for me to proofread my own work! For one reason, I read it back and my eyes will see what I intended to write rather than what I actually wrote. We humans always want to paint ourselves in the best light!

But corners abound where a decision must be made—sometimes without all the facts we would like to have. God's Garden Gift of Free Will (as in the Garden of Eden) has us humans in a perpetual state of brokenness—in need of repair, and not lookin' very good! This brokenness affects every one of us. Our own (very human) law enforcement professionals—police—face danger everyday. Not just the danger of being harmed, or in the path of someone who's causing harm, but the danger of misusing their authority even causing injury or loss of life. (See this week's story of Derek Chauvin.)

We must hold people accountable for their decisions, but we also must understand human limits of imperfection and brokenness. Our law enforcement professionals must deal with that broken world—day in and day out. It surely changes them. Life changing decisions can come at the next corner, at any moment, of any day. For law enforcement...or for you and me!

We all face risks and fears because we never know what to expect in the next moment. Perhaps you have taken comfort (as I have) in the great old Gaither gospel song which affirms: "I don't know who holds tomorrow, but I know who holds my hand." That doesn't mean that you or I will be spared from danger or from harm, but rather that we will not face it alone. The Spirit of the Risen Lord is with us—at every decision point, at every corner where a quick decision can change a life or change a family or change the future for worse...

... OR CHANGE IT FOR BETTER! So let us meet at the corner and consider how to proceed. And where is the corner? The corner of yesterday and tomorrow—right now. We make decisions in every present moment—the only place where we can ACT! And MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Where some might say...Every tick of the clock is a Holy Moment.

I'll meet you at the CORNER.



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

May Mission of the Month: F.I.S.H.



F.I.S.H. is Faithfully Involvement in Sharing Hope with Hunt County residents.

According to Wally Jeffers, the director, F.I.S.H. continues to provide food stuffs on-site and for Food-4-Kids and funds medical and optical appointments, glasses and prescriptions. It can even help individuals obtain Social Security cards. During the pandemic and the frigid weather, F.I.S.H. has been able to respond to needs arising from these catastrophes. Because the North Texas Food Bank is currently waiving ALL costs associated with delivering food to local communities and food pantries, F.I.S.H. has been able to use that money to pay for rent for individuals who lost their jobs because of the shut-down. They have paid the utility bills for people who need repairs caused by the frigid weather.

F.I.S.H. has also paid for medical appointments with specialists. Many people who were reluctant to venture out when COVID-19 was rampant are now trying to meet the appointments they missed. F.I.S.H. pays for the specialist's appointment. If that person needs to be hospitalized, they may then qualify for the hospital's assistance program.

You can be a partner in this mission by praying for it and by dropping dollar bills—or a designated check—in the collection plate. You can also contribute online by clicking [here](#) and selecting the Mission of the Month heading.

This year F.I.S.H.—the May Mission of the Month—will hold its fundraiser, a BBQ lunch, on Friday, May 7th at the First Baptist Church on Washington St. from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be drive thru ONLY. For \$15.00 you can feed your bar-be-cue cravings and also enjoy the yummy sides. Mark your calendars!



Hunt County Shared Ministries * 2805 King Street in Greenville * 903-455-0545 * www.hcsmfish.org

Congrats Class of 2021!

As you might imagine, our graduating seniors are missing out on many long anticipated traditions their senior year. Please remember all our students and their families and call or send a card or email of encouragement.

A prayer for the graduates: *“God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless these graduates as they have finished high school. We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way. Walk with them as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose. Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.”*



Let's celebrate our FUMC high school graduate: **Mikaela Basden** (Judy Rudoff's granddaughter); and our Little Ark employee graduates: **Meagan Jones, Emma Knight, Fernanda Medrano, Savannah Scott, & Sydney Martinez**

Members Remember...

Judy Rudoff: I know each of us has personal memories of sermons that really resonated with us from our lady ministers. But who can forget the Stations of the Cross that Pastor Lisa and Associate Pastor Dana organized in observance of Good Friday. It took a LOT of organizing and relocating of furnishings in the classrooms plus creating a printed guide to follow as one experienced the Stations.

Then there was church camp for adults. Pastor Lisa, Pastor Dana and Jennifer Washer organized a week of evening activities that include games, singing and devotionals. On Friday night, we had a potluck. Again, a great deal of work went in to organizing this week, and all of us in attendance grew in faith as a result.

Pastor Valerie Englert introduced us to the Love Feast worship service. We gathered in the Family Life Center to eat breads and muffins and drink fruit juices and give testimonies. I remember Jan Helton telling about how moved she was by a sign hanging over a "home" in Tierra Nueva praising God. (Part of Proyecto Abrigo). Although the family lived in abject poverty, they were rich in faith.

UMYF

Nancy Doughty and husband Ben were sponsors for the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The format for the meeting was to have a snack supper provided by the parents, then junior high students would go with Ben for a devotional and senior high would stay with Nancy. Parents who had provided the supper were welcome to join the groups for the devotional and lesson time. Over the years, Nancy recalled the UMYF had dances after the football games. The youth went on two trips to Disney World. Wyman Williams remembers chaperoning one trip to Florida, sitting right behind the bus driver to make sure he stayed awake on the long nighttime ride. The youth went on ski trips and other excursions.

The youth also presented musicals for the congregation including "Jesus Christ Superstar." Nancy recalls having service projects. Head Start had just begun in Commerce and UMYF provided seasonal parties for the children. At Halloween, they also made sure the Head Start kids had costumes.

There were many fundraisers to underwrite the trips, musicals, and service projects, including a Christmas Bazaar featuring hand crafted items made by the youth. The youth Christmas Bazaar was eventually adopted by Shelley Seay as a money maker for the church. Shelly would have the materials ready and volunteers would gather weekly to make the items.

Dick and Brenda Latson were UMYF sponsors for seven years. Their goal was to make it so inviting that youth would think of FUMC as the place to be.

(Continues on Next Page)

UMYF Continued

To that end, while planning fun activities and trips to such destinations as Ranger Games, Six Flags, and skiing, they let guests provide the more serious lessons. One such guest was an expert on gambling. Scratch off lotto tickets had just been introduced in Texas, and Dick hoped the expert's talk would explain the United Methodist Church's dim view of such activity. To drive home the point, Dick recalls buying a bunch of scratch offs to give to the youth after the gentleman's talk. As the kids scratched off their tickets, the point was well made. Many won nothing, a few won a dollar or two. Then Graham Wilkinson, son of the senior pastor, scratched off his ticket and found he had won \$100!! Laughing, Dick remembers the teaching moment changing in a second to tithing and also that Pastor Dennis Wilkinson has never let him forget the incident.

Youth programming has been carried on by church members who all strove to make faith, fun, and service the cornerstone of their program.

What do you remember?

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

Trustees Report

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Patton and Dennis Anderson, work on the stairs outside the Office door will soon be covered with new aluminum treadways!

Church Trustees

Little Ark

Little Ark Pre-K will have their Open House/Graduation on May 12th at 9:00am.
Summer Program starts June 1st.



In Memory of

Gene Casselberry

by: Jim & Susan Patton
James & Pat Hutto

Peggy Hanak

by: Jim & Susan Patton
Joe & Laura Milligan

Sally Grove

by: Joe & Laura Milligan

Marilyn Heath

by: Jim & Susan Patton

Nick Heath

by: Jim & Susan Patton

Steve Siebenhausen

by: Jim & Susan Patton



VBS 2021

is being
planned!

Look for
details
coming
soon!



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

Connect/Grow Chair:
TBD

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

By the Numbers

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
as of March 31, 2021	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 31,589	\$79,731
Expenses:	\$ 25,211	\$70,353
	\$ 6,378	\$ 9,378

	Worship Service LIVE	
	Video	In-Person
4/1	2	—
4/4	15	60
4/11	12	36
4/18	11	40
4/25	7	42

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Family of Angus Finn
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Donna Tavener
- Gene Lockhart

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Our church committee chairs and members
- 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
- 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)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Briarcliff:

- Bob Grove

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Jean Arnold

Discovery Senior Living:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- 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



May Birthdays

- 5/1 Cameron Basden
Michael McGuyer
- 5/2 Harold Coker
- 5/3 Sue Davis
- 5/4 Jeff Helton
- 5/5 Dane Casselberry
- 5/10 Elaine Thomas
- 5/21 Sheryl Zelhart
- 5/25 Susan Lampe
- 5/26 Mikey Elwell
Madie Williams
- 5/27 Rayn Barton



May Anniversaries

- 5/7 Harold & Becky Coker
- 5/15 Bill & Diane Duffy
- 5/18 Mark & Frances Sartwell
- 5/22 Bill & Nancy Ogden
- 5/30 Derrell & Tiffany Harrison
- 5/31 Ray & Sabrina Green



**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