

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 20, Issue 5

May 2022 Newsletter



## ACE: MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

By Judy Rudoff

ACE will be our May Mission of the Month. ACE formerly partnered with the Boys and Girls Club. This year, ACE will be conducting the program alone, according to site director Anna Jordan. While the name has changed, the goal of providing a safe nurturing program has not. The program begins May 31 and runs through July 2, and will concentrate on academics in the morning and enrichment activities in the afternoon. A hands-on approach will be used to create an authentic learning environment. Breakfast, lunch and a snack will be served. Activities will begin at 8 a.m. and go until 3:30 p.m. on all 4 campuses: Commerce Elementary, A.C. Williams, CMS and CHS with programs tailored to each age group.

Registration packets may be picked up at any school, and this program is free for all CISD students. The program benefits parents, as well. They know their children will be in a safe, positive environment where they will receive academic support, nutritious meals and snacks.

While the program is free for students, it is not free for ACE. Providing fun, interesting, educational programs involves expenses. Let's show our support for Commerce kids through our prayers and our generous donations. Every dollar bill (or checks with ACE designated in the memo line) dropped in the collection plate in May will benefit ACE. If you give online, go to the FUMC homepage, click "Online Giving" and then click the Mission of the Month button. You will help provide some happy memories and beneficial learning for our youngsters this summer.

On Friday, May 6th, come enjoy delicious Johnson Street BBQ to help to support families in need throughout our community at the annual Hunt County Shared Ministries BBQ. You'll enjoy 2 meats, sides and dessert for only \$20! Just like last year, it's going to be a drive-thru event, allowing you to pick up meals instead of having inside seating. In Greenville, they are serving lunch from 11:00-1:00 and dinner from 5:30-7:00 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, 6801 Wesley St. (enter the parking lot from Stonewall St.). **They are serving lunch from 11:00 - 1:00 at First Baptist Church, 1401 Washington St, in Commerce.**



Tickets available at the door or click here to order tickets [eventbrite.com/e/hunt-county-shared-ministries-drive-thru-bbq-2022-tickets-313699843677?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hunt-county-shared-ministries-drive-thru-bbq-2022-tickets-313699843677?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing)

## *Journey Beyond the Cross*

We do a lot of following. We might follow a path, or follow a moonwalk. Follow a character, or a star... or follow a leader. These days, we choose whom we follow on social media. That influence certainly seeks to change our thinking. With maturity comes strength and resolve, but we are vulnerable-especially the young ones. *When we are at our best*, we carefully examine what or whom we follow!

The sign said... **“Choose your rut carefully you will be in it for the next 45 miles”**

Imagine, for a moment, an “old-timey” car like a black Model-T Ford... or even a horse-drawn carriage. My father Homer told a story about such old vehicles. Dad said he saw that sign once on a dried-up dirt road that had very deep ruts in it. The ruts had obviously been formed when the road was heavily saturated with rain-water and mud.

“Choose carefully...” Dad would tell that story and expect us to understand what he meant. I didn’t get it then. But with some maturity and perspective, I now embrace the meaning.

Habits are important. I form habits and patterns. And eventually, those patterns **form me**. It’s easier for musicians to understand that consistent practice makes habits. **We all have to be careful what habits we establish because habits are hard to break!** If I rehearse a musical passage incorrectly again and again, I might never be able to break that pattern. If I learn something well but learn it wrong, well, that is not helpful!

What ruts are you and I in? What is our destination? “Route” and “rut” are close words. What route shall we choose and how do we avoid defaulting to the *well-travelled ruts*?

*[Warning: this stream of linguistic thinking is contagious. If you like to play with words as I do, go look up the etymological connections between “root”, “route”, and “rut”! Some great sermon illustrations and even prayers can be formed there!]*

You have the wheel. Choose your ruts and patterns and disciplines carefully. You and God are co-creating a journey, a destination, a story.

I am proud to be your Pastor,



FUMC had a great turnout and a wonderful time during the Palm Sunday celebration, hayride and Easter Egg hunt held at McLeroy Farm on April 11. Barbeque and fixings, along with many wonderful dishes made by members of our congregation, were shared and served pot luck style! Thank you to all who made our time together enjoyable. It was a day full of fellowship and fun surrounded by God’s love.



**Prayer List 4-28-22**

**Recent Concerns:**

- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bishop Eduard Khegay, Bishop of UMC in both Ukraine and Russia
- Family of Linda & Dick Baron
- Vance & Ann Underhill

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- ***Our world, country, & leaders***
- Will and Cassandra, named by Dewey Haight
- Bill Heitholt
- Frances & Mark Sartwell
- Richard Norton
- Sharon Brown (named by the Webster family)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- 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

**Discovery Village Rehab:**

- Virginia Collier

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:**

- Mary Louise McMahan
- 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
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer

**May Birthdays**

- 5/1 Cameron Basden  
Michael McGuyer
- 5/2 Harold Coker
- 5/3 B.J. Woods
- 5/4 Jeff Helton
- 5/5 Dane Casselberry
- 5/21 Sheryl Zelhart
- 5/25 Susan Lampe  
Teresa Heatherly
- 5/26 Michael Elwell
- 5/27 Rayn Barton

**May Anniversaries**

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



VBS 2022

June 21, 22, 23, & 24

9:30am-11:30am

VBS Sunday, June 26

Prayer Shawl's final meeting before summer break will be Monday, May 9 at 9:30 in the Prayer Shawl room. Anna Blohm will provide refreshments.



Let's celebrate our FUMC  
high school graduates:

Emma Dobbs  
Meghan Green  
Cadye Shaw  
Emma Wittkopf



Please contact the church office if you have  
an additional graduate to include.

[communications@fumccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org)  
(903) 886-3220



## Little Ark Happenings

Above: Babies enjoying a stroller ride (well, 3 out of 4 are enjoying it!); Easter Egg hunt with Preschool; To the left: Toddler 1 class enjoying the sunshine; Easter crafts in Toddler 2

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

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