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# *All Saints Sunday*

## *November 7, 2021*

November 1 is All Saints' Day on the church calendar. On that day, we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have died and gone on to join the communion of saints. FUMC's remembrance of our saints will be in worship on Sunday, November 7. Come worship with us as we celebrate their lives, and offer support and prayers to their family members.

- |                    |          |   |          |
|--------------------|----------|---|----------|
| • Sally Grove      | 12/20/20 | • Jim Bob Latham  | 9/26/21  |
| • Peggy Hanak      | 2/13/21  | • Donna Tavener   | 10/13/21 |
| • Margaret Floyd   | 2/27/21  | • Family members and dear friends                               |          |
| • Bob Grove        | 5/15/21  | • Military service men and women                                |          |
| • Walt Parker      | 7/3/21   | • Those who have generously left gifts to the church foundation |          |
| • Mildred Davis    | 7/8/21   |   |          |
| • Chester Robinson | 7/9/21   |   |          |
| • Scoot Chaney     | 7/17/21  |   |          |
| • Betty King       | 8/21/21  |   |          |
| • Marilyn Heath    | 3/6/21   |   |          |

## Merry Market Online Auction for Missions

Save the Date: **December 2-4, 2021**

Mark your calendar to continue your support of missions this December. You can purchase items during the online auction or simply make a donation from your couch. Be on the lookout for more information to come soon. If you have items to donate to the online auction, please call Judy Rudoff at 903-366-2634.





Dear Church Family,

Like many of you, I've shaken hands with the grim reaper a time or two. Like many of you, I've spent many long dark nights, months, years caring for chronically ill loved ones. Through my own personal experiences, my experiences as a Stephen Minister, and my experiences visiting home-bound and hospice patients professionally, I've learned two things. The first is that healing often takes a long time. The second is that when you go through a traumatic experience, you don't come out the same. You're not really better or worse overall, but you *are* different. There's a new beginning.

Our church, as well as all of us individually, as members of our community, country, and our world has experienced the trauma of a pandemic. Some of us have certainly been impacted more than others, but we've all been impacted. In addition to the pandemic, our church has suffered so many losses of our church family members who were central to the heart and soul of our church. As with any trauma, healing takes time and you don't come out the same. This applies to our church as well.

Through conversations with many of you as well as responses to the letters I sent out, there is a common thread of nostalgia. I've been a member of our church for almost thirty years and have many fond and uplifting memories of the past. Certainly, in my own personal case, the older I become, the better I was! We're still in the pandemic, but we will emerge from it eventually. Healing takes time and we will probably be different in some ways. Small groups may be different, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday may be different, Sunday School classes may have different members, our committees may be different.

We have already made great strides. Our wonderful choir is singing again, John Burkett is beautifully touching us through his musical gifts, Pastor Sam's Bible study classes have been meeting and sharing insight, Prayer Shawl is meeting again and sharing all their wonderful gifts and talent, the Friendship Class has been meeting online and in person and having thought-provoking conversations, the Serve Team, Finance, SPRC, Foundation, Trustees, Admin Council, and the Nominating Committee have all been active. Team leaders have been selected for the Connect and Grow Teams and will be moving forth soon. We are also working on reestablishing a Youth Program.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and when we emerge from it, there will be a rainbow. A new beginning. We may look a little different. Not better or worse, but different. The one constant we have is love. Love of each other, love of our church, love of our community, love of Christ.

I close with praise and appreciation for Bonnie Smith. She will be leaving us at the end of the month, and her departure will leave a big hole in our hearts. She has done an outstanding job not only with her knowledge and expertise, but with her loving kindness and patience as well. She will be greatly missed and we thank her for all her years of service to us.

May we all be blessed by the peace that surpasses all understanding and actively serve one another as Jesus taught us to do.

Your lay leader,  
Jefferson Helton

## November Mission of the Month: Thanksgiving Day Community Meal



Free Thanksgiving Day Community meal hosted at Omega's Restaurant

This year we are joining many other local churches and organizations to help sponsor a Free Thanksgiving Day Community meal hosted at Omega's Restaurant. In particular, our donations will help cover the cost of advertising the meal (paper, printing, postage). Please make a donation in the offering plate, mail a donation to the church office or donate online by [clicking here](#).

A Community Thanksgiving Day meal has been hosted at Omega's for several years with lots of success. Last year over 600 free meals were served.



The meal will be hosted at Omega's Restaurant, located at 1814 Monroe Street on November 26. The free Community Thanksgiving Day meal will begin at 11am and end at 2pm. The meal will include turkey, all the traditional trimmings and dessert!

Folks are welcome to eat inside the restaurant OR pick up a meal to-go.

If you are interested in volunteering at the meal, please contact Amy Stark, 903.246.1487.

We are looking for a volunteer to deliver meals per request.

### A Note from Bonnie...

For those who don't know, this is my last newsletter and this is my last week as your Communications Director.

It is very bittersweet. I'm going to miss being in the office and seeing everyone and walking these halls. I was married in this church, have grown, lead, and served here. My boys have grown up in this church, were baptized, have run around, learned, played, and served here.

It would be a whole lot easier and more comfortable and convenient to stay. It's been a real struggle getting here, but I really feel that God is calling me to make a change. It's fairly scary right now. I know God's got it, but I'm still human and it's stressful. Most of my adult identity is attached to FUMC-Commerce. Trying to figure out who I am apart from that and embracing it is the next step.

Your prayers and thoughts are appreciated! Please always know that I'm still a phone call, text, or email away.

With much love and fondness,  
Bonnie Smith



## Hunt County Gives Holiday Food Baskets

Commerce will be one of the three distribution sites along with Greenville and Wolfe City for the “Hunt County Gives” holiday food baskets. This annual assistance is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and made possible through Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH and its partnerships with local pantries, organizations, and businesses.



Katy Williams with the Office of Intercultural Engagement & Leadership at Texas A&M University - Commerce is coordinating the logistics for the Thanksgiving basket packing and the distribution in Commerce on Saturday, November 20. The distribution will be a drive-through and the location on campus is to be confirmed.

Look for volunteer information in the November newsletter or contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547. There will be opportunities to serve alongside TAMU-C students.

Registration for the holiday food baskets is ongoing at FISH and local food pantries during regular business hours through October 29.

## Little Ark Happenings



pumpkin science



community helpers



Mandy's b-day

## First Thursday

Join us for the First Thursday Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, November 4th at 12 noon. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share.



## 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On October 10, Bibles were presented to:

- Logan Bruister (left)
- Daniel Stark (middle)
- Wyatt Bourcy (right)

Congratulations on this big step in your faith journey. We pray you find delight in God's Word.

## September Mission of the Month

FUMC-Commerce donated \$200 to Raffa Clinic.

Thank you for your donations!



## Helping Hands

Thank you to Mike Roberts, Jefferson Helton and Jan Helton for organizing and delivering MUGS coffee, yummy treats, and a card to our Hunt Regional Healthcare Heros in Greenville.

## In Memory of

### Donna Tavener

by: David & Luann Huffman  
Leila Riddle  
Bobby & Kathy Hill  
Terry Morris  
Don & Sybil Smith

### Jim Bob Latham

by: Jeffery & Ashley Anderson  
David & Luann Huffman  
Isabel & Walter Davis  
Courtney Parker  
Jim & Susan Patton  
Mariann Andrews  
Eddie & Mickie Smith  
Bobby & Kathy Hill  
Gloria Weiss  
Clarence & Kay Jensen  
Robert & Becky Smith

### Jim Bob Latham, continued

Betty Martin  
Ellen & Ted Oats  
Elaine & Dale Stotts  
Steve & Teena Shipp  
Leila Riddle  
Brenda & Albert Yoder  
Jim & Jill Grove  
John Heath  
Paul & Sheryl Zelhart  
Dennis & Judy Anderson  
Mark & Frances Sartwell  
Michael & Jana Draughn  
Pete & Mary Smith  
Cheryl Rogers

### Bob Mills HVAC Fund

by: Mark & Frances Sartwell  
Leila Riddle



‘Tis the season with a new seller.  
The Commerce Public Library is offering evergreens  
from Sherwood Forest Farms.  
Stop by or check their Facebook page for info.

## Committee Chairs

### Lay Leader:

Jeff Helton  
(903)456-3982

### SPPRC Chair:

Gene Lockhart  
(903) 513-8676

### Trustees Chair:

TBD

### 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

# Prayer List

**Recent Concerns:**

- Carter James McLeroy (Julie and Bob McLeroy's grandson)
- Virginia Collier
- Jaime and Brian Day
- Cindy Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's mother)
- Tim O'Neil
- Durwood Smith (Jamie Bourcy's father)
- All Boy and Girl Scouts and their leaders
- Our Youth  
Those struggling

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Shelly Dean
- Jack Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- 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)
- Rita Thompson
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Dennis Wilkinson
- Kenneth Williams

**Austin:**

- Ruby Vander Velde

**Christian Care Center (Mesquite):**

- Jean Arnold

**Discovery Senior Living:**

- Virginia Collier

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

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

**Oak Manor:**

- Helen Cole

**Those serving in our military:**

- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson)
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer



Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer

***By the Numbers***

	Worship Service	
	Video	In-Person
10/3	11	38
10/10	13	58
10/17	5	60
10/24	7	42

## November Birthdays

11/2 Tucker Stark  
11/4 Nell Avery  
Alinda Casselberry  
11/7 Amy Williams  
11/9 Sam Caldwell  
11/15 Wyatt Bourcy  
11/17 Brianna Bourcy  
Craig Jensen  
Carole Walker  
11/18 Chase Webster  
11/20 Bill Ogden  
Angela Roberts  
11/23 Sabrina Green  
11/25 Clarence Jensen  
Cameron Lehr  
Sandra Rungger  
11/26 Jim Brown



## November Birthdays, continued

11/27 Kim Bruister  
Brenda Latson  
11/28 Susan Patton  
11/29 Robert Seay  
11/30 Ray Green

## November Anniversaries

11/7 Glenn & Dawn Crow  
11/16 John & Nell Avery  
Paul & Sheryl Zelhart  
11/26 Mike & Angela Roberts  
11/29 Jerald & Elaine Thomas



**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