

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 18, Issue 8

October 2020 Newsletter

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Commerce will be one of the three distribution sites for the "Hunt County Gives" holiday food baskets. This annual assistance is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and made possible through Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH

and its partnerships with local pantries and businesses.

Our church has had a strong connection to this ministry through hosting the Commerce distribution and serving breakfast. This year, however, we are making some changes given the pandemic and logistics. We will not be flipping pancakes, and the pickup for the Thanksgiving food basket will take place across the street on the west side of Memorial Stadium. The stadium tunnel will be used to

store the pallets and provide coverage in the event of inclement weather. The frontage road will allow space for cars to queue. The distribution itself will be low contact. Pre-registered neighbors will remain in their cars at all times, driving through check-in and loading areas.

Though the Thanksgiving distribution location may have changed, we will still need FUMC-C volunteers to work alongside A&M - Commerce students as we have in the past. Look for volunteer information in the November newsletter or contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 for more information.

## Merry Marketplace for Missions: A Virtual Event

Save the Date: **December 1-5, 2020**

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 903-366-2634.



## Serve: Mission of the Month

October's Mission of the Month is Hunt County Clothe-a-Child, which this year is celebrating 28 years of providing clothing to children in need.

All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during October will benefit this important program. Last December, 250 Commerce students referred by teachers and counselors each shopped for \$50 worth of clothing and shoes at our local Wal-Mart. Also throughout the year, Clothe-a-Child provides help to families in distress, due to fire, flood, tornado or other natural disasters. For more information contact Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School counselor, at 903.886.3757.



## Coffee with Pastor Sam: Weekly Activities

### TUESDAY'S TUNES

Hymn of the Week: New and old favorites!

### WEDNESDAY'S WORD

Bible Study: Scriptures for the coming Sunday

### Friday's Freeview

Your Influence in the Message: The Word of the People!



COFFEE  
WITH  
PASTOR  
SAM

## Prayer Shawl Ministry: Operation Gratitude

Each year Prayer Shawl mails boxes of hand crocheted and knit scarves and hats to Operation Gratitude, which are included in Christmas care packages for our service members. OG is a national volunteer organization that supports our deployed troops throughout the year. But, there is much more! OG also supports our military families, wounded heroes and caregivers, homeless veterans and first responders. The OG website is a wealth of ways to support our heroes. [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com)



The link below will take you to a page where, if you are so inclined, you can write a note to a service member. Your note will be transferred to a special postcard and included in a care package. (Your full name will not be published.) <https://www.veteransunited.com/operation-gratitude/>

## Little Ark Activity

Little Ark has been back in session for about two months. Everything is going well, and the kids and teachers are so happy to be back!



We are continuing with the protocol of parents not being allowed in the building at this time. We take daily temps (kids and employees) with a no-contact thermometer and are very vigilant in our cleaning.



Toddler 2 Class



Preschool Class



PreK Class

## Finance Report

October brings Halloween and that is appropriate. This year has been spooky.

As noted before, with church activity slowed/stopped, income is down while many church expenses continue. Many of you have continued your financial support, and the church thanks you very much and may the Lord bless you.

At this time various, people are working to prepare a budget for 2021. Normally the current year is used as a guide to determine future income and expenses, but 2020 has been so abnormal that it is useless. Looking back, 2019 is the most recent history that is usable and in 2019 expenses were significantly higher than income. If church operations resume to normal, like 2019, expenses should be very similar. The same should be true of income. However, due to the loss of some long term loyal members, income is expected to be significantly lower in the future. Your church committee chairs are working to find a way to balance the budget which may require cutting some services unless volunteers can be found to fill in.

Of course the real answer is to find new members and gain support from current members. Since very few are attending Sunday Worship now, it is unlikely many new folks will be coming. About all you can do now is support the church the best you can and pray that conditions will improve.

Thank you for your support.  
The Finance Committee





'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.

## Wesleyan Campus Ministry



Come in and enjoy:  
Free Wifi  
Coffee/Tea  
Study Room  
Prayer Room  
Game Room:  
(Video games, Netflix, ping  
pong, air hockey, chess,  
board games, darts)  
Spacious Backyard

"Do not be conformed to the  
patterns of this world, but be  
transformed by the renewing  
of your minds so that you can  
discern God's will."  
-Romans 12:2

### Programming Schedule

<b>Monday</b> 6:30 pm <i>Movie Night</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 4:00 pm <i>Awakened Life</i> (mindfulness practices for mental health well-being)
<b>Wednesday</b> 6:00 pm <i>The Light Worship</i> (sermon series <i>Wrestling with; God, doubt, faith, injustice...</i> )
<b>Thursday</b> 4:00 pm <i>Liberation Theology</i>
8:30 pm <i>Crafts &amp; Coffee House</i>
<b>Friday - Sunday</b> Closed

\*Times subject to change\*

### Staff



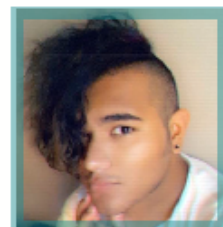
Mikey Elwell  
Asst. Campus Minister



Rev. Brian Dierolf  
Campus Pastor



Kolby Burns  
Bldg. Manager



Andrew Martinez (Andii)  
Marketing Coordinator

## Adapted From Home Touch (A publication sent to our Homebound members)



Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers' Neighborhood) once said, "When I was a boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

Who are the helpers? We are the helpers, and among the most vulnerable right now are the homebound, especially those who are not in a care facility, but isolated at home. Reach out to them. Call, text, email, video chat. Visit them using social distancing. An example of social distance visiting: stand by your vehicle in the drive way while they sit on their porch.

Thought for the day: "Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the whole world for one person." —Anon.

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

## Delicious Dish

### CHICKEN STUFFED WITH MOZZARELLA, TOMATO AND BASIL RECIPE

Author: Lois @Walking On Sunshine Recipes / Shared by Bonnie Smith

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Sliced mozzarella cheese
- Grape tomatoes; sliced in half
- Fresh basil leaves
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- Salt and Pepper
- 2 teaspoons olive oil

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place the chicken breasts on a cutting board. Using a sharp knife, cut slits across the chicken breast about 3/4 of the way through being careful not to cut all the way through.
- Depending on the size of your chicken breast, you're going to want around 6 to 8 slits per chicken breast.
- Stuff each slit with a slice of mozzarella cheese, half a grape tomato and a basil leaf.
- Place the chicken breasts in a baking dish that has been coated with non-stick baking spray.
- Brush each chicken breast with olive oil.
- Sprinkle each chicken breast with salt, pepper and Italian seasoning.
- Bake in a preheated 400 degree oven for 30 minutes or until the internal temperature of the chicken reaches 160 degrees.



## In Memory of

### Rheba Icenhower

Dennis & Judy Anderson

Pat & Janet Skauge

Lena Faulkner

### Roger Arnold

David & Luann Huffman

Dennis & Judy Anderson

Pat & Janet Skauge

Lena Faulkner

Dough Rollins SS Class

### Steve Siebenhausen

Jack & Gladys Gray

Dennis & Judy Anderson

Mary Lambert Smith

Lena Faulkner

Mark, Melinda, Campbell, & Rockney  
Reid

### Joe McMahan

Lena Faulkner

### Rosie Naizer

Carole Walker



# By the Numbers

## Financial Information

### General Operating Fund

as of August 31, 2020      Year-to-Date

Income:    \$ 21,456      \$ 238,124

Expenses: \$ 27,067      \$ 228,505

              -\$ 5,611      \$ 9,619

The YTD income is made up of \$188,268 in member income, SBA Loan of \$37,708 and Little Ark refunds of \$11,404. Several other small income credits.

### Worship Service LIVE Video Views

(Updated numbers are more accurate.)

April		July	
4/5/2020	44	7/5/2020	22
4/12/2020	70	7/12/2020	28
4/19/2020	37	7/19/2020	21
4/26/2020	35	7/26/2020	28
May		August	
5/3/2020	54	8/2/2020	23
5/10/2020	36	8/9/2020	18
5/17/2020	45	8/16/2020	20
5/24/2020	62	8/23/2020	23
5/31/2020	43	8/30/2020	18
June		September	
6/7/2020	47	9/6/2020	24
6/14/2020	24	9/13/2020	26
6/21/2020	29	9/20/2020	23
6/28/2020	30	9/27/2020	22

## Committee Chairs

**Finance Chair:**  
Jim Brown  
(903) 886-7439

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

**FUMC Foundation Pres.:**  
Tammy Naizer  
(903) 886-1961

**Lay Leader:**  
Bill Heitholt  
(903) 886-6819

**Worship Chair:**  
Nancy Doughty  
(903) 886-6328

**SPPRC Chair:**  
David Giles  
(817) 366-2026

**Connect/Grow Chair:**  
Bonnie Smith  
(903) 782-5312

**Trustees Chair:**  
Gene Lockhart  
(903) 513-8676

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

## Prayer List

### Recent Concerns:

- Students, Teachers, & Parents
- Bob Grove
- Billy Relford (Harriet Williams' friend)
- Mark Sartwell
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going

### Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Sue Boykin
- Betty Casselberry
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Garrett Cramer
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Lena Faulkner
- Cindy French (Marsha Shepherd's coworker)
- Jack & Gladys Gray
- Butch Greene
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Gail Levey (Bill & Diane Duffy's friend)
- Zachary Madden
- Priscilla McFarland
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- Richard Norton
- Jim Posinello (Diane Duffy's brother-in-law)
- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart
- Donna Tavener
- James and Geneva Teel
- Dr. Richard Watts (Chester Robinson's friend)

### Continued Prayers (continued):

- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

### Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Mary Culbertson
- Nick Heath

### Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

### Briarcliff:

- Sally 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



## October Birthdays

- 10/2 Diane Duffy
- 10/3 Jim Latham  
Bob Stachowiak
- 10/8 Joel Kvanli
- 10/10 Mildred Davis
- 10/11 Steven Ball  
Cathy Caldwell  
Robyn Elwell
- 10/12 Susan Bishop
- 10/15 Jan Helton  
Monty McGuyer
- 10/20 Mandy Swinson
- 10/22 Jamie Bourcy  
Janelle Stogner
- 10/23 Mimi Dobbs
- 10/24 Janeen Kvanli  
Sam Walker



## October Birthdays, continued

- 10/25 Janet Skauge
- 10/26 Makalynn Morgan
- 10/27 Geneva Teel
- 10/28 Erin Jensen  
Mike Smith  
Alison Walker
- 10/31 Nancy Doughty

## October Anniversaries

- 10/10 Ron & Robyn Elwell
- 10/25 Al & Rose Stapleton



Margaret Floyd  
turned 100 on  
September 15!