



Notes from Pastor Cheryl

Let me tell you about Howard. Howard is a resident of a nursing home I visit with others from our church to lead worship once a week. Howard knows every word to every hymn we sing. We rarely “stump” him with one he doesn’t know.

He tells the story of when he was a young man and he heard the voice of God – the real literal voice of God telling him to sing *Amazing Grace, all the verses*. *Now, at that time, Howard did not do much singing, but he was so sure this was the voice of God telling him to sing that he did, he sang Amazing Grace, all the verses, right then and there. And he began to sing in church regularly, and still remembers all the verses to all the hymns.*

In this world where our kids have to live with lockdowns and threats of gun violence every day, it’s good to know all the words to *Amazing Grace*. *That’s why singing is so important in worship, and worship is a defining component to a life of discipleship. If we have committed to be one of Jesus’ followers in this life, then it’s not enough to sit at home and watch church online (unless there are extenuating circumstances). We are called to gather in person. The word “church” comes from the Greek ekklesia meaning a “called-out assembly.”*



Let us not neglect meeting together. Besides, you will miss hearing and participating in the great singing, choir, and organ music right there in the room (not to mention the praying and oh, yes, the preaching!) if you don’t come to the house of the Lord!

In worship this fall, we will be talking about components of discipleship, what it is to “walk” with the Lord on our journey of life. Worship, singing, listening, studying, praying, meditating, serving, giving, going on to perfection: these are some of the steps along the walk. Don’t miss it! You might miss the voice of God telling you to sing all the verses to *Amazing Grace*.

We are excited to announce that **Rev. Lisa Greenwood** has been selected as the president of the **Texas Methodist Foundation and Wesleyan Investive**. We are proud of her accomplishments and wish her success in this new position.



If you are interested in giving flowers for the altar, please visit with Luann Huffman before worship on Sunday or contact her at [903-366-2899](tel:903-366-2899) or lhuffman01@cumbytel.com.

The Wesley@TAMUC September Mission of the Month by Judy Rudoff

The Wesley@TAMUC, the campus ministry, is the September Mission of the Month. Like many institutions, Covid dealt a body blow to the student ministry. When Reverend Payton Parker arrived to assume the campus ministry, he found a single intern there. "It felt like planting a new church," noted Reverend Parker, as he set about rebuilding the ministry on campus. The building received a thorough cleaning, a fresh coat of paint, and finally a new name. The Wesleyan Campus Ministry is now known as The Wesley@TAMUC.

With the building in tip-top shape, Reverend Parker has spent the year focusing on spreading the message that The Wesley@TAMUC is open and ready to welcome students back, as well as to reach out to surrounding communities.

Currently, the Wednesday night Bible study has 21 regular participants. Rev. Parker would like to add a dinner, provided by volunteers, before the Bible study, as well as adding additional programs to develop leadership skills. He also wants to promote mission trips, both local and abroad.

FUMC-Commerce has long had a supportive relationship with the campus ministry, and there are several ways our congregation can continue to demonstrate our support.

1. We can **pray** for the ministry as it seeks to become an impactful presence on campus and in communities where Reverend Parker is invited to preach.
2. Individuals can contribute to the **30 for \$30k Campaign** by donating \$30.00 and urging at least three friends to do the same.
3. We can contribute items that will be used to make **College Care packages**. A box will be in the Gathering Area for things like laundry supplies, school supplies, snacks and drinks, gift cards to restaurants, Wal-Mart or for music. Encouraging notes are also appreciated.
4. We can **organize a group to prepare dinner for 25 students** to be served before a Wednesday night Bible study.
5. We can **drop dollar bills** or a check with The Wesley@TAMUC in the memo line in the collection plate during September. If you give online, click on Mission of the Month.

To volunteer to prepare a dinner or to contribute to the **30 for \$30k Campaign**, please email Rev. Parker at pastor@wcmcommerce.org for additional information.

These are some ways we can continue to support the spiritual journey of students in our midst.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

The Prayer Shawl group has moved to the Dough Rollins classroom as it simply outgrew its previous room. The classroom got a fresh coat of paint, thanks to Dennis and Judy Anderson. They now have room for everyone, supplies and finished projects. You are invited to come check it out!

This group continues to grow, with several new members and visitors. FUMC-Commerce is so grateful for these industrious ladies and the many ways their ministries reach others, including:

- A Greeting Card ministry
- Operation Gratitude
- Hats & Scarves
- Prayer Shawls & Lap Robes
- Baby Blankets
- Cancer Center Hats

Makers of all skill levels are invited to join the group on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9:30 in the Dough Rollins Classroom.



Our beautiful hat tree (created by Al Stapleton) located at Hunt Regional Hospital Finney Cancer Center.

Prayer List 8-29-22

Recent Concerns:

- ***Our world, country, & leaders***
- Venkat Raman, from the Blessings Table
- Tommie Turner, from the Blessings Table
- Mike Sandel, Tiffany Evans' father, in the hospital
- Carlos Rickman
- Danielle Goode, named by the Webster family
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- Bill Heitholt
- Families of Uvalde
- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bishop Eduard Khegay, Bishop of UMC in both Ukraine and Russia

Continued Prayers (long term):

- The Greaves family, from the Blessings Table
- Janet & Jim Payne, sister of Becky Coker
- Rev. Payton Parker & family
- Georgia Gholston
- Melanie Cortea
- Frances Sartwell
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- 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

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Harbor Chase-Southlake:

- 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:

- Celeste Young, (Marines) & Chandler Teague (Navy), great-grandchildren of Lee Riddle
- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Lt. Colonel Bob Farmer



**Happy Birthday
Mary Means!
A Special First Thursday
Invitation**

September's First Thursday Luncheon will be a special one. We will be celebrating Mary Mean's 98th birthday on Thursday, September 1st!

Please join us at noon in the Family Ministry Center to celebrate Mary's birthday. You are invited to bring a meat, veggie or a dessert to share. We will also have a birthday cake in Mary's honor.

We hope have a great turn out for this extra special First Thursday Luncheon. **See you there!**

The GOAT (Greatest of All Time) Youth Group is now meeting after worship at 11 in the Family Ministry Center! Students entering 6th through 12th grade are welcome. Contact Pastor Cheryl for more information.



**Blessing of the Backpacks and
Ministry Fair a Big Hit**



FUMC-Commerce had a great turnout for our Blessing of the Backpacks service! If your student did not get a tag for his/her backpack, please visit the office to pick one up.

Worship was followed by an indoor picnic, where the congregation was invited to learn about, and sign up for, a variety of small groups including:

- Disciple Bible Study
- Glory Bees (fellowship and field trip group)
- Exercise for Seniors
- Game Day events

There was a great response and many signed up for groups that day. If you are interested in organizing, participating in, or facilitating a group, please contact Pastor Cheryl.



A New School Year at Little Ark!



Top row: New Pre-K making "Kissing Hand cookies"; 1st Day of Pre-K; Preschoolers making bracelets for mom; 1st day of preschool!

Bottom row: Our new Toddler 1 class!



Grandparents Needed!

Little Ark Pre-K will be celebrating **Grandparents & Grub on September 9th at 9am** If you are interested in "being a grandparent" for a child who might not have one attending, please text or email Jennifer Knight to RSVP. 903.246.5650 Jknight_littleark@yahoo.com. Join us as we celebrate Grandparents Day with pastries, juice and coffee in the Little Ark Pre-K room.



In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Cheryl at 940-613-5375.

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