

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 19, Issue 9

September 2021 Newsletter

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## Moments of Silence to Honor Healthcare Workers >> September 3 @ 12-12:05

According to the Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC), September 3, 2021 will mark 18 months since the first diagnosed case of COVID-19 in Texas. The group is asking for 5 minutes of silence from 12:00 noon to 12:05pm on this day to honor all those who have been on the front-lines treating and taking care of COVID patients. "This is our way of offering thanks to our physicians, clinicians, healthcare support staff and hospitals for their tremendous efforts to prevent and treat COVID-19," said Stephen Love, president/CEO of DFWHC.

Over the past 18 months, almost 56,000 Texas residents have lost their lives to COVID-19. As of August 25, more Texas hospitals were reporting a shortage of ICU beds than at any other time since the pandemic began, with more than 93% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients unvaccinated, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.



Excerpt from an email from  
Richard Carter, Hunt Regional Healthcare CEO

## Angel Tree Volunteers Needed

Twenty-one years ago Susan Naizer introduced the Prison Ministry's Angel Tree Project to FUMC- Commerce. (The following year Susan directed the mission and received the Girl Scout Gold Star award for her hard work.) The project not only sought to make Christmas merrier for prisoner's children but to share the Christmas story with them. It also aimed to reach out to prisoners and encourage them to give God's love another chance.



For 21 years our congregation has embraced this mission, lovingly buying gifts, baking--and plating-- cookies, manning stations at our Christmas parties, playing Santa Clause, delivering packages and taking pictures. For 21 years I have been blessed to be a part of the program starting with wrapping gifts that Susan Bruton brought to the house. For the last 5 years Tricia Dempsey and I have partnered to carry out the mission. This year, I find that I must begin to scale back my active, on site participation. I still want to--and will-- do everything I can do at home, sitting down with a phone or a pen. Tricia has agreed to remain on site, particularly advising volunteers who will carry out this year's event.

If Angel Tree is one of your favorite missions, please consider volunteering to organize this event for its 22nd year. To volunteer, just call me at 903-366-2634.

Thank you!  
Judy Rudoff

(903) 886-3220 \* [www.fumccommerce.org](http://www.fumccommerce.org) \* [office@fumccommerce.org](mailto:office@fumccommerce.org)

## Pastor's Article: Rise!...and Raise!

On one of my walks down Power Line Road, Jazzmine and I found this well-worn (and lonely) boot. Right there in the gravel. The persistent *helper* in me had to pose the question: “Did somebody lose a shoe?”

Or, as the better news might be, “Did some lucky soul walk along this road *and FIND* just the shoe he or she needed, leaving the other one behind?”

Seeing just one shoe on a deserted road certainly does leave part of the story untold! I left the boot right there...just in case the one who lost it passes back by.

What have you found? As a boy I once found a shattered \$20 bill. It was so crumpled and decayed that we had to leave it at the bank. To redeem it, they needed to do some forensics and see if there was at least 51% of it remaining. I went home hoping and planning. A couple of weeks later we got a deposit slip. Finding something you lost is great. Finding something unexpected is a bonus.

What have you found? Luke tells the story of a humble woman who lost a coin and swept the entire house until she could find it and rejoice that it was found! Of course Jesus relates that to redeeming people who seem lost.

What have you lost? Maybe you feel lost in the distractions of these anxious times and you need some redemption? Have you lost your confidence? Your hope? Hope is more than just wishing things were different. Christian Hope is the confidence—even when things are not well—that **ALL WILL BE WELL!** It is confidence in *Rising... Resurrection Hope!*...even when it seems our current dreams are decaying.

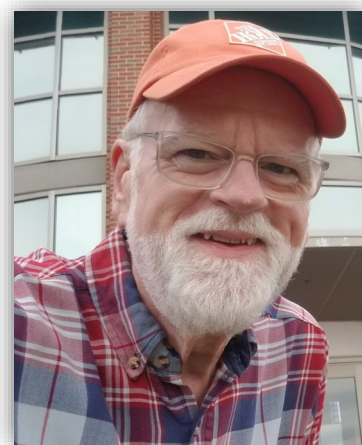
If you feel lost yourself, please hear and trust that ***you are worthy of redeeming!*** Jesus guaranteed that with his life. Praise Him! Praise God!

Keep looking for what is lost; there is always hope! Christian Hope is more than just wishing—it is faithful confidence! ***So... Rise! And Be Raised! And Raise those around you!***

And if you wander across a hiker that is missing a left boot, I could show you where it is!



Rev. Sam Caldwell  
[rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.sam.caldwell@gmail.com)  
214.842.9252 talk/text



## Letter from Lay Leader

Dear Church Family,

You should have recently received a letter with the responses from an earlier survey. In this letter I asked for volunteers to contact members of our church and community who may be in need of prayers and support. I would like to clarify what I hope will happen.

- 1) Contact may consist of either phone calls or sending a card that the church will furnish (along with postage). The contact method you use is totally up to you and your comfort zone as well as your relationship with the person(s) you will contact. What you write on the card will be totally up to you, but I would suggest you express the desire to let them know that they are in your thoughts and prayers, that the church is there to offer help and support, and to give them an invitation to contact our church office or Pastor Sam if they are in need of spiritual guidance or help. It is strongly suggested that these notes be handwritten rather than computer generated.
- 2) Mariann or the church office will furnish you names, addresses, and phone numbers of people who have not been to church in a while. You can certainly add anyone whether church member or not that may be in need of loving contact (which is all of us!). You can also contact people who have gone through a crisis recently or in the last few years. Especially those who may need a friendly, loving contact after time has passed and the Methodist chicken spaghetti dishes no longer come but are still grieving and need your prayers and support.
- 3) The idea is to keep contacting the same people once a month or so as long as they need the contact. Isolation and grieving are a long-term process and require a long-term solution.
- 4) Ideally, it would probably be best to limit the number of people you contact to no more than ten. The reasons are twofold. The first is that it is important to have a personal relationship with the people you are contacting and they with you. Having too many people would make the personal touch more difficult. The second reason is to keep the volunteers from burning out by taking on too great a commitment.
- 5) I encourage those of you who are currently home bound for whatever reason to participate in this endeavor. Please contact the church office and we can send you the contact information and cards you need. Who is better equipped with the skills to console someone going through crisis than one who has gone through a similar crisis? By consoling others, you may be able to make more sense of your own experiences as well, and all will benefit from your advice and experience.
- 6) Due to the recent Covid outbreaks, I personally don't feel that now is a time to invite people who are dealing with health issues to come to the church in person although informing them of on-line services would be fine. When Covid is more under control, the church will resume pot luck dinners, lunches, family ministries, and small groups and certainly invitations to these events would be appropriate and welcomed when these do start. *(Continued on next page)*

## Lay Leader Letter (continued)

I've been a pharmacist for almost 50 years, including a 10-year period as an adjunct professor for Texas Tech and UT Austin pharmacy students and residents. It's too soon to come back in person if you have major health issues.

These are merely suggestions from my perspective. They are certainly not meant to be rules. The only focus I would like to see are people reaching out and touching others who are in need, lonely, or feeling isolated. Whatever and however you can convey love and caring to another is the only thing that really matters, especially during this time. The main purpose is to bring a smile to a face of someone who may be going through a rough time and that they know you care. If you are able and willing to participate, please contact the church office for contact information.

Thanks,  
Jefferson Helton  
Lay Leader

### Those we have lost in the last 18 months:

Scot Chaney	7/17/21	Roger Arnold	9/2/20
Chester Robinson	7/9/21	Rheba Icehower	8/31/20
Mildred Davis	7/8/21	Steve Siebenhausen	8/10/20
Walt Parker	7/3/21	Mack Poole	7/23/20
Bob Grove	5/15/21	Joe McMahan	7/4/20
Mary Culberson	3/11/21	Myra Terrell	6/17/20
Margaret Floyd	2/27/21	Edna O'Quinn	6/6/20
Peggy Hanak	2/13/21	Gene Casselberry	5/23/20
Sally Grove	12/20/20	Barbara Gish	2/12/20
Gladys Gray	10/22/20		

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl is on a "wait & see" schedule. We probably won't meet in September due to increased virus spread, but we will email our members about any change in plans.

*Prayer Shawl  
Ministry*



## September Mission of the Month: Raffa Clinic



The Raffa Clinic in Greenville, a non-profit, is September's Mission of the Month. Raffa, the phonetic spelling of Jehova-Rapha, Christ the Healer, was created by Greenville's Highland Terrace Baptist Church in 2000. It is committed to providing accurate information to women and men so that they can make informed decisions about pregnancy and sexual health, according to director Threesa Sadler. It offers pregnancy testing, sonograms for difficult pregnancies, counseling and one on one mentoring. A new program this year is Abortion Pill Reversal. If a young woman takes the abortion pill and then changes her mind and wants to salvage the pregnancy, she can go to the clinic for help. Raffa also offers group parenting classes.

Recently Raffa bought a 2nd building where non-medical services will be provided. For those who can only attend a session held in the evening because of work schedule, childcare will be available. Though the childcare center will be staffed mainly by volunteers, Mrs. Sadler is hopeful that some of the single parent clients can be paid. Not only would that provide the client with much needed funds, the individual could also use the experience to build a resume.

Raffa serves Hunt County residents as well as clients from 21 Texas counties. This year alone 466 individuals constituting 2,400 visits have taken advantage of Raffa's services. Because of the pandemic, walk-ins are not permitted. One must call 903-454-9711 and schedule an appointment. Raffa is located at 2612 Jordan in Greenville.

While all services to clients are free, Raffa's operating expenses run about \$1,369 a day. Its major fundraiser, a catered dinner at A&M-C, will be in October. Speakers will detail the medical services offered. Supporters may register in September by going to the website, [raffabanquet.com](http://raffabanquet.com). Due to space limitations and topics discussed, the dinner is only for adults.

If Raffa is a mission that tugs at your heart, your dollar bills dropped in the collection plate or checks designated for Raffa on the memo line will support this enterprise. You can also go online and click on the [Mission of the Month option](#) to donate.

Raffa also needs baby wipes. You can drop off wipes in a box outside the office.

Let's show our support for this vital service by giving generously.

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How can I help?

- Pray for young families.
- Donate baby wipes to the collection box in gathering area.
- Register at [raffabanquet.com](http://raffabanquet.com) to attend the dinner, October 26, at Sam Rayburn Center
- Make a designated gift in the offering plate or online at [fumccommerce.org](http://fumccommerce.org).



## Chancel Choir

The FUMC Chancel Choir has resumed practice on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the choir room. The choir joins John Burkett on the organ on Sundays at 10am on Join us!



## Friendship Sunday School Class

The Friendship Sunday School Class is meeting after the 10am worship service in the Friendship Room. Come join us!



Grill & Chill ☺ | 2pm - 5pm

# LABOR DAY BACKYARD BBQ PARTY

*Games, Music, Food, Prizes & More*  
September 6, 2021 ▪ 2:00 PM - 5:00pm  
1504 Lee St, Commerce, TX 75428



## Wesleyan Campus Ministry

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry had work days every Saturday morning in August.



## Little Ark Happenings

Little Ark started their 2021-2022 school year on August 16th. Everything is going well, and the kids and teachers are so happy to be back!

Griddlecakes for Grandparents has been cancelled again this year due to COVID-19. Other events will be planned as they come up and the status of the virus.



## In Memory of

### Chester Robinson

by: Mark & Frances Sartwell

### Walt Parker

by: Linda Cole

Joe & Rhonda West

Bob & Dixie Stachowiak

### Scot Chaney

by: Bob & Dixie Stachowiak

### Bob Grove

by: Susan Lampe

### Bob & Sally Grove

by: Bob & Dixie Stachowiak



Pray for students,  
educators, and parents as  
schools start back.



## Committee Chairs

### Lay Leader:

Jeff Helton  
(903)456-3982

### SPPRC Chair:

TBD

### 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

### Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark  
(903) 246-1487

## By the Numbers

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
as of July 31, 2021	Year-to-Date	
Income:	\$ 22,333	\$215,413
Expenses:	\$ 27,746	\$172,876
	-\$ 5,413	\$ 42,537

### Worship Service LIVE

	Video	In-Person
8/1	8	42
8/8	7	50
8/15	7	41
8/23	4	46
8/29	13	41



## Prayer List

### Recent Concerns:

- Family of Leslie Miles
- Family of Ricky Belcher (Friend of Lathams and Statons)
- Prayers for the safe return of our troops, our United States citizens, Afghan people, and our Allies in Afghanistan
- Students, Parents, Teachers, and Administrators as school starts back
- Those who have or have had Covid
- Margrie Leblanc (Ginny Haight's grandmother)
- Erin & Heath LaFevers (Janeen Kvanli's daughter & son-in-law)
- Mary Means
- Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's son)
- Our church committee chairs and members

### Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- 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)
- Donna Tavener
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

### 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



## September Birthdays

9/1 Donna Tavener  
9/2 Tricia Dempsey  
Debora Soltanzad  
9/3 Bob McLeroy  
Leila Riddle  
9/7 Mary Means  
9/10 Ann Underhill  
9/11 Jennifer Bunch  
9/13 Dennis Anderson  
David Giles  
9/15 Frances Sartwell  
9/17 Kay Shope  
Brit Smith  
9/19 Judy Anderson  
9/21 Bill Knutson  
Mitzi Parker



## September Birthdays, continued

9/24 Nancy Ogden  
9/25 Meghan Green  
9/27 Joe Milligan  
Ruth Warren  
9/30 Trish King

## September Anniversaries

9/6 Monty & Lisa McGuyer  
9/26 Pete & Mary Smith  
9/28 David & Cathy Giles



**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