



Prayer Lists

Newly Added:

Steve Siebenhausen

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Elizabeth Ragsdale	Buddy Gregg
Sally Grove	Ahtrell Dalton
Pete Robinson	Mary Beth Tuck
Sherie Kao	Clay Yeager
Gary Kibler	Helen Dickson
Jan Vowell	Jean Ward
Robert Seay	

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

People of Japan
 Judy Greenwood
 Sally Cooper (Mary Dagenhart's mother)
 Wade Swinson (Mandy Swinson's husband)
 Cleon Flanagan, Sr.
 Fred Ohsiek
 Oma Thomas (Ron Thomas' mother)
 Janet Skauge
 Peggy Aguilar (Otha Spencer's friend)
 Deborah Brown (Diane McDowell's friend)
 Kay Webber
 George O'Kelley
 Doris Sanders (Susan Bruton's friend)
 Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)
 Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)
 David Crenshaw
 Chance Thornton
 Sam Duckworth (Jessica Duckworth's young son)

If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).



Remembering those serving in our military.

HM1 Robert Starkey (Afghanistan)-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
 Sgt. Jason Schmidlen (Iraq)-Jim and Debby Heitholt's son)
 Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
 Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson
 Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
 Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
 Nathan Grove
 David Wheat-Edna O'Quinn's nephew
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
 Lt. Col. Peter Bailey
 Lt. Col. Richard Bailey
 Lt. Col. Keith Williams
 Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor
 Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
 Lt. Dan Barton
 Kris Yoder-son-in-law of John & Rebecca Sneed
 Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-cousins of Ladonna & Chris Patterson
 Garrett Johnson



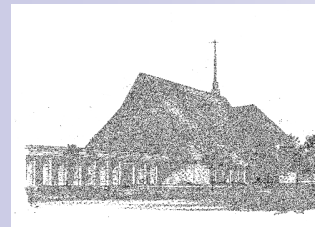
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 Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, May 9 by 9:00am

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First United Methodist Church Commerce

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April 27, 2011

It's VBS planning time again...



The Children's Department has already been busy with preparations for VBS 2011: Shake It Up Café! Shake It Up Café brings us a diner/food/cooking theme. We all agree that this will be a fun and (relatively) easy theme for decorations....so that's where we're starting!

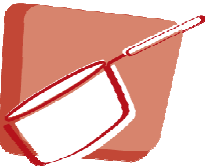


We plan to turn the sanctuary into a 1950's style soda shop/diner. We would love to borrow any of the following items (for decorating purposes, only):

- ② Chrome/vinyl barstools (matching)
- ② Juke box
- ② Coca-Cola (or other 1950's style) posters or other decorating items (the larger the better....)
- ② Metal/chrome napkin dispensers, other items that might be found on a counter top in a diner/soda shop
- ② Any other props/decorations that might help us to create this "set" in the sanctuary



We'll decorate the main hallway (the Adult Education Hallway) with pots, pans, whisks, spatulas...etc...hanging from the ceiling. If you have any of these items (perhaps not your most valuable ones!) to loan, they would be MOST appreciated! (Particularly cooking utensils, we may make oversized pots and pans from foam-board.)



We also have a starter list of other items we will need for VBS (but I'm sure there will be more to follow!):

- ② Empty cardboard cereal boxes
- ② Paper Towel Rolls (not toilet tissue sized)
- ② Individually packaged snacks*
- ② Juice boxes or pouches*



*We serve one drink and one snack to each kiddo on each of the 5 days of VBS - we need A LOT of snacks and drinks!



Thank you so much for the many, MANY ways you all support ministries for children in our church!



Inside this issue:

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Dear FUMC Friends:

This past Easter Sunday was a glorious one at FUMC Commerce! Friends and family began entering our doors shortly before 6:30am to begin this most holy of days with a celebration of Christ's resurrection at our youth-led Sunrise service. The feasting began soon after, as breakfast was shared in the Family Ministries Center. Fellowship and refreshments continued, as worshippers attended one of the other four worship services throughout the day.



Sunday evening was the last meeting of The Bridge, our contemporary worship service. Energy was high and hopeful as those gathered told stories of how the resurrection had played out in their lives. The theme of resurrection Sunday evening was particularly poignant and meaningful, as the decision to close The Bridge in its current form has been a sad and difficult one. However, we remain prayerful and hopeful that God's Spirit will open a new door for us in reaching out to those who desire a less-traditional form of worship.

Hearing the story of Christ's resurrection in scripture, prayer, and music this past Easter Sunday powerfully confirmed for me once again what God's business is: creating and sustaining life. It's as if God *can't help it* – new life and restoring life are at the center of God's very being and existence; scripture and experience bear this out for us again and again. It is, perhaps, a bit too easy to look around us – both near and abroad – and see sickness, suffering, destruction, and death, and to attribute such events to God's wrath and judgment. In fact, we hear such statements all the time: Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath were God's judgment on the City of New Orleans, and on and on. However, I think if we look behind and within such events with the eyes of faith, we see God's life-giving, liberating work. Even in the midst of death, God is working to restore, to renew, giving life-breath in countless ways.

Several years ago, I visited Zeppelin Field in Nuremburg, Germany. Zeppelin Field was Adolph Hitler's parade ground – grand in scale and in ostentation, intended to last for the duration of the Thousand-year Reich. It was designed and built for Nazi troops to display their numbers and power to the world. When I toured there in the Fall of 2001, the huge dais on which Hitler had stood was cracked and crumbling, and the whole complex was in severe decline. A Thousand-year Reich indeed!

Following our tour of Zeppelin Field, we were hosted for lunch at the Jewish Community Center in Nuremburg. The Jewish community there had been wiped out during World War II – only a handful remained in 1945. But over the ensuing decades, hundreds have remade their homes there, in the very place where Hitler started his movement. The Community Center was a hub of activity, offering children's programming, health services, and Yiddish classes. They were experiencing an influx of Russian Jews, and were aiding in their settlement and comfort. It was a place full of life, in the shadow of the empire of death that existed only a few decades before.

That's who our God is and what our God does – the bringer of light into darkness, and life into death.

*The Lord is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!!*

Easter blessings to you all –
Valarie

	Attendance	
	April 17	April 24
Sunrise	—	74
Early	40	44
9:45	19	20
Late	136	242
Bridge	16	32
SS	83	—

Worship

May 1, 2011

*"When the Rules
Have Changed"*

*Please join us
this Sunday when
Rev. Marc Corazao
preaches on
John 20:19-31
"Too Good to Be True"*

*8:45am ~ Chapel
9:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary*

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Harriet Williams
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
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Property Chair:

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(903) 886-6883

Connect Team Chair:

Ladonna Patterson
(903) 886-4630

Grow Team Chair:

Teresa Heatherly
(903) 886-7070

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Helping Hands Event

What: Junktique Yard Sale (Old tools, antique trunks, Singer sewing machine and cabinet, collectibles)

When: Saturday, May 7th 9:00am– 3:00pm

Where: Judy Rudoff's house (2621 Washington Street—south of Culver)

Why: This sale will benefit the welfare of Mildred Davis, the second longest member of our church

Ms. Davis' mother, Mrs. L.H. Davis, taught Kindergarten Sunday School for 23 years at FUMC. Last year Sarah Cunningham, through the Stephens Ministry, began ministering to Mildred's needs. Due to declining health Mildred was moved from her house to an assisted living home in Greenville. Sarah has worked with Mildred for months to move from the house what she needed to keep. Now Helping Hands has joined with Sarah to have a sale of the remaining items. The proceeds from the sale will be the only income for Mildred.

If you would have any questions or would like to help with the Helping Hands ministry please contact the church office or Laura Milligan.



Your Church at Work: Brown Bag Ministry

When someone arrives at our church office seeking basic assistance, our staff members now are able to offer brown bags filled with ready-to-eat food, toiletries, or baby essentials. These individuals also receive a reference sheet of local assistance programs and an invitation to return for worship. The purpose of the brown bags is to satisfy a person's immediate need until they are able to access more complete services. The brown bags also make it easier to enter into conversation with the individual about what's going on in their lives.

Drop-a-dollar funds were used to purchase these food items and supplies. Thanks go to Joanna Thrift, Melinda Reid, Sarah Northam, and Mary Lou Heatherly for shopping, assembling, and stocking the bags!



Full on Faith Participate in Close the Gap Hunger Relief Campaign benefitting the North Texas Food Bank!

During the month of **May**, every \$1 bill placed in the offering plate will go to help the **North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) close the gap** on hunger. NTFB serves hundreds of families in the Commerce area through its member agencies, including Word of Life Family Church, Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH), and Wolfe City Food Pantry. In addition, the Food 4 Kids program provides approximately 100 Commerce children backpacks full of kid-friendly food on Friday afternoons to last throughout the weekend.

For **every dollar** donated, NTFB can provide **three meals** for hungry North Texans. *Close the Gap* is the NTFB's 3-year initiative to narrow the food gap by providing access to 50 million meals annually.

In addition to drop-a-dollar, we will hold a **Virtual Food Drive** in May. This is a green alternative to a traditional canned food drive, which costs NTFB about \$100 in transportation and processing expenses. The Virtual Food Drive is an online grocery experience where donors can shop from their own computers. We will also have a computer set up in the Gathering Area on select upcoming Sunday mornings. Alternatively, you may write a check to FUMC-Commerce and write NTFB in the memo line. Look for upcoming communications on how to participate or contact Angela Roberts for more information.



A Member of Feeding America

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, May 1	John 20:19-31
Monday, May 2	Psalm 116:1-11
Tuesday, May 3	1 Peter 1:17-23
Wednesday, May 4	Acts 2:36-41
Thursday, May 5	Acts 2:14
Friday, May 6	Luke 24:13-35
Saturday, May 7	Luke 24:28-32
Sunday, May 8	Psalm 116:12-19
Monday, May 9	Acts 2:42-47
Tuesday, May 10	John 10:1-10
Wednesday, May 11	1 Peter 2:19-25
Thursday, May 12	Psalm 23
Friday, May 13	Acts 2:42-47
Saturday, May 14	1 Peter 2:19-25

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Wednesdays. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. All inputs are due by 9:00am on the Monday of the publication week. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, May 9 by 9:00am****