



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 3

April 2016



Please Join Us! Luncheon Celebration

In Honor of Our Wesleyan Campus Ministry
Graduating Students
Sunday, April 24th at Noon
Family Ministry Center

Italian lunch will be served.
Reservations requested by contacting church office at
903-886-3220 or responding to electronic invitation.

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." John 21:12 (MSG)



Last Saturday Breakfast Community Gathering

Free Breakfast

Pancakes
Sausage
Fresh Fruit
Orange Juice
Coffee



Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

**Saturday,
April 30
9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
1504 Lee Street, Commerce

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The Resurrection of Jesus

By: Gregory S. Neal

It should come as no surprise that Easter Sunday is the most important single day in the entire Christian year. And, it should also come as no surprise that The United Methodist Church has a very clear doctrinal position on the subject of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Article III of our historic Articles of Religion is quite straightforward as to the nature of the Resurrection of our Lord; sadly, few seem to have read it:

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

This doctrinal statement doesn't stand by itself; likewise, our faith is not built upon our doctrinal statements but, rather, upon the Scriptural witness. This doctrinal statement is a faithful reflection of (1) Anglican and Methodist Christians upon the Biblical account of the death and resurrection of Jesus, (2) the Creeds and other Church Council proclamations which have interpreted the Biblical record, and (3) the personal experience of uncounted millions of Christians that Jesus is alive! In other words, our doctrinal standards reflect what we believe and know to be true through our principle authority, Scripture, amplified and interpreted by Christian Tradition, Experience, and Reason.

From the very beginning, this has been the central and essential proclamation of the universal Church: "He Is Risen!" By this we mean an actual resurrection—not just a philosophically grounded, metaphysically diluted series of visions and dreams, but a real event in which God broke through the bounds of time and space not only to dwell with us, but also to deliver us from the constraints of our sin and mortality.

This is the message of Holy Week and Easter Sunday made simple. In his death, Jesus took upon himself our sinful nature; in his resurrection, he defeated our death; and, in and through his abiding presence, we too have hope for eternal life.

The promise of eternal life, revealed to us in the resurrection, is both a future hope and a present reality. This is not just a fine point of theological distinction: not only do I believe that in Christ I shall never die (even though my body shall, one day, "see corruption"), I also believe that my experience of eternal life has *already begun*. The moment of Christian "regeneration" begins our eternal life in Christ and, as such, it is a promise which is already fulfilled. Let me say that again. For eternal life to be truly eternal, it must also be present in the here and now.

The Easter message of Christ's victory over the powers and forces of darkness in his death and resurrection is central to the Christian faith. It is not some side-message that we can proclaim once in a great while, and especially in Lent and Easter time. Each and every Sunday is a re-celebration—a remembrance—of the resurrection of Jesus. The glorious message of victory is appropriate every Sunday, every week, every day. And we, as members of the risen and glorified body of Christ, are called to proclaim it.



Senior Center Resources and Public Transit

Serving Hunt County Since 1976
www.scrpt.org

Join us for a great time!
Hope to see you there!



BINGO and LUNCH

Start Date: April 2, 2016

11:00am Bingo with give-aways

~ Noon Lunch ~

60 and over: Free or Donation

Under 60: \$4.00

Location: New Commerce Hospital
When: Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

Call 903-454-1444
for reservations or details

Worship

Sunday, April 3

Sunday, April 10

Sunday, April 17

Sunday, April 24

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

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Meals Start Tuesday, April 7th, 2016 at NOON



Over 60 - Free Lunch

Under 60 - \$4.00

Anyone is welcome!

Reservations would be nice –

call 903-454-1444



Senior Center Resources and Public Transit

Serving Hunt County Since 1976
www.scrpt.org

Location: New Commerce Hospital

When: Every Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

Time: Noon



Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Vice Ad Council Chair:

Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487

Finance Chair:

Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

FUMC Foundation President:

Anne Mills (903) 217-2615

Connect Team Chair:

Susan Patton (903) 886-4612

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Amy Stark (903) 246-3177

Lay Member:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons on the internet, go to:

www.revneal.org * www.youtube.com/revneal

www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. 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. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, April 18 by 9:00am****



Mission of the Month

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is our April mission of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts to missions during April will benefit the NTFB where one dollar equals three meals and five dollars equals one backpack of nutritious food for a hungry child over the weekend.

The NTFB has a 13-county service area. Our church directly supports one NTFB program and two NTFB partner agencies through financial giving and volunteering.

- o **Food 4 Kids Backpack Program** (see separate article)
- o **Bread of Life Food Pantry** at the Church of the Nazarene distributes food to families every third Wednesday of the month. FUMC-C members Jan Helton, Judy West, and Harold Coker deliver food to homebound Commerce residents.
- o **Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH** in Greenville provides aid to Commerce families during the year and through Hunt County Gives Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for which FUMC-C assists with registration and distribution.



Field Trip!

As part of our mission of the month, the Serve team invites you to put your faith in action! We're going to FISH in Greenville to learn about the organization and volunteer for a couple of hours. Depending on the weather, we may be working outside in their garden or sorting dry goods in their warehouse. Here are the details.



See & Volunteer at FISH

April 16 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Meet at FUMC-C parking lot at 9 a.m. to ride the church bus or to carpool.

Contact Angela Roberts no later than Wed, April 13, to sign up!
972.765.7547 | AQRoberts@hotmail.com

Recycle for a Cause

Drop your handled brown bags like the ones from Braum's and your empty egg cartons by the church office. Food 4 Kids volunteers use the brown bags when children forget to return their NTFB-issued backpacks. The Commerce Food Pantry located at First Presbyterian Church uses the cartons to distribute eggs donated by the Mennonite community.





FOOD 4 KIDS

A Little Extra

For many families, though not all, Spring Break meant taking a vacation, sleeping late, getting some projects done, or maybe day tripping to the metroplex. However, for those families who face a daily challenge of putting food on the table, school holidays and weekends only heighten their anxiety. They rely on the schools to provide breakfast and lunch at least. Sometimes the only alternative at home is an early bedtime.

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) seeks to narrow the gap with its free Food 4 Kids backpack program. Each Friday during the school year, eligible children take home a backpack with shelf-stable, kid-friendly snacks such as individual cereal boxes, granola bars, tuna salad kits, fruit rollups, and milk.

Bob Mills originally connected the NTFB program to Commerce schools six years ago, and now Jim Patton drives to the food bank in Dallas monthly to pick up the snack packs. Belinda Miller and Alison Walker manage Food 4 Kids at Commerce Elementary and Linda Grubert at A.C. Williams Elementary. FUMC-C provides volunteers to load the backpacks weekly at ACW.



In 2015, your Serve team voted to supplement the Food 4 Kids backpacks over Spring Break with a pop-top can of Chef-Boyardee and fresh apples using mission dollars. In 2016, in large measure thanks to a very generous donation from the Commerce Lions Club and the managers at the local Wal-Mart and Brookshire's, we were able to include 2 cans of Chef-Boyardee and 2 grab-n-go applesauce pouches for the 188 children who benefit from this assistance. There was only one problem. Since the oldest child takes home the backpack for all eligible siblings, some children had to lug home heavy backpacks with up to 10 cans and ten pouches! What a nice problem to have!



Luanne Huffman, Donna Tavener, and Ruth Ann White load canned ravioli & applesauce pouches for Spring Break along with NTFB snack packs at A.C. Williams

More volunteers are needed from now until the end of the school year to load backpacks on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at A.C. Williams. Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 or AQRoberts@hotmail.com to sign up.



Illuminate: Student-led Worship

In the humblest building on the campus of Texas A&M Commerce resides an equally humble worship. Illuminate Worship is a mission of the Wesleyan Campus ministry based on the simplest of concepts. Belonging. A place for those that don't always understand their place in the life of the church can come to our doors and feel that they are welcomed and loved as the people they are. Services are led, with great care and oversight from Pastor Brian, by students. They plan the worship, they lead the liturgy, they say the prayers, they help serve communion, and they even rotate with Pastor Brian in delivering the sermon! After or during the sermon students have a group discussion around the scriptural issues, their theological perspectives are respected and all learn from each other.

For some, this is just another point in their participation in church life, for others it's the beginning of the path towards ordination and a life of service to the church. Though it is a small service, it holds a great deal of significance in the hearts and minds of our community, an opportunity to be active participates in making God's kingdom on earth. During the school year, we worship every Monday at 6pm.

Christ's Humble Servant,
Amelia de Luna-Owsley, WCM CORE Student Leader



Your Lenten Offering

Thank you for helping "hatch" the U.M. ARMY team! During the Lenten season, \$1,730 was received through gifts and drop-a-dollar, \$1,136 in checks and 594 \$1 bills.

This special offering will help send our youth and adult chaperones to U.M. ARMY camp in Mt. Vernon, Texas from June 20 to 25.

For more information about the U.M. ARMY trip, contact Youth Director John Pollock at jpollock262@gmail.com.



FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
April 7 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES
RECYCLE

Saturday, April 2
9:00-1:00

At the intersection of
Walnut and Campbell Streets

Luigi's
ITALIAN CAFE

Luigi's Italian Cafe has offered to support our community by donating 10% of dining receipts on the third Sunday of each month to our church. If you take your bulletin after church 4/17, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating some good food!



UMW will meet **Tuesday, April 19** at 10:00am. Our April project is items for the Food Pantry. **All women are invited to join us!**

In memory of...

Pete Robinson

By: Harriet & Wyman Williams
Susan Lampe

Kathy Benton

By: Susan Lampe



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Feb 24		9		
Feb 28	26	—	77	38
Mar 2		11		
Mar 6	28	—	86	54
Mar 9		9		
Mar 13	25	—	79	50
Mar 20	35	—	95	58
Mar 27	33	—	154	67



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of February 29, 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 27,947	\$ 60,137
Expenses:	\$ 26,816	\$ 54,775
	\$ 1,131	\$ 5,362

Reading the Bible Daily



As you seek to grow closer to God through daily prayer and Bible study, you may have your own favorite daily readings. If not, you will find Scriptures for each day listed below. We hope you'll read daily and ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I just read?" Some other questions you might ask are: "What does this text say about who God is?" "What does this text say about who I am/who we are as human beings?" "What does this text say about our relationship with God?" You may want to reflect on paper with a journal or note pad. We hope this will become a part of your daily prayer time.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Friday, Apr 1	John 20:19-31
Saturday, Apr 2	Acts 5:27-32
Sunday, Apr 3	Acts 5:27-32
Monday, Apr 4	Acts 9:1-9
Tuesday, Apr 5	Acts 9:10-20
Wednesday, Apr 6	Psalms 30:1-5
Thursday, Apr 7	Psalms 30:6-12
Friday, Apr 8	Revelation 5:11-14
Saturday, Apr 9	John 21:1-14
Sunday, Apr 10	John 21:15-19
Monday, Apr 11	Acts 9:36-43
Tuesday, Apr 12	Acts 9:36-43
Wednesday, Apr 13	Psalms 23
Thursday, Apr 14	Psalms 23
Friday, Apr 15	Revelation 7:9-17
Saturday, Apr 16	John 10:22-30
Sunday, Apr 17	John 10:22-30
Monday, Apr 18	Psalms 148
Tuesday, Apr 19	Acts 11:1-10
Wednesday, Apr 20	Revelation 21:1-6
Thursday, Apr 21	Revelation 21:1-6
Friday, Apr 22	John 13:31-35
Saturday, Apr 23	John 13:31-35
Sunday, Apr 24	Acts 11:11-18
Monday, Apr 25	Psalms 67
Tuesday, Apr 26	Acts 16:9-12
Wednesday, Apr 27	Acts 16:13-15
Thursday, Apr 28	John 14:23-24
Friday, Apr 29	John 14:25-29
Saturday, Apr 30	Revelation 21:10, 22-27



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Pat Skauge
Kathleen Cozart
Judy Rudoff

Continued Prayers:

Susan Patton, P.K. Kirkpatrick, Derrell Harrison, Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Gayle Shumate, Allie Underwood, Geneva Teel, Greta Lynch, Bobby Greenwood (Lisa Greenwood's father), Kelly Hemingway, Jack Gray, Amy Novicke Cryan, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan's sister), Rev. Tom Waitschies (Pastor Greg's friend), Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, James Moody, Edna O'Quinn, Ruby Vander Velde, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Gladys Gray and Glenna Siebenhausen
The Laurels (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson
River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
James 5:16*

Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.

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...

2nd Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton Danaycurce Childress
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. JG. Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumccommerce.org

office@fumccommerce.org

**First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, April 18 by 9:00am