

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 17, Issue 4

April 2019

HOLY WEEK AT FUMC COMMERCE:



A Service of Palms
Sunday, April 14

Worship in the Chapel at 8:45am
and at 10:50am in the Sanctuary



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

A Service of the Lord's Supper
Thursday, April 18
at 6pm in the Chapel

**GOOD
FRIDAY**



A Service led by WCM
Friday, April 19
at 6pm in the Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

easter
SUNDAY

Sunrise Service at 6:30am
led by FUMC youth



Early Service at 8:45am
in the Chapel

Late Service at 10:50am
in the Sanctuary

Bring a breakfast treat to share! Fellowship and
hospitality will be ongoing in the Family
Ministries Center throughout the morning.
Come fellowship and worship!



It's Not Too Late!

There's still time to be photographed
for our new directory—don't be left
out! Photography is
Monday, April 1st
Tuesday, April 2nd
Wednesday, April 3rd
Appointments are still available. Visit
www.fumccommerce.org to sign up.



Men's Breakfast

Monday, April 29

@ 7am

at Omega's Restaurant!

*Come and have breakfast with Pastor Sam,
talk about "stuff" and enjoy
fellowship and good food together!*

Inside this issue:

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What if Easter is a Verb?

Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me will never die.” While we know that is *already* the reality, we first must remember the walk to the cross that always precedes resurrection. During Lent, that humble walk does not yet know the bright lights, the joyful music, and the resilient hope of resurrection on Easter.

Maybe we have to be brought down in order to be raised up. And that hurts. Our best bet is to humble ourselves rather than thinking too highly of our own stature and being chopped down. Like the youth song... “Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord! And God will lift you up! Higher and Higher... And God will lift you up!”

Our lives are many parts woven together. Some parts are raw joy and some parts are just raw. Some parts bring joyful laughter and other parts bring a flow of disappointment or tears. But the best seasons of life (and the parts that are really productive!) are the days in the middle. The days spent waiting. Those “normal days” where we work and eat, and teach, and learn, and love, and care. Where we walk in the footsteps of Jesus to his days of teaching and praying on a boat and then to the stories of shepherds and sheep.

Those are the days where life has some sense of average or normal to it. Those days that are not the highest of highs or the lowliest of lows... that “*Normal Day*” as Mary Jean Irion would say. Those are the days we should love and savor and bless, not passing them by in search of some perfect tomorrow.

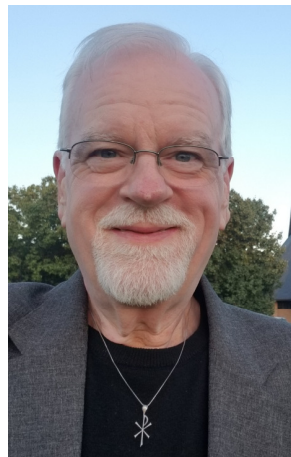
No day is perfect. Nothing can really prepare us for tomorrow for we can't really embrace it yet. While we don't know what tomorrow holds, we DO know *who holds tomorrow* and who holds us in his arms. In times that are uncertain and unsettling, we have the hope of knowing the one whose hand we hold *and who holds our hands* and our hearts!

Practice holding hands with somebody in worship, just briefly to start. Or in any gathering. When you shake hands, just hold on an extra second or two and smile. And imagine how you might *be or become* the presence of God for another human.

How can we show that kind of love and care to one another and to our community? *What if Easter is a verb?* How can we be raised and help to raise others?

Proud to be your Pastor,

Sam Caldwell



FIRST THURSDAY

**Potluck Luncheon
April 4
@ 12pm**

e-GIVING Give Online

Remember, you can always give your monthly contributions securely online. To set up a recurring contribution, visit the church website at www.fumccommerce.org, and click on "Ways to Give" and create a profile if you haven't already.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 7
Sunday, April 14
Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 18
Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 19
Good Friday
Sunday, April 21
Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 28

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
6:00pm ~ WCM
(1504 Lee St)

Summer Camp

There's still time to register for Summer Camp at Bridgeport! The dates for camp this year are (based on grade completed):

- **Children (3-5th grades) – June 24-28**
- **Junior High (6-8th grade) – June 17-21**
- **Senior High (9-12th grade) – July 1-5**



To register and pay the deposit, parents can go to www.bridgeportcamp.org. We will be working on fundraisers to help offset the remaining cost. Camp is a formative experience for so many young Christians seeking to deepen their faith, and it's a lot of fun too! Don't wait—register now!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Pat Skaug (903) 259-9875

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

Trustees Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation President:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



Diaper & Baby Clothes Drive to support our Lenten Offering Community Health focus

During Lent we will support community health agencies including Carevide and Raffa

The Raffa Clinic is a non-profit pregnancy clinic where are services are free. They offer pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, group parenting classes, and much more.

For Lent, we are hosting a Diaper Drive. **Please donate size 4, 5, or 6 diapers** for Raffa Clinic clients. (Look for a collection box outside the church office.)

Raffa Clinic also has a Baby Boutique for parents who attend parenting classes. The boutique accepts gently used clothes, toys and gear for ages 0-4. While cleaning out closets this spring, please donate a few nicer items to the Raffa Clinic Baby Boutique. This would cost nothing to families except the time of cleaning out closets.

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 Tuesday, April 23 by 9:00am****



VBS 2019: To Mars and Beyond

Wednesdays @ 5pm-8pm

July 17 ~ July 24 ~ July 31 ~ August 7

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! This year's VBS has a space theme of To Mars and Beyond!! We are doing things a little differently this year. We will have VBS once a week for a month from 5-8 each evening with a light supper served.

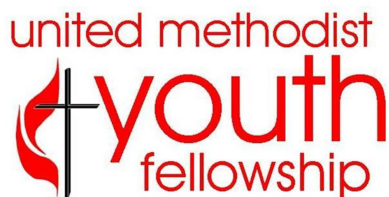
We need volunteers for stations, as shepherds, and groups to provide meals and drinks for each evening. For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at shelly@fumcccommerce.org.



*Little Ark will have Easter parties on Thursday, April 18.

*We will be closed on Friday, April 19 for Good Friday.

*We are celebrating our mothers with Muffins with Mom on May 10 at 8am. We would like to invite church members to come in and meet/greet the mothers of our Little Ark kiddos. If you are able to provide muffins and/or juice, please let Jennifer Knight (Little Ark Director) know by calling/texting 903-246-5650.



During Lent, our youth have been experiencing the Lord's prayer in a new way as we examine Jesus' words phrase by phrase. When we begin to understand what each clause means, we can discover new ways to be in deeper conversation with God—we begin to think of prayer as more than just a hurried rush of words asking for something. As we progress toward Easter, we'll explore together prayer practices to enhance personal prayer time.

Here's what we'll be discussing for the month of April:

March 31: DAILY BREAD—*How prayer helps us when we're worried about tomorrow*

April 7: FORGIVE—*How prayer helps us seek and give forgiveness*

April 14: TEMPTATION—*How prayer helps us resist temptation and evil*

April 21: Easter Sunday—*no UMYF*

April 28: FOREVER—*How prayer helps us remember who God is and why we praise Him*

We'll also be hard at work planning and preparing to lead the Sunrise Service on Easter morning, and, of course, it wouldn't be UMYF without plenty of snacks and games! We meet in the youth room Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00. If you know any middle school or high school youth, please invite them to come and see what UMYF is about.

There is always room for more, and each student is welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our mission continues! Children's winter mittens were delivered in December and January to charities in Santa Fe, NM and Reading, PA. Also, in March we delivered chemo hats to the cancer center at Hunt Regional Hospital. We continue deliveries of prayer shawls, baby blankets, lap robes, Operation Gratitude scarves/hats, and our greeting card ministry. In March Prayer Shawl made monetary donations to the Drop-a-Dollar missions CareVide (CISD) and the Raffa Clinic in Greenville. Finally, we will provide a Vacation Bible School meal on July 24.

The invitation to join Prayer Shawl is always open! We meet in our FUMC room on the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:30 am (no summer meetings). Informal knit/crochet day is at 4th Thursday of each month at 9:30 am.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, March 5, youth and their parents flipped a whole bunch of pancakes to raise money to attend camp at Bridgeport this summer. As a result of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, we added over \$300.00 to our camp scholarship fund! Thanks to all those who came to eat pancakes and sausage. A special thanks to the Serve team for donating ingredients and supplies. An EXTRA special thanks to Susan Patton, Amy Stark, Kris Ann Clark, Jana Draughn, Mike Roberts, and the Underwood family for their help with cooking and cleanup.



Hunt County Shared Ministries Annual

BBQ

Presented by



ISR Systems

On Friday, May 3rd, L3 ISR Systems presents the Hunt County Shared Ministries Annual BBQ Fundraiser. We will serve lunch at First United Methodist Church in Commerce. Dine-in and carry out will be available.

Tickets are \$15 and we will be offering brisket, sausage and ribs plus sides and dessert. The meal will be catered by Baker's Ribs. The price of the ticket covers the cost of your meal, but does not include a donation to FISH.

Friday, May 3rd · Lunch 11:00 - 1:00 · Dinner 5:30 - 7:00

Wesley United Methodist Church

Lunch 11:00 - 1:00 · First United Methodist Church Commerce

Tickets are available at www.hcsmfish.org or at the door.

Did you know that very little of your individual BBQ ticket proceeds go to FISH? Due to the volume of meals we serve, most of the BBQ is purchased at a discounted rate and not donated. So we're asking you to help us reach our goal of \$75,000 from this event by purchasing another special ticket – a FEED OUR FRIENDS ticket for just \$15! 100% of this ticket money will go to FISH so we can provide more services to the community. "Feed Our Friends" tickets are not figured into our food count and every dollar goes directly to serve those most in need in the Hunt County area. A small amount can make a big difference!

Hunt County Shared Ministries is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible.

THE LIGHT

Contemporary Service
Sundays at the WCM (1504 Lee Street)
Dinner @ 6pm ~ Service @ 6:30pm

A few weeks ago, Pastor Brian and some of the student leaders at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry sat in the lobby of the Sam Rayburn Student Center during lunch to ask A&M-Commerce students a question: what's broken in the world YOU want to help heal? From the responses they received comes our sermon series for the season of Lent called HUNGRY. We hunger for all sorts of things—for inclusion, for understanding, for truth, for justice—for far more than just food. Each week, we will be talking about these issues during our Kin-dom Dinner, and then the sermon during worship will focus on that topic as we work out how God would have us faithfully respond. The Light is meaningful conversation and passionate worship for all ages, so we hope you will join us on Sundays for dinner at 6pm and worship at 6:30pm!

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry and the Reconciling Ministries Network

By David Kemp

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry (WCM) serves the town of Commerce, Texas; Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-C), and the surrounding communities by providing a place where all of God's diverse children can become, believe, and belong. We are the only Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) community in the East District. We came to this decision several years ago as a means of achieving better evangelism to the high number of LGBTQ+ individuals in the surrounding area, particularly those who are students at A&M-C. In the wake of joining the RMN and publicizing our status as a "Reconciling Community," our number of attendants increased and has spawned several groups that minister to the LGBTQ+ community, such as Love Group and QPOC (Queer People of Color). We have also reached new students who are members of on-campus organizations such as the Pride Alliance. In the aftermath of General Conference 2019 (GC19), the RMN has gained over 2,000 new members from hundreds of churches around the globe.



WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

If anyone in the surrounding areas – Greenville, Sulphur Springs, Wolfe City, Cumby, Campbell, and so on - were to search online for "closest Reconciling Ministries church," the Wesleyan would be the first result. Even though we are a campus ministry, we still have community oriented events such as The Light Contemporary Worship and Kin-Dom Dinner on Sundays at 6pm and our free Wednesday lunches at noon. Publicly showing we are part of the RMN through signage has attracted a greater number of college students who have observed the publicly inclusive and welcoming side of our ministry. Therefore, as a member of the RMN, we have seen a greater number of weekly attendants from both the university and surrounding communities.

In addition to the previously discussed benefits, joining the RMN was a public statement to the Wesleyan's current members that we were willing to stand for the radical love of Jesus Christ and the statement: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors of the United Methodist Church (UMC). All members of the Wesleyan who may have been LGBTQ+ and/or have family and close friends in that community then knew that the ministry they are a part of is standing with and supporting them. Joining the RMN let college students know that the Wesleyan is willing to show them there is love and support for the LGBTQ+ community and other social justice movements in the area as many college students feel isolated in Commerce, especially those of marginalized groups. When we joined the RMN, it showed we are truly a Christian environment that will love and support everyone regardless of who they are attracted to or their gender expression.

Finally, it was hoped that joining the RMN may be a catalyst for the many other rural churches and ministries of the East District to join the RMN themselves and/or recognize that the love of Christ and duty of the Church is not to push people away, but to provide a safe home for the spiritual growth of all of God's diverse children, regardless of ultimately irrelevant political and moral ideologies. It was also desired that all the members of the Wesleyan, and surrounding churches and ministries, will be able to grow in their ability to accept others whom they may not initially understand or agree with in certain ways. By joining the RMN and publicly showing it, the Wesleyan was, and is, making a statement to the university, Commerce, the East District, and ultimately the whole UMC, that the love of Jesus has no limitations.



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:

- Monday, Apr 1 Isaiah 43:16-19a
- Tuesday, Apr 2 Isaiah 43:19b-21
- Wednesday, Apr 3 Psalm 126:1-3
- Thursday, Apr 4 Psalm 126:4-6
- Friday, Apr 5 Philippians 3:4b-14
- Saturday, Apr 6 Philippians 3:4b-14
- Sunday, Apr 7 John 12:1-8
- Monday, Apr 8 Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Tuesday, Apr 9 Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Wednesday, Apr 10 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Thursday, Apr 11 Philippians 2:5-11
- Friday, Apr 12 Philippians 2:5-11
- Saturday, Apr 13 Luke 19:28-40
- Sunday, Apr 14 Luke 19:28-40
- Monday, Apr 15 John 12:1-11
- Tuesday, Apr 16 John 12:20-36
- Wednesday, Apr 17 John 13:21-32
- Thursday, Apr 18 John 13:1-7,31b-35
- Friday, Apr 19 John 19:16-30;
Isaiah 53:1-5
- Saturday, Apr 20 John 19:38-42
- Sunday, Apr 21 John 20:1-18
- Monday, Apr 22 Acts 5:27-32
- Tuesday, Apr 23 Acts 5:27-32
- Wednesday, Apr 24 John 20:19-31
- Thursday, Apr 25 John 20:24-31
- Friday, Apr 26 Revelation 1:4-8
- Saturday, Apr 27 Revelation 1:4-8
- Sunday, Apr 28 Psalm 150
- Monday, Apr 29 Acts 9:1-16
- Tuesday, Apr 30 Acts 9:1-16

In memory of...

Fred Blohm

By: Joe & Laura Milligan

Billie Mills

By: Joe & Laura Milligan



By the Numbers

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>
Mar 3	41	66	19	36
Mar 10	43	64	15	38
Mar 17	32	70	—	37
Mar 24	42	62	17	46

**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of February 28, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 31,234	\$ 54,549
Expenses:	\$ 30,909	\$ 58,483
	\$ 325	-\$ 3,934



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Family of Mary Elizabeth Channon
 Family of Brooke Pitts (Linda Bussa's daughter)
 Family of Alexis Rivas
 A&M-C Football Players Jay Bias and Xavier Morris
 Linda Bussa, David & Cathy Giles
 Daneta Luttrell (Tonda Barton's aunt)
 Kay Sanders, Mary Van Norman

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, our world and country's leaders, Wayne Bruno, Debra Burton, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Carol Davis, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Jack & Gladys Gray, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Karen Helton (Jeff Helton's sister), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Danny House, Kaylee Jensen, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Betty Morton, Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Mary Ogletree (Mimi Dobbs' mother), Billie Patterson, William Pemberton, Grayson Prewett (Bill & Sharon Prewett's grandson), Mary Sartin, Robert Seay

Oak Manor: Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Joe & Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Gayle Shumate

Christian Care Center: Roger & Jean Arnold, Tom & Virginia Collier

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
 Daniel Chamberlain
 Mike Dempsey
 Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
 Col. Keith Williams
 Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

*"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).



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 - Rev. Sam Caldwell

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
 Articles for the next newsletter are due
Tuesday, April 23 by 9:00am