

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 12, Issue 8

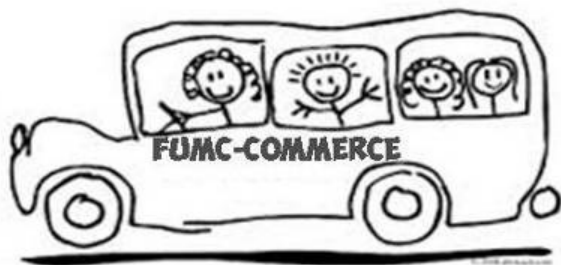
August 2014

Back to School Sunday August 24



***Promotion Sunday for all children moving to the next grade level Sunday School Class**

MINIBUS FUNDRAISER



The congregation has committed \$14,600 towards the purchase of church minibus so far! This amount plus the \$10,000 from the Little Ark Program brings total commitments to \$24,600! If you would like to help with purchasing the minibus, please contact the church office at 903-886-3220. The office staff can send you the original commitment card and letter, which explains the importance of a minibus to our church programs as well as additional information on our current church vehicles. You can also communicate your level of support directly to office staff.

August 3-17

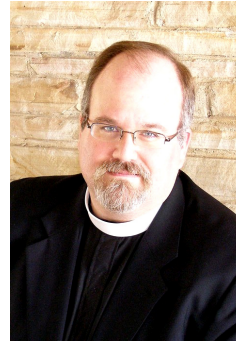
11:00am Worship Service
will be held in the
Family Ministry Center



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The Alb and Stole
 By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



I've been asked about the many kinds of vestments I wear for leading worship. I'm not one to stand on formality when it comes to clothing – my usual weekday uniform is a pair of kakis and a polo shirt – and I loath coats and ties. However, there is a time and a place for suits and such, and I do “clean up” quite well. Nevertheless, when it comes to worship leadership, preaching, and presiding at Holy Communion, I take the dignity of the office I hold very seriously. This is why I wear robes, albs, stoles, and chasubles. They help me to hide myself so that I can stand before the people of God and proclaim the Word of God with a prophetic and pastoral voice. In other words, the vestments help me to keep myself out of the way when I am engaged in the public practice of preaching, or in other forms of worship leadership.

The alb is a white or flax-colored robe, or tunic, that covers ones street clothing from neck to lower-calf. Strictly speaking, this is not a clergy vestment but the basic worship garment worn by **anyone** – lay or clergy – who is serving in worship. Choirs may wear them, as may lay worship leaders, Diaconal ministers, Permanent Deacons, Elders, and Bishops. Since the early 1990s the alb has been replacing the black preaching robe as the most popular single liturgical garment worn by United Methodist clergy. Its simplicity, lack of oppressive weight, festive mood, and relative economy doesn't hurt, either. The use of the alb in the church actually dates back to the 1st Century A.D., when it was the everyday clothing of Roman citizens. With the alb may be worn a cincture – usually a rope which is tied around the waist, binding the alb closely to the wearer's body. Symbolically, it represents the towel that Jesus wrapped around his waist when he knelt to wash his Disciples' feet. Practically, it keeps the alb in place, closed, and looking “neat and tidy” while also helping one's stole to “stay put.”

The alb is the symbolic garment of the “Priesthood of all Believers.” On top of it ordained clergy usually wear the symbol of their order of ministry: the stole. As ordained Elders, Pastor Marc and I wear the stole yoked around the back of our necks and hanging straight down from our shoulders over the front of our albs or robes. This is the single, and only universally recognized, symbol of ordained ministry: not the robe, not the alb ... the stole. Similarly, an ordained Deacon in the UMC, as well as in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, wears the stole hung off the left shoulder and fastened together under the right arm at the hip. There are other vestments that Elders and Deacons may wear when the sacraments are being celebrated – you saw me wear a causable on my first Sunday here – however, even though the chasuble is impressive, it's always worn with a stole (either under it or overlaying it) because it is the stole that is the symbol of ordained ministry. Indeed, rarely will I ever lead worship or preach in the church not wearing a stole.

While I will occasionally wear other liturgical garments, it is the alb that I prefer to wear in worship leadership. In many ways, by wearing it I am highlighting the fundamental unity and common ministry which we all share in and through our baptisms.

Upcoming Worship

August 3 (FMC)

August 10 (FMC)

August 17 (FMC)

August 24

August 31

8:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ FMC/Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist

Wednesdays

@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair:

Gene Lockhart
 (903) 886-3498

Lay Leader:

John Heatherly
 (903) 886-7070

Personnel Chair:

Wes Underwood
 (903) 886-1503

Property Chair:

Jim Brown
 (903) 886-7439

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
 (903) 886-2142

Connect Team Chair:

Melinda Reid
 (903) 886-7623

Grow Team Chair:

Sabrina Green
 (903) 886-1902

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts
 (903) 886-2142

FUMC Foundation President:

Anne Mills
 (903) 886-6792

Lay Member:

Carole Walker
 (903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly
 (903) 886-8381

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning 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, August 18 by 9:00am****

What is Grace Incarnate Ministries?



Grace Incarnate Ministries is Dr. Neal's presence on the internet, at

www.RevNeal.org

On Dr. Neal's website you will find his written articles, papers, and sermons, as well as audio and video sermons and audio Bible Studies. You can also follow the links from his website to his Video Channel on YouTube.com. Dr. Neal's weekly sermons are uploaded to this website in audio and video format, usually by the following Wednesday night. There are nearly 12,000 people from all around the world who listen to his messages through his iTunes Podcast, and there are at least 7000 who regularly view his video sermons on YouTube. Feel free to share his website link with family and friends!

A **special note of thanks** goes out to Dennis Anderson, who built Dr. Neal's cameras a new mounting platform extending out from the side of the sound booth. This provides a safe, inconspicuous location for shooting video of the chancel-area.

Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥

Happy 90th Birthday to Mary Means!

The family of Mary Means would like to extend an invitation to the FUMC Commerce church family and friends to her 90th birthday celebration to be held in the church fellowship hall on **September 7th from 2:00-4:00pm.**

No gifts, but please bring your favorite "Mary Memory" to help commemorate this exciting occasion.

Happy Birthday ♥ Happy Birthday ♥



Luigi's Italian Restaurant, just down the street from our church, 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, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. For the month of August, the third Sunday will be August 17. Luigi's will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support FUMC-C by eating some good food!



Save the Date!

Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions
Eat, Shop and Support Good Causes

Saturday, December 6, 2014

10am to 1pm

Family Ministry Center

FUMC- C
GAME SHOW



CHURCH LUNCH & GAME SHOW

We introduced ourselves to our newly appointed senior pastor, Dr. Greg Neal, with a luncheon hosted by the U.M. ARMY team and entertainment provided by the Connect Team.



Our 
Winners!





UM Army Update



As this newsletter is being produced, the UM Army Mission team is in Lubbock. The youth are cheerfully working hard in the beautiful West Texas sunshine and the Pattons are feeding the Army amazing meals!

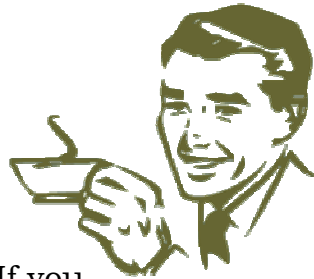
A special "Thank You" to all who provided the abundance of baked goods for this camp. The homemade treats are much appreciated!

Watch the FUMC Facebook page for updates from the camp and for a full report to our church family as we return from the trip.



A Culture of Welcome!

FUMC-Commerce is a warm and wonderful place to worship! The Connect Team has provided us with some ways for all of us to help welcome visitors to our church home. If you notice a visitor, we encourage everyone to help visitors make a connection to our church.



First-Greet everyone!

*Next-**Offer visitors printed information*** about our church found on the Welcome Tables in both the gathering space and the entry area by the Choir Room.

*Finally-**Invite*** visitors to attend our next church event, or consider visiting a small group or try out a Sunday School class.

There are so many wonderful reasons why FUMC-Commerce is your church. Be sure to share those reasons with everyone!

The Children's Department needs bookshelves!

Do you have a bookshelf just taking up space? We are creating a work/craft space in one of the offices, and need bookshelves to complete the space. We will accept any color or size (condition not an issue). All bookshelves will need to be brought in by August 15. Please call Joanna Thrift @ 903-886-3220 to coordinate a time to drop off bookshelves.



MISSION *of the* MONTH

The Mission of the Month for August is Communities In Schools (CIS). All \$1 bills placed in the offering plate and designated gifts during August will benefit the CIS "Stuff the Bus" campaign, which provides supplies to CISD students in need. You are also welcome to drop off school supplies in the collection bin located outside the church office.



Applications for assistance with school supplies will be available at Commerce district-wide registration at the high school on August 7 and 8. Eligible families will be able to pick up school supplies at respective campuses August 22.

In addition to helping CIS prepare Commerce kids for the school year, consider becoming a volunteer CIS mentor or tutor. Look for more information about serve opportunities at A.C. Williams in the September newsletter.

For questions about Stuff the Bus or CIS, please contact Nancy Laws at nancy.laws@commerceisd.org or 903.886.3758.





UMW will meet **Tuesday, August 19** at 10:00am. Mary Lou Heatherly will lead the Program with a Response article. Our August project is collecting school supplies.

All women are invited to join us!

UMW is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education.



In memory of...

Cheryl Jimenez

By: Lena Faulkner

Wanda Brown

By: Roger & Jean Arnold

Jean Funderburk

Glenna Julian

George & Priscilla McFarland

Dough Rollins SS Class

Loretta Kibler

Bob & Norma Monday

Pauline Frazier

By: Jim & Janet Latham

Bob Mills

By: Jack Evans & Jamie Marie Lipe



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, Aug 1	Romans 9:1-5
Saturday, Aug 2	Matthew 14:13-21
Sunday, Aug 3	Matthew 14:13-21
Monday, Aug 4	Matthew 14:22-33
Tuesday, Aug 5	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Wednesday, Aug 6	Psalms 105:1-6
Thursday, Aug 7	Psalms 105:16-22, 45b
Friday, Aug 8	Romans 10:5-15
Saturday, Aug 9	Genesis 37:12-28
Sunday, Aug 10	Matthew 14:22-33
Monday, Aug 11	Genesis 45:1-8
Tuesday, Aug 12	Genesis 45:9-15
Wednesday, Aug 13	Psalms 133
Thursday, Aug 14	Romans 11:1-2a
Friday, Aug 15	Romans 11:29-32
Saturday, Aug 16	Matthew 15:10-20
Sunday, Aug 17	Matthew 15:21-28
Monday, Aug 18	Psalms 124
Tuesday, Aug 19	Matthew 16:13-20
Wednesday, Aug 20	Matthew 16:13-20
Thursday, Aug 21	Romans 12:1-2
Friday, Aug 22	Romans 12:1-8
Saturday, Aug 23	Exodus 1:8-2:10
Sunday, Aug 24	Romans 12:1-8
Monday, Aug 25	Matthew 16:21-28
Tuesday, Aug 26	Matthew 16:21-28
Wednesday, Aug 27	Exodus 3:1-15
Thursday, Aug 28	Exodus 3:1-15
Friday, Aug 29	Romans 12:9-21
Saturday, Aug 30	Romans 12:9-21
Sunday, Aug 31	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Jun 25		9		
Jun 29	25	—	66	56
Jul 2		8		
Jul 6	41	—	116	88
Jul 9		6		
Jul 13	23	—	136	80
Jul 16		10		
Jul 20	29	—	97	65
Jul 23		13		
Jul 27	36	—	121	75



Financial Update

General Operating Fund

	<u>as of June 30, 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 34,008	\$191,446
Expenses:	\$ 31,250	\$190,561
	\$ 2,758	\$ 885



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss. Condolences to...

The Edwards and Booth Families in the loss of their husband and son, Jeff

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...

Michelle Bone, David Polk, Hugh Hanby, Rick Miller, Mitzl Oltman, Sally Grove, Linda Liston, Wendy Neat, Roger Arnold, Steve Staub, Clay and Nadine Yeager, Allen Martin, Warren Dunham, Dorothy Carlton, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Jean McKinney, Doris Kerbow, Norma McNew, Clyde Robnett, Jaron and Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's son and daughter-in-law), Gene Casselberry, Pat Skauge, Sue Taylor, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Christians in the Middle East

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Dorothy Ingram, Edna O'Quinn, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, Euple Walker, and Jean Ward

Briarcliff: Glenna Siebenhausen

Laurell's Retirement Home: Lewis and Faye Jackson

*"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
CW2 Courtney Phillips (Afghanistan)-Sharon Smith's cousin
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
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www.fumcccommerce.org
office@fumcccommerce.org

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

Place Label Here

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert