

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2013

Charge Conference

Monday,

December 9

7:00pm

FUMC-C

Family Ministry Center



Holiday Schedule

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will be closed
Wednesday, Nov. 27 through
Friday, Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving.

Merry Christmas!

The church office will be closed
Tuesday, Dec. 24 through
Friday, Dec. 26 for Christmas.



Advent 2013

Poinsettias

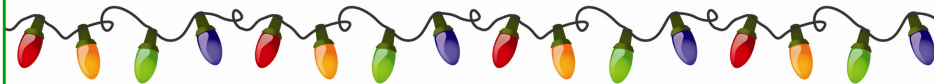
Orders for poinsettias will be
taken until Monday, December 9th.
They will arrive on December 15th,
and you may take them home
after the December 24th
Candlelight Worship Service.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF COMMERCE



EAT!

**HOMEMADE STEW AND CORNBREAD
\$4 PER PERSON**

HEAR!

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHOIR @ 11:30 AM

SHOP!

**BAKED GOODS & OTHER DELIGHTS • ANTIQUES & VINTAGE FINDS
HOLIDAY GIFTS & DECORATIONS • ALTERNATIVE GIFTS**

ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO MISSIONS IN COMMERCE & BEYOND

One Service— Sunday, December 29

*Sunday, December 29th we will have ONE
Worship Service beginning at 11:00am.*

*Come as you are and bring friends to sing carols
and share the Christmas story!*

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Dear FUMC Friends –

Late November and early December this year offer us a case of “seasonal whiplash.” As I write this, there are several things on my radar: the upcoming distribution of Thanksgiving baskets; our Community Thanksgiving Dinner; my own family’s Thanksgiving meal; and preparations for the beginning of Advent and the Hanging of the Greens on December 1 in the 11:00 worship service. That’s a lot compressed into a short period of time!



On Thanksgiving Day, we will give thanks and celebrate God’s abundant grace and blessing. Many a table will be filled to overflowing with traditional foods as a sign of that divine abundance. Our congregational Thanksgiving outreach efforts reflect the desire that all should be able to partake in God’s blessing and gifts. We firmly believe that no one should be hungry, and we invite all who will come to share in a communal meal that expresses this conviction.

Just three days later, however, we will enter into a season in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child, who was born to a poor family in a stable. In essence, we will move from plenty to poverty – a reminder that God comes to us in times of want, as well as in times of plenty.

It is ironic – and very telling – that God often ends up at the margins of our lives during times of plenty. We speak of our “good fortune” or our “good luck.” We sometimes mistakenly confuse good cash flow and possessions with “being blessed.” Perhaps turning our attention to the stable and the poor little family gathered there can serve as a gentle reminder that God-in-Christ is indeed Emmanuel, God With Us, during every season of our lives.

As we offer our thanks to an ever-merciful and compassionate God, let us also offer all that we are to a God who has given all to us out of love:

[The Nativity] is a parade of children, shepherds, gypsies, slaves and refugees, a parade of the maimed, the blind . . . a parade of nobodies and the prophets of nobodies. The “chosen” of God are clearly not chosen on the basis of having the most to offer, but rather on the basis of having nothing to offer but themselves. (Conrad Hyers, The Nativity as Divine Comedy.)

May God’s peace be with you –
Valarie

Upcoming Worship
Theme: “The Awakening Hope”

December 1

Hanging of the Christmas Greens
Pastor Marc preaching

December 8

Romans 13:11-14a
Pastor Marc preaching

December 15

Isaiah 11:1-10
“A Dose of Reality”

December 22

Romans 15:4-13
“Abounding Hope”

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
@ 7:00pm

December 29

One Service @ 11:00am

8:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ FMC

Midweek Eucharist

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

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Linda King
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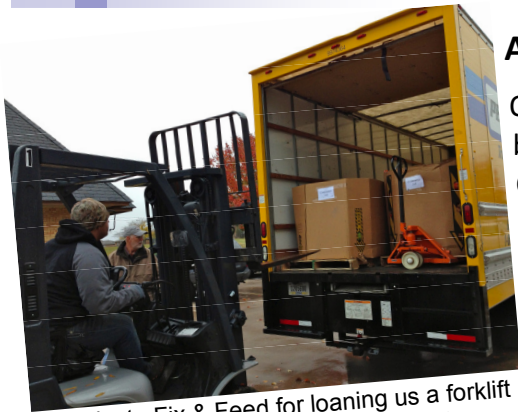
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The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, December 16 by 9:00am****



Thanks to Fix & Feed for loaning us a forklift operator to unload the pallets of produce, dry goods, beverages!

A Morning of Thanks & Giving

On Saturday, November 23, we were blessed to serve as agents for Hunt County Gives. Volunteers from our church family, Wesleyan Campus Ministry, TAMU-Commerce, and the community came together to distribute food baskets provided by Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH. 164 families

now have the food they need to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday week with loved ones. Mark your calendars for December 21st. We're be doing it again for Christmas!



Some of the great volunteers from TAMU-C, the community, and the church who organized non-perishables the day before the distribution.



Bill Heitholt & Gil Naizer were great pallet jack operators.



Pastor Marc Corazao & Vanessa Paulin of Wesleyan Campus Ministry, which put on a hearty breakfast for recipients and volunteers.



Susan Patton & Mikey Elwell ready to load some carts



Ryan Klinck whipping up pancake batter.

happY
thAnks
giving



Volunteers rolling out food baskets to recipients' cars in the drive-thru line.



More of our awesome volunteers at the conclusion of the distribution





Music Ministry News



Christmas Eve

Come be a part of the Family Choir!

The Family Choir will sing one song during the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. In order to be in the Family Choir, you need to bring one other member of your family to be in the choir. If you have no blood relatives in the church, adopt someone. Multi-generations are a plus. No upper or lower age limits.

Choir Rehearsal

We will have one 1-hour rehearsal the weekend before Christmas. The day and time of that rehearsal is yet to be determined. If your family intends to participate, contact Michelle Corazao at (903) 886-2684 | michelle@fumccommerce.org



ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree

You may have noticed angels flying around inside our church, a sure sign that the Prison Fellowship Ministries Angel Tree Project is underway. This year we are purchasing gifts for 30 children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Each child is represented by two angels, one with a clothing request and one with a fun gift request. The items should cost between \$15-\$30. When you select an angel, please fill out a tracking card and leave it in the basket. If at all possible, please return the unwrapped gift with the angel attached by Sunday, December 8.

Other ways you can help in this ministry are:

- Donate tissue paper, gift bags, bows, scotch tape, and boxes
- Bake cookies and cupcakes for our party
- Deliver gifts to those families who are unable to attend the party
- Wrap gifts (date/time to be determined)
- Pray for the inmates, caregivers, and children



James Williams, our Kelsey Hall Music Intern, will be presenting his Senior Piano Recital on Wednesday, December 4th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall in the TAMU-C Music Building. His recital is free and open to the public. Come on out and support James!

Operation Gratitude



Sheryl Zelhart, Laura Milligan, and Janet Latham packing up the mufflers and scarves created by the Prayer Shawl Ministry during the past year for Operation Gratitude. The mufflers will be sent to members of the military as part of their annual Christmas packages.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from your Church Staff



In memory of...

Dorothy Stamper

By: Wyman & Harriet Williams

Mary Jo Leslie

By: Wyman & Harriet Williams

Jim & Jan Ainsworth

Jim & Susan Patton

David & Luann Huffman

Susan Faires Dacus

Mary Casey

By: Jim & Susan Patton



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:

Sunday, Dec 1	Matthew 24:43-44
Monday, Dec 2	Romans 15:4-13
Tuesday, Dec 3	Matthew 3:1-12
Wednesday, Dec 4	Isaiah 11:1-10
Thursday, Dec 5	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Friday, Dec 6	Romans 15:4-13
Saturday, Dec 7	Isaiah 11:1-10
Sunday, Dec 8	Matthew 3:1-12
Monday, Dec 9	Matthew 11:2-5
Tuesday, Dec 10	Isaiah 35:1-10
Wednesday, Dec 11	Isaiah 35:1-10
Thursday, Dec 12	Luke 1:46-55
Friday, Dec 13	Luke 1:46-55
Saturday, Dec 14	James 5:7-10
Sunday, Dec 15	Matthew 11:2-11
Monday, Dec 16	Isaiah 7:10-16
Tuesday, Dec 17	Psalms 80:1-7
Wednesday, Dec 18	Psalms 80:17-19
Thursday, Dec 19	Romans 1:1-2
Friday, Dec 20	Romans 1:3-7
Saturday, Dec 21	Isaiah 63:7-9
Sunday, Dec 22	Matthew 1:21-25
Monday, Dec 23	Isaiah 63:7-9
Tuesday, Dec 24	Luke 2:1-20
Wednesday, Dec 25	John 1:1-14
Thursday, Dec 26	Psalms 148
Friday, Dec 27	Hebrews 2:10-18
Saturday, Dec 28	Matthew 2:13-18
Sunday, Dec 29	Matthew 2:19-23
Monday, Dec 30	Jeremiah 31:7-14
Tuesday, Dec 31	Jeremiah 147:12-20

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



UMW will meet **Tuesday, December 17** at 12:00pm for our covered dish holiday luncheon and Christmas carols.

Our December project is gifts and donations to church special projects. **All women are invited to join us!**

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Oct 30		14		
Nov 3	33	—	149	100
Nov 6		16		
Nov 10	32	—	104	78
Nov 13		10		
Nov 17	32	—	169	89
Nov 20		9		
Nov 24	29	—	110	67

**Financial Update
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of October 31, 2013</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 31,031	\$315,147
Expenses:	\$ 36,054	\$327,919
	-\$ 5,023	-\$12,772





Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss.

Condolences to...

The Family of Richard Byrd (Lisa Smith's grandfather)

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

Audrey Self (Eileen Faulkenberry's cousin), Eric Gruver, Rex Giddens, Harry Icenhower, Clay Yeager, Al Jackson, Willie Morgan, Doris Kerbow, Sam Wells, Anika Shah (infant with severe immune deficiency), Lewis and Faye Jackson, Lynn Stone, Jaron and Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's son and daughter-in-law), Gene Casselberry, Pat Skauge, Sue Taylor, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Moena and RJ Burnett, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Jessie Short

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby VanderVelde, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Cindy Klingbeil and Glenna Siebenhausen

*"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...

2 nd Marine Division	Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey	Garrett Johnson
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey	Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Keith Williams	Lt. Dan Barton
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	
Ensign Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Christopher Kendrick-Navy (Helen Rowe's friend)	
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	



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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, December 16 by 9:00am