



**MERRY
MARKETPLACE
& LUNCH FOR
MISSIONS**

Saturday, December 7th

10 am - 3 pm

*First United Methodist Church
1709 Hwy 24 in Commerce*



EAT! • ENJOY! • SHOP! • SILENT AUCTION!

*Homemade Stew & Cornbread
\$5 Per Person • \$10 Quart Jars To Go*

Baked Goods & Other Delights

Antiques & Vintage Finds

Christmas Decorations & Gifts

Alternative Gifts



*Pick up your
pre-ordered
fresh wreaths
& garlands!*

All Proceeds Go Directly To Missions In Commerce & Beyond




*Christmas
PROGRAM*

**Youth & Children's
Christmas
Program**

Sunday, Dec. 15

Come for a unique worship experience of stories and songs led by the Youth and Children's choir and bells and Little Ark Pre-K class in the 10:50am service and Children's choir in the 8:45am service.



*Candlelight Christmas
Eve Service*

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Family Friendly @ 5:00pm

Silent Night, Holy Night

@ 7:00pm

in the Sanctuary



**ONE
SERVICE**

One Service

December 29 @ 10am

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

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The Angels Are Coming! The Angels Are Coming!

Believe it or not, 'tis the season when angels flock to our church as part of the Prison Ministries Fellowship Angel Tree Project, a ministry that FUMC-C has supported for 20 years. If this endeavor touches your heart, you can help by:

- adopting an angel and purchasing a gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent;
- donating gift bags, tissue paper;
- helping wrap presents on **December 12 at 1:30** in the Family Ministry Center;
- coming to our party and interacting with the families on **Sunday, December 15 at 2-4pm**;
- praying for the children, their caregivers, and the incarcerated parent.
- Important Dates:
 - **December 11:** Last day to return Angel Tree gifts unwrapped
 - **December 12:** Gift wrapping at @1:30 in the Family Ministry Center
 - **December 15:** Angel Tree Party @ 2-4pm



Happy
Thanksgiving
from your FUMC-C Staff

A brown cornucopia overflowing with various autumn-themed items, including pumpkins, apples, grapes, and corn cobs.



Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed
*Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Dec. 26 for Christmas
*Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.



WELCOME New Members

Welcome to our new members:
Shay & Jennifer Bunch and Mason



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, December 1
1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22
4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 29

8:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary



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

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 27 through Friday, Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving. We will reopen Monday, December 2.



Texas A&M University-Commerce

Music Department

Organ Recital

Sunday, December 1 @ 3:00pm

in the Sanctuary



The TAMUC Music Department would like to express their sincere appreciation to FUMC-Commerce for our generosity in allowing their organ students to have lessons and practice at our church.

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@fumcommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The January deadline is Tuesday, December 16 by 9:00am****



Children in preschool through 5th grade, join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:40am.

Our after school Children's Christmas Choir has been rehearsing to perform at the **Merry Marketplace on Saturday, December 7 at 12pm** and for the **Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15** in both services.

On **Sunday, December 29** we will have our first "5th Sunday Movie Day." All of the Sunday School and Children's Choir kids are invited to come watch *The Star* and have lunch, hot cocoa, and popcorn.



3rd grade

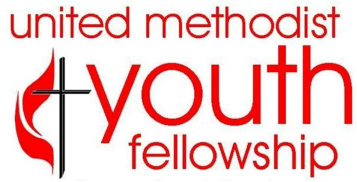
BIBLE PRESENTATION

Bibles were presented to Kaydence Poe and Tucker Stark on Sunday, October 27



Little Ark made a little over \$600 from our annual pumpkin auction. Thanks so much to all of those who participated!

We had a great turnout for our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Our preschool and pre-K classes performed to a Family Ministry Center full of kids, parents, families, and friends. All enjoyed a wonderful thanksgiving potluck!



December 1: UMYF Gingerbread House make and take and gift exchange

December 15: Christmas Program, Lunch, and Angel Tree party

NO UMYF during the Christmas break; we will resume **January 12, 2020!**

October 27: Pumpkin Carving

“Let Your Light Shine”
- Matthew 5:16



November 10: Thanksgiving Bake Off





Volunteers Serve 220 Households through “Hunt County Gives”

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, our church hosted the “Hunt County Gives” food basket distribution for the Commerce area and a pancake breakfast for all. Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH leads this program, which had 1,129 households registered countywide. 220 households claimed their Thanksgiving baskets in Commerce, up by 53 compared to last year.

The event was marked by tremendous support of the church and our community. Over 50 volunteers came from our church family, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry, the Commerce Food Pantry, the Bread of Life Food Pantry, the Commerce Police Department, and Texas A&M University – Commerce to share their time and their love with our neighbors. The University and SSC also provided a forklift and volunteers to unload and transport eleven pallets of food. Brookshire’s loaned us grocery carts and invited us to keep two carts for future use at the church. Some 200 people enjoyed a hot breakfast – students and Pastor Brian Dierolf flipped pancakes, MUGS on the Square brewed coffee, and Omega’s donated scrambled eggs. TAMUC student Ayodele Adenugba’s reflection sums out how many volunteers felt after a morning of service:

It was just heartwarming to hear the people's "thank yous" for such a small service. I will keep this in mind every time I feel overwhelmed. Also, today I saw how a smile can change one's outlook. It was a thought-provoking experience for me.

The “Hunt County Gives” Christmas food basket distribution is scheduled for Saturday, December 21, at the First Baptist Church. Households who registered in October and picked up their Thanksgiving basket are eligible to receive the Christmas basket.



Mrs. and Mr. Martinez, affectionately known as mama and papa, who scrambled eggs to feed 200

If you would like to volunteer on December 15, please contact the First Baptist Church office at 903.886.3189. This is a great opportunity for the faith community to work together and deepen its understanding of how FISH is helping families in Commerce.



Gary Coe unloading one of eleven pallets of food



Ayodele Adenugba and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry breakfast crew



Mike Elwell who flipped pancakes using Jim Patton’s recipe



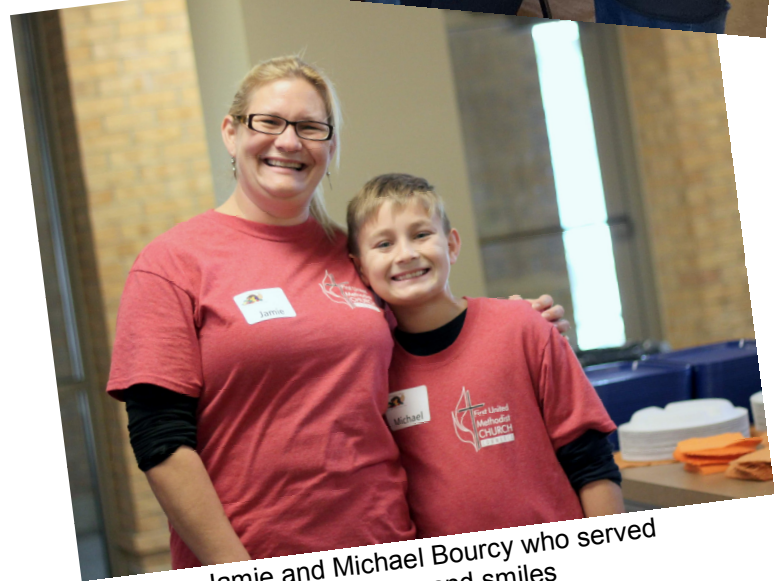
Loading crew who filled up vehicles with frozen turkeys, frozen pork roasts, fresh produce, and dry goods



Working together to care for those in need.

Check-in crew who greeted volunteers and neighbors receiving baskets

Gene Lockhart and Dennis Anderson who helped direct traffic



Jamie and Michael Bourcy who served pancakes and smiles

MISSION of the MONTH

December Mission of the Month: Proyecto Abrigo

It's December and beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Family Ministry Center is decked out in splendor for our Merry Marketplace for Missions this week. It has put us all in a festive mood for the holidays. The rich scent of the Pattons' hearty stew for the Wesleyan that mingled with the tempting aroma of home baked delights, as well

as the visual smorgasbord of antiques and collectibles, put us all in a festive holiday mindset. It's that time of year to decorate with lights fantastic and swirls of ribbons and rolls of colorful wrapping paper. Gingerbread houses, scented candles, egg nog, holiday parties, red velvet dresses, extra house cleaning and special cooking to prepare for the arrival of family and guests from afar. All these things are integral parts of the holiday season for most of us.

But let's consider what truly makes Christmas, well, Christmas. That cold lonely night at the inn where there was no room. A road-weary husband seeking refuge for his young wife, a mother-to-be great with child who would be delivered that night. No place to lay their heads save for a hay-filled stable. Our Lord and Savior came into the world in the most humble of settings, and was laid in an animal food trough for a crib. Quite a juxtaposition from the hustle and bustle and glitz and glamor we use to celebrate His birthday today, wouldn't you say?

A visit to Proyecto Abrigo, or, in English, Project Shelter, in Juárez, México, will bring you abruptly out of the glitz and thrust you into cold desert nights not so unlike the night Jesus was born. The inn's stable in Bethlehem, Jesus's first "home," and the daily living conditions of the residents of east Juárez are not so different, either. Families there live in extreme poverty. Many have migrated north from Southern México looking for work and seeking a better life for their children and themselves. These families live in rudimentary structures made from a patchwork of cardboard and chicken wire for housing frames and are topped with large black trash bags for roofs. The desert sand is their floor unless they can somehow manage to scrounge old discarded pieces of fabric or parts of shredded rugs that have been salvaged from the many garbage heaps that are to be found just over the next hill.

For these of God's children Proyecto Abrigo was founded. In 1992, after graduating from John Wesley Seminary in Monterrey, México, Rev. José Luis Portillo invited volunteers from the US to come help construct his church building where he would serve his first pastoral assignment back in Juárez. The volunteers asked how they could help the families they saw living in cardboard shacks, so in 1996, Rev. José Luis founded the ecumenical organization he named Proyecto Abrigo, a home-building mission to provide permanent housing for families who proved they wanted to do better. He turned to his United Methodist friends in the US for volunteer help and financial assistance to construct 12'X24' cinderblock houses. Several thousand houses, five churches, a medical clinic, a vocational school, and community center have been built since that time.

Judy Rudoff has often remarked how an entire Proyecto Abrigo home could fit in her living room. Yet these structures are palaces compared to what these families had been living in. Often, the original structures are left intact to function as "overflow" rooms, especially for large families. The entire cinderblock home is a single room with two windows and a door. Each has a hand-poured concrete floor and is finished with a slightly pitched roof to keep the rain from coming in. As many as ten or twelve people move into these homes and are blissfully happy and feel overwhelmed with their blessings.

Volunteer teams travel to Juárez to sleep in dormitory bunks and to work hard every day shoveling sand, mixing mortar, and "buttering" cinder blocks with the wet mortar until the home is built. Once completed, the home blessing takes place. Every team does it a little differently. This church has traditionally made a trip to the local Soriano's store (similar to Walmart) and pooled their

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resources for a blessing basket for the family. On the day of the blessing, the family gathers inside their new house along with the home building team. José Luís prays for the family and the team and then administers Holy Communion, the first meal in the new home. It is an unprecedented gift to be present at this holy time.

This is Christ in action. This is what Christmas is all about. Please give generously to Drop a Dollar or write a check with Proyecto Abrigo on the memo line to help support this life-changing mission effort.

And seriously consider joining with your church sisters and brothers the next time a mission trip to Juárez comes up. You will be blessed in more ways than you can possibly imagine. Merry Christmas!



Clockwise from above:

First Meal in the new home, Holy Communion

The mother of the new house wearing a prayer shawl we sent

The Building Team



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA for Hunt County Needs Volunteers

CASA for Hunt County is always seeking volunteers wanting to help Hunt County's most vulnerable children -- those who have been removed from their abusive home and placed into the foster care system. As of November 21st, there were 170 Hunt County children who were in foster care.

CASA stands for Court-Appointed Special Advocate. CASA volunteers are screened and highly trained to become the voice for a child or sibling group during the time they are in the care and custody of the state (foster care). To become a CASA volunteer, you need to be age 21 or older, pass criminal and CPS background checks, and complete 30 hours of training.

The next CASA Volunteer Training Course will begin in January. If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact Kelly Reed at (903) 450-4410 or CasaKellyRG@outlook.com or go to www.CasaForHuntCounty.org.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



**FROM
YOUR**




CHURCH STAFF

Advent 2019 Poinsettias



Orders for poinsettias will be taken until Monday, December 9th. You may take them home after the December 24th Candlelight Worship Service.




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.

By the Numbers

Attendance			
	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
November 3	35	101	41
November 10	34	73	43
November 17	40	66	44
November 24	29	63	32

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
<u>as of October 31, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income:	\$ 27,447	\$283,974
Expenses:	\$ 32,510	\$304,998
	-\$ 5,063	-\$21,024



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, December 1	Matthew 24:36-44
Monday, December 2	Isaiah 11:1-10
Tuesday, December 3	Isaiah 11:1-5
Wednesday, December 4	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Thursday, December 5	Romans 15:4-13
Friday, December 6	Romans 15:4-13
Saturday, December 7	Matthew 3:7-12
Sunday, December 8	Matthew 3:1-6
Monday, December 9	Isaiah 35:1-10
Tuesday, December 10	Isaiah 35:1-10
Wednesday, December 11	James 5:7-10
Thursday, December 12	James 5:7-10
Friday, December 13	Luke 1:47-55
Saturday, December 14	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday, December 15	Luke 1:47-55
Monday, December 16	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Tuesday, December 17	Isaiah 7:10-16
Wednesday, December 18	Romans 1:1-7
Thursday, December 19	Isaiah 7:10-16
Friday, December 20	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Saturday, December 21	Romans 1:1-7
Sunday, December 22	Matthew 1:18-25
Monday, December 23	Psalms 148:1-6
Tuesday, December 24	Luke 2:1-20
Wednesday, December 25	Matthew 2:1-12
Thursday, December 26	Matthew 2:13-23
Friday, December 27	Hebrews 2:10-18
Saturday, December 28	Isaiah 63:7-9
Sunday, December 29	Psalms 148:7-14
Monday, December 30	Ephesians 1:3-14
Tuesday, December 31	Jeremiah 31:7-14



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Brenda Arnold
Betty Casselberry
Brenda Hannah
Joel Kvanli

Billie Jean Sears (Rev. Tom Dudley's aunt)

Continued Prayers (long term)

Our world and country and our leaders, Glenna Anderson (Dennis Anderson's mother), Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Abby Crawford (Janet Skauge's granddaughter), Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Colton Hanson, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Kimberly Huffman, Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father), Zachary Madden, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Betty Morton, Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Racehl Oats, Sara Plemons, (Mimi Dobbs' sister), Robert Seay, Odeana Stewart, Donna Tavener

Oak Manor: Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Nick Heath, Walt Parker, Myra Terrell

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn

Briarcliff: Gene Casselberry

Colonial Lodge (Tender Care): Joe McMahan

Greenville Health & Rehab: Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite): Roger & Jean Arnold, Virginia Collier

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's
grandson in Japan)
Col. Keith Williams

*"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).

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumccommerce.org

office@fumccommerce.org

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell

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