

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 2

February 1, 2012



Get your game on and help tackle hunger February 5!

Sunday, February 5, is Super Bowl XLVI (the NY Giants vs. New England Patriots). Before the big game, our church will host our own S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl (of Caring).

The **Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger and poverty. Here in Commerce, we will hold a **Potluck Luncheon** following the 10:50 am worship service.

Donations will be collected in the soup pot. Last year, we brought in \$628 to support the local food assistance programs of the Commerce Alliance of Ministry! Let's see what we can raise this time! What is collected will again stay in Commerce to help fight hunger through the Alliance.

The Details

When: Sunday, February 5, at noon

What to bring: Your favorite soup, stew, salad, bread, or dessert

What to wear: Dress casual or show your team spirit

To learn more about this national effort, visit www.superbowl.org.

Connect - Grow - Serve

Our mission statement here at FUMC-C is "to make disciples for Jesus Christ by **connecting, growing, and serving.**" By *connecting* with others who come through our doors, we hope to help them *grow* into discipleship, and to reach out into the community by *serving* others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our leadership team structure and "way of doing things" are built around this mission statement. In the past, we had three separate teams - Connect, Grow, and Serve - with three chairs. But what we have found is that these teams are so interrelated that they could be more effective if they operated as one.

So starting in 2012, we have combined these teams into one C(onnect) - G(row) - S(erve) core team. This team is tasked with discerning connect, grow, and serve ministry opportunities and determining ways to carry out those ministries and projects by involving others within our congregation and community. Core team members include Teresa Heatherly, Jamie Moore, Ladonna Patterson, Angela Roberts, Julia Robinson, and Carolyn Trezevant.

This C-G-S core team is not a closed group, however. Interested volunteers (and they don't have to be members of FUMC-C) may plug into ministry as passion and time allow. All C-G-S meetings are open - the sharing of ministry possibilities is desired and strongly encouraged!

The next C-G-S meeting is Sunday, February 12, at noon in the Family Ministry Center. Our focus will be Lenten season planning as well as hospitality for newcomers who walk through our doors.

If you have any questions, please speak with any C-G-S member, Pastor Valarie, or Pastor Marc.



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Dear FUMC Friends:

By the time you read this newsletter, the beginning of Lent will be a quick three weeks away. On February 22nd, we will mark Ash Wednesday with a worship service that will launch the season for us. The 40-day period that precedes Easter (not including Sundays, which are always feast days in the Christian calendar) beckon as an opportunity for increased attention to spiritual discipline and preparation for the journey to Golgotha and, beyond that, the empty tomb of Easter.



One of the first times I learned about any type of spiritual discipline (being raised in a denomination that didn't value spiritual discipline as such) was in elementary school. Fish was always served on Fridays in the school cafeteria. I never knew why we had "Fish Fridays" until a Catholic classmate told me that many Catholics abstain from eating meat on Fridays throughout the year in devotional remembrance of Good Friday. When she told me that, I wondered, "So what do they do around Easter? Not eat at all?" (The term *Lent* wasn't in my vocabulary until I was in my 20's).

Lenten practice for United Methodists can vary widely – from no practice at all to fasting from all foods on Fridays. Some years ago, a church member in her late 70's shared (in a rather embarrassed way) that her Lenten practice that year was giving up beer and watermelon. She seemed genuinely distressed by the 40 days that stretched before her without two of her favorite consumables.

What is interesting is that the practice of fasting is gaining increased attention, especially as we look around and see so many who live day-to-day without enough food. It seems our culture here in the United States is stretched between two poles: those who don't have access to healthy foods, and those who can afford fresh, healthy food (and pay top dollar for it). The foods traditionally eaten by the poor – vegetables grown in a garden plot, poultry and dairy raised on a small family farm, fresh fruits from a fruit tree or two in the front yard – are now only affordable, by and large, by those who have the means to pay for them (noticed the price of a bunch of organic kale lately? or a dozen eggs from a local farm?). And the foods the poor can afford (*if* they can afford food at all) are mass-produced, calorie-dense, and sorely lacking in nutritive value.

Add to this the issue of over-consumption. Advertisers do a very good job at ferreting out what we desire, and to some extent, *determine what we should desire*. They then create very compelling reasons for us to buy more and more. And it seems that the more we can buy, the hungrier we are.

What if we gave ourselves the gift of a fast, during which we lessen consumption – whether it be from certain foods, products, or media? What if we cleaned out some stuff – both internally and externally – and offered some freed-up space for the Holy Spirit to work on our seemingly-insatiable desires? What if we participated in a practice that would help us realize our deep hunger for God?

This Lent, we will be offering a study and spiritual discipline, Chris Seay's *A Place At the Table*, that we can all participate in to help make space at the table for all God's children. It is up to each individual to shape that fast or practice: be it a dietary change, taking on a practice, or cleaning out stuff. As a community of faith, we are stronger together. Won't you join us so that we may make room at the table for all, and make room in our hearts for God?

God's deep peace to you,
Valarie

Upcoming Worship

February 5

Mark 1:29-39

"Early in the Morning"

February 12

Mark 1:40-45

"Jesus' Choice"

February 19

Mark 9:2-9

"Spellbound and
Speechless"

February 22

Ash Wednesday service
with imposition of ashes

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Donna Tavener
(903) 886-7891

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
(903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Ladonna Patterson
(903) 886-4630

Teresa Heatherly

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Angela Roberts

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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, February 20 by 9:00am****

Lent 2012: "A Hunger For God"

The Lenten season is a time for reflecting on Jesus' call for us to be disciples and make disciples. Make your Lenten practice more meaningful this year by participating in our Lenten opportunities as fully as possible. Prayerfully consider preparing yourself for the journey to the Cross:

Through special worship services

Ash Wednesday worship with imposition of ashes, February 22, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday worship with communion, Thursday, April 5, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday service of Tenebrae, Friday, April 6, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Worship each Sunday featuring sermons on "our hunger for God " and special seasonal music

Through study

We invite you to use *A Place at the Table*, by Chris Seay, for your Lenten devotional. The author challenges us to enter into solidarity with our fellow children of God who are hungry through fasting and daily meditations. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$12 each, or you may download the Kindle version from Amazon.com for \$9.

Through spiritual disciplines and prayer

Consider fasting as a Lenten spiritual discipline, patterning your fast after the diets of those in parts of the world for which you have concern. For instance, one may fast in solidarity with the poor of Latin America, limiting your diet six days per week to rice, beans, tortillas, and vegetables. Other patterns for fasting are possible such as limiting technology, incorporating a daily prayer walk, or shopping within a budget of a family on food stamps. The important thing is joining one's practice to one's concern and prayer for others.

Through small groups

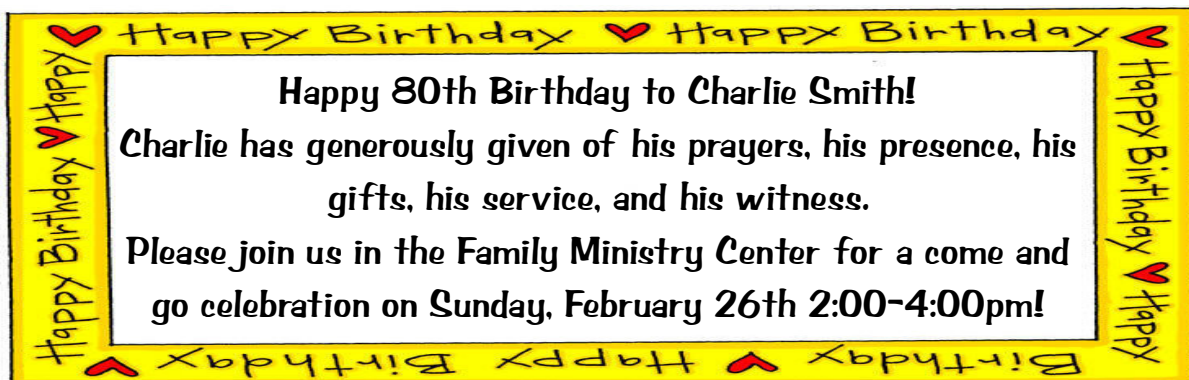
Pastor Valarie, Pastor Marc, and Teresa Heatherly will lead discussion groups that will be available at different times during the weeks of Lent using the DVD that accompanies *A Place At the Table*. These small groups will offer support and encouragement to those participating in a Lenten fast.

Through generous giving

You may find that you save money during your Lenten fast. What if you gave the money you save to FUMC's Lenten mission offering? More information will be forthcoming about FUMC's Lenten offering.

The Holy Spirit has a unique way of speaking to us when we stop long enough to truly listen.

—From *A Place At the Table*





UMW will meet **Tuesday, February 21st** at 10:00am. Our speaker will be Ruth Ann White. Our February project is: Food Pantry items. **All women are invited to join us!**

UMW

We will begin our Socks and Undies collection drive. We need:

- Sizes 4T—8
- White
- For boys and girls
- Socks and undies



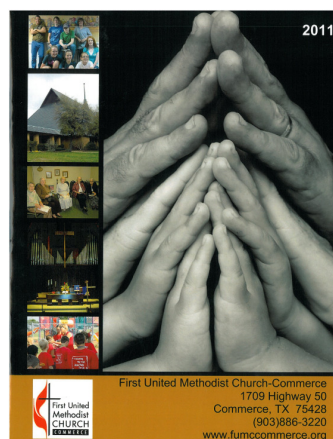
Congratulations!

Congratulations to our church members who were honored at the **2012 Hunt County African American Leadership Conference:**

- Sue Davis—Political Award
- Gene Casselberry—MLK Citizen of the Year Award
- Julia Robinson—Education Award
- Valarie Englert—Pastor of the Year
- Latson Printing—Employer of the Year
- Jim Bob Latham—MLK County Award
- Carolyn Trezevant—Volunteer of the Year Award
- Shelly Porter—Achievement Award
- As well as the MLK essay winners from AC Williams Elementary School where Wes Underwood is principal.

The Church Directories are in!

You can pick yours up at the table by the entrance after the 8:45am service, or before the 9:45am and 10:50am services.



NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates



For Your Insides Lunches: Wednesdays & Thursdays. Food & friends every week, twice a week throughout the semester!

Regenerate: Wednesdays, 8:00-9:30pm! Singing, playing, dancing, drawing, praying, shouting, studying, creating... Be ready for anything on Wednesday nights at Regenerate! In January & February... If you are what you eat, when's the last time you knew where your food came from? Take a St. Francis look at God's creation and our life in it!

Möbius Open Mic Coffee House: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 pm! A hangout spot for students, faculty, and staff of TAMU Commerce. Regular & Specialty Drinks, Live Bands & Performers, PLUS weekly Open Mic. Bring your musical, poetic, dance, & comedic skills to the house, or just come to relax and enjoy the show at Möbius!

All Wesley Retreat: Friday-Sunday, February 17-19! College students from United Methodist campus ministries, colleges, and churches from across the South Central Jurisdiction are converging on Crosspoint Camp on Lake Texoma for an awesome weekend of worship and fun!





Drivers Needed ASAP for Manner Movers

Manna Movers urgently needs volunteers to deliver boxes of food received from the North Texas Food Bank to homebound Commerce residents in need. These recipients are people who either have no transportation to the Commerce Food Distribution held bi-monthly at the Word of Life Family Church or are in poor health.

- **Time Commitment:** Approximately 1 hour per distribution day
- **How It Works:** Food pickup is on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays at 11:30am in the rear of the Word of Life Family Church located north of Commerce Hardware Store. Volunteers load your vehicle with boxes of food for the 6 to 8 clients that you serve. You are on your way without ever having to get out of your car.
- **Whom to Contact:** Call Julie Gentle at 903.468.2679 or e-mail her at juliegentle62@yahoo.com.



If you are interested in giving flowers for the Altar on:
 * February 26, or
 * December 9th,
 please contact Luann Huffman
 at 903-886-3368 or
 lhuffman01@embarqmail.com.

Attendance

	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
Early	31	28	24
9:45	18	10	11
Late	136	133	126
SS	82	72	71



Financial Update: General Operating Fund

as of January 31, 2012

Income:	\$ 32,866
Expenses:	\$ 31,175
	\$ 1,691



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, Jan 29	Mark 1:23-28
Monday, Jan 30	Isaiah 40:21-28
Tuesday, Jan 31	Isaiah 40:28-31
Wednesday, Feb 1	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
Thursday, Feb 2	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Friday, Feb 3	Mark 1:29-34
Saturday, Feb 4	Mark 1:35-39
Sunday, Feb 5	Mark 1:35-39
Monday, Feb 6	Psalms 30:1-5
Tuesday, Feb 7	Psalms 30:6-12
Wednesday, Feb 8	2 Kings 5:1-14
Thursday, Feb 9	2 Kings 5:1-14
Friday, Feb 10	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Saturday, Feb 11	1 Corinthians 9:25-27
Sunday, Feb 12	Mark 1:40-45
Monday, Feb 13	2 Kings 2:1-9
Tuesday, Feb 14	2 Kings 2:10-12
Wednesday, Feb 15	Psalms 50:1-6
Thursday, Feb 16	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Friday, Feb 17	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Saturday, Feb 18	Mark 9:2-9
Sunday, Feb 19	Mark 9:2-9
Monday, Feb 20	Genesis 9:8-17
Tuesday, Feb 21	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Wednesday, Feb 22	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, Feb 23	Psalms 25:1-10
Friday, Feb 24	1 Peter 3:18-22
Saturday, Feb 25	Mark 1:9-15
Sunday, Feb 26	Mark 1:9-15
Monday, Feb 27	Genesis 17:1-7
Tuesday, Feb 28	Romans 4:13-25
Wednesday, Feb 29	Mark 8:31-33



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Joy for the births of Terrence Malachi and Treylin Matthew Walker, sons of Cheree Walker!
Nita Cardinal (North Central District UMW President)
Bishop Bledsoe and family for the loss of their 9 year-old granddaughter, Hannah

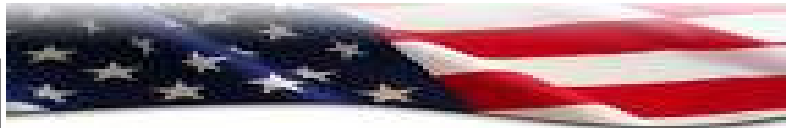
Continued Prayers for Church Family

Margaret Floyd	Gene Casselberry
Clay Yeager	Sally Grove
Judy Rudoff	Luann Huffman
Julie Wadlow	Otha Spencer
Jan Vowell	Gary Kibler
Robert Seay	

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Riley Saulters	Holly Anne Chamberlin
Pete Chamberlin	Sharon Brewton
Ruth Warren's father	Doris Bechtloft
Bill Heitholt	Olivia Holmes
Louella McIntyre	Sondra Feduccia
Kay Webber	Judy Greenwood
George O'Kelley	
Jan Chapman (District Office)	
Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)	
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)	
Cindy Kelso (Amanda Brown's sister)	
Sally Rowe (Michael Rowe's daughter)	
William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)	
Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)	
Gail Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)	

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.

Matt Skelton-Mack and Mariann Andrews' nephew
Jason Timmons-seriously injured
2nd Marine Division
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Chief 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
Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
Nathan Grove
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey
Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor
Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. Dan Barton
Kris Yoder-son-in-law of John & Rebecca Sneed
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-cousins of Ladonna & Chris Patterson
Garrett Johnson



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, February 20 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 50
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert