

# First United Methodist Church

Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 1

February 2016





HUNGER

Want to make a play in the fight against hunger?

Join us for the

SOUPer Bowl Luncheon
Sunday, February 7
in the Family Ministry Center
following 10:50 a.m. worship service!

Bring your favorite soup, stew, bread or dessert to share.

February 7<sup>th</sup> drop-a-dollar giving and donations dropped in the soup pot will benefit Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian and
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 9 5:00 to 6:00pm

On February 9, dinner is ready! Come and get it!

Join us in the Family Ministry Center for a hot meal of pancakes and sausage on Shrove Tuesday, which is also called Fat Tuesday. It is the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

This all-you-can-eat pancake supper is brought to you by the Matthew 7:7 Sunday school class and the Connect Team. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.



Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 10 @ 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

A powerful service of repentance, reflection, and imposition of ashes

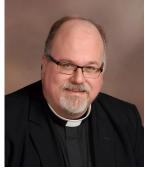
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#### Incarnational Theology By Dr. Gregory S. Neal

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14 NRSV)

In Christian Theology the area of study dealing with the coming of God to be with us in Christ Jesus is known as Incarnational Theology. Theologians enjoy tossing around great big words that have very simple meanings, and this is one of those words. The verb "to incarnate" is formed from the Latin roots "in", meaning "into," and "carn", meaning "flesh." In other words, it literally



means to "in-flesh" something ... to make something in the form of a human being. It also has the figurative meaning of "to put an abstract concept or idea into concrete form." In Christian Theology it is the word used to describe the coming of Jesus to be one of us. As the Nicene Creed states:

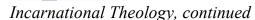
"For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. (No. 880 UMH)

The doctrine of the Incarnation states that Jesus of Nazareth, who walked the dusty roads of Galilee, taught in the Synagogue at Capernaum, cleansed the Temple of the money changers in Jerusalem, wept at the tomb of Lazarus, celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room, and died on the cross for our sins ... this same Jesus was also God, come to live with us and as one of us, in human flesh. As the opening sentences of John's Gospel puts it: "the Word became flesh and lived among us." Jesus is the eternal Word, the creative agency through whom the Father created all that is or ever shall be. And, as John also affirms, this Word of God was and still is God. Incarnational Theology teaches us that God has always revealed Godself to us through the "normal," the physical, the temporal, the mundane things of this life. The created order has always contained within it a window into the agency and genius of its Creator; it has always been true that one can know about God by looking at what God has created. Likewise, God's ultimate and eternal self-revelation for us is in and through the form of a human: Jesus of Nazareth. In this human being we see not only ourselves as God calls us to be, but we also see God. The only begotten Son of the Father didn't stop being God in order to become human but, rather, took upon himself our human nature, almost as if he were putting on a garment, and in so doing God purified our humanity and made it possible for us to become one with Christ. As Charles Wesley's wonderful Christmas hymn proclaims:

"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!" (No. 240 UMH)

Through the incarnation God was veiled within humanity, thus revealing to us God's gracious, life-transforming nature. The incarnation also had the glorious side effect of enabling us to interact with God. Thanks to the veiling nature of the incarnation, the disciples were able to be with the God-human Jesus without fear, learning from him, enjoying time with him, and coming to know God through him. We, too, have that same privilege; we, like the disciples, have the joy of coming to know God in and through Jesus. This is a critical point for Incarnational Theology: all that we need for our salvation can be experienced in and through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

There isn't an element of Christian dogma that isn't impacted by understanding that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Godself. This is nowhere more evident than in the area of Sacramental Theology. The incarnational concept is so critical to the functioning of the means of grace that it is fair to say that they cannot be properly comprehended apart from it. To put this simply, every means of grace is incarnational. Without the real presence of God in Jesus, each and every means of grace would be powerless; but, because Jesus is truly the divine manifestation of God's grace in our midst, each of the means of grace is conduit for conveying the love of God to us. In other words, it is precisely because God became human in Jesus Christ that we can come to know God and receive God's gifts of love and presence through material instrumentalities like scripture, prayer, worship, healing, Baptism, and Holy Communion. Jesus is the ultimate means of grace: he is the foundational conduit, the personal manifestation, and the perfect expression of the pure grace of God. Because of the incarnation, Jesus is the Sacrament of all Sacraments. And, it is because of this that all the means of grace have meaning: far from being



mere symbols, or lifeless reminders of that which they signify, by virtue of conveying the real presence of Jesus, each *ontologically becomes* that which it re-presents.

It is in this sense that Eucharistic Theology is also Incarnational Theology. In and through the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ we, when we partake of the elements in the Holy Meal, are partaking of the real, divine, life transforming presence of God which became one with us in Jesus of Nazareth. God, incarnate in human flesh, becomes God incarnate in bread and wine so that we, when we partake in faith, might be sanctified into the very presence of Christ for others.



Potluck Luncheon
February 4 @ 12pm
The Connect Team and
First Thursday will honor
our members who are 90+ years old.



Saturday, February 6 9:00-1:00

At the intersection of Walnut and Campbell Streets







The east district made their apportionment goal for 2015.

This makes 20 years that that our district has made its goal. FUMC Commerce also made its goal.

# Worship

Sunday, February 7 Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Sunday, February 14

Wednesday, February 10 Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 21

Sunday, February 28

8:45am ~ Chapel 10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

#### **Committee Chairs**

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Vice Ad Council Chair:

Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

**Trustees Chair:** 

TBD

**Finance Chair:** 

Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

**FUMC Foundation President:** 

Anne Mills (903) 217-2615

**Connect Team Chair:** 

Susan Patton (903) 886-4612

**Grow Team Chair:** 

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Amy Stark (903) 246-3177

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 end of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at <a href="mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org">communications@fumccommerce.org</a>, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

\*\*The next deadline is Monday, February 15 by 9:00am\*\*



## 2016 Missions of the Month

Below are the 2016 missions of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts placed in the offering plate during each month will benefit the named mission. In addition, your Serve team seeks ways to put our faith in action each month. Look for service opportunities throughout the year!

January: North Texas Disaster Relief Fund

Serve has designated \$1,000 in addition to January drop-a-dollar giving

**February 7**: Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church and Bread of Life Food Pantry at

Church of the Nazarene in Commerce (Join us for SOUPer Bowl of Caring Potluck Lunch!)

**February:** Lenten Offering to benefit U.M. ARMY **March**: Lenten Offering to benefit U.M. ARMY

FUMC-C hosting U.M. ARMY summer camp week of June 26!

April: North Texas Food Bank

May: Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp June: Pastor's Discretionary Fund Communities In Schools August: Wesleyan Campus Ministry

**September**: Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH

October: Commerce Clothe-a-Child
November: Thanksgiving Dinner
December: Proyecto Abrigo

Your Serve team welcomes guests and new team members at monthly meetings held first Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Sunday school classroom. Contact any of the Serve Team members for more information or to share ideas for how the church can serve: co-chairs Angela Roberts (972.765.6547) and Amy Stark (903.246.1487), Pastor Brian Dierolf, Jan Helton, Bill Heitholt, Tyler King, Jim Patton, Judy Rudoff, Richard Smith, and Carolyn Trezevant.

# Brown Bags Needed for Food 4 Kids

Handled brown bags are used to carry home snacks from the North Texas Food Bank when children don't return their backpacks to school. Please donate your stash of brown bags – Braum's are best – to support this mission! You may drop them off at the church office or A.C. Williams Elementary School office.



To sign up to volunteer as a backpack loader, contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 or go to fumccommerce.org for the link on the homepage to the online sign-up sheet.



Ruth Ann White and Tom & Virginia Collier load Food 4 Kids backpacks at A.C. Williams Elementary



FOOD 4 KIDS

## 2015 Mission Dollars in Review

During 2015, we gave our \$1 bills and designated gifts and held the Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions to assist financially the missions supported by our church. Our direct giving plus fundraising, rather than a line item in the general operations budget, fund these missions. Your Serve team is responsible for administering these mission funds. Below is a summary of the gifts received and the gifts made in 2015.

Inflow	
2014 Carry Over Balance Includes 2014 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds	5,589
Drop-a-Dollar & Designated Gifts to Missions of the Month during 2015	6,525
Other Received in 2015 Includes proceeds of eBay sales conducted by Ann Underhill of unsold 2014 Merry Marketplace items	339
2015 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions Proceeds	12,024
Inflow Total	24,477

Summary		
Inflow	24,477	
Less Outflow	17,624	
2015 Carry Over Balance	6,853	

The carry over balance generated by Merry Marketplace proceeds allows the Serve team to respond to special needs for assistance, supplement mission of the month giving, and fund mission activities such as Helping Hands and the Last Saturday Breakfast. For example, the Serve team has designated \$1,000 to the North Texas Disaster Relief Fund, which will be added to the drop-a-dollar giving received during January, 2016.



Outflow		
Serving Our World		
Proyecto Abrigo Lenten Offering & Alternative Gifts, including home	4,600	
UMCOR Earthquake Relief Nepal	500	
Wesleyan Community Development Fund Two scholarships to twins Andrea and Diana Flores from Mexico	480	
Heifer International Alternative Gifts	320	
Subtotal	5,900	
Serving Our Region		
U.M. ARMY Lenten Offering & Alternative Gift	774	
Zip Code Connection   75426	657	
UMCOR Flood Relief TX and OK	500	
Subtotal	1,931	
Serving Our Community		
Wesleyan Campus Ministry Merry Marketplace Lunch Proceeds, Mission of the Month & Alternative Gift	1,379	
Prayer Shawl Ministry Merry Marketplace Proceeds	1,248	
Last Saturday Breakfast	1,240	
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	1,031	
Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH	810	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	739	
Commerce Clothe-a-Child	600	
Boys & Girls Club	500	
Communities In Schools	500	
Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce	420	
Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce	420	
North Texas Food Bank in Dallas	285	
Food 4 Kids Spring Break Snacks	273	
Bridgeport Scholarship Fund	256	
Helping Hands Supplies	92	
Subtotal	9,793	
Outflow Total	17,624	

**University - Commerce Career Development Center** 

**Family Nights Commerce Public Library** 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**FEB 18** 

**Job Search Basics** 

**FEB 25** 

Resume/Cover Letter

MAR 3

**Resume/Cover Letter Writing** 

**MAR 10** 

Interview Skills & Writing thank you notes

#### FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE!

You will receive Guided Help and Free Giveaways!

#### Registration required -

sign in at the front desk or call the library at 903-886-6858 The classes will be limited to 15 people!

# commerce

(903) 886-6858 http://www.commercepubliclibrary.org/about-us



Luigi's Italian Cafe 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 2/21, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating some good food!

LOCATION CHANGE: Laity Day with Bishop McKee has been moved to First UMC Terrell. March 5, 2016:



### **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thanksgiving Day, over 200 people came together to enjoy a free traditional turkey

dinner and share the day On with others. Those who attended lingered after their meal to enjoy fellowship with those they knew and those they just met.

A huge thank you to all who worked to make this event a success. To the volunteers who made soup and pie for

> the dinner, the ladies of Mt. Moriah Church for preparing the sweet potatoes, to Brookshire's and Sodexo for their generous contribution to the meal. And to all the volunteers. young and young at heart, who came together Thanksgiving day to make the Community dinner a success. These folks helped set up the tables and chairs, worked in the kitchen to prepare food, pack to-go boxes for delivery, delivered those meals, greeted guests, manned the serving line and helped clean up.

> What a joy to see people come together in service to our community. Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season.



At the Angel Tree party hosted in the Family Ministry Center. Thank you to Judy Rudoff and Tricia Dempsey for leading this mission and to the congregation for blessing 39 children and their families!



UMW will meet **Tuesday**, **February 16** at 10:00am. Our February project items for the Food Pantry.

All women are invited to join us!

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



### In memory of...

#### Kathy Benton

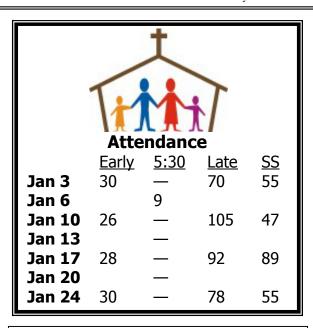
By: Dennis & Judy Anderson Thomas & Eileen Faulkenberry Dough Rollins SS Class Loretta Kibler Mariann Andrews

#### **Do Heitholt**

By: Dennis & Judy Anderson The Terrell Family Richard & Debra Terrell Loretta Kibler Mark & Frances Sartwell Mariann Andrews

#### Louise Reeder

By: Loretta Kibler Glen & Mary Kibler





### Financial Information General Operating Fund

<u>as of December 31, 2015</u> <u>Year-to-Date</u> Income: \$ 32,977 \$383,901

Expenses: \$ 32,977 \$383,901 \$ 27,003 \$374,070 \$ 5,974 \$ 9,831

# 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:**

1 8
Exodus 34:29-32
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-16
2 Corinthians 3:17-4:2
Luke 9:28-34
Luke 9:34-43
Luke 4:1-13
Psalm 51:1-17
Isaiah 58:1-12
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Matthew 6:1-6
Matthew 6:16-21
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1-4
Psalm 27:5-14
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Philippians 3:18-19
Luke 13:31-35
Psalm 63:1
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-5
Isaiah 55:1-2
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
Isaiah 55:6-9
Joshua 5:9-12



### **Prayer Lists**

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

Gayle Shumate, Gene Lockhart, Wyman Williams, Sue Taylor, Emily Waddle's father, Kelly Hemingway, Allen Martin, Jack and Gladys Gray, Amy Novicke Cryan, Jennifer Oats (sister of Jessica Morgan), Lamont Cunningham, Suzanne Dickinson, Rev. Tom Waitschies (Pastor Greg's friend), George McFarland, Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Robert Seay

#### Others to Remember in Prayer...

\*Condolences to the family & friends of Pete Robinson, a member of the church since 1933

\*Joy for the birth of Elijah Matthew Naizer, son of Brian & Mary Naizer and grandson of Gil and Tammy Naizer <a href="Draughn's/Country Home Estate:">Draughn's/Country Home Estate:</a> Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, James Moody, Edna O'Quinn, Ruby Vander Velde, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Glenna Siebenhausen

The Laurels (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

# "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<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams

Lt. Dan Barton

Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law 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 Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumccommerce.org office@fumccommerce.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ACTICLES for the next newsletter are due Monday, February 15 by 9:00am

First United Methodist Church 1709 Highway 24 Commerce, TX 75428 Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal