



# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2018



*Morning Services:*  
8:45am in the Chapel  
10:50am in the Sanctuary

*Evening Service:*  
5:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



## COMBINED WORSHIP

**5th Sunday Combined  
Worship Service**  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**10am in the Sanctuary**

The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Combined Worship service is Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our morning services will be worshipping together! Our order of worship will be a combination of both the 8:45 and 10:50 service styles. So, come and see your "friends from the other service" and enjoy our worship together!

**Sunday schools are invited to begin at 9am!**

*Brought to you by The Worship Committee*

## MISSION of the MONTH

As a church, we have ministered to the people of Proyecto Abrigo in Juarez, Mexico over the years by sending prescription bottles, medical supplies, helping two girls get an education, and by sending mission teams to build homes for the indigent and destitute.

But it's been four years, so it's time to go again!

Become a team member by:

- o going to Juarez March 11-16, 2018 to help build a 12 x 24 foot concrete cinder block home for a family in need
- o giving a contribution towards the necessary \$3200 to build a home



Prayerfully consider being part of the team! Everyone interested in learning more about Proyecto Abrigo and the details about the mission trip are invited to attend a brief informational meeting directly after the 10:50am service on January 21. Snacks will be served.

Need more information? Call Jan Helton: 903-450-7335 or email: [jheltons@hotmail.com](mailto:jheltons@hotmail.com).



## Holiday Office Schedule

The church office will be closed

\*Monday, Dec. 25 through Thursday, Dec. 28

for Christmas

\*Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2

for New Year's.



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## All Hail the Plainclothes Santas by Dr. Gregory S. Neal

It was one of those beautiful December days that you would love to bottle up and save for opening in the middle of July: the sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky, there was a slight hint of crispness in the air but it wasn't cold enough to warrant a jacket. I had arrived at Wal-Mart with visions of Christmas shopping dancing in my head, but I hadn't a clue as to what to buy. Oh, I had Angel Tree presents to pick up, but figuring out what to buy my mother, brother, nephew, and niece eluded me.



I had made my way back to the toy department and was browsing through the myriad collection of Barbies and stuffed animals when I felt something tug on my pant's leg. I looked down and spied a bright-eyed young boy, looking up at me with wonderment in his eyes. As I smiled at him, he turned and ran to his mother, who was at the other end of the aisle. He threw his arms around her legs, pointed at me and said "Mommy, it's Santa Claus!"

He was right: a few years ago I was asked to play Santa for a Christmas party at a big Children's Home in North Texas. They had the suit, and they wanted someone large enough to fit into it without the need for padding. That I also brought my own whiskers to the event was a big plus and a big hit with the children. One boy, as he sat on my knee for the photo, reached back to grab my beard and exclaimed: "hey, it's real!" In subsequent years I've taken to growing a fuller beard in the months leading up to December so-as to be even more "Santa-ish." As a result, I am often noticed by children in the months of November and December, and am sometimes even called "Santa Claus" by an excited toddler. Every time it happens, it brings a smile to my face.

I'm reminded of the humorous psychological quip:

### The 4 Stages of Santa Claus:

- You believe in Santa Claus
- You STOP believing in Santa Claus
- You become Santa Claus
- You look like Santa Claus

Stage one (1) is a lot fun: you get to experience the mystery and wonderment of the self-giving love of St. Nicholas as funded and implemented by your parents. Stage two (2) is decidedly *not* fun: some Scrooge (often an older sibling) has told you that Santa Claus doesn't exist, blown your bubble of Christmas excitement, and left you feeling jilted by your parents for lying to you for years. Stage three (3) is sometimes fun, but usually just a huge drain on the pocket book: you're buying Christmas presents for everybody else, but rarely does a Plainclothes Santa get a Christmas gift in return. But, then, there's stage four (4), which may be the best of all: looking like Santa means that people start treating you ... well, like Santa! I'm thankful I've finally reached that stage!

However, looking back, I must admit that being a Plainclothes Santa had its perks. Yes, it was expensive, but there was always a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you'd gotten someone something that they really, really wanted. All hail the Plainclothes Santas!

# THE LIGHT

FUMC COMMERCE

**Contemporary Service**  
**Sundays @ 6pm**  
**in the Family Ministry Center**



This month at The Light:

What does it mean to be the Church?

Dr. Greg and Pastor Brian will explore this question in a new sermon series for The Light called BE THE CHURCH beginning Sunday, Jan. 7. You are invited be part of the discussion and the community every Sunday evening at 6:00 as we enjoy Spirit-filled music and worship.

- o Sunday, January 7: Being the Church through our **prayers**
- o *Join us for the First Sunday Potluck at 5 PM!*
- o Sunday, January 14: Being the Church through our **presence**
- o Sunday, January 21: Being the Church through our **gifts**
- o Sunday, January 28: Being the Church through our **service**
- o Sunday, February 11: Being the Church through our **witness**

**AND...** Mark your calendars for our first-ever Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4! More information coming soon.

## Worship

*Sunday, January 7*  
*Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday*

*Sunday, January 14*

*Sunday, January 21*

*Sunday, January 28*

*8:45am ~ Chapel*

*10:50am ~ Sanctuary*

*6:00pm ~ Family*

*Ministry Center*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

### Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

### SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

### Trustees Chair:

To be elected in January

### Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

### FUMC Foundation President:

To be elected in January

### Connect Team Chair:

Dr. Greg Neal (972) 953-7866

### Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

### Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

### Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

**Pastor's Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays at 1pm**  
in the Friendship Room.

We're working our way through the Book of Genesis. If you've not yet joined us, it's never too late to start!  
There's always room for more!

## Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, Jan. 17**  
**5:30 pm in the Chapel**

Come and be blessed by the prayers, the scriptures, the time of quiet contemplation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Celebrated in the Anglican Tradition



# FIRST THURSDAY

**Potluck Luncheon**  
**January 4**  
**@ 12pm**

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@fumccommerce.org](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Tuesday, January 23 by 9:00am\*\***

# Bois d'Arc Christmas Parade Winner

Congratulations to our Children's Department's for their Bois d'Arc Christmas Parade float winning the "Best Parade Theme Presentation" trophy. The "What Christmas Means to Me" theme was best expressed by their nativity scene made by our church's children which represented our morning and evening Sunday School kids, Children's Choir, and Little Ark.

Thank you to the Children's Council for getting this fun and meaningful event together for our kids!



Our children's Sunday school classes took a field trip on Sunday, December 3rd. They went through The Compassion Experience and had a peek into the lives of 2 precious children and how God's love changed their lives.



The Children's Choir has been busy this season! We performed at the Merry Marketplace on Saturday, December 2nd. We also performed our Christmas Program for our church's 10:50am service on Sunday, December 10th. We had our Christmas party Wednesday, December 13th.

children's  
choir

# Christmas Program



# Merry Marketplace

# Christmas Party



## Raising Up Pastors

Campus Ministry not only provides young adults with a vital faith community during a time where many leave the Church, campus ministry also helps students discern their calling to ministry! Your own Associate Pastor and Wesleyan Pastor is fruit of campus ministry. I know that I would not be an ordained Elder without my experience in campus ministry. Campus ministry is where I started to seriously discern my calling to ministry, it is where I started to serve, it is where I decided to attend seminary and start the ordination process.

I am not alone, several clergy have discerned a call to ministry while active in campus ministry. Below is David Owsley's story. David is currently the Assistant Campus Minister at the Wesleyan, he is a certified candidate for ministry, he is attending Brite Divinity, and now he is serving as Senior Pastor of Poetry UMC!!!

David Owsley's Call Story:

*For many years, I experimented with different faith traditions but I ultimately gave up. Until I found the United Methodist Church; this was after graduating from my undergrad and I had just started at my first job outside of college. It was at this point that I started to attend First United Methodist Church in Commerce and participating in the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. Here I was 25 years old and rediscovering my faith. It was in these communities that I found grace and love. I found what my heart had always been looking for. As Augustine expressed it, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." This was the kind of serenity that I found within the United Methodist Church. I fell in love with Wesleyan theology that spoke to my very soul and heart but also to my reason. It was in this tradition that I found Christ again.*

*After joining the United Methodist Church, I found myself doing a great amount of soul-searching and discernment. I found myself being drawn to the ministry. At first I could not describe what this feeling meant. But I knew that God was leading me somewhere. I ultimately found out that God was leading me to serve the Church and to further the ministry of Jesus Christ. I want to serve as an Elder in the United Methodist Church because I want to extend what I have experienced in this Church so that everyone can know the love of Jesus Christ. I want to serve by Word, Sacrament, Service and Order. I want to be there for people in the joyous times of marriage and I want to be there in their grief when they've lost a loved one. I want people to know that Jesus is always with them in these moments. Because of my experiences and spiritual gifts, I feel called to serve the people of God. I feel called to reach those who have been hurt by churches just like I was or who have never heard that God loves them. I'm currently doing that now as the associate campus minister for the Wesleyan. I want to be an instrument for the love of God here and now. I want to continue this path that I have started on so that I can keep growing and learning how to best serve in my calling. Now I am currently serving as Senior Pastor of Poetry UMC!*

Congratulations FUMC, because of your grace-filled community and your on-going support of the Wesleyan, you all have raised up a pastor! Contact [Brian@fumccommerce.org](mailto:Brian@fumccommerce.org) for more opportunities to support the Wesleyan.



**WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE**



**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday  
January 21**

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!

*In memory of...*

**Bill Crook**

By: Jim & Janet Latham  
Jim & Susan Patton

**Mary Nell Roberts**

By: Pat & Janet Skauge

**Ruth Ann White**

By: Pat & Janet Skauge

**Ahtrell Dalton**

By: Carolyn Burt  
Barbara Gish & Susan Lampe

**Lucy Potts**

By: Julie, Nancy, Denise,  
Ruth  
Barbara Gish & Susan  
Lampe



**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
<b>Dec 3</b>	29	76	30	56	
<b>Dec 10</b>	23	156	12	60	
<b>Dec 13</b>					10
<b>Dec 17</b>	24	51	13	35	



**Give Online**

Remember, you can always give your monthly contributions securely online. To set up a recurring contribution, visit the church website at [www.fumccommerce.org](http://www.fumccommerce.org), and click on 'Ways to Give' and create a profile if you haven't already.



**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:**

Monday, Jan 1	Revelation 21:1-6a
Tuesday, Jan 2	Psalms 148
Wednesday, Jan 3	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Thursday, Jan 4	Luke 2:22-40
Friday, Jan 5	Galatians 4:4-7
Saturday, Jan 6	Ephesians 3:1-12
Sunday, Jan 7	Acts 19:1-7
Monday, Jan 8	1 Samuel 3:1-20
Tuesday, Jan 9	1 Samuel 3:10-20
Wednesday, Jan 10	Psalms 139:1-6
Thursday, Jan 11	Psalms 139:13-18
Friday, Jan 12	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Saturday, Jan 13	John 1:43-51
Sunday, Jan 14	John 1:43-51
Monday, Jan 15	Psalms 62:5-8
Tuesday, Jan 16	Psalms 62:9-12
Wednesday, Jan 17	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Thursday, Jan 18	Mark 1:14-18
Friday, Jan 19	Mark 1:19-20
Saturday, Jan 20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Sunday, Jan 21	Psalms 62:5-8
Monday, Jan 22	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Tuesday, Jan 23	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Wednesday, Jan 24	Mark 1:21-28
Thursday, Jan 25	Mark 1:21-28
Friday, Jan 26	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Saturday, Jan 27	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Sunday, Jan 28	Psalms 111
Monday, Jan 29	Isaiah 40:21-31
Tuesday, Jan 30	Isaiah 40:21-24
Wednesday, Jan 31	Isaiah 40:25-26



## Prayer Lists

### Recent Concerns

Lewis Compton (Dana Coker's father)  
Judy Fane  
Mary Means  
Jack Roberts

### Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Judy Anderson, Roger Arnold, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth Cline (Tammy Naizer's father), Harold Coker, Tom and Virginia Collier, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley, his brother, and his niece, Jack and Gladys Gray, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson), Betty Morton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert Seay, Billy Stocker (JD Short's uncle), Madeline Sullivan, Rev. Clay Yeager

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Gayle Shumate, and Euple Walker

**Oak Manor:** Barbara Gish (Susan Lampe's mother) and George McFarland

**Austin:** Ruby Vander Velde

*"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...

Lt. Dan Barton  
Daniel Chamberlain  
Mike Dempsey  
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law  
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Col. Keith Williams  
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:

[www.revneal.org](http://www.revneal.org)  
[www.youtube.com/revneal](http://www.youtube.com/revneal)  
[www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo](http://www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo)



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Commerce, TX 75428  
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due  
**Tuesday, January 23 by 9:00am**