

# VBS 2016: Surf Shack

Mon, July 18-

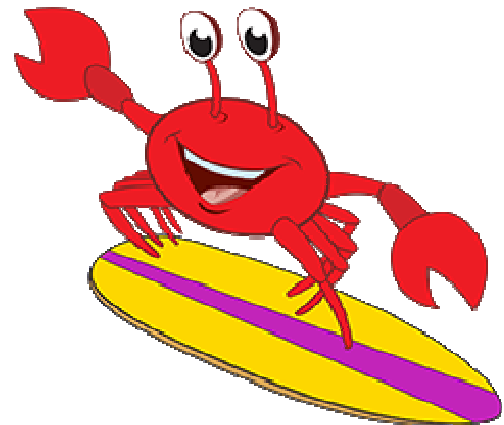
Wed, July 20

5:00-8:00pm

At *Surf Shack* VBS, we will help our children catch the wave of God's amazing love through missions, dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and lots of fun!

### Ways to Help:

- **Volunteer** by signing up for a VBS leadership role and join us in the excitement at *Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!*
- **Bake** cookies or brownies for the meals
- **Donate** any of the following:
  - 1-liter soda bottles
  - Empty soda cans
  - Water bottles
  - Pool noodles
  - Fishing nets
  - Beach balls or blow-up swim rings
  - Sand buckets
  - Beach towels
  - Shells
  - Food for the meals:
    - Individual bags of chips
    - Drinks (juice boxes/pouches, small bottles of water)

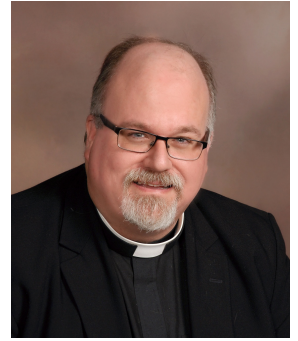


### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	UM ARMY, WCM	pg. 3
MoM, MMP, Youth	pg. 4	Electronic Giving	pg. 5
Announcements	pg. 6	UMW, Memorials, Attendance	pg. 7
Finances, Daily Scriptures	pg. 7	Prayer List	pg. 8

## Weary In Well Doing By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

Many years ago I met an amazing fellow named Ted. He was a man of great vision, sparkling dreams, wonderful enthusiasm, and boundless energy. He had a refreshingly positive personality: there wasn't a problem that couldn't be solved, there wasn't an idea that couldn't be thought, there wasn't an objective that couldn't be reached if one put one's mind and heart to work. Ted was that kind of man. He had a soul that was beautiful and a magnetic, energetic spirit that didn't know the meaning of the words "can't" or "quit." He was the kind of guy that most people wanted to be around because his attitude was absolutely infectious.



The church cured him of this. Now, before you start speculating, please know that I'm not pointing the finger of blame at any particular congregation or denomination. While there is a culprit, I'm really not interested in them: my focus is the systemic problem of dead institutions, stifling organizations, and "church-type people" in general. Ted's heart and mind was bright and alive, and all he wanted to do was serve the Lord with the gifts he had been given. But the church wouldn't have any of it; rather than put Ted's energy and vision to good use, the Church killed him instead. Not literally, mind you; Ted is still alive today, working as an investment banker. He is breathing, healthy, wealthy, and happy ... more or less. He goes to church on Sundays, pays his tithes, and prays his daily prayers. But he doesn't volunteer to serve. He doesn't voice any ideas. He doesn't offer any vision. No, he learned – long ago, and with much pain and anguish – that these things are not wanted in the church. After several years of offering his best, only to be rejected by the "never-done-it-that-way-before" factions of the church, Ted became "weary in his well doing." I can hardly blame him.

It is very easy to become "weary in our well doing." If we're honest with ourselves, we've all felt that way before; and not just with the church. When we put time, energy, hopes, and dreams on the line in a project, and things don't turn out the way we planned or expected, it can be very disappointing. It is even more disheartening when those we love, trust, and lean on don't come through with the effort, support, and presence that we had anticipated. Like Ted, we can be full of ideas, vision, and energy, but if we are continually being rebuffed, rejected, and ignored by those who ought to be helping, it becomes difficult to carry forward.

We, as a people of faith and as the family of God, are called to uphold each other and, in turn, be fueled and empowered ourselves through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Sadly, if we take an honest look at our lives, many of us will have to admit that we've not always done so. And, as a result, some have become "wearing in their well doing."

Paul's words from Galatians 6 are powerful, and instructive, on this score. He wrote:

If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. (Galatians 6:8-10)

I put it to you: where are you sowing your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? Are you sowing them in and through the Kingdom of God, or are you sowing to yourself all that you have and are? Are you attending to the means of grace through worship, study, prayer, service, giving, and the sacraments, or are you forsaking the fellowship of the family of faith and investing all of your time, talents, gifts, and graces in yourself and your own selfish interests? In other words, have you become weary in your well doing? If you've not recently attended worship, if you've not prayed, if you've not partaken of the sacraments, if you've not studied the Holy Word of God or heard it preached, if you've not offered your hands and hearts in service to God and God's children, if you've not given of your temporal and financial resources to the ministry to which God has called you, I encourage you to return. By not being present in the family of God, and by not participating in the many means of grace, you are starving yourself and the Body of Christ – you are not sowing to the Spirit, you are sowing to your flesh. As much as we would like to fool ourselves, when we sow to the flesh all we get is death ... all that we have sown in ourselves will die with us. This is so very tragic, and so very unnecessary. We miss you! If you've not prayed, I challenge you to get on your knees and pray for our nation, state, city, and church. If you've not paid your tithe (and many of us haven't), I implore you to remember to do so in the coming days. And, if you've not offered your service to God, we've got many needs in and around our congregation where service can do great good. Just ask!

My sisters and brothers, do not become weary in your well doing. Rather, "let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

## Youth are the Hands and Feet of Christ

By Brian Dierolf & Angela Roberts



FLY (our youth group) spent a week sweating in the hot sun of Vernon, TX. As a part of U.M. ARMY, they worked on elderly residences homes. They were the hands and feet of Christ! A HUGE thank you to David Owsley and Hillary Hawkins, the two Wesleyan students who went with our youth. *We would not have been able to go without them!* These missionaries perse-



vered through any challenges they encountered. They were all packed up ready to go when both church vans would not start, but the group remained in positive and optimistic attitudes. I was proud of them before they even (finally) pulled out of the parking lot. Thanks to Dennis and Judy Anderson, who got the bus in working order and drove safely to Vernon and back! Next time you see the youth, ask them to share their testimonies of the mission trip.

And then the day after they arrived back in Commerce, 54 high school youth and adult volunteers from Wesley Memorial UMC Huntsville, First UMC Huntsville, Cypress UMC, and First UMC Grand Prairie set up camp in our church for the week while working on home repair projects and building relationships with neighbors throughout the community.



Scott Atnip, the camp director and NxNW TX Executive Director, had high praises of our hospitality. That first night he told the campers that of all the camps he has been to that we are the best host church he has seen; we provide the most food and hospitality!!

I know from experience, U.M. ARMY is a blessing not only to those they serve but often times even more to those who are serving. Thank you to all the youth and adults who were witnesses of Christ's humble service! Special thanks to Jim and Susan Patton and Judy Rudoff for organizing the welcome dinner and to the congregation for their generous donations to fund this meal, snacks, and additional food to feed this U.M. ARMY!



### WCM Informational Meeting Sunday, July 24 @ 12pm

The plan for the future of the campus ministry's property and the continued support of FUMC will be presented.

Anyone with interest and/or questions is welcome to join us.



# MISSION of the MONTH

## Mission of the Month

Collecting funds for the purchase of back-to-school supplies is our July mission of the month. All \$1 bills placed in the offering plate and designated gifts received during July will benefit the Commerce Independent School District's "Stuff the Bus" campaign. CISD is committed to ensuring that all

children are prepared to learn by providing school supply assistance to students most in need.

In the past, we gave to Communities In Schools (CIS), which facilitated the application for and distribution of free school supplies. Commerce is no longer in partnership with CIS and is now in the process of hiring a social worker who will serve the district. Our church's donation will provide funding to get projects such as school supplies going. Ludonna Smithers, director of personnel and communications at CISD, said "the new social worker will be heavily involved in the stuff the bus campaign." In addition, CISD financial director John Walker explained that donations received will be held in an activity account for the social worker to manage. Both Smithers and Walker expressed appreciation for the church's commitment to helping Commerce kids. Together, we can help provide the basic tools students need to be successful in the classroom.



# Save the Date!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MERRY  
MARKETPLACE  
& LUNCH FOR  
MISSIONS  
COMMERCE

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016  
Family Ministry Center

Church Family,

John Pollock has taken a full time position at L3 following his recent graduation from Texas A&M University Commerce. He has resigned his position as Youth Director to pursue a career in engineering. We would like to thank John for his time with our youth and wish him the best as he embarks on this new stage of his life.

Wes Underwood,  
SPPRC Chair

# Help us grow

**Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.**

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

**Get started today!**


Ask for an authorization form in the church office. Or visit our church website.






First Thursday  
Potluck Luncheon  
July 7 @ 12pm

Saturday, July 2  
9:00-11:00  
At the intersection of  
Walnut and Campbell Streets




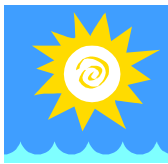

Luigi's Italian Cafe has offered to support our community by donating 10% of dining receipts on the third Sunday of each month to our church. If you take your bulletin after church 7/17, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating some good food!

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)



Online Sermons

As you travel and take vacations this summer, don't take a break from your giving. We are grateful for your faithfulness!

Worship

Sunday, July 3  
Sunday, July 10  
Sunday, July 17  
Sunday, July 24  
Sunday, July 31

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:**  
Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487
- 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:**  
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 [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 Monday, July 18 by 9:00am\*\***



UMW will meet **Tuesday, July 19** at 10:00am. Pastor Brian will bring the program about the Wesleyan Campus Ministries. Our July project is collecting school supplies.

**All women are invited to join us!**

*In memory of...*

**Kathy Benton**

By: Susan Lampe & Barbara Gish

MEMORIALS



**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
<b>May 25</b>		8		
<b>May 29</b>	30	—	93	51
<b>Jun 1</b>		9		
<b>Jun 5</b>	29	—	89	58
<b>Jun 8</b>		9		
<b>Jun 12</b>	30	—	71	40
<b>Jun 15</b>		8		
<b>Jun 19</b>	35	—	77	43
<b>Jun 22</b>		7		
<b>Jun 26</b>	18	—	68	41



**Financial Information  
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of May 31, 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 35,383	\$151,344
Expenses:	\$ 30,954	\$149,282
	\$ 4,429	\$ 2,062

**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:**

Friday, Jul 1	Galatians 6:7-16
Saturday, Jul 2	Luke 10:1-11
Sunday, Jul 3	Luke 10:16-20
Monday, Jul 4	Psalm 42
Tuesday, Jul 5	Amos 7:7-9
Wednesday, Jul 6	Amos 7:10-17
Thursday, Jul 7	Colossians 1:1-8
Friday, Jul 8	Colossians 1:9-14
Saturday, Jul 9	Luke 10:25-28
Sunday, Jul 10	Luke 10:29-37
Monday, Jul 11	Luke 10:38-42
Tuesday, Jul 12	Amos 8:1-6
Wednesday, Jul 13	Amos 8:7-12
Thursday, Jul 14	Psalm 52
Friday, Jul 15	Colossians 1:15-23
Saturday, Jul 16	Colossians 1:24-28
Sunday, Jul 17	Luke 10:38-42
Monday, Jul 18	Hosea 1:2-10
Tuesday, Jul 19	Hosea 1:10
Wednesday, Jul 20	Psalm 85
Thursday, Jul 21	Colossians 2:6-19
Friday, Jul 22	Colossians 2:6-19
Saturday, Jul 23	Luke 11:1-4
Sunday, Jul 24	Luke 11:1-13
Monday, Jul 25	Hosea 11:1-4
Tuesday, Jul 26	Hosea 11:5-11
Wednesday, Jul 27	Psalm 107:1-9
Thursday, Jul 28	Psalm 107:43
Friday, Jul 29	Colossians 3:1-11
Saturday, Jul 30	Luke 12:13-15
Sunday, Jul 31	Luke 12:16-21



## Prayer Lists

### Newly Added

Family of Dennis Ayotte (Pastor Brian's brother-in-law's father)  
Dave Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's father)  
Belle Bowen (Josephine Parker's sister)

### Continued Prayers

Loretta Kibler, Rebecca Sneed, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Rev. Jack and Linda Cloyd (Avery/Williams Chapel Charge in the East District), Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother), Dr. Mark Godat, Larry Chaloupka, Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Gayle Shumate, Jack and Gladys Gray, Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:** Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Euple Walker

**Briarcliff:** Gladys Gray and Glenna Siebenhausen  
**The Haven (San Antonio):** Lewis and Faye Jackson

**River Point (Kerrville, TX):** Lucy Potts

**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...

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      Danaycurce Childress  
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-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](http://www.fumccommerce.org)  
[office@fumccommerce.org](mailto:office@fumccommerce.org)

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due  
**Monday, July 18 by 9:00am**