

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 7

July 2017

Back to School BLOWOUT

Saturday, July 29

FUMC & Little Ark
are teaming up
to have an
**ALL CHURCH &
COMMUNITY**
Back to School
Blowout!
Mark your
calendars for
Saturday, July 29th
10am-1pm



VBS Sunday
July 2 @ 10:30am
Family Ministry
Center



Come hear the children sing the songs they learned at VBS and see the slideshow!

**FIRST
THURSDAY**

Potluck
Luncheon
July 6
@ 12pm

Casual Summer Morning Worship

One Service @ 10:30

for the month of July

in the Family Ministry Center

July 2—VBS Sunday

July 9—Communion Sunday

Dress attire is casual.



All Church Meeting
Sunday, July 16 @ 11:45am
(after 10:30am Service)
The Trustees will review the
investment plan for the
Bill Tom Knight bequest.

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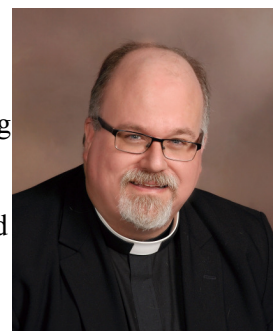
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God's Purpose By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (Romans 8:28-30 NRSV)



This fantastic passage from Paul’s letter to the Romans is a favorite for many, and is often quoted by those who are facing difficult times. I’ve seen the words: “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God” on many promise cards and wall plaques, serving up scriptural comfort to those who are in need of reassurance. These words are true; all things do, indeed, work together for good for those who love God. But this promise has a precision of application and a specificity of focus which escapes the realization of most who quote it. The promise doesn’t end with “for those who love God,” but extends also to those “who are called according to his purpose.” This is a critical condition on the promise: we are to be “called according to God’s purpose.” And this, of course, brings up the very pointed question: “what is God’s purpose?”

One of the things which I greatly appreciate about Paul’s letters is that he almost always attempts to answer these kinds of questions – he almost never leaves us wanting for an explanation, even when his explanations are difficult to accept. Paul is a practical theologian: he deals with people’s problems and questions, often with workable spiritual advice and a great deal of patience. Such is the case here. What is God’s purpose to which we are called? Paul spells it out in the next sentence: we are called: “to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

This is an amazing statement, and if we are truly paying attention to what Paul is saying it should give us a moment of pause. Are we willing to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ? The meaning of the word “conform” is “to comply,” “to behave according to socially acceptable conventions or standards,” or “to be similar in form or type.” Do we really wish to have God so mold and shape us that our lives comply with the nature and will of Jesus Christ? Do we really want God to so use and move through us that our words and actions reflect the Grace of Jesus to all? Do we even believe that this is possible?

This is the theological root and meaning of the doctrine of Sanctification, in which we proclaim that the grace of Jesus can and will transform us from sinful people into the kind of people that God wants us to become. In order to be so-conformed we are going to have to accept that our own objectives, our own desires, our own ideas and ways of doing things are going to have to be set aside to make room for God’s will, God’s plan, and God’s objective for us. Most of us are not going to be entirely comfortable with this necessity. We want to do things our own way and live according to what seems right to us, without a thought to God’s call to grace, peace, and justice. We want to be in charge of ourselves, never giving up the illusion of self-control to anyone else. But one of the things which the Gospel teaches us is that God’s purpose for everybody runs contrary to this individualistic drive which so often governs our western, American, “me first” mindset. God’s purpose is that we be conformed to the image of Jesus, and this means that we’re going to have to give up the “self,” the “ego,” the demand that we get to do things “my way,” and accept God’s way as the rule in our lives. Are we ready for this calling? Are we truly ready for Jesus to be Lord of our lives?

I am convinced that most of us are really not so willing to be conformed to the image of Jesus as we would like to admit. We want to stay in charge ... or, at least, maintain the illusion that we’re in charge. This illusion of self-sufficiency keeps us from being open to the Will of God for our lives; we do not experience the fullness of what it means to be a Christian, a member of the Body of Christ and a Child of the Living God because we are unwilling to be called according to God’s purpose. And, because we are unwilling to be called according to God’s purpose, we do not have the experience of “all things working together for good for those who love God.”

So how are we conformed to the image of Jesus? The only way I’ve ever experienced this is to set aside my own opinions, partake of the many means of grace, and then act in faith. When I have done this I have noticed that my concern is not with myself but with others. The image of Christ always appears to be directed toward the good of our sisters and brothers, those who are in need, those who are lost in spiritual blindness, those in need of a helping hand, a loving embrace, a healing word and a forgiving spirit. This is how Jesus lived his life in this world, and this is what our lives look like when they are conformed to the image of Jesus.

THE LIGHT

We are busy building our band and creating worship experiences this summer.

We have worked hard to create a relaxing environment with the coffee bar and 1st Sunday Potlucks.

Our next 1st Sunday Potluck will be July 2nd, and we plan to have a pre-4th of July cookout. **Bring a grill and fixing's.** The Light will supply burgers and hot-dogs. Let's celebrate together!

In the Fall, we will host TAMUC Athletic Teams for Potluck & Worship. We will let you know when we have dates confirmed. This is a fabulous opportunity to create community, discipleship, and invite folks to our church!

Our Women's Bible Study "Stuck" has 16 amazing ladies participating. We're so thankful for all of them!

If you haven't already, grab a yard sign and let Commerce know FUMC is your church home!

Each week I send out an email. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email me at vickie@fumccommerce.org.

In August we will have a special guest band - Ransomed - they are a gospel band. So fun to hear others and worship!

Change the World!
Vickie McMurray
Worship Leader

Worship

Sunday, July 2

Sunday, July 9

Sunday, July 16

Sunday, July 23

Sunday, July 30

10:30am ~ Family

Ministry Center

6:00pm ~ Family

Ministry Center

Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, July 12
5:30 pm in the Chapel**

This is a special service of prayer, contemplation, and Communion conducted in the Anglican Tradition.

All are welcome!



THE LIGHT

A Contemporary Service

Sundays @ 6pm

Childcare & Sunday School available

Email: vickie@fumccommerce.org

Follow us on Twitter: [@TheLightWorship](https://twitter.com/TheLightWorship)

Instagram: [@TheLightWorship](https://www.instagram.com/TheLightWorship)

Join our Facebook page: [@ FUMC Commerce](https://www.facebook.com/TheLight-ContemporaryService)

@ FUMC Commerce

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Worship Assistants Needed

The 10:50 service needs children, youth, and adults who are willing to serve as Acolytes! We also need men, women, and youth who are interested in serving as Ushers and as Greeters! Please contact the church office if you would like to serve.

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons on the internet, go to:

www.revneal.org * www.youtube.com/revneal

www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo

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.

Do you or someone you know need school supply assistance? Applications are available in the church office and CISD campuses and must be returned to the Family Services Office at CES by July 20, 2017.



Commerce Community Garden Cooking Classes

C-CAP, AgriLife Extension Service, and Commerce Community Garden are sponsoring free cooking classes this summer. The first class is Saturday, July 22 from 9am-noon. This class will focus on canning and freezing. The second class is Saturday, August 5 from 9am-noon and will focus on cooking and meal prep. Both classes will be held in the FUMC-Commerce kitchen. The classes will be hands-on and all materials provided. To register for classes please call the church office, 903-886-3220.

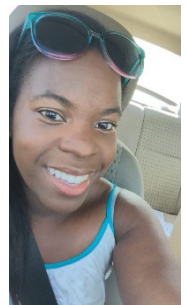


Greetings from your new youth pastors!



My name is Carlos Rickman, and I am a student at Texas A&M Commerce. I am a Liberal Studies major who is looking forward to attending seminary. I love board and card games.

My name is Hilliary Hawkins. I am a student at Texas A&M Commerce. I am an Education major with a minor in deaf studies. I want to teach at a deaf boarding school. I enjoy traveling and reading.



We are excited to serve the church through the youth ministry, and we are already in the middle of some awesome projects. First, the Youth room is getting a well-deserved renovation. We are repainting the room and installing a new smart TV. Please stop by when the room is finished and take a look!

In addition, we are looking forward to taking the youth to serve in Bonham, Texas through U.M. Army. U.M. Army is always a wonderful time for the youth to invest in our surrounding communities and fellowship with each other. When we come back, be sure to ask the youth about their stories - they are sure to share some fun memories.

These are just a couple of the things that are already happening within the Youth ministry. Please stay tuned for exciting things to come!



School Supplies Collection Drive

Would you like to help Commerce ISD Students, Teachers and Families get off to a GREAT start for the 2017-2018 school year? Please help us "STUFF the BUS" with new school supplies for our students!

Most Needed Items:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Bottled School Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Map Pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Spiral/Composition Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Zippered Pencil Bags
- Pocket Folders with brads
- Large Zippered Binders

Drop-off Locations:

**COMMERCE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2900 FM 3218**

**COMMERCE
POLICE STATION
1103 SYCAMORE**

**FIRST METHODIST -
COMMERCE
1709 HWY 24**

Rotary



Commerce
Independent School District

Call Alison Walker, CISD Family Services – (903)366-0642 with questions or to apply for assistance

Children's



Ministry

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Jim Patton (903) 886-4612

Trustees Chair:

Virginia Collier (903) 367-7588

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) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly

(903) 886-8381



Look for Camp and VBS pictures and experiences in the August Newsletter!

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



Luigi's Gives Back Sunday July 16

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

Happy 4th of July!

The church office will be closed Tuesday July 4th for the holiday.

Have a happy & safe celebration!



Simplify Your Summer Giving!!



If you think you may miss church services this summer due to travel or other commitments, consider setting up an automatic giving schedule. Your consistent support is vital to our church, especially during summer months. 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.

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

****The next deadline is Tuesday, July 18 by 9:00am****

In memory of...

Ruth Ann White

By: Mark & Frances Sartwell

Glenn Lockhart

By: Loretta Kibler

Edwina Threlkeld

By: Loretta Kibler



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
Jun 4	29	82	42	43	
Jun 11	31	69	38	20	
Jun 14					5
Jun 18	33	53	36	27	
Jun 25	21	77	31	31	



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of May 31, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 24,630	\$ 134,579
Expenses:	\$ 29,333	\$ 146,753
	-\$ 4,703	-\$ 12,174

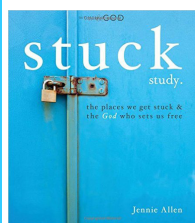
Reading the Bible Daily



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:

Saturday, July 1	Romans 6:15-23
Sunday, July 2	Matthew 10:40-42
Monday, July 3	Genesis 24:34-38
Tuesday, July 4	Genesis 24:42-49
Wednesday, July 5	Genesis 24:58-67
Thursday, July 6	Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Friday, July 7	Romans 7:15-25a
Saturday, July 8	Matthew 11:16-19
Sunday, July 9	Matthew 11:25-30
Monday, July 10	Genesis 25:19-34
Tuesday, July 11	Genesis 119:105-112
Wednesday, July 12	Isaiah 55:6-13
Thursday, July 13	Romans 8:1-11
Friday, July 14	Matthew 13:1-9
Saturday, July 15	Matthew 13:18-23
Sunday, July 16	Romans 8:1-11
Monday, July 17	Genesis 28:10-15
Tuesday, July 18	Genesis 28:16-19a
Wednesday, July 19	Psalms 139:1-12
Thursday, July 20	Psalms 139:13-18, 23-34
Friday, July 21	Romans 8:12-25
Saturday, July 22	Matthew 13:24-30
Sunday, July 23	Matthew 13:36-43
Monday, July 24	Genesis 29:15-28
Tuesday, July 25	Romans 8:26-30
Wednesday, July 26	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
Thursday, July 27	Matthew 13:31-33
Friday, July 28	Romans 8:31-39
Saturday, July 29	Matthew 13:44-52
Sunday, July 30	Genesis 29:15-28
Monday, July 31	Genesis 32:22-31



8-Week Women's Summer Bible Study

Thursday evenings
@ 7-8:30pm

Study: *Stuck* by Jennie Allen



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Family of Dick Walker
 Helen Cole
 Jessie Helton
 Sally Grove
 George McFarland
 Kim King (Tom Dudley's niece)
 Rosalie Turner
 Judy Parker (Walt Parker's daughter-in-law)

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world,
 Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Nell Brown, Gene Casselberry, Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Rev. Tom Dudley, Sammy Elwell, Jack & Gladys Gray, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Harry Icenhower, Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Betty Morton, Gayle Shumate, Pat Skauge, Robert Seay, Madeline Sullivan, Harriet Williams, Rev. Clay Yeager

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Euple Walker

The Haven (San Antonio): 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...

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

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

www.revneal.org
www.youtube.com/revneal
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
Monday, July 18 by 9:00am