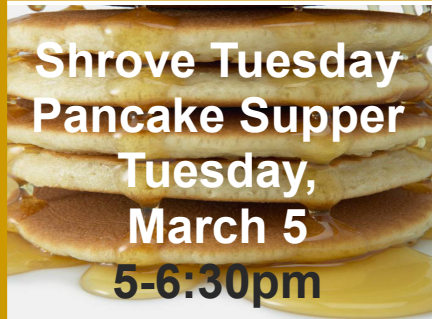


First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 17, Issue 3

March 2019



On March 5, 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 Youth Parents. All donations will go toward summer camp costs for youth.

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 6
@ 6:00pm
in the Chapel
A powerful service of
repentance, reflection,
and imposition of ashes



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
COMMERCE

Be included in our
upcoming directory

Photography dates:
April 2 - April 3, 2019



Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member or visitor and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way! We are producing an updated church directory.

Life Touch Photographers will be here

**Tuesday, April 2nd &
Wednesday, April 3rd**

Visit us at www.fumccommerce.org to schedule your appointment online.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Article, Bible Study	pg. 2	The Light, Upcoming Worship	pg. 3
Committee Chairs, Announcements	pg. 3	Children's SS, Camp, Egg Hunt; CGA Garden	pg. 4
Children's Dept.: VBS, Little Ark	pg. 5	Youth: UMYF, Bishop's Rally	pg. 6
WCM, Missions of the Month	pg. 7	Lenten Offering	pg. 8
Announcements, Numbers, Scriptures	pg. 9	Prayer List	pg. 10

Faithfulness

In the past six weeks, we have been teaching and preaching the Fruit of the Spirit. Let us not think the evidences of the Fruit of the Spirit in us are things we can just muster up by our own will. Being full of faith is more of a gift than an act of will. For a time maybe we can act our way into that, moving toward faith; but we cannot endure or last into it. Some might say “Fake it ‘til you make it.” I don’t know... That saying is for casual musicians more than sincere followers of Jesus who welcome the fruitful gifts of the Holy Spirit.

“Improvisation” is a respectable talent in music. But there are still skills to acquire, some rules to follow-- even in what most musicians know as “*Improv*”. A good player can become a great player by *improving at improvising*. But there are rules and structures to follow.

I remember a preacher (my father) saying, “Preach faith until you have it!” Faith is an odd mix of putting what you have out there, and waiting for God to bless it and grow it. We have to do our part to cultivate, to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus for our strength (Hebrews 12:1-2). And we remember that when that faith we have worked for eventually seems solid, no matter how hard we have worked, that faith is still a gift.

Don’t give up when you don’t feel it. We celebrate faith that comes as a gift and becomes a dialogue between you/me and God. Faithfulness is being filled with seeds that are a gift of the Holy Spirit! And cultivating their growth. We start small and grow it through the “step-ups” and “set-backs” and all the tempo changes of the seasons of life.

Imagine faith as a grain of mustard seed who fully expects to grow into a plant large enough for nesting birds. Get the chord changes down, a bass line, a layer of faith led by the Spirit. Then float your melody on top of that and improvise!



Sam

SERMON SERIES

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Ongoing through March 10

Pastors Bible Study



Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 4pm
at The Lion's Den

Wednesdays @ 12pm & 6pm
in the Friendship Room

We will pray together and establish a covenant for each segment! No costs except time.
Open to anyone.
Childcare available by request.

THE LIGHT

Contemporary Service
Sundays at the WCM
(1504 Lee Street)
Dinner @ 6pm
Service @ 6:30pm

If you haven't visited The Light Contemporary Worship Service at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry, we hope you'll join us to check it out! Every Sunday evening at 6:00, we kick things off with the Kin-dom Dinner: a space to get to know each other and have holy conversations about real world issues, which have been chosen in advance by the students in the congregation. The more we talk and share with each other, the more we can transcend the things that divide us so that we can live into the reality of the Kin-dom of God.

Our conversations flow directly into worship at 6:30. We join our voices together to sing praises to our God, lift our prayers, and continue to discern how the Word of God would have us faithfully respond to the issues we discussed during dinner. The sermon is given by Pastor Brian or by a Wesleyan student.

The Light is meaningful conversation and passionate worship for all ages, so we hope you will join us on Sundays for dinner at 6:00 and worship at 6:30!

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 3
Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 10

Sunday, March 17

Sunday, March 24

Sunday, March 31

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
6:00pm ~ WCM
(1504 Lee St)



connect grow

Connect Grow
Monday, March 11
@ 6pm



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, and click on 'Ways to Give' and create a profile if you haven't already.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Pat Skaug (903) 259-9875

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

Trustees Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation President:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



Men's Breakfast

Monday, March 25

@ 7am

at Omega's Restaurant!

Come and have breakfast with Pastor Sam, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!

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, March 19 by 9:00am****

Children's Ministry

Join us in Children's Sunday School as we begin our spring curriculum. This month's Bible verse is "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news! (Mark 1:15)

On March 3, we will read Luke 15:3-10. We will learn two "stories of the lost". We will talk about how we feel when we lose things, how we feel when we find them and discuss why we think Jesus shared these stories with the Pharisees.

On March 10, we will read Luke 15:11-32 (The Forgiving Father). We will talk a lot about forgiveness, share our own experiences and discuss Jesus' reason for sharing this story.

On March 17, we will read Luke 7:36-47 (The Two Debtors). We will continue talking about forgiveness and think about people that may need grace. We will share our own experiences of showing and needing grace and forgiveness.

On March 24, we will study Matthew 26:17-30 (The Last Supper). We will read and discuss the Bible story and talk about communion. We will discuss what it means to us and what we remember about Jesus when we take the bread and juice each month.

We hope you can join us for some or all of our lessons this month!

Summer Camp

There's still time to register for Summer Camp at Bridgeport! The dates for camp this year are (based on grade completed):

- Children (3-5th grades) – June 24-28
- Junior High (6-8th grade) – June 17-21
- Senior High (9-12th grade) – July 1-5



To register and pay the deposit, parents can go to www.bridgeportcamp.org. We will be working on fundraisers to help offset the remaining cost. Camp is a formative experience for so many young Christians seeking to deepen their faith, and it's a lot of fun too! Don't wait—register now!



Candy for Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Individually wrapped candy is needed for our Easter Egg Hunt.

Please bring all donations to the church office by 12pm Wed., April 17.

Commerce Community Garden Association 2019 Spring Kickoff Meeting

Tuesday, March 19

@ 12 noon

Magnuson Hotel Conference Room



Bring your own brown bag lunch and learn more about our 45-plot community garden. Experienced and first-time gardeners are invited to join us.

For more information, please contact Bob Johnson (903-468-2659) or Royce Lee (903-366-6047).



* Little Ark celebrated Valentine's Day with parties in both preschool and Pre-K. Our amazing parents showed us love by providing lunch for all

of the teachers.

*Little Ark will be closed on Friday, March 22 for Spring Break.

*The Pre-K class enjoyed PJs, Park, & Pizza Day by going to the Centennial Park on Friday, February 15.



Little Ark Preschool Class Valentine's Day Party



Little Ark Pre-Kindergarten PJs, Park & Pizza Day



Little Ark Pre-K Class Valentine's Day Party

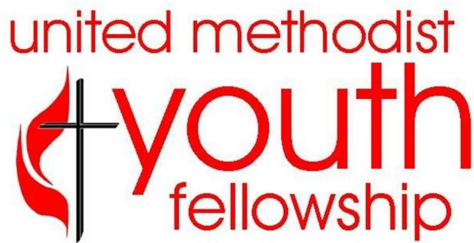


VBS 2019: To Mars and Beyond

Wednesdays
July 17 ~ July 24 ~ July 31 ~ August 7
5pm-8pm

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! This year's VBS has a space theme of To Mars and Beyond!! We are doing things a little differently this year. We will have VBS once a week for a month from 5-8 each evening with a light supper served.

We need volunteers for stations, as shepherds, and groups to provide meals and drinks for each evening. For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at shelly@fumccommerce.org.



This month at UMYF we'll begin observing Lent together. Practicing Lent gives us the opportunity to draw closer to Christ and prepare for the joy of the Resurrection through spiritual practices, such as reflection, prayer, and self-examination. We will explore these practices together and begin planning for our youth-led sunrise service on Easter morning.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00. Each week we have games and fellowship, snacks, worship, Bible study, and small group discussion. If you know any middle school or high school youth, please invite them to come and see what UMYF is about. There is always room for more, and each student is welcome!

2019 Bishop's Rally

Nine middle school youth from FUMC Commerce joined with hundreds of their peers at the Bishop's Rally at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano on Sunday, February 17. The afternoon began with worship led by youth from several North Texas United Methodist Churches, and then everyone enjoyed games and snacks, including a rock wall, inflatables, and snow cones from a Kona Ice truck. The highlight of the afternoon was an address from Bishop Mike McKee, who spoke about the importance of living our faith in such a way that others can see the light of Christ through us. Bishop McKee then answered questions from the youth and shared communion. Everyone had a great time! Special thanks to Mike and Angela Roberts for going with us

and driving the church bus!





WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the WCM at our Valentine's Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser. We raised a perfectly heavenly amount of \$777!

We hope you enjoyed food cooked by Mikey Elwell, testimonials by David Kemp and Mikey, hearing from pastor Brian about the mission and values of the campus ministry, and went home with a silent auction item.

Thank you to Bread of Life Food Pantry for providing all the spaghetti and some yummy desserts! Thanks to our board members you helped set up, served, and provided desserts.

Thanks to all the local businesses who donated to the silent auction: Mugs, Dos Laredo's, Los Mochi's, Omega's, H&R Block, Tokyo Express, Too Good, Dominos, and MaryBrooke Casad.

Thank you to all who participated in helping us continue to be able to live out our mission "Making Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, by offering TAMU-C students an inclusive and welcoming faith community where ALL God's children; Belong, Believe and Become!"

God Bless!
Brian

For more ways to support the Wesleyan contact pastor Brian@fumccommerce.org



2019 Missions of the Month

Below are the 2019 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:** Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- **February:** Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church and Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce
- **March:** Lenten Offering for Community Health (Carevide & Raffa Clinic)
- **April:** FISH
- **May:** Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp-
- **June:** SCRPT (**S**enior **C**itizen **R**esource **P**ublic Transportation)
- **July:** Adopt-a-Tiger (formally Communities in School)
- **August:** Wesleyan Campus Ministry (Work Day at WCM)
- **September:** North Texas Food Bank
- **October:** Commerce Clothe-a-Child
- **November:** Thanksgiving Dinner
- **December:** Proyecto Abrigo

The Serve team is looking for new team members. Currently our monthly meetings are held on first Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Friendship Sunday school classroom, but we are open to change to accommodate new members. Contact any of the Serve Team members for more information or to share ideas for how the church can serve: Chair: Amy Stark (903.246.1487), Pastor Brian Dierolf, Jan Helton, Bill Heitholt, Jim Patton, Judy Rudoff, and Carolyn Trezevant.



This year's Lenten Offering will be used to support **community health** with the designated agencies being **Carevide** and **Raffa**.

Carevide is a nonprofit healthcare provider. It has several different programs including school-based clinics in which Commerce ISD is now participating. The school district will furnish the physical facility and Carevide will provide the staff, including a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, and all equipment.



How does a school-based clinic work? Communication is paramount. Before any action can be taken by the school or clinic, parents will be informed and a verbal consent obtained.

- Parents will complete a written consent form so that their student/students can participate
- When a student goes to the school nurse and the nurse determines that he/she needs to go to the school-based clinic, the nurse communicates to the parents and the school transports the student to the clinic.
- Based on the examination by the PA or NP, the student might be sent back to school, receive treatment at the clinic or be referred to another facility for testing or treatment.
- If the student may return to school, the school would provide transportation, however if the student needs to go home or to another facility the parent is responsible for transporting the student.
- Carevide will bill Medicaid or private insurance companies. If the family has no insurance, they will be charged on a sliding scale; however Carevide never turns accounts over to a collection agency.

How will the Commerce school-based clinic operate?

- A facility behind the middle school is currently under renovation.
- Initially the clinic would be open two days a week,
- The plan is to have the renovation complete by the fall of 2019-2020 school year.

Your Lenten Offering will help underwrite the renovation so it is completed in a timely fashion. Kathy Myers, director of CISD Health Services, will be our guest one Sunday during Lent. Watch for details.

Raffa Clinic is a non-profit pregnancy clinic committed to providing women and men accurate information to make informed decisions about pregnancy and sexual health. All services are free of charge!



Raffa clinic services include:

- Free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds
- Pregnancy options counseling
- Group parenting classes and one-on-one mentoring


The daily costs of operation for the Raffa Clinic is \$804. This includes all medical services, supplies, bills, and staff costs. In addition to monetary donations, Raffa Clinic is ALWAYS in need of diapers for families, especially sizes 4,5&6.

In 2018, Raffa Clinic had 1,986 client visits, serving clients from 20 different counties. Raffa Clinic is located in Greenville at 2612 Jordan Street.

Raffa director, Threesa Sadler will be our guest on Sunday, March 31 for our 10:50am service to share more about Raffa Clinic during a Mission Moment.


To Our Community's Health!

	<p>Potluck Luncheon March 7 @ 12pm</p>
---	---



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.



Spring Break Office Hours

The office will be open Monday, March 18 – Thursday, March 21 from 9:00am-12:00pm and will be closed Friday, March 22. Have a fun and safe break!

In memory of...

Fred Blohm

By: Ted & Ellen Oats
Mark & Frances Sartwell
Jack & Gladys Gray
Judy Rudoff
Thomas & Linda Brown



By the Numbers

Daily Scripture Readings:

Friday, Mar 1	Luke 9:28-36
Saturday, Mar 2	Luke 9:28-43a
Sunday, Mar 3	2 Corinthians 3:12-18
Monday, Mar 4	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Tuesday, Mar 5	Psalm 91:2, 9-16
Wednesday, Mar 6	Isaiah 58:1-12
Thursday, Mar 7	Romans 10:8b-13
Friday, Mar 8	Romans 10:8b-13
Saturday, Mar 9	Isaiah 58:1-12
Sunday, Mar 10	Luke 4:1-13
Monday, Mar 11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Tuesday, Mar 12	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Wednesday, Mar 13	Psalm 27
Thursday, Mar 14	Psalm 27
Friday, Mar 15	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Saturday, Mar 16	Luke 13:31-35
Sunday, Mar 17	Luke 13:31-35
Monday, Mar 18	Isaiah 55:1-5
Tuesday, Mar 19	Isaiah 55:6-9
Wednesday, Mar 20	Psalm 63:1-5
Thursday, Mar 21	Psalm 63:6-8
Friday, Mar 22	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Saturday, Mar 23	Luke 13:1-9
Sunday, Mar 24	Luke 13:1-9
Monday, Mar 25	Joshua 5:9-12
Tuesday, Mar 26	Joshua 5:9-12
Wednesday, Mar 27	Psalm 32
Thursday, Mar 28	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Friday, Mar 29	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Saturday, Mar 30	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Sunday, Mar 31	2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Attendance				
	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>
Feb 3	40	86	—	37
Feb 10	39	87	13	35
Feb 17	44	94	13	57
Feb 24	35	69	13	38

Financial Information		
General Operating Fund		
<u>as of January 31, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income:	\$ 23,315	\$ 23,315
Expenses:	\$ 27,574	\$ 27,574
	-\$ 4,259	-\$ 4,259



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Family of Billie Mills
Rev. Tom Dudley
Larry Eldridge
Michelle Sundeen

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, our world and country's leaders, Wayne Bruno, Debra Burton, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Carol Davis, Corky Drinkard, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Jack and Gladys Gray, Bob and Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Karen Helton (Jeff Helton's sister), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Rheba Icenhower, Kaylee Jensen (Clarence & Kay Jensen's granddaughter), Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Betty Morton, Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Mary Ogle-tree (Mimi Dobbs' mother), William Pemberton, Grayson Prewett (Bill and Sharon Prewett's grandson), Michaella Prussack, Claire Reynolds, Mary Sartin, Robert Seay, Billy Stocker (J.D. Short's uncle), Gina Sullivan, Beverly Becker Wood (Mary Shumway's mother)

Oak Manor: Mary Elizabeth Channon, Helen Cole, Barbara Gish and Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Roger and Jean Arnold, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Gayle Shumate

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



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

*"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).



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumccommerce.org

office@fumccommerce.org

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Tuesday, March 19 by 9:00am