

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 5

May 2018

**ONE**  
*Service*  
APRIL 29 AT 10:50  
*5th Sunday*

There will only be ONE service on Sunday, April 29, the 5th Sunday of the month. All three services will be worshipping together in the sanctuary at 10:50 a.m. Our worship service will include elements from the 8:45, 10:50 and The Light. So, come and see your "friends from the other services" and enjoy our worship together!

*Brought to you by the Worship Committee*



## Coming April 29<sup>th</sup> at the ONE 10:50 a.m. Service

The Worship Committee and Administrative Council are seeking ways to better match our worship services to the spiritual needs and wants of our congregation. While our mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ will never change, our methods of delivery through worship may evolve. Our goal is to bless and honor what we have that is working and to change or add where there is room for improvement. We really have only anecdotal ideas of what the congregational needs are and so we want to conduct a church-wide survey to hear how the entire congregation would like to experience worship and why.

A task force made up of Tom Bailey, Jim Brown, Pastor Greg Neal, Angela Roberts, Janet Skauge, and Pat Skauge developed the survey. The 11 questions cover what worship style you prefer, what worship components you value most, which service you primarily attend and thoughts about that service, and whether there are reasons you do not or cannot attend a worship service. We also ask a few questions about you but request no names. The survey is anonymous.

Whether you are a long-time member or a newcomer, we invite everyone in your household of confirmation age or older to complete the survey. Hardcopies will be available at the ONE 10:50 a.m. service on April 29 and then from the church office through May 8. Please complete the survey by May 8. You may return to the church office, drop into the survey collection box located in the Gathering Area, or place in the offering plate on Sunday, May 6. The survey will also be available to print from the church's homepage [www.fumcccommerce.org](http://www.fumcccommerce.org) or to complete online from a survey link.

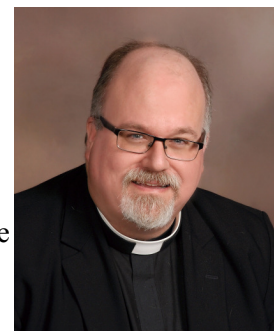
The survey results will be made available in late May. The task force pledges to evaluate the survey responses to get a picture of what people would like to see and not to use the survey to defend personal preferences. This is your chance to let us know what you like about worship and what you'd like to see if we don't offer something you like. We hope to hear from everybody.

### Inside this issue:

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## Do The Meek Inherit the Earth?

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5 NRSV)

The Sermon on the Mount, as found in chapters 5 through seven of Matthew’s Gospel, is one of the most powerful, memorable, and beautiful collections of Jesus’ teachings. This is especially true of the portion of the Sermon on the Mount usually called “The Beatitudes.”

These words resonate in our souls; they speak to us of what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ and a child of the living God. They teach us about how we are to live within the Kingdom of God here, today, manifested within the Church. They don’t express some kind of a utopian ideal for an existence which is yet to come, but rather call us to a way of life, and a devotion to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is real and present even today. This is especially true for the oft quoted beatitude: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

At first glance this seems like a ludicrous statement, doesn’t it? One of my favorite quips – a favorite because it reflects the cynical thinking of most people on this subject – picks up on how absurd the thought truly is to modern thinking:

“The meek do inherit the earth, but they tend to inherit very small plots, about six feet by three.” (Robert A. Heinlein)

This is the world’s thinking. The Meek are losers. They are worthless. They only get in the way and need to be pushed aside by those with the ambition and drive to succeed. In the words of Mordred, the half-brother of King Arthur in the musical *Camelot*: “it’s not the earth the meek inherit, it’s the dirt.” According to this present evil age the meek are not a people to be looked upon as being especially blessed by God. According to Jesus, however, the meek are truly blessed; it is they – not the movers and the shakers, but the meek – who will inherit the earth.

So, it behooves us to ask a simple question: “Who are the meek?” Are they the quiet, weak, unobtrusive, mild-mannered and mild-thinking and mild-hearted people of this world? The world would have us think that, in order to be one of these of whom Christ speaks, we must be “milk-toast.” However, the world is wrong.

The popular mental image of a “meek” person is fundamentally flawed. The “meek” are not those who are weak, mild, or quiet. Yes, the meek of whom Christ speaks are truly quiet before God, conscious of their total dependence upon God for their salvation, but they are not mild in the ways of God and they are most certainly not “milk-toast.” They are alive with a drive, a passion, and a burning love for the Will, Word, and Kingdom of God.

The Greek word translated into English as “meek” was used in ancient equestrian circles to speak of horses which have been tamed for humans to ride. They are not weak, mild, powerless, or lacking in spirit. Anyone who has ever ridden a horse will agree that they are majestic, powerful animals whose energies and passions have been harnessed under the firm hand of a master. They don’t lose their ability to run for hours or pull heavy loads; they are intensely devoted to their master’s will.

This is what it means for us to be “the meek who inherit the earth”: we are not deprived of our abilities, strength, vision, or spirit, nor do we lose our individual distinctiveness; rather, all of our God-given talents and energies are directed by the Holy Spirit. The meek are those who have been tamed by God. They are devoted to service in the Kingdom of God, meek before the Master but bold in their proclamation of the Gospel to the world. And, my friends, this is what each and every one of us has been called to do in our ministry. We are called to be the “meek of God,” serving our Lord with all our passions, energies, intelligence, and spirit under the mastery of Jesus Christ.

Yes, the meek do inherit the earth – they inherit the new earth which Jesus is bringing, and which he has for us to build and live within. Praise be to God!

# THE LIGHT

## FUMC COMMERCE

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

**First Sunday Potluck - May 6 at 5pm**

### Upcoming Worship

*Sunday, May 6*

*Sunday, May 13*  
*Ascension Sunday*

*Sunday, May 20*  
*Day of Pentecost &*  
*Confirmation Sunday*

*Sunday, May 27*  
*Trinity Sunday*

*8:45am ~ Chapel*  
*10:50am ~ Sanctuary*  
*6:00pm ~ Family*  
*Ministry Center*

### Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain is here to pray for your urgent prayer needs. Feel free to call or text your prayer request 8am-8pm or call the pastor and notification will be forwarded immediately to our prayer partners.



Prayer Lead: Mary Lou Heatherly 903-456-1412

### 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:**

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

**Finance Chair:**

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

**FUMC Foundation President:**

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

**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**  
**Tuesdays at 1pm**  
*in the Friendship Room.*

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

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, May 16**  
**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



AN  
INVITATION  
TO  
PRAYER

**Prayer Vigil**  
**April 25 @ 6pm**  
**& May 30**  
**@ 5:30pm**  
**in chapel**

You are invited to come together for a half-hour of focused prayer for our church.

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, May 22 by 9:00am\*\***



# Children's Ministry

Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:40am** and each evening at 6:00pm.

Our Sunday School Bible Verse for April is: "Change your hearts and lives." Acts 2:38



- May 11:**
  - Muffins for Mom at 8am
- May 16:**
  - Preschool and Pre-K Open House at 6pm
  - Pre-K graduation at 6:45pm

# children's choir

Children's choir had a great spring semester. Sixteen children spent each week worshipping God through music. We would like to thank all the parents for sharing your children with us each week and a special thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry group for snack donations every Wednesday.



Thank you to the congregation for your out-pouring support of this ministry. We have 19 children going to camp and have raised enough to offer 6 scholarships. This money will be divided out to help each family with part of the \$425 cost.



PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY 2018 HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES SO WE CAN CELEBRATE!

**FIRST THURSDAY**

**Potluck Luncheon  
May 3  
@ 12pm**



## VBS 2018: Rolling River Rampage

June 18-22 @ 5-8pm  
(Supper served at 5pm each night)  
Register online at  
[www.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcommerce](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcommerce)

VBS will be here before we know it. We are still looking for station leaders and shepherds for each age group. We will also be serving a meal each night and will be needing money/ingredients for meals and volunteers to cook and serve. Thank you for always supporting our children's programs.



Join us for Sunday School at 9:45! We're continuing to talk about how our stories fit into God's story, looking at men and women of the bible who may have thought they didn't have much to offer God but whose faith and actions made a difference, just like ours can today.

And get ready for the ONE event on Sunday, April 29. We'll leave after the worship service at 10:50 and travel to FUMC Rockwall and join youth from all over North Texas for an afternoon of great food from area food trucks, fun games led by Group Dynamix, youth-led worship, and powerful discussion with Rev. Ray Jordan, who will lead us in engaging our differences, building community, and the filters we put on our stories. There's still time to sign up—just contact Nevin at [nevin@fumccommerce.org](mailto:nevin@fumccommerce.org) or 903.461.9752 before Friday, April 27.

Stay tuned for fun and exciting summer plans beginning in May!



**BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB**

### ***Boys and Girls Club = Brighter Futures***

For years the Boys and Girls Clubs have had a positive impact on young lives. Just ask Denzel Washington and countless other notables and they will attest to that fact. Here in Commerce, a dedicated group of staff and volunteers (including our own Tom Bailey) work diligently to make sure the club continues to have the same impact on youth.

Sixty-five kids attend the Boys and Girls Club daily at A.C. Williams Elementary School. After signing in, the children have a nutritious snack, which might include bananas or apples, cheese sticks, yogurt, and a beverage. The "Power Hour" follows. Volunteers help the kids complete their homework and then practice math or reading. Finally, the club members rotate through interest area like P.E. and cooking. The cost for these daily activities is \$20 for the school year.

This summer, the Commerce Boys and Girls Club will hold a 7-week Super Summer Camp (also at A.C. Williams Elementary School). One of the national Boys and Girls Clubs summer goals is "Summer Brain Gain" that concentrates on retention of academic material over the summer. To that end, the Super Summer Camp will feature a superhero each week. Spiderman Week, the curriculum will center around bugs, insects, and other wild life. During Superman Week, the kids will explore outer space. The campers will also visit the Planetarium and the Children's Museum.

The camp, which will cost \$200 per camper, will provide breakfast, lunch, and a snack. The first month all will be included. Funding for lunch for the second month is still being explored. Kids may have to bring a sack lunch from home.

Though many activities for the 7-week program are still in the planning stages, one sure activity will involve robotics. Another likely part of the day will be D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read!).

### ***How can you help?***

1. Give to the May Mission of the Month, which is the Boys and Girls Club. All dollar bills and designated gifts will be put to good use by supporting this important organization.
2. Volunteer! - Volunteers for the mentoring program are needed.

For more information, please contact Amelia Vierstra by calling 903-458-9395 or emailing [avierstra@begreatnext.org](mailto:avierstra@begreatnext.org).





## 210 Served at BBQ Lunch in Commerce!



Our church hosted Hunt County Shared Ministries' BBQ lunch for 210 people in Commerce on April 6th. Like last year, an amazing group of volunteers worked together to ensure guests dining in or getting boxes to go were well taken care of! Volunteers came from our church family, the faith community, the Chamber, the City, and the Honors College. The Serve team designated \$500 in funds raised through the Merry Marketplace and Lunch for Missions to sponsor the BBQ at the Bronze level. Thank you for your efforts and support for this ministry serving so many neighbors in Commerce and throughout Hunt county!



## How the Wesleyan was Instrumental to Mental Health Matters Day

Edited for space by Brian Dierolf

All students referenced and quoted in this article excerpt are active at the Wesleyan. This event, and other actions sparked by it, are thanks to the Wesleyan students' courage of openly naming their psychological pain. I am proud to be in ministry with them!

The logo for Mental Health Matters Day, featuring the words "MENTAL HEALTH" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background, with "MATTERS DAY" in a slightly smaller, bold, white, sans-serif font below it.

Excerpts from the article: [“We need to put away the shame:” How Texas A&M Commerce is coping with suicide again.](#) By Eva-Marie Ayla. DallasNews.com powered by Dallas Morning News.

One woman talked of the emotions she's struggled with since being raped at 16. A young man described his battles with post-traumatic stress after growing up in an abusive home. Then there was the college student who wanted to talk about hope, saying it was only three years ago that she sat in her bedroom holding a sharp blade.

These were some of the painful stories shared recently at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where two years ago this month the popular president of the campus committed suicide. Last Halloween, the small east Texas community was once again in shock when [senior Alejandro Cifuentes was found just outside a residence hall](#), the victim of an apparent suicide.

"I knew him as Alex," said the Rev. Brian Dierolf of the Wesleyan center. And Cifuentes' death was a renewed call to action: the A&M-Commerce Lion community instantly knew more work needed to be done to get help for people battling depression and other emotional issues. "That's what motivated me as a pastor — as a person on this campus — to take action and have some kind of positive response that could speak in faith but also in action to make a change in the culture around mental health," Dierolf said. "We need to make it something we can talk about and not hide from."

The center's discussion about faith and emotional well-being came at the end of a day devoted to mental health awareness that also included promoting counseling resources, training to identify when someone is in crisis and a motivational speaker who survived after leaping from the Golden Gate Bridge.

Dr. Keck wanted to help A&M-Commerce in some larger way but didn't know how exactly. He started by simply talking to everyone he could, just checking in on how they were doing. That's when he met a young student who was suddenly falling behind in her courses. No one knew why. Eventually, she confided to Keck that she was transgender and struggling emotionally.

Keck met with a group of transgender students, and that led to an in-depth conversation about depression. Research shows that LGBT youths are more at risk of suicide because of added stresses, such as struggling with a lack of acceptance from their families or communities. That's when university officials realized how few students knew the school had resources to help them, such as counseling, and how afraid some were to seek help. It was time to change that.

A&M-Commerce officials are working on ways to incorporate mental health awareness in all aspects of school from campus orientation to staff development to graduation day.

*Continues...*

The university plans to create a rural institute for mental health that helps address the specific needs of those living away from urban centers. Already, efforts include enticing students to participate in free screenings aimed at identifying students at risk of depression or suicide by setting up pop-up booths across the school.

Students are taking up the call to help as well.

A group of athletes launched the Responsible Lions club, in which they are trained about how to conduct bystander intervention. And later this year, the newly formed Active Minds club will place empty backpacks across campus, each bearing the name and story of a person who was the victim of suicide.


Friends and family say Alejandro Cifuentes volunteered at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry and participated in leadership meetings, giving tips on how the small center could boost its marketing. He was on the verge of graduation and excitedly planning his future in law. Or so they thought. ... Cifuentes had been active at the campus ministry center for some time before suddenly disengaging this fall. Students at the center say one day of mental health awareness isn't nearly enough, but it's a start. And honest, difficult talks like the ones this spring are encouraging to freshman Jenny Polk.




WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

She once considered harming herself before she sought professional help and found a peer group she could confide in, Polk said. "We need to feel comfortable having more of these open conversations so more people can find other people like them," she said. "That's why a lot of people see suicide as an option, because they think they're alone. No matter how many people you're around, if you don't have people you can talk to, then you're still going to feel alone."

Full article: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2018/04/18/two-years-after-losing-president-students-suicide-reminds-texas-university-mental-health-work-must-never-stop>


 John Smith 5555 Your St. Your Town 54321	DATE 2/11/18
PAY TO FUMC	\$25.00
Twenty-Five & 00/100	
MEMO WCM	<i>John Smith</i>
1234 5678 9876 543210	

When you make a contribution by check, please make payable to FUMC. You can make your designation (e.g., WCM, pastor's discretionary fund, Children's Department, Drop a Dollar) in the "Memo" line. Our bank will not accept checks unless they are payable to FUMC.



**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday  
May 20**

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



**Men's Breakfast  
Monday, May 28  
@ 7am  
at Omega's Restaurant!**

*Come and have breakfast with Pastors Greg and Brian, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!*



*In memory of...*

**Loretta Kibler**

By: Fred & Anna Blohm  
 Mariann Andrews  
 Judy Rudoff  
 Glenna Julian

**Roger Humphries**

By: Edna O'Quinn

**George McFarland**

By: Jim & Janet Latham  
 Mariann Andrews



**e-GIVING 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.

**By the Numbers**

**Attendance**

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
<b>Apr 1</b>	33	107	—	32	60*
<b>Apr 8</b>	36	63	13	47	
<b>Apr 11</b>					7
<b>Apr 15</b>	32	68	15	45	
<b>Apr 22</b>	32	118	25	61	

\*Sunrise Service

**Financial Information**

**General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of March 31, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 24,944	\$ 76,091
Expenses:	\$ 29,022	\$ 87,044
	-\$ 4,078	-\$10,953

**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:**

Tuesday, May 1	Acts 10:44-48
Wednesday, May 2	Psalm 98
Thursday, May 3	1 John 5:1-6
Friday, May 4	1 John 5:1-6
Saturday, May 5	John 15:9-17
Sunday, May 6	John 15:9-11
Monday, May 7	John 17:6-19
Tuesday, May 8	John 17:6-19
Wednesday, May 9	1 John 5:9-13
Thursday, May 10	Acts 1:1-11
Friday, May 11	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Saturday, May 12	Psalm 1
Sunday, May 13	Psalm 1
Monday, May 14	Acts 2:1-21
Tuesday, May 15	John 16:4b-15
Wednesday, May 16	Romans 8:22-27
Thursday, May 17	Romans 8:22-27
Friday, May 18	John 15:26-27
Saturday, May 19	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Sunday, May 20	Acts 2:1-11
Monday, May 21	Isaiah 6:1-8
Tuesday, May 22	Isaiah 6:1-8
Wednesday, May 23	Psalm 29
Thursday, May 24	Romans 8:12-14
Friday, May 25	Romans 8:15-17
Saturday, May 26	John 3:1-15
Sunday, May 27	John 3:16-17
Monday, May 28	Mark 2:23-28
Tuesday, May 29	2 Corinthians 4:5-6
Wednesday, May 30	Psalm 139:1-6
Thursday, May 31	1 Samuel 3:1-20



## Prayer Lists

### Recent Concerns

Sally Grove  
P.K. Kirkpatrick  
Richard Norton  
Janet Sullivan  
Harriet Williams

### Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, John Avery, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Rachel Cramer, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev. Tom Dudley, Jack and Gladys Gray, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Freda Lambert, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Mary Means, Betty Morton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert Seay, Dana Shelton, Mary (Missy) Vance Spears, Billy Stocker (J.D. Short's uncle), Geneva Teel

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

Briarcliff: Sally Grove

Oak Manor: Barbara Gish and Euple Walker

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



### Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton  
Daniel Chamberlain  
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).*

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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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  
**Tuesday, May 22 by 9:00am**