



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 20

November 23, 2011



thanksgiving DINNER

JOIN US!

*Roasted Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans,
Sweet Potatoes & Homemade Pie*

Hosted by the Commerce Faith Community

Thursday, November 24
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Family Ministry Center

Want to get involved?

Volunteer an hour or two between 8:30 am and 1:30 pm.
Make a monetary donation.



Mark Your Calendar to Shop for the Gift That Gives



UMW ladies Alta Fay Peden,
Mary Means, and Nell Avery

The **Handmade Holiday Bazaar** on Sunday morning, **December 11**, is the perfect way to celebrate the season and help those in need. When you purchase one of the handmade items, you are making a donation to one of the missions supported by our congregation. For every item purchased, you will also receive a card to explain to the recipient that a meaningful gift was made in their name.



A llama ornament for
Heifer International

Small groups are crafting the gifts for the bazaar. This past week the United Methodist Women assembled jars of Patchwork Bean Soup mix to benefit Proyecto Abrigo and the Missions & More Kids made ornaments for Heifer International. Watch for additional sneak peeks of bazaar items in the next newsletter and on Facebook.



M&M crafting ornaments for
Heifer International
Maggie Robinson and Allie
Underwood

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Dear FUMC Friends:

As I write this, I'm anticipating Thanksgiving Day here in Commerce. I am looking forward with great anticipation to being at the church that morning to bless and welcome our volunteers for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Our daughter will be home from college; my sister and her family, my mother and my aunt will gather here at the parsonage later for a Thanksgiving meal we've cooked together. Our chatting, story-telling, and being-togetherness are the highlight of the day.



You are probably reading this newsletter right after Thanksgiving, however. The first Sunday of Advent and a new church year will be upon us, and it's a good bet that some will be making to-do lists for the season (or for those who are more organized, consulting lists drawn up earlier this fall).

Advent arrives early this year, falling on the Sunday right after Thanksgiving. I always feel a bit rushed when this happens – like I haven't been given enough "giving thanks" time (as if the calendar gave me permission to give thanks). From a real-world standpoint, it feels downright funny to be digging out my "Advent" box before Thanksgiving Day has even arrived! My "Advent" box contains the Advent calendar we've used every year since Eva was a baby; a rather stunning Advent candelabra with space for four purple candles; a large pewter candle-holder for the Christ candle; and several Advent worship guides for families to use in lighting the Advent candles each week at home. I like to have these things in place by the first Sunday in Advent.

A few years back, Advent began right after Thanksgiving as it does this year. It was my first Advent to be preaching every Sunday, and I had some anxiety about it. I spent that Saturday morning after Thanksgiving fretting about my sermon. All of a sudden it dawned on me – I hadn't pulled out my Advent box! I went out to the shed and dug around until I found it, all the while feeling guilty for not seeing to my sermon (which was still unfinished). Before unpacking the box, I checked my candle supply – no purple candles!

I was faced with a dilemma – work on my sermon? Or go buy some purple candles? As I agonized over this, one of those little revelatory moments happened that reframed the issue for me: *God would not strike me dead* for taking a break from the sermon prep to go buy purple candles.

That moment was liberating in a deeper sense than the situation deserved. I took a look at my sermon notes, scanned the scripture again, and got in the car to go buy my purple candles. It took seven – yes, seven – stops to find candles that would work. (For some reason, everyone was sold out of purple candles – an Advent revolution? This was the year I went blue.) But all the while, the biblical text bubbled away in my head, taking shape while I performed one domestic task among many.

Mary carried the "Son of the Most High" in her womb for nine months. It's a pretty good guess that she didn't sequester herself to meditate on scripture for all that time. She lived the life of a young maiden, with all of its accompanying tasks. God's word worked in her as she worked – it didn't replace it.

The Benedictines have a wonderful phrase that forms the backbone of their lives together: *ora at labora*. Pray and work. As you go about your busy preparations for Christmas this year, may prayer fill your being and add meaning to your preparations – no matter what task you may be engaged in.

God's peace to you—
Valarie

Worship

November 27, 2011

"Reframing the Story"

Please join us
this Sunday when

Rev. Valarie Englert
preaches on

Isaiah 40:3-11

"The Call of the
Herald"

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

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(903) 886-2206

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Jim Patton
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Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 886-8220

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Serve Team Chair:

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The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Wednesdays. 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. All inputs are due by 9:00am on the Monday of the publication week. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, December 5 by 9:00am****

A BIG Thank You!

We give thanks to Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH in Greenville for providing Thanksgiving food baskets and to ~70 volunteers who helped prep and distribute them from our church last Saturday. 245 Commerce families received frozen turkeys, eggs, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, canned items, and boxed goods. Special thanks to TAMU-C Lions for helping tote heavy loads, to Manna Movers for delivering to the homebound, to The Crew for providing a fantastic breakfast, and to FLY for helping recycle cardboard!

We'll be gearing up to distribute Christmas food baskets on Saturday, December 17. Please contact Angela Roberts at 903.886.2142 to volunteer.



Jim Patton having fun unloading 1 of 14 pallets of food received from FISH.



KIDS!! Be sure to join us for a very special Sunday school activity on November 27th. All children's Sunday school classes will combine to learn about the meaning behind the Christmons symbols; and to make Christmons ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree in the Children's hallway. Invite your friends and be here at 9:45!

First Thursday Potluck

December 1, 2011 @ 12:00noon

We will honor all church members who are 90+ years of age and celebrate their years of service. Our special guests are: Helen Dickson, Margaret Floyd, Joe McMahan, Norma McNew, Pete Robinson, Otha Spencer, and Euple Walker. If we have missed someone, please let the church office know.

	Attendance	
	Nov. 13	Nov. 20
Early	37	35
9:45	11	15
Late	111	100
SS	79	59



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:

Sunday, Nov 27	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Monday, Nov 28	Isaiah 40:1-5
Tuesday, Nov 29	Isaiah 40:6-11
Wednesday, Nov 30	Psalms 85:1-2
Thursday, Dec 1	Psalms 85:8-13
Friday, Dec 2	2 Peter 3:8-10
Saturday, Dec 3	2 Peter 3:11-15a
Sunday, Dec 4	Mark 1:1-8
Monday, Dec 5	John 1:6-8
Tuesday, Dec 6	John 1:19-28
Wednesday, Dec 7	1 Thessalonians 5:16-22
Thursday, Dec 8	1 Thessalonians 5:19-20
Friday, Dec 9	1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
Saturday, Dec 10	John 1:19-28



Prayer Lists

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Sally Grove
Luann Huffman
Judy Rudoff
Marilyn Morris
Julie Wadlow
Andy Martin
Otha Spencer
Jan Vowell
Gary Kibler
Robert Seay

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Amy Cryon (Williams' family friend)
Rick Navarro (TAMU-C student hit by car)
Ford Family
Rose Ohsiek (Debby Heitholt's mother)
Clark Mulkey (Jim & Susan Patton's bother-in-law)
Louelle McIntyre
Don Reid (Mark Reid's father)
Sondra Feduccia
Norma Howser (Sarah Northam's grandmother)
Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)
Kay Webber
Judy Greenwood
Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)
Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)
William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)
George O'Kelley
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)

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.

Jason Timmons (Afghanistan)-seriously injured
2nd Marine Division in Afghanistan
Chief Robert Starkey (Afghanistan)-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Sgt. Jason Schmidlen (Iraq)-Jim and Debby Heitholt's son)
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
Nathan Grove
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Lt. Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey
Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor
Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. Dan Barton
Kris Yoder-son-in-law of John & Rebecca Sneed
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-cousins of Ladonna & Chris Patterson
Garrett Johnson



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, December 5 by 9:00am

Place Label Here

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1709 Highway 50
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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert