

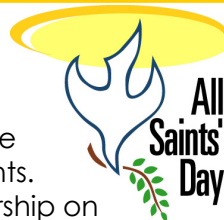
First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 13, Issue 11

November 2015

All Saints' Day


November 1 is All Saints' Day on the church calendar. On that day, we remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have died and gone on to join the communion of saints. FUMC's remembrance of our saints will be in worship on Sunday, November 1. Come worship with us as we celebrate their lives, and offer support and prayers to their family members.



Our All Saints are:

Penny Elliott	Josephine Parker
Jean Funderburk	Johnnie Robertson
Norma McNew	Clyde Robnett
Wyvonne Moody	

- o Family members and dear friends
- o Military service men and women
- o Those who have generously left gifts to the church foundation



Charge Conference
Sunday, November 8
3:00pm Combined Worship
Wesley UMC in Greenville

Men's Breakfast
Monday, Nov. 30th
@ 7am at McKay's
Restaurant!



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

Share and Receive the Blessing of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The November Mission of the Month is the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be hosted Thanksgiving Day, November 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Family Ministry Center. All \$1 bills placed in the offering plate during worship and designated gifts during the month will help cover the cost of the dinner (previously ~\$1,000), which includes turkey, dressing, green beans, sweet potatoes, and homemade pies. Volunteers and participants are also needed to support this annual tradition.

Ways to Serve

- Soup Making – Make your favorite soup or stew to provide an additional meal to a home-bound neighbor over the holiday weekend.
- Pie Baking – Bake either a regular or sugar-free pie.
- Hospitality – Assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean-up on Thanksgiving Day.
- Home Deliveries – Deliver a Thanksgiving meal, soup and a blessing to a home-bound neighbor.
- Attendance – Be our guest and strengthen our community! Conversations during the meal provide opportunities for neighbors to connect and learn from one another.

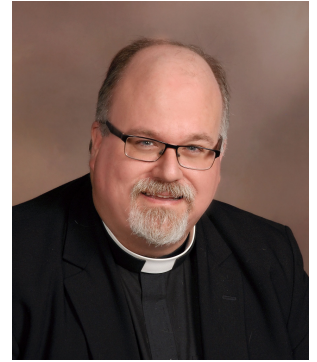


Thank you, Sheryl Zelhart, for volunteering to coordinate the Community Thanksgiving Dinner!

Visit the Thanksgiving sign-up table during the Sunday School hour and before and after worship on November 8, 15, and 22 to volunteer. Please contact Sheryl Zelhart, our Community Thanksgiving Dinner coordinator, at 903.366.1220 or sazelhart@hotmail.com for more information.

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“How I Prepare To Preach” By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

As is probably true for most pastors who preach on a weekly basis, preparing a sermon is the single-most time-consuming thing that I do. Sermons – or, at least, *good* sermons – don’t just fall together on Saturday night or Sunday morning; consistently good, theologically sound, meaningful preaching does not come easily even to the best and most experienced of preachers. Any decent preacher can stand up and deliver a message “off the cuff,” as it were, without any extensive prior preparation. I’ve had to do so on occasion and, in my experience, such sermons tend to be compilations of previously preached messages and amalgamations of much unconnected research and thinking. They also tend to be fairly simple messages, rooted either in the core tenants of the Christian Faith or in one of the well known passages of the Bible. The most meaningful and best-delivered sermons are the product of consistent, persistent, and diligent prayer, research, and planning over a period of days or weeks. I’ve been preaching on a weekly basis since the fall of 1989, and most of my Sunday messages still require many hours of consistent research, thought, prayer, and reflection. And, even if my weekly preparation isn’t specific to any single Sunday’s message, it is certainly applicable and necessary to the whole task of teaching and preaching in the local church.

There are many different ways of preparing sermons. Some pastors prefer topical sermons in which they expound upon a subject of interest by applying scripture to support whatever topic they have chosen to address. Often those who are topical preachers will do so in thematic series, where the subjects being addressed are dealt with in multiple facets over a sequence of Sundays. Other pastors like to preach Biblical series, in which they take a book of the Bible and preach through it in sequential or thematic order over the course of several Sundays. Personally, I don’t find either of these approaches to be helpful for determining what to preach. From time to time I’ll preach a topical sermon or a series of sermons on a confined subject but, for the most part, I tend to be what is known as a Lectionary Preacher: I look to the Lectionary for guidance in determining what to preach.

The Lectionary is a three-year schedule of scripture readings following the seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. In this schedule the scriptures are arranged in a thematic order following the traditions of the Church over the past 1800 years. Each Sunday is assigned four Scriptures (usually one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an epistle reading, and a lesson from the Gospel) dealing with a topic or issue relevant to that point in the church year. I find that, by following the Lectionary the subjects addressed in my preaching are less controlled by my own opinions and preferences and more guided by the history and traditions of the Church. In other words, I find the Lectionary to be a helpful tool in avoiding what is often called “one note” preaching: the problem that some ministers have of only preaching on a limited number of favorite subjects, themes, or scriptures. The Lectionary helps me to branch outward and deal with scriptures and topics that I would, otherwise, prefer to avoid.

Over the years I have found it helpful for me to project my sermons forward by a few months, looking through the Lectionary readings for each Sunday to determine which one(s) best address the needs of the church, the world-situation, and my own understanding and program for theological teaching. My objective in these projections is to chart a “scripture course” for the subsequent two or three months to aid in my own sermon and worship planning as well as to help the Choir Director in planning the church’s music. In some cases I’ve even been able to speculate as to the topics or themes that the particular Lectionary scriptures suggest. This doesn’t mean that I won’t diverge from my own projections at some point, but this practice of projecting forward a few months at a time helps me, as well as others, in planning and is well-worth the time it takes (and it does take a considerable amount of time).

On a weekly basis my sermon preparation being on Monday morning: I’ll sit down over breakfast with the lectionary readings for the following Sunday and I’ll read them over with an eye toward both the projection I’ve already made and to the theological, missional, and pastoral care needs of the congregation. By the time I get to the office I’ve usually made a tentative choice as to which of passages of scripture I’m going to preach on – either confirming my prior projection or changing course with a different passage from the lectionary for that Sunday – although at this point I still have no idea as to what the sermon will actually contain. Sometimes the Scriptures readily reveal the theme for the sermon; sometimes (most of the time) developing the theme takes much more work. I generally spend about 3 to 4 hours translating, reading, studying, and interpreting the passage(s) I am going to be preaching before I even try to give form to a sermon theme or topic. In seminary and graduate school I was taught that the Scriptures should be allowed to form and inform as much of the sermon as possible. In my opinion, few things are worse than a preacher trying to force a theme upon a passage of Scripture, but it is often done – and I am guilty of having done it myself. I was taught that “good preaching” is where the sermon explains and applies a passage of scripture to Christian faith and practice.

“How I Prepare To Preach” (Continued)

At any rate, by Tuesday evening the sermon objective is usually well established and the structure and approach of the message is well underway. By that point I usually have an outline and a conclusion toward which the message is trending, and I have a good idea of how I’m going to actually preach it. Some pastors prefer to preach in just one style or with one method of delivery, while others will roam all over the place in how they arrange and deliver a message; I tend to be one of those who believes that there is no one single “best” way to organize and preach a sermon, and that the scripture, topic, and message itself should be allowed to help form the “how” of sermon creation and delivery. Nevertheless, I usually prefer to stick close to the exegetical and expository format, and while I will frequently use an illustration or two in my sermons, I’m not a “story teller” preacher.

My weekly objective is to have my sermon finished and ready for preaching by Thursday night, but I manage to succeed in doing this only about half the time. Indeed, come Saturday afternoon, when I sit down in my study to review my sermon, I usually discover that I have more work to do. I’ve either left out some important point or I have not succeeded in making a complex idea clear, and so I hop back on the computer and do a fast rewrite of whatever it is that is bothering me. All in all, on average a sermon will demand anywhere between 15 - 20 hours a week of research, study, drafting and adjusting to produce – not counting the actual 20 minutes that it takes to preach it. Some preachers take less time to prepare a sermon, some will take more, but from my conversations with my fellow clergy I know that my experience is not uncommon; if anything, I’m told, I may be underestimating the amount of time the preparation takes. This may be true, for calculating how much time actually goes in to sermon creation is a relative exercise: so much time is spent ruminating on the message during the week when one is driving around town, standing in line at the grocery store, or sitting in the tub late at night, that it’s hard to quantify it adequately. And, of course, it’s also true that there are some weeks when a sermon easily falls together with only a few hours work. It’s those weeks that I relish ... frequently, sermons take a lot more work.

Upcoming
Worship

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 8
Charge Conference

Sunday, November 15

Sunday, November 22

Sunday, November 29

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Lay Leader:

John Heatherly (903) 886-7070

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

Finance Chair:

Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

FUMC Foundation President:

Anne Mills (903) 886-6792

Connect Team Chair: TBD

Grow Team Chair: TBD

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lay Member:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly (903) 886-8381

**Church Work
Day
Saturday,
Nov. 14**

The Trustees will have a list of things that need attention, including a lot of cleaning and yard work. We will try to start about 8:00 and finish around noon. Please come.



**FIRST
THURSDAY**

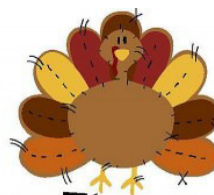
First Thursday
Potluck Luncheon
November 5 @ 12pm

**COMMERCE
CARES
RECYCLE**

Saturday, Nov. 7
9:00-1:00

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Friday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving. We will reopen Monday, November 30.



Happy Thanksgiving

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning 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 Monday, November 16 by 9:00am****

Support Missions and Enjoy the Holidays with

Fresh Wreaths & Garlands

Direct from the Pacific Northwest

Extended! Order by Nov 8

Where to order:

- > Church Office
- > Gathering Area on Nov. 1 and Nov. 8
- > sffsalestrack.com/evergreens4missions



*Ordered evergreens
available for pick up
December 5 at the
Merry Marketplace &
Lunch for Missions*

The Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions on December 5 in the Family Ministry Center benefits general missions, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. It's a wonderful opportunity for neighbors and friends to experience the hospitality of our church family! We need lots of folks to craft, bake, donate, promote, set up, price, sell, and clean-up! Look for sign ups during November or contact Angela Roberts, Serve team chair, at 972.765.6547 to get involved. Together, we can make it merry!





Working together to care for those in need.

Volunteer at Food Basket Distribution & (Almost) Last Saturday Breakfast

On behalf of Hunt County Shared Ministries working in partnership with the Hunt County Coalition, FUMC-Commerce will distribute food baskets to neighbors in need on the Saturday mornings prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition to loading up cars, we will host the (almost) Last Saturday Breakfast, serving up hot

pancakes and hospitality. (We moved the breakfast up a Saturday to combine it with Hunt County Gives.) Volunteers are needed to greet, assist with breakfast, and load cars on the following dates at church:



- Saturday, November 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, December 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 to sign up! Childcare is available for volunteers when requested in advance.

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY

Proud partners with NTFB and FundSponge



BOL Food Pantry distributes food from NTFB on the 3rd Wed. of every month serving 200 low income families right here in Commerce.

In order to purchase a 10 lb. bag of chicken quarters and a dozen eggs for each of these families for November and December, we need an additional \$700. You can help! When you order online from any of the 70+ retailers who are supporting this program, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to us for this purpose. Do your usual holiday online shopping and know you are supporting local food security and helping to give your Commerce neighbors a happier holiday. Please use this URL to access your favorite online stores:

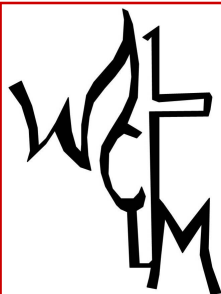
http://fundsponge.com/groups/Bread_of_Life_Food_Pantry

Here is just a sampling of some of the participating retailers and the percentage of your purchases they will donate:

GameStop 2.5%	amazon.com 4%	macy's 1.5%	Nutrisystem Lose weight. Save money. 7.5%	ORBITZ 1.5%	GROUPON See Today's Deal. 2%	Microsoft 2%
BEST BUY 1%	FedEx Office 2.5%	Advance Auto Parts Service is our best part. 4%	Expedia.com 1%	1-800PetMeds 6%	1-800Flowers.com 3%	
Hotels.com 3%	Beauty.com 4%	Perfume.com 5%	Fragrance.net 2.5%			

Go to the website above to see LOTS more of your favorite online retailers! Happy shopping!

Holiday blessings to all and thank you for your time and donations,
 Laura Ingelido
 Bread of Life Food Pantry



WDRSHIP, TACDS, BRDTHERS, BAKE-SALE AND DTHER NEWS FRDM THE WESLEYAN

October was an amazing month at the Wesleyan! We had our premiere worship service: Illuminate. Tuesday 10/6 we were blessed to worship with two other student organizations; the New Beginnings Gospel Choir and Uniquely Bynded. District Superintendent Rev. Vic Casad helped serve Holy Communion and Pastor Brian preached on Daniel 5. We had 50 people in this passionate, student-led worship! Our next worship service will be Tuesday 11/3 @6pm.

The next day, Los Gringo Loco's taco truck was at the WCM, attracting over 60 people. The following Wednesday MGC, a network of Greek organizations, sponsored our free lunch which served the most people of any lunch so far this Fall!

On 10/8 we hosted "We are All Kin: Interfaith Reunion." Pastor Brian and his brother Shastri Loden Nyima talked about their common belief that everyone is of sacred worth. Over 50 people were in attendance and several asked the brothers thought-provoking questions. Many stayed to participate in a guided meditation.

Thank you to everyone who bought breakfast bake goods on Sunday 10/18! Your donations will go towards paying for much needed building repairs. In other updates, Pastor Brian has guest preached at 5 churches to raise awareness and money for WCM. So far all of our lunches have been sponsored, if you or your group would like to sponsor a lunch please contact Brian: brian@fumcommerce.org

Thanks for your continued support,
Wesleyan Campus Ministry of FUMC-C

PUTTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER ESTATE PLANNING MADE EASIER WORKSHOP December 13, 2015 after the 10:50am service



PUTTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER is a program that helps us think about the unthinkable.

- What will happen to your estate when you are no longer here?
- Why should you have a will?
- Have you thought about who should have your most precious possessions when you have died?
- How can you relieve the stress upon your family when it comes time to plan your funeral or memorial service?
- Do you know the tax advantages of remembering the church and other charitable organizations in your legacy giving?
- How would you like to express your gratitude to God and allow your generosity to continue after your death?

Come December 13th if you are interested in answers to these questions. The FUMC-Commerce Church Foundation Board is sponsoring the event. You will hear Rev. John Thornburg discuss issues of estate planning. He is affiliated with the Texas Methodist Foundation in Austin and has met with many United Methodist congregations throughout North Texas.

The Church Foundation will provide a luncheon and pay for the planning documents. Don't worry if you are planning to watch the Dallas Cowboys play football on TV as the 3:25 kick-off will not interfere. The workshop will last for only about an hour.


Rev. Thornburg presents information in a deeply practical way to provide your loved ones ways to honor your wishes and help them with the probate process. If applicable to your situation, you will not want to miss this unique opportunity.

Please let us know before December 1st if you are coming so we can prepare for the luncheon and order printed materials. Please register for the workshop on December 13 by calling the church office (903-886-3220). You do not have to be a member of our church to attend. Bring a guest if you wish.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, Nov. 17** at 10:00am. The program will be World Thank Offering. Our November project is Food Pantry Items.
All women are invited to join us!

UMW is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education.




In memory of...

Ken Brandenburg
By: David & Luann Huffman

Mitzi Parker's Father
By: Walt Paker


Kent Rice
By: Dough Rollins SS Class
David & Luann Huffman

Robert Cozart, Sr.
By: David & Luann Huffman



Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Sep 30		9		
Oct 4	31	—	98	56
Oct 7		9		
Oct 11	26	—	110	54
Oct 14		10		
Oct 18	34	—	92	69
Oct 21		9		
Oct 25	27	—	100	63



Financial Information
General Operating Fund
as of September 30, 2015 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 31,889	\$271,533
Expenses:	\$ 26,254	\$280,754
	\$ 5,635	-\$ 9,221

Happy Thanksgiving




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 1	John 11:32-44
Monday, Nov 2	Ruth 3:1-5
Tuesday, Nov 3	Ruth 4:13-17
Wednesday, Nov 4	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Thursday, Nov 5	Psalms 127
Friday, Nov 6	Psalms 127
Saturday, Nov 7	Hebrews 9:24-28
Sunday, Nov 8	Mark 12:38-44
Monday, Nov 9	1 Samuel 1:4-8
Tuesday, Nov 10	1 Samuel 1:9-20
Wednesday, Nov 11	1 Samuel 2:1-10
Thursday, Nov 12	Hebrews 10:11-22
Friday, Nov 13	Hebrews 10:23-25
Saturday, Nov 14	Mark 13:1-8
Sunday, Nov 15	Mark 13:5-8
Monday, Nov 16	2 Samuel 23:1-7
Tuesday, Nov 17	Psalms 132:1-10
Wednesday, Nov 18	Psalms 132:11-18
Thursday, Nov 19	Revelation 1:4b-8
Friday, Nov 20	Revelation 1:4b-8
Saturday, Nov 21	John 18:33-37
Sunday, Nov 22	John 18:33-38
Monday, Nov 23	Luke 21:25-36
Tuesday, Nov 24	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Wednesday, Nov 25	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Thursday, Nov 26	Psalms 25:1-10
Friday, Nov 27	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Saturday, Nov 28	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Sunday, Nov 29	Luke 21:25-36
Monday, Nov 30	Malachi 3:1-4



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...

Jennifer Martin, Pete Robinson, Jim Parker (Walt Parker's son), Faye Jackson, Babette Steele, Robin Sullivan (Janet Sullivan's sister-in-law), David Polk, Kathy Benton, Elliana McPherson, Diane Price, Frances Robinson, Will Dorsey, Donna Galvan, Judy Rudoff, George McFarland, Doris Kerbow, Jessica Coe, Lavonne Wells, Collette Usry (Lauren Dierolf's friend), David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Sally Grove, Clay Yeager, Louella McIntyre, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Christians in the Middle East

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, Euple Walker, and Jean Ward

Briarcliff: Dorothy Ingram and Glenna Siebenhausen

Laurell's Retirement Home: Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

*"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...

2nd Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton Mike Dempsey (Washington)
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-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
www.fumccommerce.org
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, November 16 by 9:00am