

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 10

November 2016

All Saints' Day

November 6 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 6. Come worship with us as we celebrate their lives, and offer support and prayers to their family members.



Our All Saints are:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Jean Ward | Sherie Kao |
| Kathy Benton | James Moody |
| Do Heitholt | Helen Dickson |
| Lillian Logue | Glenna Siebenhausen |
| Pete Robinson | Lewis Jackson |
- 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 13

3:00pm Combined Worship
Wesley UMC in Greenville



Pastor's Bible Study Tuesdays 1:00-2:30pm

Dr. Neal is leading "The Pastor's Bible Study," a weekly study dealing with the book of Acts.

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 24, 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.

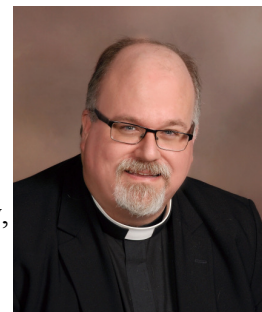
Visit the Thanksgiving sign-up table during the Sunday School hour and before and after worship on November 6, 13, and 20 to volunteer. Please contact Amy Stark, our Community Thanksgiving Dinner coordinator, at 903.246.1487 or stark.amyl@gmail.com for more information.

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Henri Nouwen and Prayer

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



I have recently been re-reading the works of the late Henri Nouwen, a Roman Catholic priest who served as the pastor of a Church, had been a university professor, and finally the chaplain of a community for the “mentally challenged.” During the many different phases of his ministry, with all the changes that time and pain can bring, one thing remained consistent: from the mid-1960s until his death, Nouwen was an author.

Over the years he shared with us his experiences, his thoughts, his hopes and dreams in word, poem, and song. His life and ministry was, in many ways, a model for my own: his faithfulness, insight, and willingness to be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit has inspired me to see that, even in the mundane and common things of this life, there is always the spark of the Spirit of the living God shining through into a world of darkness and despair. His insights have helped me through some of my own dark and lonely times, and his keen wisdom has always been the sharpest when it pointed me back to the power of God’s grace in my life.

One of the things that I have learned from Nouwen is that the people of God are always more ready and willing to learn and grow than most pastors are willing to admit. And so, with Henri Nouwen as an example, my newsletter articles were born. A fellow United Methodist minister once told me that my newsletter articles were different than most she read: “It has something to say, instead of just filling up space with fluff and puff.” I appreciated her insight, for that was exactly the objective in writing my articles. They are a part of my teaching ministry.

I am never quite sure what I am going to write about. Sometimes I really have to dig. Sometimes the words flow faster than I can type (and I can type fast). Today has been an example of the latter, especially because of how I feel about Nouwen’s writings, and because of how I feel about prayer. Nouwen talks a great deal about prayer. I could write a great deal about his understanding of the prayerful life, but then I would be plagiarizing; read Nouwen’s book *Reaching Out* if you’re interested. Besides, he doesn’t really address, except in passing, what I have felt led to ask you today: Do you pray?

It has been my experience that when I fail to take time to pray – when I fail to be intentional about, and protective of, my prayer time – not only do I miss it, but I inevitably run aground when the storm winds start blowing.

When I speak of prayer, I’m not talking about what most people do when they pray: namely, begging. Prayer is far more than just presenting your petitions before God, although prayer does, indeed, include that. Far too often, we fail – due to lack of time, or lack of will, or lack of knowing how – to allow God to speak to us. We say our little prayers, make our petitions, and then we move on to the next task in our life; it’s almost as if God is left sitting there, alone, saying “uh” Prayer involves more than just our talking to God; more important than what we say in prayer is what God says to us. Prayer is supposed to be more than just our begging God for things. Our prayer time is supposed to be a time for conversation with God, and in a conversation both we and God talk.

How do you let God speak to you? Do you sit in silence and listen for the voice of God? Do you use any means, any tools, any instruments to help you hear the voice of God? Human beings are naturally disposed toward the use of instrumentality; we need tools to help us do so much, and this is true of prayer as well. One of my favorite tools for prayer is the scriptures, and particularly the Psalms. By praying with and through the Psalms, we remove ourselves from the driver’s seat and allow God to move in and through our prayers, forming them and conforming them to the words of the Psalmist. In particular, I find helpful Psalm 23, Psalm 30:1-12, Psalm 42:1-5, Psalm 51:1-12, Psalm 63, Psalm 84:10-12, Psalm 86:1-7, Psalm 91, Psalm 121, Psalm 139, Psalm 145:1-16. There are many more excellent Psalms that can speak to us through our prayers, but these are among some of my favorites. In worship we’ve been going to the Psalms throughout most of this year for our Old Testament readings precisely to help us become more familiar with the Psalms as Scripture. They can also serve us well as models for prayer.

I offer this practice to you today. If you need help in praying, open your Bible to the Psalms and allow them to speak for you, and through you, to God.

FIRST THURSDAY

First Thursday
Potluck Luncheon
November 3 @ 12pm

COMMERCE CARES RECYCLE

Saturday, Nov. 5
9:00-11:00

At the intersection of
Walnut and Campbell Streets

Worship

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

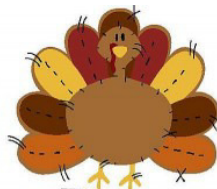
Charge Conference Sunday, Nov. 13



Combined Worship
@ 3:00pm
Wesley UMC in
Greenville

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 23 through Friday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving. We will reopen Monday, November 28.



Happy Thanksgiving

Men's Breakfast

Monday, Nov. 28th @ 7am at
McKay's Restaurant!

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



Adult Confirmation

Congregation-Wide Confirmation has started. It is held during the Sunday School Hour on the dates listed below. EVERYBODY is invited to join us. The Confirmation books are available to be picked up.

Class dates: Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, *Mar. 26, *Apr. 30, *May 21 (*tentative/open to adjustment).

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

www.revneal.org
www.youtube.com/revneal
www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo



Committee Chairs

- Ad Council Chair:**
Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142
- Vice Ad Council Chair:**
Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776
- Lay Leader:**
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- SPPRC Chair:**
Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503
- Trustees Chair:**
Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487
- 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) 246-3177
- Lay Member:**
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450
- UMW President:**
Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381

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 Monday, November 21 by 9:00am****



Merry Marketplace and Lunch

Saturday, December 3

10am - 3pm

First United Methodist Church
Benefiting Missions in Commerce & Beyond



*Working together to
care for those in need.*

Volunteer at Food Basket Distribution & Pancake Breakfast

On behalf of Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH, 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 Eve. In addition to loading up cars, we will host a pancake breakfast. Volunteers are needed to greet, assist the Wesleyan Campus Ministry prepare and serve breakfast, and shuffle boxes and turkeys

on the following dates at church:

- Saturday, November 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, December 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 to volunteer!





Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**10 Ways to Plug In to This 4th Annual
Fundraiser Benefiting Missions**

1. Mark your calendar now for December 3.
2. Share opportunity to order fresh evergreens by Monday, November 7.
3. Bring clean, empty quart-sized mason jars to church office for the stew lunch.
4. Bake, can, and create for the bakery.
5. Use your 40% off Hobby Lobby coupon to purchase craft supplies to get creative or a fun Christmas décor item for the marketplace.
6. Loan us your artificial Christmas tree starting the week of November 27 to help us create a welcoming forest in the Family Ministry Center.
7. Look in your closet for that vintage item or antique that will become someone's treasure at the marketplace.
8. Invite family, friends, and neighbors to shop, eat, and hear the Children's Choir sing at 12 p.m.
9. Volunteer to set up, work the day of, or clean up by calling Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547.
10. Have an idea? We'd love to hear it!



ANGEL TREE

The Angels Are Coming! The Angels Are Coming!

Believe it or not, 'tis the season when angels flock to our church as part of the Prison Ministries Fellowship Angel Tree Project, a ministry that FUMC-C has supported for 17 years. If this endeavor touches your heart, you can help by:

- adopting an angel and purchase a gift on behalf of the incarcerated parent;
- baking cookies/cupcakes for our party;
- donating materials for wrapping packages: boxes, gift bags, tissue paper, wrapping paper, tape, and bows;
- coming to our party and interacting with the families;
- praying for the children, their caregivers, and the incarcerated parent.

Happy Thanksgiving

*from your
FUMC-C Staff*



The Wesleyan is an “Unbelievable” Ministry

“Unbelievable” that is the word Bishop McKee used to describe what is happening at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry! When I shared all the updates over the summer and so far this semester everyone on the WCM Board was incredibly pleased. Perhaps no one more than Mary Brooke and Rev. Vic Casad, our District Superintendent. Days later at an East District event, Bishop McKee had already heard all the good news from Rev. Casad. With a big smile on his face the Bishop told me that all the updates were “UNBELIEVEABLE!” I responded by saying, “The Spirit is moving!” ultimately all the glory belongs to God. Everyone at WCM feels deeply blessed to have such fervent support from our District Superintendent and our Bishop.

This Holy Spirit is moving through FUMC’s support, our ministry would not be unbelievable without all of your help. Thank you for helping the Wesleyan be a ministry that receives such high praise! **Special thank yous to the Foundation, the Dough Rollins Class and WCM’s amazing student staff: David Owsley, Hillary Hawkins and Lupe Zapata!**

Rev. Casad and Bishop McKee are not the only ones affirming our ministry, President Dr. Keck is also very supportive. He invited me to meet with him in his office the first week of school, because campus ministry was so vital for him in college he wants to support campus ministry as much as he can. Dr. Keck was a guest speaker at the Wesleyan on Tuesday October 25. The Kecks have also invited our student leaders over to the Heritage house.

Unbelievable Updates: lots more students at Free Lunch (93 for Dos Loco Gringos food truck, 58 when the East District sponsored), Peace of Bread donating once a month, Love Group and Bible Study are getting new members, thriving on diversity, connecting with several other student organizations, more people in the building on a regular basis, on budget with two reserve funds, new donors, and overall we are working on former weakness to become our strengthens.

Thanks be to God and all of you!
Brian and the Wesleyan



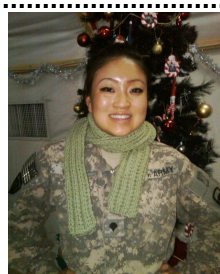
Prayer Shawl Corner

Karla Roffee has a special mission. She makes mittens for school children. She recently sent over 150 mittens to Iowa and Nebraska for her family to take to schools. She does this locally, too!

We are so thrilled to have her in our church's prayer shawl ministry group. They save small balls of yarn for her - both theirs and ones people donate to the group.

She is delighted to be a part of the group. Amazing what can be done with scrap yarn!!!

Special shout-out to Wesleyan Campus Ministry students who've made a commitment to volunteer regularly at the Commerce Food Pantry housed at the First Presbyterian Church! Pictured here are Manuel Pasillas, Brian Orlando Jones, and Jacqueline Tovar Yanez. The pantry serves neighbors in need Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Contact Isabel Davis at 903.886.2711 to volunteer or learn more about the pantry!



Blessing of the Scarves for Operation Gratitude
Sunday, November 8
10:50am Service
Scarves made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry



UMW will meet **Tuesday, November 15** at 10:00am. The program is World Thank Offering. Our November project is items for the Food Pantry.

All women are invited to join us!

In memory of...

Lewis Jackson

By: Dough Rollins SS Class
Lena Faulkner
Clarence & Kay Jensen
Eddie Smith
Mary & Roger Hinkle
Bennie & Janet Harvey
Norma Shotts

Glenna Siebenhausen

By: Mark & Frances Sartwell
Clarence & Kay Jensen
Judy Rudoff
Mariann Andrews
George & Betty Bryant

Lamont Cunningham

By: Mark & Frances Sartwell
Mariann Andrews

Don Reid

By: Jerry & Sandy Hutton
Clarence & Kay Jensen



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Oct 2	31	—	85	55
Oct 9	31	—	84	53
Oct 16	34	—	91	56
Oct 23	37	—	92	69



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of September 30, 2016 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 26,017	\$262,915
Expenses:	\$ 29,399	\$271,274
	-\$3,382	-\$8,359

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, Nov 1	Luke 6:17-30
Wednesday, Nov 2	Luke 20:27-38
Thursday, Nov 3	Psalm 145
Friday, Nov 4	Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Saturday, Nov 5	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Sunday, Nov 6	Luke 20:27-38
Monday, Nov 7	Isaiah 65:17-25
Tuesday, Nov 8	Isaiah 65:17-25
Wednesday, Nov 9	Psalm 118:1-20
Thursday, Nov 10	Psalm 118:21-29
Friday, Nov 11	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Saturday, Nov 12	Luke 21:5-9
Sunday, Nov 13	Luke 21:10-19
Monday, Nov 14	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Tuesday, Nov 15	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Wednesday, Nov 16	Luke 1:68-79
Thursday, Nov 17	Luke 23:33-38
Friday, Nov 18	Luke 23:39-43
Saturday, Nov 19	Colossians 1:11-14
Sunday, Nov 20	Colossians 1:15-20
Monday, Nov 21	Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday, Nov 22	Isaiah 2:1-5
Wednesday, Nov 23	Psalm 122
Thursday, Nov 24	Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35
Friday, Nov 25	Matthew 24:36-44
Saturday, Nov 26	Romans 13:11-14
Sunday, Nov 27	Matthew 24:36-44
Monday, Nov 28	Isaiah 11:1-5
Tuesday, Nov 29	Isaiah 11:6-10
Wednesday, Nov 30	Psalm 72:1-7



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Pete Smith

Susan Atkins Duncan (Harriet & Wyman Williams' friend)

Continued Prayers

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Pat Skauge, Hugh Hanby, Charlene Stewart, Susan Andresen, Loretta Kibler, Harry Icenhower, Gayle Shumate, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Mission of starting a new contemporary worship to reach new people for Jesus, Glenn Lockhart, Dave Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's father), Danny House, Pamela Haskin, Eisley Henderson, Linda Liston, Pete Chamberlain, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan's sister), Mike Coker (Harold Coker's brother), Dr. Mark Godat, Larry Chaloupka, Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister), Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Doris Kerbow, Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

Ahtrell Dalton, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Euple Walker, and Ruth Ann White

Briarcliff: Gladys and Jack Gray

The Haven (San Antonio): Faye Jackson

Oak Manor: Carol Peek

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...

2nd Marine Division
Danaycurce Childress
Mike Dempsey
Col. Peter Bailey
Garrett Johnson
Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad & Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
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

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcccommerce.org

office@fumcccommerce.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 21 by 9:00am