

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 11

November 2017

All Saints' Day

November 5 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 5. Come worship with us as we celebrate their lives, and offer support and prayers to their family members.



Our All Saints are:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| John King | Faye Jackson |
| Ruth Ann White | Harry Icenhower |
| Edwina Threlkeld | Ahtrell Dalton |
| Linda Chapman | Lucy Potts |
| Dick Walker | Mary Nell Roberts |
- o Family members and dear friends
 - o Military service men and women
 - o Those who have generously left gifts to the church foundation

**Merry Marketplace
and Lunch**
Saturday, December 2
10am - 3pm

First United Methodist Church
Benefiting Missions in Commerce & Beyond

Charge Conference Sunday,

November 19

3:00pm Combined Worship
Wesley UMC in Greenville

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 23, 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 5, 12, and 19 to volunteer. Please contact Amy Stark, our Community Thanksgiving Dinner coordinator, at 903.246.1487 or stark.amy1@gmail.com for more information.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	The Light, Upcoming Worship	pg. 3
Children's Choir & Ministry, Little Ark	pg. 4	Little Ark, Thanks, Trustees	pg. 5
Serve: Hunt County Gives, Evergreens	pg. 6	Merry Marketplace, Turkey Trot	pg. 7
Youth News, WCM, Committee Chairs, WCM	Pg. 8	Memorials, Attendance	pg. 9
Finances, Scriptures	pg. 9	Prayer List	pg. 10

Sainthood By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

“What’s a Saint?”

“What’s the Communion of the Saints about?”

“What role should Saints play in the Christian life?”

“Don’t Roman Catholics worship Mary and the other Saints?”

Considering the degree to which many Protestants fear things that even sound Catholic – and “Sainthood” sounds as Catholic as they come – I’m never surprised by questions like these. However, I am very dismayed at the idea that some Protestants still think that Catholics worship Mary and the other Saints. So, let’s begin here.



What are Catholics and other Christians doing when they light a candle before an image of Mary, then kneel down and pray? It looks like idol worship, doesn’t it? I mean, in some cases there’s no cross visible, nor even an image of Jesus. What’s going on here?

When I’m sick, alone, worried, frightened, troubled, tired, unsure, or in any other way in need of prayer, I will often turn to a few special people for help. I will ask my mother, my congregation, and my closest friends in the faith to pray for me; not because they have any magical powers, but because I believe in the divine power of intercessory prayer. Asking a fellow Christian for prayer is sanctioned by the Holy Scriptures, by the traditions of the Church, by Christian experience, and by reason. The power of massed prayer is beyond question.

Notice, I listed my mother first in the order of whom I ask to pray for me. I do this because I am the closest to her. I know how much she loves me, and I trust her without question to pray for what is right and not just for what I want or think I need.

So far, all this sounds fine. I don’t know a single Christian who doesn’t believe in the power of intercessory prayer. I don’t know a single Christian who would hesitate to ask some fellow Christian to pray for them in time of need. I think we’re in agreement, here, that intercessory prayer is powerful, and important, and that we shouldn’t fear it.

Fine. So why does it have to end with death? When a Christian dies, are they robbed of the ability to pray? When a Christian dies, why do we Protestants suddenly forget about asking them to pray for us? I can remember feeling at a loss for someone to pray for me soon after my Great Aunt Lucy’s death. She was the great pray-er in our family, the one who had an “undeniable way with the Lord.” Why should her death, or the death of any other Christian, end their ability to pray for us? It doesn’t.

That’s what “The Communion of the Saints” and All Saints Sunday is all about! On Sunday mornings in worship when we say, in the Apostles’ Creed we affirm that we believe in “The Communion of the Saints,” but we often do so without ever considering what we mean by that proclamation. By saying that we believe in the Communion of the Saints, we are saying that we believe that those members of the Family of God who have gone on to glory are *not lost* to us. They are members of the Communion of the Saints, just like those of us who are alive today, and are still very much alive in Christ Jesus! We believe that death doesn’t end our relationship with God, nor with those who live here on Earth. Death transforms the *characteristics* of how we live together, but whether we live here in this life or in Glory everlasting, we live together in Christ Jesus our Lord! Since we have victory over death through Jesus’ victory over death in his Resurrection, death does not separate us from the love of God or from the Community of Faith or from the Table of the Lord!

Now, when Catholics and other Christians kneel down before an image of the Virgin Mary, they are asking the mother of Our Lord to pray for them. Sure, they never knew her in life, but she, too, is a member of the Communion of the Saints, and they therefore believe that she is able to pray for them. The same is true with all the Saints because, you see, every Christian is a Saint – a “Saint under construction,” perhaps, but nevertheless a saint.

One Sunday many years ago, during the Children’s sermon, I asked “What’s a Saint?” and had an incredible response.

“Saint’s are people who follow the Lord.”

The girl who said that knows more than most of us put together. Saints are Christians . . . *all Christians*. We may not look like Saints, and we certainly don’t normally act like Saints, but the Scriptures make it clear that we *are* Saints because God as made us so.

As we come to the Table of the Lord, let us join together with all the Saints who have gone on to God in Glory above and give thanks to God that death does not separate us from them or from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

THE LIGHT

FUMC COMMERCE

Contemporary Service
Sundays @ 6pm
in the Family Ministry Center
Childcare & Sunday School available

Come and enjoy the music and the Word
Meet Nevin Jackson, our new Contemporary Service leader!

Sunday, November 5th
Monthly Potluck at 5pm
Worship at 6pm

In November the messages preached by Pastors Greg and Brian will focus on what it means to give thanks.

Worship

Sunday, November 5
All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 12

Sunday, November 19

Sunday, November 26
Christ the King Sunday

8:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

6:00pm ~ Family
Ministry Center

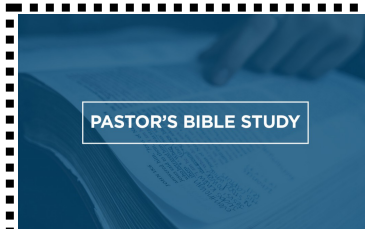
Mid-Month Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov. 15
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



Happy
Thanksgiving
from your FUMC-C Staff



Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 1pm

in the Friendship Classroom.

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!

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
November 2
@ 12pm

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

children's choir

Children's Choir and Little Ark will be working on centerpieces for the Community Thanksgiving dinner.

****We will need small mason jars and gold, orange, and red glitter. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.****

We will perform our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10 at 10:50 in the Sanctuary.

We will also perform some Christmas songs at the Merry Marketplace in the Family Ministries Center on Saturday, December 2nd at 12:00.

Children's Ministry

This month the Children's Department will be working on crafts and ornaments to sell at the Merry Marketplace on December 2. All proceeds will benefit Bridgeport camp for all 3rd-5th graders next summer.



Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:40am** and each evening at 6:00pm. We have been learning all about David and his journey to becoming king. This month we will complete David's story and move onto discovering King Solomon's role in history.



* We had a very successful "Donuts with Dad" in October. (pics are on the preschool Facebook page).

* We also had our annual decorated pumpkin auction...we have some seriously talented pumpkin artists.

* Little Ark is always looking for volunteers to come and read to the kiddos. Please contact Shelly Oats or Jennifer Knight if you are interested in volunteering your time.

* Upcoming events: Little Ark Thanksgiving Feast will be held in the Family Ministry Center on November 16th at 6:00. We would love for members of the church to join us for a fun evening of fellowship.

* Little Ark kids will make the centerpieces for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at our church on Thanksgiving Day.





LITTLE ARK THANKSGIVING FEAST

THURSDAY

NOV | 16 | 6 PM

Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring 1 dish for every 4 family members attending.

Sign up sheets are located at front desk.

RSVP by Nov. 14 to 903-246-5650

or jknight_littleark@yahoo.com



This is the time for recognizing and being thankful for our bountiful blessings. We would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude to all (and there are many) who make a contribution to the successful happenings within our church family. Thank you for your presence and commitment to FUMC-Commerce! We appreciate each and every one of you!

From the FUMC-Commerce Board of Trustees:

The past few months have been very active ones for this group of dedicated members. There have been called meetings in addition to regularly scheduled ones to make decisions concerning the church building and both parsonage's repairs and the manner of fund distributions resulting from the land sale and the Bill Tom Knight bequest. The task of making certain that every consideration is given to each detail of improvement has been a true learning experience for everyone.

The good news is that the funds are earning money through a plan designed by our FUMC Foundation in conjunction with Texas Methodist Foundation. This enhances and expands our financial condition greatly by allowing for even greater available funding to accomplish our objectives via earned interest.

To date, the Project Committee headed by Pat Skauge with members, J.D. Short and Dennis Anderson, have had a visible effect on both parsonages. The Associate Pastor's residence has been leveled and the drainage issues addressed successfully. Also, landscaping has begun. Our senior pastor's residence has been outfitted with working kitchen appliances and undergone initial landscaping. There is more to do at both homes, and it is in the planning and evaluation stage.

Our church building with the Project Committee headed by Gene Lockhart leading the committee of Al Stapleton and Joe Milligan has successfully found the firm of Edwin Brantley Smith and Associates, Inc., located in Dallas, TX. With the help of Jim Patton, our resident architect and our "interpreter" of all things dealing with architectural terms, a contract has been successfully negotiated and approved by the Board.

There has been a serious commitment on the part of each member of this Church committee and it has been duly recorded by our secretary, Trish King. Minutes of each meeting are held in the Church office and are available for review by our congregation.

Your Board of Trustees is excited by the future of our combined efforts toward major progress in answering the delegated responsibility of our calling. Please, feel free to contact any of us if you have a question or suggestion.

Church Trustees



Volunteer at Food Basket Distribution & Pancake Breakfast

On behalf of Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH, working in partnership with the Hunt County Coalition, we will distribute food baskets to pre-registered neighbors on the Saturday mornings prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition to loading up cars, we will host a pancake breakfast. Volunteers are needed to greet, prepare & serve breakfast, and shuffle boxes & turkeys on the following dates at church:

- Saturday, November 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, December 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 to volunteer!

Support Missions and Enjoy the Holidays with

Fresh Wreaths and Garlands

Direct from the Pacific Northwest

*Orders Due in Church Office on
Monday, November 6*



Evergreens
available for
pick-up Dec 2
at the Merry
Marketplace and
for direct delivery
within the first two
weeks after Thanksgiving!



Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547
for more information.





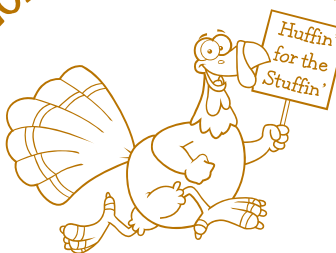
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MERRY MARKETPLACE & LUNCH FOR MISSIONS
COMMERCE

Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

How to Plug In to the 5th Annual Fundraiser Benefiting Missions

- ✦ Spread the word that orders for fresh evergreens are due Monday, November 6.
- ✦ Bring your artificial Christmas tree beginning Sunday, November 26, to create a welcoming forest in the Family Ministry Center. (You are welcome to take your loaner tree home on December 3.)
- ✦ Bake, can, and create for the Bakery.
- ✦ Use your 40% off Hobby Lobby coupon to purchase craft supplies to get creative or a fun Christmas décor item for the Market.
- ✦ Look in your closet for that vintage item or antique that will become someone's treasure at the Market.
- ✦ Volunteer by calling/texting Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547.
- ✦ Invite family, friends, and neighbors to shop, eat, and hear the Children's Choir sing at 12 p.m.

2017 6th Annual Maloy Road



TURKEYTROT

Thanksgiving Day, November 23
Begins 9 AM at 3920 FM 1568 (Maloy Rd)
Benefiting Commerce Food Pantry
Family Fun! Come Join Us! Walk or Run 5K!

Register by Emailing maloyroadturkeytrot@gmail.com
\$20 Registration Fee Includes T-Shirt [Adult Sizes Only (XS-XXXL)]

For More Information, Contact Celeste Prather @ 903-450-5579
Individual & Corporate Sponsorships Available

YOUTH NEWS

Date	Time/ Location	Youth Event
Friday, November 3	11P-12A FUMC	Pancakes after the game
Sunday, November 5	4-6P FUMC	Come and Join us for the Light Service and Pot Luck
Sunday, November 12	4-6P FUMC	Laser Tag and Bowling
Sunday, November 19	4-6P FUMC	Game Day
Sunday, November 26	4-6P FUMC	Youth is canceled; enjoy time with your family
Sunday, December 3	4-5:30P FUMC	Come and join us at the Light Service and Potluck

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:
Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lay Leader:
Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:
Jim Patton (903) 886-4612

Trustees Chair:
Virginia Collier (903) 367-7588

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) 246-1487

Lay Member:
Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



Inclusiveness Rally

The first thing most folks learn about the Wesleyan is how inclusive our ministry is to ALL God’s diverse children! We celebrated our inclusiveness on October 11 by having a rally at the ‘Campus Crossroads’ in front of the library. From 11:30-1:30, WCM students served free pizza that was donated by Pizza Hut, held up affirming signs, invited passers-by to sign a poster saying “My Faith Does Not Discriminate,” and had several posters supporting the LGBT community that students could take pictures with.

The response from the student body was enormous! Approximately **120** students stopped by and engaged in activities and discussion. We met *all kinds* of students- Muslim, Christian, ‘unchurched,’ Black, White, Hispanic, straight, gay, bi, trans, ace, older, younger, musical, athletic, academic, Greek Life...

In a world of discord, division and discrimination, as faithful disciples of Christ, the Wesleyan Campus Ministry of FUMC-C strives to show God’s Love and Grace to all on campus! Instead of protesting against something, we felt that it was/is important for folks of faith to promote the Gospel Message of Unity and Love. After all, as our banner that hangs on our wall says, “We are all Family in Christ!”

Ministries and events like this would not be possible without FUMC-C’s support, ***thank you*** to all who contribute to the WCM! If you’d like to know how you and/or your small group can support the WCM contact Pastor Brian; brian@fumccommerce.org





**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday
November 19**

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

In memory of...

Lucy Potts

By: Edna O'Quinn
 Judy & Dennis Anderson
 Pat & Janet Skauge
 Dough Rollins SS Class
 Loretta Kibler
 Douglas Whinnery
 Laurie & Christian Marlowe
 Albert & Janice Narracci
 Gerald & Regena Smith
 Hal & Sherry Traver
 Woman's Culture Club
 Lena Faulkner
 Mariann Andrews
 Family of Cornelius &
 Carlota Engle
 Lester & Effie Fahle

Ahtrell Dalton

By: Dough Rollins SS Class
 Steve Siebenhausen
 Edna O'Quinn
 Nell & John Avery
 Loretta Kibler
 Mariann Andrews

Harry Icenhower

By: Shirley Erb

Carolyn Allbritton

By: Carole Walker
 Gil & Tammy Naizer
 Brian & Lauren Dierolf



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:

- Wednesday, Nov 1 Revelation 7:9-17
- Thursday, Nov 2 Matthew 23:1-10
- Friday, Nov 3 Matthew 23:11-12
- Saturday, Nov 4 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- Sunday, Nov 5 Matthew 23:8-10
- Monday, Nov 6 Psalm 78:1-4
- Tuesday, Nov 7 Joshua 24:1-3a
- Wednesday, Nov 8 Matthew 25:1-13
- Thursday, Nov 9 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Friday, Nov 10 Matthew 25:1-13
- Saturday, Nov 11 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- Sunday, Nov 12 Psalm 78:1-7
- Monday, Nov 13 Judges 4:1-7
- Tuesday, Nov 14 Psalm 123
- Wednesday, Nov 15 Psalm 123
- Thursday, Nov 16 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Friday, Nov 17 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Saturday, Nov 18 Matthew 25:14-30
- Sunday, Nov 19 Matthew 25:14-30
- Monday, Nov 20 Ezekiel 34:11-16
- Tuesday, Nov 21 Ezekiel 34:20-24
- Wednesday, Nov 22 Ephesians 1:15-23
- Thursday, Nov 23 Psalm 100
- Friday, Nov 24 Ephesians 1:15-23
- Saturday, Nov 25 Matthew 25:31-44
- Sunday, Nov 26 Matthew 25:45-46
- Monday, Nov 27 Isaiah 64:1-4
- Tuesday, Nov 28 Isaiah 64:5-9
- Wednesday, Nov 29 Psalm 80:1-3
- Thursday, Nov 30 Psalm 80:4-7, 17-19



Attendance

	Early	Late	Light	SS	Wed.
Oct 1	34	66	38	51	
Oct 8	26	73	28	50	
Oct 11					6
Oct 15	30	59	29	38	
Oct 22	24	68	22	43	
Oct 29	—	76	22	24	



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of September 30, 2017 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 31,592	\$ 260,489
Expenses:	\$ 27,548	\$ 267,350
	\$ 4,044	-\$ 6,861



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Tom Collier

Kathy Parker (Walt Parker's daughter-in-law)

Judy Rudoff

Victims of Recent Natural Disasters and Wildfires

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth Cline (Tammy Naizer's father), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Rev. Tom Dudley, his brother, and his niece, Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Loretta Kibler, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Carter McLeroy (Bob & Julie McLeroy's grandson), Betty Morton, Kyle Polard (Judy Fane's Son), Gayle Shumate, Robert Seay, Madeline Sullivan, Rev. Clay Yeager

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

Briarcliff: Jack Gray

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...

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

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

www.revneal.org

www.youtube.com/revneal

www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo



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
Tuesday, November 21 by 9:00am