

First United Methodist Church

Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 9

September 2018



A&M-COMMERCE

LIONS

Sunday

Lions Sunday Potluck

Sunday, September 9

after 10:50am service

Join us as we welcome back our A&M-Commerce students for the 2018/2019 academic year! We will celebrate our college students with a potluck after the 10:50am service. **Please bring a side dish to share.** (*the Connect/Grow Team will provide meat/entrees.*)

**BASH TO
THE FUTURE**



Children's Dept.

Bois d'Arc Bash

Parade Float

Saturday, September 22

at 10am

**9:30am—Meet us on Park St
to join in the fun!**

All children are invited to join us on the FUMC-Commerce Children's Dept. float for the Bois D'Arc Bash parade.

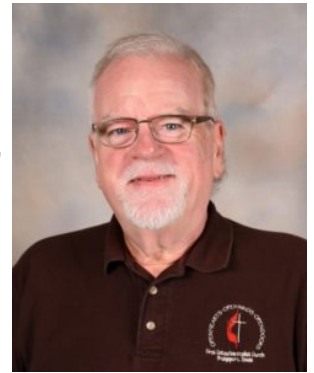
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Grace Notes: Tuning In

When you are in a famine, you go to Joseph. When you are in a deserted Place, you go to the Redeemer. When you are well and strong, you go to God with praise and thankfulness. Ah, that is the one that catches us! In our need, we eagerly turn to God for help. But when we are at our best, we want to rely on our own strength! The children of Israel in Exodus complained about their discomfort at every step of the way. But when their needs were being met and they were comfortable, they forgot God's blessings and bowed to other gods.



Whether we are strong or weak, we need to come to church. Participating fully in the worship life of your church family is the way to stay connected. Sometimes we come bringing our needs. At other times we bring our strengths--when we are in a place of strength! Each weekend, our congregation welcomes people who are in need and are searching for strength of faith. And we are blessed with others who, at that time, have some faith to share.

Worship is where we get our orientation for the week. It is the most important thing we do. We turn in our work for the week just ended and we get our marching orders for the week to come. When we are weak, we come seeking. And when we are strong, we come to share strength. Either way, it is worship and we all need to be here. Both ways we stay in touch with God through worship, and we stay on our spiritual course.

A generation ago, a sheep rancher in the remote mountains of Idaho found that his violin was out of tune. Try as he might, he was unable to make the instrument sound the way it should. A frequent listener to a radio station in California, he wrote the station concerning his problem and asking them to strike the proper pitch for him at a certain hour and minute on a certain day. They understood and fulfilled his request. At the agreed time, they stopped their programming, silencing all other sounds for that moment, and they struck the A-440. In his shepherd's hut in the distant mountains, the shepherd tuned in, heard the sound of the A, and from that single note, he put his instrument into tune again. By staying connected, he was able to tune his instrument and make that sweet music again.

This is the like the hour of worship: a special time of being in touch with God. Here we listen for the signal tone that God strikes for our lives. We listen for the C pitch--*the perfect Christ pitch*--given by which our hearts may be put in tune with God and with God's people. You come to hear it... And you have the responsibility to sound the tune for others who are listening to you.

If you are not here, someone may not hear it. See you in worship this Sunday!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam".

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
September 6 @
12pm

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



THE LIGHT

FUMC COMMERCE

Contemporary Service

Sundays @ 6pm in the Family Ministry Center
First Sunday Potluck - September 2 at 5pm

As the semester starts at Texas A&M University-Commerce, The Light is welcoming the college students in our community and hoping to provide a place for them to connect with God and a community. We will be providing lunch at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry on Wednesday, August 29, and The Light band will play some songs to introduce the students to our service and invite them to our **first Sunday potluck on Sunday, September 2**. When you encounter college students in the community, we pray that you'll join us in extending a welcome and an invitation to be part of our worshipping community every Sunday evening at 6:00!

If you'd like to help provide food for the free lunch at the Wesleyan on August 29 or at our potluck on September 2, please contact Nevin at nevin@fumccommerce.org."

If you haven't already, be sure to join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/thelightworship/ for the latest information about The Light, including news, upcoming events, and a weekly preview of the songs we'll be singing each Sunday.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, September 2
Communion Sunday

Sunday, September 9
Lion Sunday

Sunday, September 16

Sunday, September 23

Sunday, September 23

8:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

6:00pm ~ Family

Ministry Center

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

Worship & Connect Chair:

Pastor Sam (214) 842-9252

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



Altar Flowers

If you are interested in giving flowers for the Altar on September 30, October 28, or November 4, please contact Luann Huffman at 903-886-3368 or lhuffman01@cumbytel.com.



COOKING CLASSES

Commerce Community Garden Cooking Classes

Saturday, September 8
10am-noon

The focus of this class is preparing food from the garden and learning ways to save money at the grocery store. To register, please call the church office at 903-886-3220.



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 October deadline is Tuesday, September 18 by 9:00am****



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 September is: "...A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him." (Matthew 3:17)

Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to School Sunday

We had a great turnout for Blessing of the Backpacks. Back to School is a great time to get Back to Church and begin a new schedule for your family. Thank you for coming and to those that donated backpacks to our local schools!

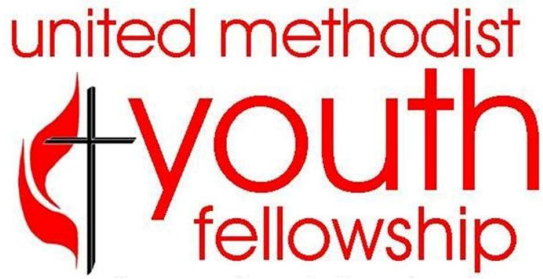


Little Ark is closed on September 3 for Labor Day.

We are celebrating Grandparents Day on Friday, September 7 at 8am with our 2nd Annual Griddlecakes for Grandparents. We would like to invite church members to come on in and meet/greet the grandparents of our Little Ark kiddos.

- Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We had 30 members of our congregation sign up to sponsor a Little Ark student. Our Pre-K and Preschool classes LOVED their new books on the first day of school and especially loved having your sweet, kind words read to them.
- Thank you for praying for our children each day!
- Pastor Sam began Chapel Time with the Little Ark PK kids this week. He played his guitar, sang songs and taught them that Jesus loves all the little children and that makes each of them very special.
- Thank you Pastor Sam.





UMYF is back! Middle school and high school students are invited to be part of United Methodist Youth Fellowship every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00. Every week we'll have games and fellowship, snacks, worship, bible study, and small groups.

Our theme for 2018-2019 will be **FEED (ALL) MY SHEEP**. We will explore the gospel of Luke and discover what it means to carry out Jesus' mandate to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom to

everyone everywhere, including the most vulnerable in society. Using Jesus as our example, we will embark on short- and long-term mission projects through the year as we feed our own souls and answer Christ's call to feed others.

If you know any middle school or high school youth, please invite them to come and see what UMYF is all about. There is always room for more, and each student is welcome!



UMYF Fall Events

The youth will be going to Six Flags Over Texas for Fright Fest on Saturday, September 29. We will leave the church at 9:30 am and spend the day at the park. For details and cost, contact Nevin. Deadline to register for this trip is Sunday, September 23.

Other events this fall:

- Tailgate and Game Day at Texas A&M-Commerce – Saturday, October 13
- Shenaniganz in Rockwall – Saturday, November 3
- Shopping and Ice Skating at Galleria Dallas – Saturday, December 15

Contact with FUMCC Youth Ministry

Join our Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415260338564559/>

Follow us on Instagram: [@fumccommerceyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumccommerceyouth)

For Parents:

To sign up to receive texts using Remind, go to <https://www.remind.com/join> and enter class code **fumccumyf**, or text **@fumccumyf** to **81010**

To sign up our email list, send an email to nevin@fumccommerce.org with the subject line "Subscribe to Email List"



Thirteen of our youth spent part of their last Friday before school started helping their fellow North Texans as volunteers at the North Texas Food Bank in Dallas. The youth helped sort and bag mangoes for distribution to local food pantries like the Commerce Food Pantry. In just two hours, they prepared 969 bags—a total of 3640 pounds of food that will provide 3033 meals. It was a great start to Feed All My Sheep!

Back to School BLOWOUT

Back to School Blowout was a great success! Thank you to everyone that came and helped with this event. The kids had a great time and we were able to visit with many families throughout the morning.





MISSION of the MONTH

Mission of the Month

We are recognizing Hunger Action Month by making the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) our September mission of the month. All \$1 bills and designated gifts to missions during September will benefit the NTFB.

Feeding America established Hunger Action Month in 2008 as a nationwide effort to get people involved with the hunger crisis across the county. Advocates work together to shine a light on this pressing issue, affecting 17,260 of our neighbors right here in Hunt County. Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, and the North Texas Food Bank is a member of it.



As a member of Feeding America, the NTFB distributes donated and purchased foods to more than 200 partner agencies in 13 counties. Three of those partner agencies serve our food-insecure neighbors in the Commerce area:

- Bread of Life Food Pantry located at Church of the Nazarene in Commerce
- Commerce Food Pantry located at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce
- Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH in downtown Greenville

How to Participate in Hunger Action Month



- ✓ Place your \$1 bills and designated gifts in the offering plate throughout September, which will go directly to the NTFB.
- ✓ “Meat the Need” by bringing in canned protein such as Spam for the Commerce Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the collection box outside the church office during September.
- ✓ Drop your handled brown bags like the ones from Braum’s by the church office. Food 4 Kids and the Commerce Food Pantry will reuse them.
- ✓ Visit one of the local food pantries to see how these programs are making an impact in our community and who knows, you may be moved to become a regular volunteer!
 - Bread of Life Food Pantry on 3rd Wednesdays from 5 to 8 p.m. Home deliveries made earlier in day. Contact Jan Helton at 903.450.7335 for more information.
 - Commerce Food Pantry on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 for more information.





From Your Finance Committee

Our July results are a combination of good news and bad news. Thanks to your continued support giving for July was actually above our plan—making us above plan for the year: a very good sign. However, due to a quarterly insurance payment, expenses were also above plan. Even if we included special giving we are still behind for the year.

There is a silver lining in that overall giving is improving and expenses are stabilizing indicating that results for the year are likely to be close to the deficit we had in our annual plan. Earlier it was feared things would be much worse.

The committee is now looking forward with renewed optimism as we plan for year 2019. Thanks for your support! However, please remember, we still need that little extra to get us over the hump.



A big Thank You to everyone who supported the Wesleyan as August's Mission of the Month! Whether you dropped a dollar (or more), worked on the work day, signed up to sponsor a lunch, etc., we greatly appreciate it! THANK YOU!!



WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

At the Wesleyan Campus Ministry this semester, we are launching a new way for all churches in our East District to support campus ministry: at the Wesleyan and/or at Paris Junior College. It's called the "12:15 Campaign." We will be asking churches and members to pledge to donate \$15 (or more) per month for 12 months and to pray for campus ministry everyday at 12:15pm (or am if you're a night owl).

Fancy mailers are coming soon with more information, but if you would like to commit to supporting us in ministry in this way please let me know. If you are already giving every month/week please know that we greatly appreciate your support!

Thanks for making the Wesleyan Campus Ministry possible!

"Making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, by offering students an inclusive and welcoming faith community where ALL God's diverse children: Belong, Believe, Become!"

God bless you
Pastor Brian
brian@fumccommerce.org



Our Children's Council is focused on the mission of making disciples of the children of Commerce and all children we reach in the broader community, while strengthening our own faith through our ministry. We are meeting and working together to plan programs, Sunday school education, and activities to meet the needs of our children. We are planning Christian-based, kid-centered events throughout the year. Look forward to seeing our active kids!

A New Heart for Garrett

Rachel and Garrett Cramer are likely familiar faces or names. Rachel has worked as a Little Ark teacher for 4 years. Garrett has been on our prayer list ever since he was diagnosed with [multiple myeloma](#), a type of cancer, as well as [cardiac light-chain \(AL\) amyloidosis](#) in October, 2014. At that time, the family was told Garrett's life expectancy would be about six months. Since then, Garrett has responded very well to chemotherapy. He responded so well that the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville put Garrett on a heart transplant list. He received a heart and is undergoing transplant surgery Thursday, August 28 at 1pm. Rachel and their three children have relocated to nearby Bowling Green, Kentucky, about an hour's drive from the hospital, so they can be together as a family.



In addition to your ongoing prayers for Garrett, his family, and his medical team, here are other ways you can provide support:

- Follow their story on the Facebook page "A New Heart for Garrett" and read about the two quilts made by Rachel to raise funds for his heart transplant.
- Visit www.gofundme.com and search "A New Heart for Garrett" to make a donation.
- Make plans to attend the 3rd Annual Hopkins County "Salute The Veteran" BBQ Cook-off on November 10 in the Civic Center in Sulphur Springs. The event is hosted by Operation Victor Echo Tango (OVET) with proceeds benefiting local veterans in need, including Garrett Cramer.
- Mail a note of encouragement to: 704 Ridgecrest Way Bowling Green, KY 42104



Save the Date!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MERRY MARKETPLACE & LUNCH FOR MISSIONS
COMMERCE

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018
Family Ministry Center





Men's Breakfast
Monday, Sept. 24
@ 7am
at Omega's Restaurant!

Come and have breakfast with Pastor Sam, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!

e-GIVING 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, 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>
Aug 5	27	72	24	39
Aug 12	44	92	18	45
Aug 19	45	88	22	56
Aug 26	53	92	18	47

Financial Information
General Operating Fund

	<u>as of July 31, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 38,642*	\$202,281
Expenses:	\$ 38,275	\$220,898
	\$ 367	-\$18,617

*includes extra giving

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:

Saturday, Sept 1	Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Sunday, Sept 2	Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Monday, Sept 3	Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Tuesday, Sept 4	James 2:1-7
Wednesday, Sept 5	James 2:14-17
Thursday, Sept 6	Mark 7:24-30
Friday, Sept 7	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday, Sept 8	Psalm 125
Sunday, Sept 9	James 2:8-13
Monday, Sept 10	Mark 8:27-30
Tuesday, Sept 11	Mark 8:31-38
Wednesday, Sept 12	Proverbs 1:20-33
Thursday, Sept 13	Psalm 19
Friday, Sept 14	James 3:1-8
Saturday, Sept 15	Psalm 19:7-14
Sunday, Sept 16	James 3:9-12
Monday, Sept 17	Proverbs 31:10-31
Tuesday, Sept 18	Psalm 1
Wednesday, Sept 19	James 3:13-18
Thursday, Sept 20	James 4:1-3
Friday, Sept 21	James 4:7-8a
Saturday, Sept 22	Mark 9:30-32
Sunday, Sept 23	Mark 9:33-37
Monday, Sept 24	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10
Tuesday, Sept 25	Esther 9:20-22
Wednesday, Sept 26	Psalm 124:1-5
Thursday, Sept 27	Psalm 124:6-8
Friday, Sept 28	James 5:13-20
Saturday, Sept 29	Mark 9:38-41
Sunday, Sept 30	Mark 9:42-50



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Family of June Roderick (Dennis & Judy
Anderson's friend)
Josh Giles
Ella Hemingway
Shirley Jones

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting
country and world, our world and country's leaders,
Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Ann Chamberlain
(Pete Chamberlain's wife), Martha Clevenger, Ken-
neth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold
Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Carol Davis,
Corky Drinkard, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's
cousin), Mel Fox, Jack and Gladys Gray, Betty
Grimm (Lauren Dierolf's grandmother), Sally Grove,
Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton
(Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Steve
Lawson, Zachary Madden, Allen Martin, Debbie
McCord, Donna Perkins, Harold & Priscilla McFarland
(Julia Robinson's parents), Richard Norton, Mary
Ogletree (Mimi Dobbs' mother), Robert Seay, Billy
Stocker (J.D. Short's uncle)

Oak Manor: Mary Elizabeth Channon, Barbara Gish
and Euple Walker

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

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain
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).*

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumccommerce.org

office@fumccommerce.org

**First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Tuesday, September 18 by 9:00am