

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 17, Issue 9

September 2019



2019 Stewardship Campaign

We are grateful, thankful, and blessed! Let's pass it on! God blesses people with spiritual renewal and life through new breath — The Spirit.

It's time for us to give prayerful consideration to how we're going to give to the ministries of our church in the coming year. What is God placing on our hearts to do? How will our faith in God grow through the giving of our gathered prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

PASS IT ON! following thoughts...

GRATEFUL. THANKFUL. BLESSED. During our Sunday morning services, the sermons will focus upon our theme with the

Sunday, September 15, 2019: Respiration—The process of renewal of our bodies, which consists of breathing out wastes and toxins and inhaling oxygen. This process, essential to our living, also fuels our expression through speech and song. Scripture speaks of breathing as a dialogue with God.

Sunday, September 22, 2019: Expiration—The act or process of breathing out, or forcing air from the lungs through the nose or mouth respiration consists of inspiration and expiration. Emission of volatile matter; exhalation. (Not to be confused with its use as a euphemism for dying where it actually means breathing out for the last time!

Sunday, September 29, 2019: Inspiration—The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative. All three words have the root spir which is all about breathing. Inspire is to breathe in the very breath of God. In the creation story, this is how the very first humans came to be alive and began to breathe.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMERCE

Our Year of Jubilee: Re-Member the Future

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

10:50 AM WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY 12:30PM LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP IN FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER

pg. 2	Little Ark, UMYF, Children's	pg. 3
pg. 3	Children's: VBS Wrap Up & Pictures	pg. 4-5
pg. 6	Back to School Celebration	pg. 7
pg. 8	September Mission of the Month	pg. 9
pg. 10	The Light, WCM	pg. 10
pg. 11	Prayer List	pg. 12
	pg. 3 pg. 6 pg. 8 pg. 10	pg. 3 Children's: VBS Wrap Up & Pictures pg. 6 Back to School Celebration pg. 8 September Mission of the Month pg. 10 The Light, WCM

"God is Still Creating, Forming and Carving Us"

Words that we say and hear are planted in our minds. They blossom into thoughts and actions. We can't see a spoken word, but words that are spoken often stir up a stream of pictures. When we are weak, we may imagine the worst; fear-filled words can take over. When we are at our best, positive words and prayers lay a foundation for something good. For artists and dreamers, there is a well-traveled bridge between imagination and reality. Words can span that gap.

Words are a huge part of the space between ideas and reality. They are effective and have the power to bless or to curse--to cause or to prevent. The prophets of old



were understood to speak for God. Sometimes their messages were hopeful; sometimes they were filled with doom. If you doubt that words have power, imagine the deep and lasting meaning of the words in a marriage ceremony-- "I do". The simplest words and shortest sentence pack profound and binding meaning that endures-- "I do." Or... "I don't."

When we join the church by baptism or by confirming our faith in Jesus Christ, words help us make that commitment. We witness the baptism or confirmation of new disciples, and we join in that promise with these words... "With God's help, we will so order OUR lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, YOU may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." (United Methodist Hymnal, p.48)

WORDS MATTER. Spoken words and written words guide us. Making good on our word--backing up our words with our deeds--is essential to our faith. Grandmother Reeves used to say, "Pretty is as pretty does." She was making the case that to be real and genuine, our words and deeds must match.

In the scriptures, God's words are tied to actions. Where God speaks in the first chapters of Genesis, new realities emerge. God says, "Let there be light!" and light appears! In every verse of the Creation Song, new realities happen because of words. God's words have effective power. Since we humans are created in God's image, our words are effective as well.

In the gospel of John, the strong bond is made that Jesus is God's ultimate **WORD**--the bridge between heard and seen, between divine and human. Words are plentiful; the WORD is sacred.

Let us speak and reflect words of blessing and not of condemning. Let us use our words to speak praise and teach gently, to raise up rather than tear down with criticism or gossip. Let us speak **hope** into the lives of all our children and youth and everyone we influence. Let us say fewer words and use words that will **bring good** to the ones who hear them.

You are being carved and shaped by God to do good in the world. God is always forming his people to **become** a blessing. So... how are YOU changing? And how are you **SPEAKING HOPE** to the ones who hear your words?

Sam

sam@fumccommerce.org







We are looking for a volunteer to teach PE Thursdays from 11-11:30

- Times/subjects can be changed to accommodate the volunteers. LA has or will get PE supplies that are needed.
- If you are interested, please contact

Jennifer Knight or Shelly Oats.

Little Ark is closed on September 2 for Labor Day.

We are celebrating Grandparents Day on Friday, September 6 at 8am with our 2nd Annual Griddlecakes for Grandparents. We would like to invite church members to come help serve and be stand in Grandparents.

Sunday School for children PK-5th grade meets each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:30 in the Pre-K room in the children's wing. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!



FUMC-C YOUTH CORNER

UMYF kicks off the new school year on Sunday, September 8. We will meet every Sunday from 2-4pm for food, fun, and fellowship!

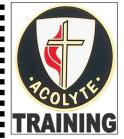
For more information, please contact Jennifer Knight and Mandy Swinson at fumccommerceyouth@gmail.com.



Confirmation

Confirmation Class Meeting Sunday, September 8 @ 9:45am

in the Confirmation Room



Acolyte Training Sunday, September 8 @ 9:45am

We will have breakfast snacks to enjoy in the Family Ministry Center then have training in the Sanctuary.

upcoming Worship

Sunday, September 1

Sunday, September 8

Sunday, September 15

Sunday, September 22

Sunday, September 29

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Pat Skauge (903) 259-9875

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



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, September 23 by 9:00am

UBS 2017: TO MARS AND BEYOND

What an awesome month we had "going Beyond with God" at the To Mars and Beyond VBS! "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!" Ephesians 3:20.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made VBS a success! Thank you ALL for sharing your time, energy, and talents on this To Mars and Beyond VBS mission.



On Wednesday, July 17th, we blasted off on our first mission to Go Beyond With FAITH! Voyagers learned about Daniel's trust and faithfulness in God even in the lions' den (Daniel 6). We explored the meaning of faith and ways we can trust God like Daniel.



The second Wednesday's mission was to Go Beyond with BOLDNESS! Through the Bible story of Queen Esther, Voyagers explored ways to stand up for others with courage from God (Esther 4-9).



For the third Wednesday our mission was to Go Beyond with KINDNESS! "Like the Good Samaritan who showed true kindness to the injured man, we can show God's love and kindness through our actions" (Luke 10:25-37). Voyagers made cards to give to someone in need of some kindness. They also made a second kindness card to be mailed to church members and friends who are in the hospital, nursing home, assisted living or homebound.



Our final mission on Wednesday, August 7, was to Go Beyond with THANKFULNESS! In the Bible story of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, the Samaritan came back to give thanks (Luke 17:11-19). Voyagers explored ways to show gratitude to others.

All were invited to come celebrate at VBS Sunday and Back to School Sunday on August 11th. The VBS mission was STUFF the BUS! We collected 2 large boxes of school supplies for CISD. Thank you all for the support of this mission.

Throughout the year, may we all seek to go beyond our comfort zone to deepen our faith, stand up for others



Volume 17, Issue 9

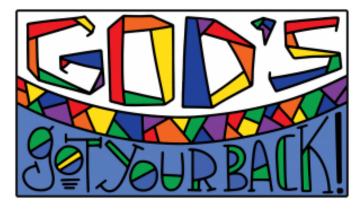




We had a great group perform the song we learned at VBS "To Mars and Beyond" with the help of our music leaders, Tyler, Erin and Maggie. After a slideshow of VBS pictures taken by Robyn, we asked for God's blessings on our children, teachers and staff for a successful school year. May we all remember to Go Beyond with God this school year and show faith, boldness, kindness and thankfulness everywhere we go.



We prayed for blessings on students, teachers and staff for a successful school year! We gave each a backpack blessing tag and a pencil as a reminder that God goes with you and that your church family is praying for you. We also dedicated donated backpacks and school supplies to be distributed by CISD Family Services.





Our Year of Jubilee Re-Member the Future

As First United Methodist Church Commerce celebrates its Jubilee year, 50 years in this church building, we need to remember our beginning, where we are today, and set our hearts and minds to the future. This congre-



gation has been in existence since October 1881 and has been served by several church buildings. We are celebrating 50 years at our current location with a service and luncheon on October 20. Here is a brief history of this building's beginning.

On April 25, 1963, a deed was drawn up for the sale of 4.86 acres of land to be purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Biggers for a building site. Twenty-five men of the church paid \$20,000 for the land. Later, after construction of the new church was started, these men deeded the land to First Methodist. The land purchased was on Highway 50 west of the campus of East Texas State University.

After two years of planning and a fund-raising program, ground was finally broken for the new church. The structure was completed in February 1968, and the first services were held in the new church on February 25, 1968.

Soon parishioners will receive an invitation to the catered luncheon scheduled for 12:30pm, after the 10:50am service on October 20. The luncheon is free; however we are asking parishioners to provide the church with an RSVP whether you will be attending or not attending the the luncheon and how many are in your party. This is for planning purposes, so the caterers know how many members and guests to prepare for. The RSVP is dated, so please return your response by that date.

Since 1968, there have been many memories made in this church, including baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals and memorials. The motto for the Church congregation's centennial celebration in 1981 was "Reverence for the Past, Pride in the Present, Faith in the Future". We are "Re-Membering the Future", another way of saying that earlier motto. We are now celebrating 50 wonderful years in this church building, we are thankful for the present, and we are looking forward to the future.

We have a wonderful and multi-functional Family Ministry Center capable of supporting large numbers of parishioners. We have Little Ark preschool. We have an education wing for multiple Sunday school classes, and church offices. We are blessed!

There are special memories of family and church activities in this church! Please share one special memory of your time in this church. There is a large envelope posted on the Administrative Council Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Education Wing. Please take some time to reflect on that special memory, jot it down on a sheet of paper and drop it in the envelope provided. Be sure to date the memory and, if a photo, include who are in the photo and when and where it was taken. These memories will be shared with the congregation. Also, let us know what aspirations you have for First United Methodist Church. These aspirations will reflect our future!

Sincerely, and in service to our Lord and Savior, The Jubilee Committee

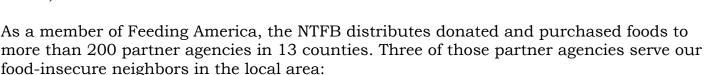


Mission of the Month

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.



- 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.

SEPTEMBER IS

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

donate | volunteer | advocate



A big Thank You to everyone who supported the Wesleyan as the August 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!!





The Light Worship Sundays @ The Wesleyan Campus Ministry **6p Kin-dom Dinner Potluck** 6:30p Worship

9/8 Welcome Home!

9/15-10/20 Sermon Series: The Gospel according to Mr. Rogers

- Welcome to the Neighborhood 9/15
- 9/22 Hi, I Am
- 9/29 Won't You be my Neighbor
- Reconciliation and Foot Washing 10/6
- 10/13 Feeling is Caring
- 10/20 Breaking Down Barriers



Mr. Rogers Documentary screening Tuesday, September 10 at 6pm at the WCM (1504 Lee St.).



This Summer at the WCM

We had a fruitful Summer!

UM Army painted all our interior a fresh white, with a calming blue in the back room. I've been on a guest preaching tour, with stops in; Grand Prairie, Clarksville, and twice at Poetry. Next up I'll go to Paris and Winnsboro.

We received two grants to fund the Assistant Minister student staff position! In addition to that we have raised \$10,000 YTD and will be receiving a matching grant from the East District. Thank you FUMC for donating the August Drop a Dollar to the WCM.



WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

The Wesleyan was superbly well represented at the East District Committee on Ministry meeting August 19, three people being interviewed for the ordination process came from our ministry! Alumni David Owlsey was approved to be sent to the Conference level P&Q (to in-

terview to be Commissioned as a Provisional Elder)! Recent graduate, and now Perkins Seminary student, David Kemp was approved to become a Certified Candidate in the ordination process! And current Assistant Minister, Mikey Elwell was introduced to DCOM and officially started his process towards becoming ordained! To have three persons from our campus ministry in the ordination process is historic, is exceptional, is awesome...is the fruit of everyone's support!

In memory of...

Gayle Shumate

By: Alta Fay Peden Mariann Andrews Bobby & Kathy Hill





Men's Breakfast Monday, Sept. 30 @ 7am at Omega's Restaurant!

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



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
August 4	50	51	45
August 11	27	139	53
August 18	38	77	44
August 25	35	68	49

Financial Information General Operating Fund

as of July 31	l, 2019	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 22.773	\$195,270
Expenses:	\$ 31,043	<u>\$212,765</u>
	-\$ 8,270	-\$ 17,495

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:

Daily Scripture Readings:				
Sunday, September 1	Psalm 81:15-16			
Monday, September 2	Luke 14:25-26, 33			
Tuesday, September 3	Psalm 139:1-6			
Wednesday, September 4	Psalm 139:13-18			
Thursday, September 5	Jeremiah 18:1-6			
Friday, September 6	Jeremiah 18:6-11			
Saturday, September 7	Philemon 1-21			
Sunday, September 8	Luke 14:27-33			
Monday, September 9	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28			
Tuesday, September 10	Psalm 14			
Wednesday, September 11	1 Timothy 1:12-17			
Thursday, September 12	Luke 15:1-10			
Friday, September 13	1 Timothy 1:12-17			
Saturday, September 14	Luke 15:1-10			
Sunday, September 15	Jeremiah 4:22-28			
Monday, September 16	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1			
Tuesday, September 17	Psalm 79:1-4			
Wednesday, September 18	Psalm 79:5-9			
Thursday, September 19	1 Timothy 2:1-7			
Friday, September 20	1 Timothy 2:4-7			
Saturday, September 21	Luke 16:1-8			
Sunday, September 22	Luke 16:9-13			
Monday, September 23	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15			
Tuesday, September 24	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15			
Wednesday, September 25	1 Timothy 6:6-19			
Thursday, September 26	Luke 16:19-31			
Friday, September 27	Luke 16:19-31			
Saturday, September 28	Psalm 91:1-6			
Sunday, September 29	Psalm 91:14-6			
Monday, September 30	Lamentations 1:1-6			



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns Marilyn Heath

Glenda Helton (Jeff and Jan Helton's sister-in-law) Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father) Mary Ogletree (Mimi Dobbs' mother) Chris Smith (Bill Heitholt's friend) Robert Record

Jan Vowell

Continued Prayers (long term)

Our world and country and our leaders, Debra Burton, Gene Casselberry, Pete & Ann Chamberlain, Kenneth & Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker, Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Bill Ray Ellis (Luanne Huffman's cousin), Jack & Gladys Gray, Sally Grove, Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Colton Hanson, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Danny House, Zachary Madden, Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents), Betty Morton, Alfredo Muniz, Richard Norton, Billie Patterson, Robert Seay, Odeana Stewart

Oak Manor: Helen Cole, Barbara Gish, Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn

Briarcliff: Mary Lou Heatherly

Colonial Lodge (Tender Care): Joe McMahan

Christian Care Center (Mesquite): Roger & Jean

Arnold, Virginia Collier

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton

Daniel Chamberlain

Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson

in Japan)

Col. Keith Williams

"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 Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell

> MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Articles for the next newsletter are due Monday, September 23 by 9:00am