

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 15, Issue 3

March 2017



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 28 5:00 to 6:00pm

On February 28, dinner is ready! Come and get it!

Join us in the Family Ministry Center for a hot meal of pancakes and sausage on Shrove Tuesday, which is also called Fat Tuesday. It is the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

This all-you-can-eat pancake supper is brought to you by the Connect and Serve Teams. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.



Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, March 1 @ 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

A powerful service of repentance, reflection, and imposition of ashes

Due to the success of our partnership with the University and our new location, community members are now welcome to drop off recyclables at anytime throughout the month.

If help unloading recyclables is needed, please contact us and we will schedule a time for you to meet a volunteer. Contact us by either sending an email to commerce.cares.recycling@gmail.com or picking up a flyer at the site which contains further contact information.



Potluck Luncheon
March 2 @ 12pm

THE LIGHT

A Contemporary Service

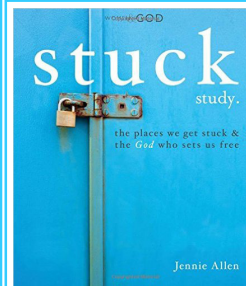
launching April 23rd @ 6pm

Email: vickie@fumccommerce.org

Follow us on Twitter: @TheLightWorship

Instagram: @TheLightWorship

Join our Facebook page: The Light - Contemporary Service @ FUMC Commerce



8-Week Women's Summer Bible Study

Thursday evenings
7-8:30pm

Beginning June 15th
Childcare available

Study: *Stuck* by Jennie Allen

Contact Vickie McMurray to register:
vickie@fumccommerce.org

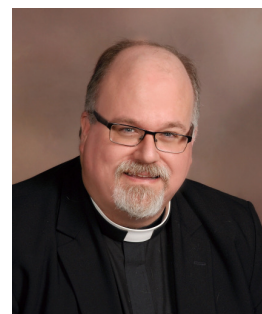
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Temptations and Lent By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal

“What do I do to keep all the temptations under control?”

This is a good question, one that I have been asking myself from time to time over the years, and especially during the season of Lent. When I am dealing with the problems of temptation, I usually turn to our Lord’s Temptations in the wilderness. I especially find the first temptation very telling of where I find myself most of the time. In the first temptation, the devil suggested that Jesus turn stones into bread. While at first this may not seem like a very plausible temptation for us, in actuality it is one of the greatest temptations that you and I face. You see, Jesus was really being tempted to rely upon his own abilities to feed himself and not upon the Word of God . . . and that is a temptation which all of us, myself especially, face nearly every day. When temptations strike, they strike with the initial urge to take care of them myself, through my own limited abilities.



Jesus could have turned the stones into bread had he wanted to – and we must never forget that the Bible says that Jesus was “famished,” indicating that this was a real temptation for him. However, instead of relying upon his own ability to satisfy his hunger by transmuting the stones into loaves of bread, Jesus turned to the Holy Word of God for strength and comfort in the face of demonic temptation.

We, too, face many trials and temptations each and every day that we live; and, in the face of these temptations we, like Jesus, have to face that “first temptation” – relying upon ourselves and not upon God. But how do we rely upon God?

I like the writings of Richard Meux Benson, the 19th Century founder of the Protestant monastic movement in Great Britain and the United States. Father Benson was a man of rare insight and amazing pastoral presence. His writings are not well known in this country, but his leadership and vision in the founding of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist has left his mark on many thousands of people all around the world, including myself. Their Order, today, is carrying forward Father Benson’s deep-seated belief that faith is best exemplified by a life that is lived for others. It is true that the monks live in quiet monasteries, but they are not “locked away.” They truly live for others. Theirs is a ministry of education and spiritual direction for clergy and lay ministers of the Gospel – truly, a much needed ministry!

In Father Benson’s book *Look to the Glory*, which is a collection of some of his writings and sermons on Holiness and Christian Perfection, there is an insightful sermon on the place of prayer in the Way of Christian Holiness. In this sermon, Father Benson remarks on the nature of the Lord’s Prayer:

We pray, “Lead us not into temptation.” This is a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Ghost, that whatever temptations come round about us, the Holy Spirit will always be with us, to strengthen, to illuminate, to protect. So we must pray for this blessed Spirit of God: “Lead me not into temptation, but lead me safely through.

Prayer is the first active step that a Christian can take toward confronting life’s daily temptations. Prayer, of course, should always be experienced within the context of Holy Scripture; hence, we pray that the Holy Spirit would not only guide and protect us, but also “illuminate” God’s will to us. And where else are we going to find God’s will than through the Holy Scriptures?

In our prayers, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit will lead us “safely through” temptation. Of course, it would be immensely easier for us if the Spirit would guide us away from the temptations altogether, but we are not promised this--and for good reason. As Father Benson said:

Temptations which grieve us most are best for us. Temptations are to sanctify us. All great saints have gone through great temptations, though of various kinds. Our sanctification is a victory. A victory implies a struggle.

In confronting our temptations, we encounter within ourselves the many points of conflict which must be dealt with as we move toward Holy Week and our Lord’s crucifixion. The temptations are indicators of what we must work on in ourselves. They are signs of where we must focus our attention. And, it is in and through this that we rely upon God.

Little Ark Happenings

News:

- Our Valentine's Day parties were a huge success! The kids had a great time.
- Little Ark PK made valentines for Country Home Estates residents. Our children love making others smile!

Thanks: Special thanks to our wonderful parents for the delicious teacher luncheon this month. We are very grateful!



March Mission: This month Little Ark will be collecting crayons, coloring books and stuffed animals to donate to Hunt Regional Healthcare Emergency Room - Commerce, CPD and CFD. Please bring your donations to the Little Ark front desk. Thank you for your help!

March Bible Verses:

March 6 - Philippians 4:4

March 13 - Spring Break

March 20 - Revelation 7:10

March 27 - Proverbs 3:5



Volunteer Opportunity: We are looking for guest readers! If you would like to donate 15 minutes of your time, please contact Shelly Oats or Jennifer Knight at 903-246-5650.



Children's Choir made valentines and visited the residents at Country Home Estate. It was a wonderful experience for all!



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, March 20 by 9:00am****



So, what is a FISH?

In the mid-1970s, Grace Presbyterian Church pastor Bill Hunt noticed that some of the area’s most vulnerable – the young and the elderly – didn’t have enough to eat and asked “*What if...?*” How could that need be addressed? Those musings led to the creation of a “food closet” at the church. He observed that Redeemer Lutheran Church across the highway was involved in meeting the needs of the community and reached out to them to see how the two churches could coordinate their efforts. Rev. Hunt also spoke at other churches to explain what FISH was doing and to enlist their support. In 1987, FISH received its non-profit status as Hunt County Shared Ministries and became a true partnership among area churches, community members, county businesses, and other social service agencies.

The ministry grew to the point that the church could no longer accommodate the food closet so it moved to the old Greenville hospital on Texas Street. Today, it is housed in a building constructed in 2007 on King Street. A year later, Rev. Hunt retired and Wally Jeffers became the new executive director. The ministry and its services continue to grow under Wally’s leadership. Help with prescription drug bills and then utility bills became available. Assistance with medical and dental bills, eye exams and glasses, and even help with obtaining IDs so individuals could qualify for work were added. At the King Street facility a community garden was established along with a larger plot that FISH farms to supplement its shelves with the harvest.



2017 is an exciting time! Wally and FISH are in conversation with the North Texas Food Bank about FISH operating as a rural distribution hub, which would help customize shipments from the main distribution centers in Dallas to accommodate local needs in our area, including the Food 4 Kids backpack program and the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Commerce.

Where does the funding come from? It is ALL local. Churches like FUMC-C, businesses, individuals, civic groups, area schools, and local foundations sustain this ministry. Our 2017 Lenten offering and drop-a-dollar giving during Lent will benefit FISH.

So, what is a FISH? Originally it referred to the biblical story of the five loaves and two fish. Wally though created the acronym Faithfully Involved in Sharing Hope. Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH is a vibrant and expanding ministry, available to all Hunt county residents. It faithfully shares that hope because of the vision, the “*What if...?*” originally asked by Rev. Bill Hunt.

Congregation-Wide Confirmation Class

- Once a month during the Sunday School Hour on the date
- EVERYBODY is invited to join us.
- Class dates: **Mar. 26**, *Apr. 30, *May 21 (*tentative/open to adjustment).



The Lord takes care of his own, but church trustees still put lightning rods on the steeple.

Evan Esar

Save the Date!

Friday, March 31st

FISH has moved its annual BBQ fundraiser from September to March, and for the first time, there will be a satellite location in Commerce in our Family Ministry Center!

Mark your calendar now to enjoy the ultimate Hunt County combo plate available for lunch on March 31st.

Volunteers are needed to promote the event, welcome diners, serve food, box to-go orders, and clean up. Contact Angela Roberts at 972.765.6547 for more information.



Luigi's Gives Back Sunday March 19

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

Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH)

brings our annual



"Best of the Best" BBQ to Commerce!

Friday, March 31st

Lunch from 11:00 - 1:00 Dine In or Carry Out

First United Methodist Church
1709 State Hwy 50, Commerce, Texas
(across from Texas A&M University—Commerce)

Enjoy the Ultimate Hunt County Combo Plate!
Brisket · Sausage · Ribs · Pulled Pork · Chicken
Beans · Cole Slaw · Potato Salad · Banana Pudding
(Ticket price includes your choice of 3 meats plus sides and dessert!)

Food provided by these award-winning restaurants:
Baker's Ribs · Soulmar's Bar-B-Que
Tanner's Smokehouse BBQ · Rib Crib

Tickets \$15—available at the door or online at www.hcsmfish.org

sponsored by



Mission Integration



Meet & Greet Wally Jeffers

Sunday, March 26th



Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH executive director, Wally Jeffers, will worship with us Sunday, March 26, and share a mission moment during the service.

This year our Lenten offering and drop-a-dollar giving during the season will go to help FISH provide food and emergency financial assistance to those most in need in our community and county.

All are invited to stay after the 10:50 a.m. service to visit with Wally in the Gathering Area and ask him about FISH and the services it provides our neighbors in need. Light refreshments will be served.

Wally Jeffers (right) stopped by the Hunt County Gives Christmas basket distribution last December where 135 Commerce families were blessed with groceries and vouchers for hens from Brookshire's. He also sampled the pancake breakfast cooked up by Gene Lockhart and Jim Patton (left and middle).

Church Trustees

This is just a short update on what is happening in and around First United Methodist Church Commerce.

- The new Education Wing HVAC and heating systems are in and working. A&S did a terrific job! A special shout out and a big thank you to Jim Patton for sponsoring this project.
- A few small projects were completed or are near completion, including door sweeps, door stops, door adjustments, and bathroom stall repairs.
- The Wesleyan Campus Ministry roof, gutters and siding are in work. Visit the WCM and look at the progress both inside and out. Pastor Brian is doing amazing things with the Campus Ministry.
- Projects that are on the “to do” list include, but are not limited to:
 - window washing,
 - Gathering Area ceiling repairs,
 - landscaping,
 - sidewalks,
 - parking lot,
 - signage...



The “to do” list is getting almost as long as the prayer list.

We have a “Fix It or List It” list posted on the bulletin board. If you see something broken and you have the capability to fix it, please take the time to facilitate repairs. If you see something in need of repair and it is beyond your expertise, please list it. This helps your Trustees when they establish priorities for projects.

Grace and Peace! Pat Skauge, Trustee Chair



Wesleyan Walls Revitalized

Thank You to FUMC’s Foundation, Pat Skauge and the Trustees, and all those who contributed to the Wesleyan wall repairs! Repairs are underway to the back wall and west wall, along with new gutters on the back yard and needed roof repairs. (The pictures show the repairs to date, red trim and gutters will be added.) Dead trees have also been removed to prevent further problems. This has been a 1

year and 8 month process of meetings discerning the appropriate plan for repairs, seeking bids from contractors, fund raising, grant requests, etc, etc. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this meticulous and important process!

Wesleyan fundraising, North Texas Conference grant money, and the generosity of donors throughout the East District contributed \$3,500 to these vital restorations. FUMC Foundation graciously matched fundraising efforts and granted the remainder of the funds needed to complete these much needed long-term renovations.

Save the Date: Thursday March 23rd 6pm Backyard Spring Fling!

This event will be our celebration of the wall repairs. We will thank our donors and invite students to a cookout dinner, volleyball, video games and dance- all in our big beautiful backyard!

Thank you and God bless! Brian, WCM Board, and WCM students

Worship

Wednesday, March 1
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 5

Sunday, March 12

Sunday, March 19

Sunday, March 26

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

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:

Pat Skauge (903) 259-9875

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

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381





UMW will meet **Tuesday, March 21** at 10:00am. Our March project is: Nursing Home Bingo Prizes, sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small).

All women are invited to join us!

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



In memory of...

John Walker

By: Fred & Anna Blohm
Clarence & Kay Jensen



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Jan 29	26	103	52
Feb 5	28	91	42
Feb 12	32	82	48
Feb 19	20	88	45
Feb 26	25	96	59



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of January 31, 2016

Income:	\$ 25,950
Expenses:	\$ 30,559
	-\$ 4,609

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, Mar 1	Psalm 51:1-17
Thursday, Mar 2	Romans 5:12-19
Friday, Mar 3	Matthew 4:1-11
Saturday, Mar 4	Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday, Mar 5	Psalm 32
Monday, Mar 6	Psalm 121
Tuesday, Mar 7	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Wednesday, Mar 8	Genesis 12:1-4a
Thursday, Mar 9	Matthew 17:1-9
Friday, Mar 10	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Saturday, Mar 11	John 3:1-15
Sunday, Mar 12	John 3:16-17
Monday, Mar 13	Exodus 17:1-3
Tuesday, Mar 14	Exodus 17:1-7
Wednesday, Mar 15	Psalm 95
Thursday, Mar 16	Romans 5:1-11
Friday, Mar 17	Romans 5:6-11
Saturday, Mar 18	John 4:5-30, 39-42
Sunday, Mar 19	John 4:27-38
Monday, Mar 20	1 Samuel 16:1-5
Tuesday, Mar 21	1 Samuel 16:6-7
Wednesday, Mar 22	Psalm 23:1-3
Thursday, Mar 23	Psalm 23:4-6
Friday, Mar 24	Ephesians 5:8-14
Saturday, Mar 25	John 9:1-23
Sunday, Mar 26	John 9:24-41
Monday, Mar 27	Psalm 130
Tuesday, Mar 28	Romans 8:6-11
Wednesday, Mar 29	Psalm 130
Thursday, Mar 30	John 11:1-45
Friday, Mar 31	Ezekiel 37:1-14



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Sammy Elwell
Vanessa Paulin
Family of Bill Drake
Family of Bob Cadenhead

Continued Prayers

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world Loretta Kibler, Gayle Shumate, Pat Skauge, Harriet Williams, Allen Martin, Rev. Tom Dudley, Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Debbie Hood (Cathy Giles' sister), David Rohlf (Lena Faulkner's dear friend), Myra Terrell, Roger and Jean Arnold, Rev. Carolyn Allbritton, Allyson Tuckne (Judy Rudoff's niece), Jason Jarvis (Gene and Betty Casselberry's family member), Dick Walker, Zachary Madden, Sally Grove, Jessica Lauren Coe (Diane McDowell and Susan Lampe's friend), Brad Standlee (Gene and Betty Casselberry's friend), Harry Icenhower, Jennifer Oats (Jessica Morgan'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: Madeline Sullivan

The Haven (San Antonio): Faye Jackson

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...

Danaycurce Childress
Mike Dempsey
Col. Peter Bailey
Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Paterson's cousins

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

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



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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, March 20 by 9:00am