

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 21, Issue 4

April 2023 Newsletter

## MISSION OF THE MONTH-UMCOR

The Serve Team has designated UMCOR-United Methodist Committee on Relief-the April Mission of the Month for the three remaining Sundays after Easter. "To be the voice of conscience among Methodists to act in the relief of human suffering without distinction of race, color or creed," was the mission when the committee was created in 1940 by Bishop Herbert Welch in response to the devastation of World War 11. It remains the mission today. When one thinks of the massive earthquakes in Turkey, Syria, Ecuador and Peru and the weather-related catastrophes in the United States, UMCOR's mission is just as timely today.

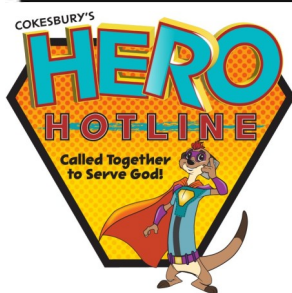
Money raised by the committee is used for such activities as relocation of refugees, providing food and shelter for victims of war or natural disasters, and long-term grants to assist communities as they rebuild. Perhaps the most familiar to us are the flood buckets distributed to help people clean up after a flood. It also provides personal hygiene packages.

UMCOR attaches an "Advance" number to each project it undertakes. One hundred percent-- yes, 100%--of the donations go towards that project.



There are times when we look at human suffering and wish there were something more we could do to relieve the situation. UMCOR helps grant that wish. Every dollar bill dropped in the collection plate the last three Sundays of April, or a check with UMCOR in the memo line, will allow us to come to the aid of our fellow human beings. If you give online, just click the appropriate button.

Your generous donation will help to improve life for God's children "without distinction of race, color, or creed."



# SAVE THE DATE!

**Monday through Thursday, July 31st through August 3rd  
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

We are looking for Heroes to:

- ◆ provide and serve dinner each night.
- ◆ lead Science, Music and Art stations.
- ◆ group leaders for each age group: PreK4/Kinder, 1st-2nd, 3rd-4th, & 5th-6th

All helpers will need to complete Ministry Safe training prior to VBS.  
If you are interested in helping, please contact Amy Stark, 903-246-1487.

# HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES



## Notes from Pastor Cheryl

April is the month we remember the events of Holy Week and Easter, the culmination of our faith . . . or is it the beginning? I look forward to the tradi-

tions of Easter: Communion on Thursday evening, remembering Jesus leading the disciples in the Passover Feast in the Upper Room; worship by hearing the scripture read and singing the Good Friday hymns; then flowering the cross and searching for Easter eggs, celebrating the disciples looking for Jesus on Easter Sunday! How it rocked their world when he appeared to them again, and even cooked breakfast for them on the beach!

In these days, it is a good idea to review our Wesleyan Roots in Bible study, and revisit the reason we are United Methodists and what the UMC stands for as a branch of the Christian faith. It's time to remember why we are Christian, why we are United Methodist, and why we are part of this congregation.

My story is not unusual, how I came to the United Methodist Church. I was hired at the Wesley UMC in Harlingen, Texas, as choir director and pianist. I began to see the larger role women had in the UMC and when God called me to full-time ministry, everything came together in a grace-filled way. My heart and mind opened up to God's open arms and I appreciated the welcome, instead of fearing the worst! I began to see and experience God's love in fresh new ways with an emphasis on grace in the world we live in here and now, not just "fire insurance" for life after death!

I pray that you and your family and friends have a blessed Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Invite your family and neighbors to one or all of the services and activities we have planned. Pray for the new faces we will see during this time, and pray for God's guidance and wisdom as we carry out our vision to Connect, Grow, and Serve Jesus Christ.



*We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Alleluia! Amen!*

### Palm Sunday – April 2

10:00 Worship & Sunday School  
Service of Baptism and Confirmation

### Wednesday – April 5

6:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
Friendship Classroom  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday  
7:00 pm Holy Communion  
Sanctuary

### Friday, April 7

7:00 pm Good Friday Service



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN OUR

## Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH  
9:30 AM  
AGES 0-10  
FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER

and

## Easter Worship

10:00 AM  
SANCTUARY  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Prayer List 3-23-23**

**Recent Concerns:**

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Family of Sandy Hutton
- Jack Gray
- Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother (Advanced Parkinson's)
- Priscilla McFarland (FUMC-C member)
- Emma Dean, 3rd grader fighting a serious staph infection, named by Chance Webster
- Scott Prather, named by Charles Webster
- Lynette Gill, Lee Riddle's daughter
- Tom Bailey
- Sam Elwell
- Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- Carlos Rickman
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinon

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bill Heitholt
- Janet & Jim Payne, Becky Coker's sister
- Georgia Gholston
- Manuel Henderson
- Melanie Cortea
- Judy Cortea
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's mother)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)

**Austin:**

- Ruby Vander Velde

**Burleson:**

- Mary Louise McMahan

**Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):**

- Jerry Hutton

**Oak Manor:**

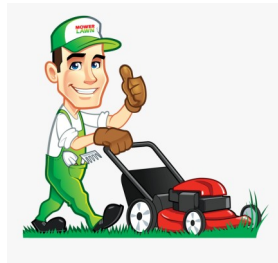
- Helen Cole

**Those serving in our military:**

- Celeste Young, (Marines) & Chandler Teague (Navy), great-grandchildren of Lee Riddle
- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner

**HELP WANTED!**

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help with mowing and trimming. We save the church around \$800 by mowing/trimming the area on the northwest side of the church. We have two volunteers and could use a couple more. If willing, please contact Dick Latson at 903-456-4328.



If you are interested in giving flowers for the altar, please visit with Luann Huffman before worship on Sunday or contact her at 903-366-2899 or [lhuffman01@cumbytel.com](mailto:lhuffman01@cumbytel.com).



**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

- April 2-Palm Sunday service of Baptism and Confirmation** at 10am
- April 5-Pastor's Bible Study** at 6pm Friendship room
- April 6-Serve meeting** at 10:30am
- April 6-First Thursday luncheon** at noon
- April 6-Maundy Thursday communion service** at 7pm
- April 7-Good Friday service** at 7pm; Church Office & Little Ark Closed
- April 9-Easter Sunday Egg Hunt** at 9:30 and worship at 10am
- April 10-Prayer Shawl** meets at 9:30am
- April 11-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm
- April 11-Trustees** meet at 6:30
- April 17-Finance** meets at 6pm
- April 19-Grow** meets at 6pm
- April 20-Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am
- April 25-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm
- April 27-Prayer Shawl Crafting** meets at 9:30

**ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT FUMC COMMERCE**

- Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group** meets at Omega's at 8am
- Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsal** at 7pm
- \*\*Exercise class will resume in the spring.

**BI-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Every other Tuesday-Women's Study Group** at 5:15pm

# So Much to Learn and Do at Little Ark



Top row:  
Toddler 1

class playing with balloons; Pre-K making Fizzing Shamrocks for "green day"; Preschool: Lesson on Little Miss Muffet; Pre-K in space!

Bottom row: Ms. Ashlyn and her Toddler 2 class making pizzas after reading *Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party*; Preschool after picking all the flowers.

In case of emergency pastoral care need,  
please call or text Pastor Cheryl at 940-613-5375.

First United Methodist Church  
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Commerce, TX 75428  
Pastor - Rev. Cheryl Murray