

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 20, Issue 12

December 2022 Newsletter

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH-OPERACION ABRIGO

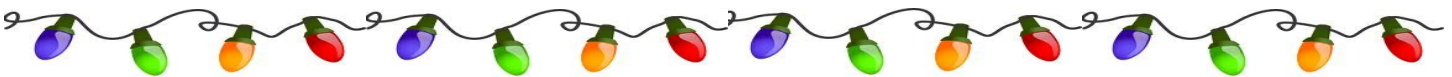
For many years, this church has been helping to support Proyecto Abrigo on the outskirts of Juárez, Mexico. Several of the congregation have made the 13-hour trip to Juárez to assist in building a home for a family whose flimsy shelter has been a hastily constructed cardboard and trash bag shack. Those who have been know the incredible joy of serving God in this way. In the past, FUMC-Commerce has been wonderful in providing funds for the homebuilding supplies for multiple families to have homes. Most of you know, too, that the home, when finished, is a basic 12' X 24' cinder-block structure with two windows, a door, a concrete floor, and a slightly pitched roof. There is no heating or air conditioning. There is no running water. There is no electricity. It's merely a bare shell of a building, yet to the recipient family living in the cardboard shack, it is a gift of love that provides shelter, and is for all intents and purposes, a palace for the family.



Your generous donations are needed now more than ever. Re-named Operación Abrigo (Operation Shelter), the mission is now delivering groceries to families who have lost jobs or whose job hours have been drastically cut due to the pandemic and can no longer afford to put food on the table since there is no local food pantry. Grocery goods being delivered include rice, beans, cornmeal, canned meat, flour, pasta, oil, salt, sugar, and occasionally a

chocolate bar for the children. Mission director José Luís says that these foodstuffs are just as important as the houses built by various teams who travel to Mexico to work for the mission efforts of Operación Abrigo. He and one or two others are personally serving 60 families per week. A gift of \$25 will feed a family for a week, and a gift of \$100 can feed a family for a month.

Operación Abrigo is our December Mission of the Month. Please consider providing what you can to help support this worthy endeavor that has done so much and continues to provide a coat of warmth, a cover of security, a shelter in this pandemic storm. Gifts can be made by check or through your online church gift giving.



SAVE THE DATES! DECEMBER 1ST -3RD

The Merry Market for Missions, our church's annual fundraiser will be both on-site and online. The Serve Team will host the on-site event for the first time in three years on December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Shoppers can get a jump on their Christmas list by buying unique gifts including a four-volume set of Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, fine china, and collectible Barbies. Prayer Shawl will offer an array of beautifully knitted and crocheted caps, scarves, baby blankets and shawls. You may also stock up on yummy baked goods or purchase an alternative gift for that someone who already has everything, a charitable donation in their honor.

At 11:00 the GOAT Youth group will begin serving a spaghetti lunch, complete with salad, garlic bread, dessert, and a beverage for \$10.00. Youth will stop serving at 1:00pm. Charles and Chase Webster will present special music at noon. Throughout the day, children can make Christmas crafts for free.

The online auction will begin on December 1st at 8am and will end at 5pm on the 3rd. It will have items donated by Mugs, Too Good Treats, Fix 'n Feed, Personalized Printing, and Speight Plumbing. New donors include April Showers, The Cork and Brew, Huffman's and Tractor Supply. Member Trish King is donating her homemade pralines. To view items, go to fumcccommerce.org.

Proceeds will benefit non-profits like Commerce Boys and Girls Club, Commerce Clothe-a-Child, F.I.S.H., SCRPT, (best known for the Connection, offering free or low-cost bus transportation) and Operacion Abrigo. **Shop! Eat! ENJOY!**



Notes from Pastor Cheryl



What I like about The United Methodist Church is our connection. I'm sure you've heard the story that when the Gates Foundation and others wanted to start a campaign to eradicate malaria in Africa, they identified the structure and connection of the United Methodist Church, with the cross and flame symbol, in almost every small village on the continent! Thus began the *Imagine No Malaria* campaign.

Recently the town of Jacksboro in our Conference suffered a major tornado that damaged the schools. Thank goodness it was at the end of the school day and no students, teachers, or staff were harmed. But the United Methodist Church, North Texas Conference, has started a campaign called *Close to Home* to help this small community with rebuilding.

Our district superintendent, Rev. Cassie Wade, and her husband sent this letter, and I quote:

Kelly and I have made a gift to the Close to Home campaign on behalf of the Commerce FUMC congregation. It is such a pleasure to travel to your church and hear the stories of the strength you have together. We are indeed Better Together and the richness of our connection through the North Texas Conference is a powerful instrument of good! Each dollar raised in this campaign will go to rebuild a community who is "close to home." I invite your congregation to prayerfully consider making a gift as well.



A video about the Jack County efforts and a link to donate is on this webpage: <https://ntcumc.org/close-to-home>

Close to Home efforts in the aftermath of the tornadoes in Lamar and Red River counties and a link to donate can be found here: <https://ntcumc.org/news/disaster-response-team-responds-to-northeast-texas-tornadoes>

May God continue to bless the ministry of Commerce FUMC!
Pastor Cheryl

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.



TIP GOD, TOO

Hello everyone. We are coming to the end of another tough year for church finances. If you were at the Charge Conference you know our situation. I wish more of you could have been there. With a lot of hard work and reorganization we have put together a budget that will carry us short term, but we must get people back in church and add new members for long term success.

Up until the last couple of years the church had gotten a big income boost in December. This helped get us over the hump, but this seems to have changed. We are not sure why.

Let's think about the upcoming year-end. When you eat out, you always tip the waitress. I bet most of you are thinking about your postman, trash collector, policemen, firemen and others who have served you throughout the year. You are probably going to give some of them a year-end tip for their service. How about God? Hasn't he served you well throughout the year? How about giving him a tip through a year-end donation to the church?

Thank you...The Finance Committee

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

December 1-First Thursday Luncheon at noon

December 3-Merry Market, 10am-3pm

December 11-Retirement Reception for Mary Lou Heatherly at 9:30am before worship

December 12-Prayer Shawl at 9:30

December 13-Trustees at 6:30; Foundation at 6:30

December 16-Parent's Night Out 6-9pm

December 18-Youth Christmas Party at 5pm

December 24-Christmas Eve worship at 7pm

December 25-*Merry Christmas!* Worship at 10am

Prayer List 11-28-22

Recent Concerns:

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Sam Elwell
- Donna Bailey
- Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- Linda Walker Maples
- Brenda Newman
- Judy Chapman, Pastor Cheryl's sister
- Carlos Rickman (M.D. Anderson Hospital)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Continued Prayers (long term):

- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bill Heitholt
- Janet & Jim Payne, sister of Becky Coker
- Georgia Gholston
- Manuel Henderson
- Melanie Cortea
- Judy Cortea
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's mother)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Harbor Chase-Southlake:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan

Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):

- Jerry & Sandy 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
- Lt. Colonel Bob Farmer

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATE

The Dough Rollins Prayer Shawl Room was packed in November with wall to wall activity as members packaged 54 scarves and 30 hats to mail for Operation Gratitude Christmas Care Packages, a record number of items! Since 2003, Operation Gratitude has mailed 3.5+ million care packages to our troops!



We signed Christmas cards for our home bound friends and made plans for our Merry Market booth and our Angel Tree angels. In January, we hope to start classes for those wishing to learn to crochet or knit. More to come on that after the holidays!



**Friday, December 16
6-9pm**

Do you need a night out?
Some time to shop without
your kids tagging along?

Looking for a great holiday event for your children? Look no further than Parent's Night Out, an evening for children ages 6 weeks to 11 years old. There will be a variety of age-appropriate activities for your child, along with snacks and a holiday-themed craft. All children ages 2 years and up will finish the night watching the Christmas movie "The Star." The cost is \$15 for children 3 and under and \$10 for children over the age of 3. Registration is required and forms are available at Little Ark and the FUMC office. Forms and payment are due by Friday, December 9th. Please contact Ashlyn Woods at 903-434-6417 or email her at ashlynrenee12@gmail.com for more information.

ANGEL TREE MISSION AT FUMC COMMERCE!



Thanks to those of you who have adopted an angel this year. There are just a couple of reminders. The deadline for returning wrapped gifts

to the church is Saturday, December 10. We also give cookies to the families as a sign of our love and support. These cookies need to be nut-free and delivered to the church by Sunday morning, December 18. Please package the cookies 6 to a bag. Thank you for your participation in this mission.

Save the Date!

*Retirement Reception for Mary Lou Heatherly
December 11 at 9:30am before worship.*

Always Learning at Little Ark!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day, bring an item to add to the donation box, or bring it all at once! On December 15th, we will take all of the donations to the food bank in Commerce.

November 28 – child-sized toothbrushes

November 29 – instant coffee

November 30 – crackers

December 1 – instant mashed potatoes

December 2 – jelly in plastic squeeze bottle

December 5 – mac-n-cheese

December 6 –canned chicken

December 7 -- diapers (size 4-5)

December 8 –ranch style beans/black eyed peas

December 9 – deodorant

December 12 – canned soup

December 13 – canned pasta

December 14 – chicken broth

December 15 – hot chocolate

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20-35



Top : PK field trip to the Heard Museum to wrap up their dinosaur unit.



Bottom : Preschool enjoying ice cream while they learn about the five senses.

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

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