

# Notes From Cheryl

## Finishing the Year in Gratitude

As this year draws to a close, we pause to give thanks for your faithful generosity. Every gift has helped our church live out its mission — worshiping God, serving neighbors, and growing disciples. Your giving makes ministry possible, from the lights in the sanctuary to the loves touched in our community.

John Wesley taught that generosity is both a means of grace and a fruit of faith. When we give, we participate in God's work of transforming lives — including our own. Together, we are the body of Christ, and every offering — every dollar, every prayer, every act of service — strengthens our shared witness.

Congress has approved a new “above-the-line” charitable deduction for taxpayers who take the standard deduction. Starting with gifts made in 2026, individuals may deduct up to \$1,000, and married couples filing jointly may deduct up to \$2,000, from their taxable income for gifts to qualified charities, including their church.

This is a small but meaningful win for generosity. For many households that haven't itemized since the standard deduction increased in 2017, this change provides a new incentive to give and a reminder that their faithful generosity makes a difference both spiritually and financially.

## Merry Market



**Join us Saturday, December 6th from 10am-3pm**

Handmade Gifts, Baked Goods & Other Delights, Antiques & Vintage Finds, Christmas Decorations & Gifts, Silent Auction! Come shop, snack and find the perfect something for someone you love, including yourself. Pre ordered Chicken Spaghetti and Greenery will be available for pick up. All proceeds go directly to missions in Commerce & beyond!



# Angel Tree

## **Gifts, Cookies and Juices Needed for Angel Tree Program!**



The Angel Tree program is a ministry through Prison Fellowship. It provides Christmas gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated. Each child will receive at least one toy and one set of clothes. Individuals and groups may sponsor a child with Christmas gifts of either toys or clothes or both.

Beginning November 23, the Angel Tree will be decorated with tags with children's ages and either a toy idea or size for clothes. The tree will be placed in the entrance outside the sanctuary. Tags may be obtained and the a sign-up sheet (located on round table in gathering area) filled out indicating that wrapped gifts will be purchased. Gifts need to be purchase and returned to the church wrapped by December 7th. You may leave gifts at the church office during office hours or dropped off under the angel tree on Sunday mornings.

In addition, around 6 dozen cookies and 30 Capri sun juices are needed for their Christmas party. Please bring cookies and juices to the church the week of December 15th and no later than the morning of December 21st. You may sign up to contribute these goodies at the church (on the round table in the gathering area) or follow the link to Sign-upGenius at : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449ABAB2FABFD0-60603781-angel>

# Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl ladies have been busy crocheting and knitting lap blankets for our local Oak Manor Nursing & Rehab Center. We have 31 blankets completed and plan to deliver them (along with cookies if allowed) as Christmas presents after our December 8th meeting. We are also adding handmade winter scarves and hats for our Blessings Table.

Our group is also preparing knit, crochet, and craft items for the Merry Market on Dec. 6. We hope to see everyone there!

Finally, Prayer Shawl is a fun, casual group that would love to welcome new members, you don't need to knit or crochet to join us!

# Board of Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees have been working for a long time on a sign that will enable us to inform the public on our missions and family ministry. This has now come to fruition, we have contracted with SNA Displays, one of the largest and most respected LED sign manufacturers in the country. We came about this company through our church member Jason Helton, son of Jan and Jeff. When he got word of our plans he got in touch with us to help make sure we would get the best product possible. He was able to also quote us a price under our current bids. We are super excited with this partnership and are looking forward to having modern signage to enhance our missions.

The most important part of this announcement is that due to the blessed benevolence of a donation to cover 94% of the cost, and the help of our Foundation. ALL COSTS are covered, with none being paid from the church account.

The rendering below depicts what the sign will look like. The base will be constructed from the brick the church already has available. The sign display will measure approximately 4' x 8'. The new sign will be located where the current vinyl sign is located now ( on the north side of the entrance sidewalk). We feel this location will be the most visible to the community. All sign content will be tightly controlled and vetted.



# Youth News

The youth have had a busy fall filled with fundraising, bible studies, fun times and giving back. We have been participating in our Be Bold Bible Studies which help us explore how to deal with the not so easy emotions of being a teenager. We have also attended bible studies with Pastor Cheryl, made cards for the nursing home, birthday bags for the Blessings Table and rock climbing at ETAMU. Here are some pictures highlighting some of our fun and flyers for our current fundraisers. Thank you for always supporting our youth ministries.



*Take & Bake*  
**CHICKEN SPAGHETTI**  
Order by December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Pick up Friday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6pm  
or  
Saturday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm  
**SCAN TO ORDER NOW**




Each order comes with one 8x8 ready to bake pan of chicken spaghetti and a loaf of garlic bread for \$20

**All proceeds benefit Youth Missions.**  
Contact Jamie Bourcy  
youth@fumcommerce.org for more information



First United Methodist Church  
1709 State Hwy 50, Commerce TX

**CHRISTMAS PARENT'S NIGHT OUT**

- Dinner provided
  - Chicken nugget
  - Mini corndogs
  - Fries
  - Fruit
- Christmas themed activities and crafts

**DEC 13 2025**      5:00-8:00PM

6weeks-3years...\$15  
4-11years...\$10

**Scan to register**  
Payments can be paid via Venmo @Ashlyn\_Woods or cash the night of




All proceeds go to youth church camp