

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 21, Issue 2

February 2023 Newsletter

## **FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH-TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER**

The Serve Team has designated **Bread of Life Community Services**, the **Commerce Food Pantry** and the **Lion Food Pantry** as February's Mission of the Month and is coordinating several events to raise awareness and funds to take a bite out of hunger in Commerce. **On February 12, Super Bowl Sunday, we will host a soup lunch after worship for the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Serve and Connect Teams will supply crock pots of savory soups and invite members to bring sides like crackers and desserts. A large soup pot will be available for love offerings.**

The **Commerce Food Pantry**, open from 2-4 p.m. each Thursday is housed at the Presbyterian church on Monroe Street. Neighbors may visit the pantry once each calendar month. Volunteers prepare basic boxes, and then clients select frozen proteins, beverages, and hygiene items to be added. Boxes are then delivered to waiting cars. According to pantry manager Angela Roberts, 467 different families visited the pantry in 2022, with 10% coming 10 or more times a year and 71% coming four or fewer times. The pantry relies on the North Texas Food Bank, Hunt Regional Healthcare (A grant from a settlement with the tobacco industry funds non-food items), and Brookshire's Grocery Store and is grateful for the donations from area churches and civic clubs.

**Bread of Life Community Services** operates out of Bread of Life Church of the Nazarene on Highway 24. Director Lesley Lay reports that between 200-240 households receive boxes of canned goods, cereal, milk, eggs, chicken, pork and sweets. They operate on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month or the first Monday after the first Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Individuals 60 or over may receive an extra box of commodities at the same time. Boxes can also be delivered to homes if the person doesn't have transportation. To qualify for the boxes, one needs to show a picture ID and provide a document that confirms their address. Community Services also keeps on hand Blessing Boxes for those suffering an emergency such as a house fire. Bread of Life Community Services is the beneficiary of the North Texas Food Bank, Hunt Regional Healthcare, Wal-Mart and private donors like the Anderson Group.

Less well-known is the **Lion Food Pantry** located in the Halladay Student Services building on the TAMU-C campus. Director Nikki Barnett reports that any TAMU-Commerce student may visit the pantry once a week. Over 1,200 students visited the pantry in 2022.

When one hears the term, "food insecurity," we don't often think of college students. Forbes Magazine reports that 40% of all college students have experienced food insecurity. Seventy percent of students of color, including Native Americans, experience food insecurity. Twenty percent of Commerce Food Pantry clients are college students.

Unlike the other two food resources, the Lion Food Pantry relies SOLELY on donations to stock its shelves. To replenish supplies, **FUMC will partner with the Pantry to collect canned soups and chili on Saturday, February 11, in front of Mugs from 11a.m.to 1pm.**



There are several ways you can support this effort to "tackle" hunger.

1. You can pray for those experiencing food insecurity.
2. You can drop dollar bills or a check with "food insecurity" in the memo line during February worship. If you give online, click on the Mission of the Month button.
3. You can drive by Mugs on Saturday, February 11th, and drop off cans of soup and chili.
4. You can volunteer to accept the canned soups and chili on that Saturday with university volunteers.
5. You can attend the **Souper Bowl of Caring soup lunch after worship on February 12th** and drop a love offering in the soup pot. Proceeds from drop a dollar and the love offering will be divided between Bread of Life Community Services and the Commerce Food Pantry. All canned soups and chili will benefit the Lion Food Pantry.

***Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't help 100 people, help 1." Our efforts may not eradicate hunger in Commerce completely, but we CAN reduce hunger here.***

## Notes from Pastor Cheryl



January has flown by and February will be underway as you get this. In worship we have talked about Spiritual Affective Disorder, brought on by the lack of sunlight and being continuously confined indoors. We will finish out that series with this week's "Leave Room for Dessert," and February 12, "Walk This Way," an abbreviated Sermon on the Mount where Jesus preached, no doubt, from the Deuteronomy and Leviticus text about "loving God and neighbor as yourself."

Then Ash Wednesday will be upon us February 22. Instead of a Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) pancake supper, we will have a pancake supper on Wednesday, starting at 5:00 pm (donations welcome for our youth camp and missions fund). Ash Wednesday Worship (Imposition of Ashes plus Holy Communion) will be held at 6:15 pm, followed by Choir Practice at the regular time.

The mission chosen for February will be the food banks in our community. We will welcome representatives from those organizations in worship this week (February 5). We have enjoyed getting notes from the partakers of our Blessing Table. Many clients have asked for prayers, as well as specific items like food and personal toiletries, and food for their pets. When the weather gets warmer, we will plan an event which will be an opportunity for us to meet the Blessing Table clients in person.

Our Connect, Grow, and Serve Teams are doing well with their planning of events and discerning where our focus should be to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. I have the bright idea to add a Worship element to the Grow Team, since worship is an integral part of our spiritual growth. If you are interested in serving on the Worship Team as part of the Grow Team, please let me know by text or email. I'll let you know when the next meeting will be.

And just because we have a Connect Team, Grow Team, and Serve Team does not mean anyone is limited in where they serve. These are not elected positions in the church. They are simply a way we can use our specific gifts to serve the church's vision faithfully. Speaking of spiritual gifts, here's an assessment you can use to help define where you can serve most faithfully:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/spiritual-gifts>

Printed copies will be available in the Gathering Area.

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).



*Thank you for the many prayers, calls and messages I have received since Mike's surgery. I am grateful to report that he continues to improve every day. Mike will likely go to a rehab facility once he is discharged from the hospital so that he can build up his strength. We are so ready to have him home. Please keep him in your prayers for the strength and endurance that will help him get there.*

*Thanks so much again,*

*Sharon Duncan*

## SERVE TEAM REPORT

### Prayer List 2-3-23

#### Recent Concerns:

- *Our world, country, & leaders*
- Scott Prather, named by Charles Webster
- Emma, a 3rd grader named by Chance Webster
- Donna Bailey, Mandy Swinson's mother
- Lynette Gill, Lee Riddle's daughter
- Randy Butler, named by Sue Massey
- Tom Bailey
- Sam Elwell
- Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- Carlos Rickman (M.D. Anderson Hospital)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

#### 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
- Jack Gray
- Mabel and Carl Little
- 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

#### Burleson:

- 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

The Serve team met on February 2nd by Zoom and took the following actions:

The 2023 Lenten offering mission will be the Blessing Table.

#### February Mission of the Month Updates:

- A Mission Moment is scheduled for February 5th, with representatives from all local food pantries.
- **Canned Soup Drive**-Saturday, February 11, 11am --1pm, outside MUGS. All donations benefit the TAMUC Lion Pantry.
- **Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Luncheon**-February 12 after worship. The Serve and Connect teams are partnering to host this event.



## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

February 7-Women's Study Group at 5:15pm

February 8-Grow team meeting at 6:30pm

February 10-12-2023 Midwinter Retreat for Youth, 6th-12 grades at Bridgeport.

February 12-Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring potluck luncheon

February 13-Prayer Shawl meeting at 9:30am

February 13-Finance meeting at 6pm

February 14-Trustees at 6:30

February 21-Women's Study Group at 5:15pm

February 22-Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper at 5pm

## ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT FUMC COMMERCE

Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group at Omega's at 8am

Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsal at 7ipm

\*\*Exercise class will resume in the spring.

## BI-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

# Little Ark - A Great Place to Learn and Grow!



**Top :** Decorating cookies for Christmas in Toddler 2; Miss Mattie with one of our sweet babies; Outside fun with Toddler 1.

**Bottom :** PK show and tell for the letter W.

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

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