

# First United Methodist Church

## Commerce, Texas



Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2025

## The Missions of the Month are the Local Food Pantries

There are three agencies in Commerce that offer free food:

Bread of Life distributes food on the first Friday after the first Monday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the third Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Senior Commodity boxes, additional food for those over 60, may also be picked up. Home deliveries are possible. Anyone who would like to volunteer may call Leslee Lay at 903 886-1515. It takes one hour, one day a month. Blessing Boxes are also kept on hand for people experiencing unusual situations. Some 3,185 boxes were distributed in 2023.

The Commerce Food Pantry, located at The First Presbyterian Church on Monroe Street, is a second resource for food. According to Angela Roberts, volunteer manager, 573 households were served in 2023. Both statistics were up over 2022 levels by over 20 percent. People may come once a month on Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00.

A third source of food is the Lion Food Pantry, located in the Performing Arts Center. Any registered ETAMU-C student may visit the Pantry on Wednesday. Since statistics indicate 1 out of 3 college students are food insecure.

There is a fourth source of food, the Blessings Table. Members can place food --preferably cans with easy-open tops, Granola bars and Pop Tarts are favorites. With the cold weather in mind, gloves, caps, blankets and even old sleeping bags would be appreciated. In addition to the collection of soup and chili, we will have a Souper Bowl of Caring soup lunch on February 9th after service.

There are several ways you can support these missions:

1. Drop dollar bills or a check with "Food Resources" on the memo line in the collection plate during February. If you give online, just click the Mission of the Month tab.
2. Place items on the Blessings Table.
3. Drop off soup or chili in the collection box in the gathering area for the Lion Food Pantry.
4. Bring a crock pot of soup to the Souper Bowl of Caring lunch on February 9th. You can also bring a dessert or a side dish.



## Let's Tackle Hunger Together!

# Notes from Cheryl

Thank you for your continued prayers for Alex and me as we navigate through the health system to get my heart back on track! I am feeling optimistic about beginning with a new doctor, and hopefully my problem will be fixed and my rhythm will be in sync for the near future.

This morning I read from the Gospel of Matthew, the parable of the sower.

The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it. (Matthew 13:22 The Message)

Have you ever thought about how New Year's Resolutions rarely lead to any lasting change? Obviously, it's because intentions are easy but forming new habits is hard! Resolutions usually fail, not because we lack passion to see them through, but because we actually neglect changing our behavior long enough for the new habit to take hold. We overemphasize what we want to change and underestimate how we intend to reorder our behavior to turn our intention into reality. Transformation usually does not happen all at once but forms slowly over time with persistence. So if there is a change you want to make in your life, figure out what habit will ingrain the behavior into your routine. Pick a consistent time, place, and space for it. Only when we make space for it in our routine will it withstand the daily distractions of life that so easily choke it out.

One thing we read that Jesus did intentionally is he attended worship regularly. It was his habit. Even if his message wound up making some people want to hurl him off a cliff! Our worship is designed with a mixture of familiar and unfamiliar to keep our attention and to ingrain itself into our memory so that we can draw on it in times of need. Make a February resolution to attend worship each week (unless you're sick!). Then the words of Jesus and means of grace in which we participate (such as the sacraments, hearing and meditating upon scripture, singing praises, and sharing fellowship with our spiritual brothers and sisters) will become and remain part of our reality for the long-run.



## Prayer List 1/30/2025

### Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All affected by the war in The Middle East
- ◆ Pastor Cheryl Murray
- ◆ Patricia Mulkey
- ◆ Mike Clay
- ◆ Debbie Dunham
- ◆ Judy Rudoff
- ◆ Manolo Leos cousin of Ruth & Debbie
- ◆ Diane Garcia
- ◆ Danny Duncan

### Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Cortea
- ◆ Robert Seay

### Ft. Worth:

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

### Those serving in our military:

- ◆ Sgt. Kyle Ray Capps
- ◆ Chandler Teague grandchild of Lee Riddle
- ◆ 1st Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- ◆ Lt. Dan Barton
- ◆ Daniel Chamberlain
- ◆ Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- February 2 —District Laity Training from 3-5 at Wesley in Greenville
- February 6 —Serve Team Meeting at 10:30
- February 9 —Souper Bowl of Caring Pot Luck at 11:00
- February 10 —Prayer Shawl Meeting at 9:30  
—Little Ark Meeting at 5:00
- February 11 —Women's Study Group at 3:00  
—Trustees Meeting at 6:30
- February 14 —Little Ark Valentine's Parties at 11 & 2:30
- February 16 —Valentine's Luncheon at 11:00
- February 17 —Finance Meeting at 6:00
- February 18 —Women's Study Group
- February 20 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30
- February 27 --Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30

## Ongoing Activities

- Men's Breakfast at Texas Café Tuesdays at 8:00
- Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00
- Children's Choir Weds. at 3:45
- WOW! Worship on Weds. "Confirmation for all ages" Continues

Dinner and small group/  
youth at 5:45



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)

# Fun at Little Ark



Toddler 1 on their new slide and climbing toy; Happy Baby; Merry Christmas! From Tiny Tots; PK Christmas.



**For emergency  
pastoral care,  
call Pastor  
Cheryl at  
940-613-5375.**



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