

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 25, Issue 1

January 2025

The Mission of the Month is the Pastor's Benevolence Fund

The Pastor's Benevolence Fund has been designated as the January Mission of the Month by the Serve Team. The last several years have been "challenging," to say the least. Imagine yourself faced with a crisis that is beyond your means to resolve. This fund enables our pastor to respond quickly to such situations within our congregation, as well as for individuals coming to our church for assistance, including our Blessings Table neighbors. It has been used for gas, to pay for prescriptions, doctor's appointments, utility payments, and an assortment of other things. Once checks are cosigned by two FUMC board members, they can go directly to providers who can help to relieve one source of stress for those in need. Remember, we ARE our neighbors' keepers, as demonstrated by the Biblical Good Samaritan. When you drop dollars in the collection plate during January, or a check with Pastor's Fund on the memo line, or an online donation, you help to make sure the fund remains healthy so that the pastor can say "Yes" to a request and make someone's day easier.



Notes from Cheryl — January 2025

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)

A miscalculation has occurred. The wedding guests have drunk all the wine before the party is over. At times we can feel like we are “running out” of so much and scarcity is shutting down the party. In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus. In his economy. The true measure of abundance is fullness for the whole community, not just for some. Jesus told the servants to fetch Six Stone Jars of water to turn to wine. Let us build the Kin-dom of God by drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people.

The worship series Six Stone Jars will begin January 19th. Before that we will worship with Rev. Dr. Rita Sims will preside on January 5th, then the Baptism of our newest angelic member Abygail Harrell on January 12th.

We are excited to begin children’s choir again after school on Wednesdays starting January 15th. We are in need of a bus driver or even four once a month drivers to pick up the kids from CES and AC Williams. Call Ashlyn Woods to apply/volunteer (903) 434-6417.

Make a New Year’s resolution to grow deeper in your faith. Try reading a devotional from *The Upper Room* or another source each day. Or watch your email for weekly messages from me, your pastor. I’ll be digging deeper as well. Ironically, I will be “looking up” more in order to do this. As the Magi did in the hymn *The First Noel*, verse 2, “They looked up and saw a star.” Verses 2-5 have to do with the Magi. Each time the words “looks up” in the New Testament it has to do with a miracle of Jesus seeing more than he could naturally see. I’ll get more into this soon, but for now, “look up” these instances of “looked up” in scripture.

Matthew 4:19, Mark 7:32, Luke 21:1-4, and Mark 16:4-5

Did the Lord enable Jesus and the women in these scriptures to see more than they could see? Were there others around who missed seeing what they could see?

Let’s pray for God to help us see more than we can see this year! We are ready to look up to start the New Year!

Pastor Cheryl



Prayer List 12/30/24

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All affected by the war in The Middle East
- ◆ Family of Linda Helton
- ◆ Family of Pat Skauge
- ◆ Mike Clay
- ◆ Debbie Dunham
- ◆ Judy Rudoff
- ◆ Manolo Leos cousin of Ruth & Debbie
- ◆ Diane Garcia
- ◆ Nancy Roberts, Mike Roberts' mother
- ◆ Danny Duncan

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Mike Smith
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Anna Blohm
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Manuel Harrison
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Cortea
- ◆ Brenda Mosley Longhoffer
- ◆ Robert Seay



Ft. Worth:

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

Those serving in our military:

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



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- January 1 –Little Ark and Office closed
- January 2 –Serve Team at 10:30
—First Thursday Luncheon at noon
- January 7 —Women's Study Group at 3:00
- January 13 –Prayer Shawl at 9:30
- January 14 –Trustees at 6:30
- January 16 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30
- January 20 —Little Ark Closed for MLK Day -
—Finance at 6:00
- January 21 –Women's Study Group at 3:30
- January 23 --Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30

Ongoing Activities

- Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00
- Children's Choir Weds. at 3:45 Begins on the 15th.
- WOW! Worship on Weds. –Begins on the 15th.
dinner and small groups/youth @ 5:45
- Weds. Adult Choir Rehearsals at 7pm begins Jan. 15th.

Thank you all so much! Angel Tree Prison Ministries, through our church, provided gifts and JOY to 31 children that celebrated Christmas without a parent because they were in jail. Maintaining these relationships is important to both the parent and the child. Many parents are able to re-establish their relationship when they are released because you kept the communication open. Thank You!!!

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

Fun at Little Ark



Pre K tree decorating;
Tiny Tots with scarves;
Jack's first birthday; and
Toddler Two working on
balance



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



First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Pastor - Rev. Cheryl Murray