

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 26, Issue 1

January 2026

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.

Merry Market



A big Thank You to everyone who donated and shopped at the Merry Marketplace for Missions. Together we raised \$5,250 to distribute to missions in the coming year!



Notes from Cheryl — January 2026

Remember a few years back when everyone was doing the Cold Water Challenge or the Ice Bucket Challenge? It began as a dare game where individuals would jump into cold water, often during winter, and post a video online. Then it became someone dumping a bucket of ice water over the “victim,” all to raise awareness of diseases, particularly ALS.



Well, let's do an Epiphany Challenge during the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026... only let's leave off the cold water part and just challenge ourselves to pray each day, maybe near the same time, and specifically pray for our church and the new faces whom we have yet to meet. What do we need to do to make people feel welcome? Who can we invite to worship with us? What particular skills do you have that could help? We need volunteers to help with children's ministry. Can you dedicate one Sunday a month to be the second Adult in the Sunday School room? Or can you come up for an hour on Wednesday afternoon and help with Music and More?

Epiphany means having an “aha” moment, when God reveals God's self to us. What can we look forward to if we challenge ourselves to pray in the next few weeks for an Epiphany experience?

Have a blessed New Year. See you in church!

ANGEL TREE

Thank you all so much! Angel Tree Prison Ministries, through our church, provided gifts and JOY to 37 children that celebrated Christmas without a parent because they were incarcerated. 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 helped them keep the communication open. Thank You!!!



Prayer List 12/30/25

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ Family of Mary Louise McMahan
- ◆ Priscilla McFarland
- ◆ Marcia Hakala
- ◆ Mark & Donna Streetman
- ◆ Kyle Smith
- ◆ Becca Rowe
- ◆ Patricia Mulkey, Jim Patton's sister
- ◆ Mike Clay
- ◆ Debbie Dunham

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Manuel Harrison
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Cortea
- ◆ Robert Seay

Those serving in our military:

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



If you are interested in giving flowers for the altar, please contact

Luann Huffman at 903-366-2899
or email
lhuffman01@cumbytel.com

Upcoming Important Dates

- January 1 –Little Ark and Office closed
- January 6 —Women's Study Group at 3:00PM
- January 8 –Serve Team 10:30AM
- January 12—Prayer Shawl Meeting 9:30AM
- January 13—Trustees at 6:30PM
- January 15 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30AM
- January 19 —Little Ark Closed for MLK Day -
- January 20 –Women's Study Group at 3:00PM
- January 22 --Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30AM

Ongoing Activities

- Men's Breakfast (Texas Café Diner) Tuesdays at 8AM
- Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00PM
- Youth Bible Study Returns Wednesday Jan 14th at 5:30PM
- Adult Choir Rehearsals Return Wednesday Jan 14th at 6PM
- Music & More Returns Wednesday Jan. 28th from 4-5:30PM.

Financial Update as of Nov., 2025

	Current	YTD
Budget Income	\$19,102	\$217,124
Budget Expense	\$24,083	\$279,971
Diff.	\$-4,981	\$-62,847

Your Finance Committee

Fun at Little Ark



LITTLE ARK NURSERY & PRE-K

IS NOW OFFERING AFTER-SCHOOL CARE GRADES K-5TH

WITH TWO OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM CHILDREN CAN RIDE THE COMMERCE I.S.D SCHOOL BUS DIRECTLY TO LITTLE ARK MONDAY-FRIDAY

OPTION ONE	OPTION TWO
M-F AFTER SCHOOL	M-F AFTER SCHOOL
\$50/WEEK	PLUS HOLIDAYS \$80/WEEK

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL : 903.246.5650
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**For emergency
pastoral care,
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