

**MISSION OF THE MONTH-BLESSINGS TABLE**

The Blessings Table has been selected by the Serve Team to be the July Mission of the Month. The idea for such a table grew out of the Pandemic when churches had closed their doors, and those seeking help could not appeal directly to the minister for aide. Former pastor Sam Caldwell went to Farmersville to visit former pastor Greg Neal. Pastor Greg was not there that day, but Pastor Sam was intrigued by a table at the entrance with a sign that read, "Take what you need. Leave what you can." Pastor Sam brought the concept back to FUMC-Commerce, and our Blessings Table was launched. Today it has expanded to include clothing and personal items, along with food, all of which are available 24/7.

There are other food and clothing resources in Commerce open on certain days at certain times which people can use, provided they have transportation AND can prove they live in Hunt County. The Commerce Police estimate that there are 20-25 homeless people in our town (the closest shelter is in the metroplex.) who have no permanent address and, therefore cannot meet the criteria that many other resources require.

Few FUMC-Commerce members would characterize themselves as wealthy; however, what a luxury it is to have a roof over your head to shield you from extreme weather or to have clean clothes that you washed in your washing machine or to have 3 meals a day or take a soothing bath or shower. The Blessings Table attempts to provide those simple things often taken for granted for our un-housed neighbors.

There are several ways you can support this mission.

1. You can pray for our neighbors who are struggling.
2. You can drop dollar bills or a check with "Blessings Table" in the memo line in the offering plate during the Sundays in July. If you give online, just click on the appropriate button.
3. You can leave cans of food with pull-top lids on the table. Water or Gatorade bottles are always appreciated. Clothes, including shoes, and toiletries are sought after. Do you have a sleeping bag you could leave?

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven he was on the beach cooking and serving fish to the disciples. He asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Peter assured him--with a bit of consternation--that he did love him. Then Jesus responded, "Feed my sheep. Care for my lambs." How will we answer when Jesus asks "Do you love me?"



## Notes From Cheryl

*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Little Ark Preschool is a mission field with low-hanging fruit, right within our church walls! We want to embrace our Little Ark families and let them know they always have a church home here. You may start to see more and more opportunities to join Little Ark in church and school-related activities, such as Trunk or Treat at Halloween, and Pie with Parents (could be surrogate grandparents!) in November.

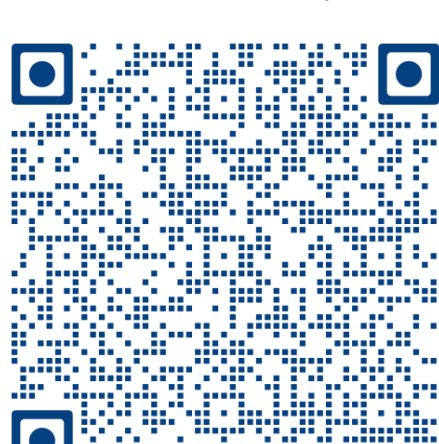
Starting even sooner, WOW is coming – Worship on Wednesdays – during the school year. We will offer supper, with music, singing, story time/devotional, and a spiritual practice geared toward all generations. Following WOW, we will offer Bible studies (45-50 minutes) for adults, youth, and children. We will pick up our usual M&Ms (Music & More) kids from elementary school to bring them here for dinner and WOW along with their families. College students and young adults will be invited to participate in a good hearty discussion after a good hearty meal, studying books and topics such as *Making Sense of the Bible* and *Wrestling with Doubt* by Adam Hamilton.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas. This is a chance to provide a safe convenient place to worship for Little Ark families plus all generations who desire to grow in their faith through study and fellowship.



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! I find this time of year to always be incredibly busy. With that being said, the end of Summer Break and VBS week will be here before we know it. V.B.S (Breaker Rock Beach) week will be August 5th-8th from 5:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We rely heavily on volunteers each year to make things run smoothly. I will be placing sign ups on the table in the Narthex near the Sanctuary doors. You may sign up there or email me at [jamielbourcy@gmail.com](mailto:jamielbourcy@gmail.com)

If you are interested in helping. We will need kid friendly meals provided for each night, as well as group and class leaders. All adults volunteering to be class and group leaders will need to have up to date ministry safe training. I need 3 group leaders who will escort 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 to their stations, I also need a craft leader and a rec leader. If you can't volunteer all 4 nights that is ok too, we can never have too many volunteers and we encourage our Youth to volunteer as well. I am excited for our theme this year, and can't wait to help our community's children grow closer in their relationship with God.



**Prayer List 6-27-24**

**Recent Concerns:**

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All who are affected by the war in Israel
- ◆ Family of Ruby Vander Velde
- ◆ Jessica Bush
- ◆ Lisa McGuyer
- ◆ Dan Perkins
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Anna Blohm
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Mike King
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Sam Elwell
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ Glenda Helton
- ◆ Rob Lee

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- ◆ Priscilla McFarland
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Manuel Harrison
- ◆ Melanie Corteaal
- ◆ Judy Corteaal
- ◆ Brenda Mosley Longhoffer
- ◆ Robert Seay

**Ft. Worth:**

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

**Those serving in our military:**

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

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 [huffman01@cumbytel.com](mailto:huffman01@cumbytel.com).



**UP COMING IMPORTANT DATES**

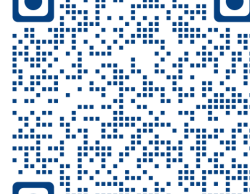
- July 7th Farewell Pot Luck for the Lockharts** at 11:00
- July 8 Prayer Shawl** meets at 9:30am
- July 11 First Thursday Luncheon** at noon in the Family Ministry Center
- July 11 Serve team** meets at 2pm
- June 11 Women's Study Group** at 3pm
- July 15 Trustees** meet at 6:30pm
- July 18 Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am
- July 22 Bishop Throws first pitch at Rangers game** at 7:05
- July 25 Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am

**ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group** meets at McKay's Country Kitchen at 8am
- Wednesdays-Country Home Estates** Worship @ 2pm

*If you are interested in volunteering to help with Sunday School or the nursery, please see Ashlyn.*

The Bishop will throw out the first pitch at the Texas Ranger game on July 22. That is United Methodist night at Globe Life Field. Hope to see you there!





# Little Ark Gallery



Top row: Tiny Tots free play. Toddler 1 Friends! Toddler 2 water day.

Bottom Row: Pre-K painting their jelly fish during ocean week.

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

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