

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas

Volume 25, Issue 7

July 2025



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 and water, all of which is available 24/7.

There are, indeed, other food and clothing resources in Commerce open on certain days at certain times which people can use, provided they have transportation to get to the distribution point AND can prove they live in Hunt County, which sometimes is not possible. 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 unhoused 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. (Summer) Clothes, including shoes, and toiletries are sought after. Do you have a sleeping bag or blanket 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 us, "Do you love me?"





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2025

Notes from Cheryl

Hard to believe it's already July! I planned a while back to preach a worship series on Rest this month – and then I got to experience rest to the nth degree in the hospital and recovery which I am still in. I observed some things about myself during this time I was supposed to be resting: I had to keep reminding myself not to dwell on things I can't control. I tried to keep my "attitude on gratitude" for all the people in my life and for all the prayers and people passing through whom I got to know or reconnect with while in the hospital. Oh yes, and all the delicious food! It all was welcome and appreciated!

So what does God say about Rest? Well, we know God rested on the seventh day of Creation, and we know we are created in God's image. So God is strongly inviting us to make Rest a vital part of the rhythm of life.

I saw several new faces in Worship yesterday (June 22) and I pray that our hospitality was on display and that everyone there had a restful worship experience. Maybe you know someone who needs to hear and experience the profound importance of Rest to being human.

In this series on embracing the gift of Rest, we will ask the questions: How might God help us release into Rest, rather than stretching us to do more? How do we cultivate a healthy rhythm of rest, work, and play, recognizing that balance is essential for our well-being and spiritual growth?

We will learn that there is a natural ebb and flow for our minds, bodies, and spirits, modeled for us by God. Embracing the gift of Rest allows us to be people of restoration, renewal, and wholeness. Join us in July for the "Season of Rest."



Prayer List 6/23/2025

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All affected by the war in The Middle East
- ◆ Mark and Donna Streetman
- ◆ Emily Lampe
- ◆ Kyle Smith, son of John Kinney Smith
- ◆ Pastor Cheryl Murray
- ◆ Becca Rowe
- ◆ Orvis Wayne Reynolds
- ◆ Willie Blow
- ◆ Katie Cline
- ◆ Wally Jeffers (FISH) Heart transplant
- ◆ Blake Cooper, Heart transplant
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Patricia Mulkey, Jim Patton's sister
- ◆ Mike Clay
- ◆ Debbie Dunham
- ◆ Diane Garcia

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Corteaal
- ◆ Robert Seay

Ft. Worth:

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

Those serving in our military:

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- July 3 —Serve Team at 10:30
- July 4 —Office and Little Ark Closed for the 4th
- July 14 —Prayer Shawl Meeting at 9:30
- July 17 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30
- June 24 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30
- July 28 to 31 VBS Week 9:00 -11:30
- August 3 —Back to School/VBS Bash

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Men's Breakfast at Omega's Tuesdays at 8
Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00

No Choir rehearsals until Fall



VBS will be
July 28 through
July 31 from
9:00 to 11:30.

Please plan for
all the children
you know to

come and enjoy this fun filled week of learning
about God. We are also looking for volunteers.
Call Jamie Bourcy for information 903-243-3038.



If you are interested in giving
flowers for the altar, please
visit with Luann Huffman be-
fore worship on Sunday or
contact her at 903-366-2899 or
lhuffman01@cumbytel.com



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Little Ark Fun!



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

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