

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2023 Newsletter



## MISSION OF THE MONTH-THE RAFFA CLINIC

The Serve team has selected the Raffa Clinic to be the June Mission of the Month. Raffa, the phonetic spelling of Jehovah Rapha, "Christ the Healer" was begun in 2000 by the Highland Terrace Baptist Church's women's ministry. They wanted to support young pregnant girls by providing diapers and baby clothes, as well as spiritual gifts. Like F.I.S.H., the program blossomed into a multitude of services. Today, the clinic also supplies formula and baby wipes, as well as diapers and baby clothes. Its other services include pregnancy tests, sonogram exams, parenting classes, and one-on-one counseling for women who have had an abortion and regret their decision. Raffa can administer a pill that reverses a drug induced abortion, as well. The clinic also gives young women information about adoption agencies.

Although Hunt County and northeast Texas are the target areas, no one is turned away. According to clinic director Threesa Sadler, 1260 clients received services in 2022. The clinic is located at 2612 Jordan Street in Greenville and can be reached at 903-454-9711.

The following is a true story of Raffa's help directly in our community. Two weeks ago, Kelli Howard was working at the Blessings table when a young couple living at the motel next door walked up with their 8 month old baby. They needed EVERYTHING -- money to pay the motel, food (they were feeding the baby powdered milk), and baby things. The husband had found a job but had not yet started work. The call went out for possible resources. Raffa was mentioned. Pastor Cheryl used her benevolence monies to pay the motel. Food came from our Blessings table. That SAME afternoon, Bill Heitholt's daughter-in-law Debbie, a nurse on staff at Raffa, personally delivered formula, diapers, baby wipes and 4 onesies to the church.



If you want to support Raffa's work, there are several ways you can help.

1. Drop dollar bills or a check with Raffa on the memo line, in the collection plate on the Sundays in June. If you give online, you can use the QR code on the bulletin and select Mission of the Month.
2. Donate packages of baby wipes. A bin will be in the gathering area for your donations.
3. Be on the lookout for the date and time for Raffa's annual fundraiser dinner. (This event is for adults only due to some of the topics discussed.)

As Pastor Cheryl encouraged in her sermon, let us "take the next step" as we strive to be Christ's hands and feet.



**Monday through Thursday, July 31st through August 3rd  
5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**

We are looking for Heroes to:

- ◆ provide and serve dinner each night.
- ◆ lead Science, Music and Art stations.
- ◆ group leaders for each age group: PreK4/Kinder, 1st-2nd, 3rd-4th, & 5th-6th

**All helpers will need to complete Ministry Safe training prior to VBS. This training takes no more than 30 minutes and can be done in the comfort of your own home.** If you are interested in helping, please contact  
**Amy Stark at 903-246-1487.**

# HERO HOTLINE VBS!

## Notes from Pastor Cheryl



Pentecost is both an event in the life of the church and a season that lives out the implications of the event. Pentecost Sunday marks the shift in the liturgical calendar from telling the story of Jesus, our Messiah and Savior, to telling the story of the church, the ones who choose to be disciples of Jesus the Christ. It doesn't mean, of course, that we stop talking about Jesus or that the church doesn't appear in the first half of the liturgical year. It does mean that this long season we sometimes call

Ordinary Time is our time, the church's time to remember the sending of the Great Commission and the empowerment of the Pentecost event and to live our faith out loud in the world, reflecting the values and priorities of the kingdom of God.

To shore us up for the long journey ahead of us, we remember the sending. We remember the moment when fire came from heaven and the power of the Spirit blew through the church with gale-force winds. And then we stop in adoration and awe as we consider the source of this power and the sustaining presence that is ours in this endeavor of faith. So the first two Sundays of summer we will remember together the time when God came like fire.

Then we are all about heroes. It is the theme of our Vacation Bible School: *Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God*. Even before VBS (which takes place July 31 – August 3), we will take a look at more characters in the Bible; namely, Deborah, Esther, Ruth, Rahab, Lydia, and either Joseph or Jonah. (or maybe both!)

We are in the planning stages of a new ministry to start right after Labor Day. We want to revive the "M&Ms" which stands for "Music and More" after school one day a week. If you are interested in helping with this program, let me know. We will need all hands on deck to make it a success. This is a vital ministry to attract Under 25s (music helpers and other volunteers from TAMU-C) plus young families. We hope this will grow into a dynamic ministry for our community, children learning, singing and telling the story of God's grace.

Remember you are not allowed to retire from making disciples!

Pastor Cheryl

*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 CEB*



### SERVE TEAM UPDATE

Our Blessings Table is a very busy place! Each day, a Serve Team volunteer stocks the table with food items, pet food and hygiene items from our cabinets in the kitchen. By the next day, every item is gone. Without a doubt, we are providing much needed food for our hungry neighbors. We may never know them, but they know us for the kindness and love we show strangers, just as Jesus instructed us to do!

If you would like to donate to the Blessings Table, please leave grocery items in the kitchen to the right of the stoves. We will add them to our Blessings Table supplies with a grateful heart. See a Serve team member or office staff to make a financial donation.

**Thank you from our neighbors and the Serve Team.**

### BLESSINGS TABLE NEEDS

- ◆ Protein foods such as beans, meats, peanut butter, pasta with meat. Canned items need to have pull tab tops.
- ◆ Crackers, tortillas or bread to go with protein items.
- ◆ Canned fruit or applesauce.
- ◆ Instant oatmeal, breakfast bars or granola bars.
- ◆ Canned cat and dog food.
- ◆ Snacks or sweets are a nice bonus.
- ◆ Restaurant-type cutlery and napkins.
- ◆ Travel size soap, shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, lotion, hair brushes.
- ◆ And money! Any donation is much appreciated!



**Prayer List 5-26-23**

**Recent Concerns:**

- Our world, country, & leaders
- ♦ The family of Phillip Jackson, son of Lewis & Faye Jackson
- Priscilla McFarland
- Michael Vickers, Ginny Haight's father
- Kyle Smith
- Ron Elwell
- Rev. Dr. Rita Sims
- The Elwell Family
- Diana Richards
- Amanda, named by Jan Helton
- Jack Gray
- Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother (Advanced Parkinson's)
- Tom Bailey
- Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- Carlos Rickman
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine
- Bill Heitholt
- Janet & Jim Payne, Becky Coker's sister
- Georgia Gholston
- Manuel Henderson
- Melanie Cortea
- Judy Cortea
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's mother)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)

**Austin:**

- Ruby Vander Velde

**Burleson:**

- Mary Louise McMahan

**Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):**

- Jerry Hutton

**Oak Manor:**

- Helen Cole

**Those serving in our military:**

- Celeste Young, (Marines) & Chandler Teague (Navy), great-grandchildren of Lee Riddle
- 2nd Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner



We are currently looking for ushers, greeters and acolytes. If you are interested, please call the church office.

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.



**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

**June 1-First Thursday luncheon** at noon

**June 8- Serve meeting** at 10:30am

**June 12-Prayer Shawl** meets at 9:30am

**June 13-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm

**June 13-Trustees** meet at 6:30

**June 15-Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am

**June 22-Prayer Shawl Crafting** meets at 9:30

**June 27-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm

**ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT FUMC COMMERCE**

**Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group** meets at Omega's at 8am

**Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsal** at 7pm

**BI-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Every other Tuesday-Women's Study Group** at 5:15pm



This year's Vacation Bible School, Hero Hotline, will be held **July 31st through August 3rd**. You can find the specific details on page one of this newsletter. Amy Stark and Jamie Bourcy are coordinating this program and are seeking volunteers in a variety of roles.

# May Activities at Little Ark



Top row: Sensory play for our babies! Pre-K Zoo week...dramatic play! Toddler 1 kids with Mrs. Tiffany!!

Bottom Row: Preschool Park Day

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

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