

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH-NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK**

The North Texas Food Bank is the March Mission of the Month. Imagine for a moment you are a parent who relies on the schools to consistently provide their children with breakfast and lunch. Any holiday season, with its own stressors but also a promise of happy times, only produces heightened anxiety for these parents. Though inflation has come down, most food prices have not. It also renders one of the best ways to break the grip of poverty – education – ineffective. Studies show a correlation between food insecurity and success in school. Hungry children are too tired to focus on their class work and have trouble remembering. Make no mistake, CISD has food-insecure students. Former counselor Harriet Williams recalls some students literally licking their plates clean. One third grader being interviewed for a special food program was asked what he liked to eat at dinner. His response? "Oh, we don't have dinner. We just go to bed."

Where can a parent go for assistance? Food stamps? Perhaps. However, with the Covid pandemic officially declared over and new regulations regarding eligibility, some families may no longer have access to this resource. The State of Texas? Highly unlikely. Although we live in a wealthy state, Texas ranks second in the nation in the number of food insecure households, behind Arkansas but ahead of Mississippi, according to the FDA.

The North Texas Food Bank is DEFINITELY a great asset for those who are food-insecure in our community. The NTFB, 8th largest in the U. S., is a major supplier for the Commerce Food Pantry and Bread of Life Church of the Nazarene, both of which continue food distributions throughout the holidays. The NTFB provides much of the staples included in the Thanksgiving and Christmas Hunt County Shares boxes. The NTFB also administers the Food-4-Kids program, which gives eligible kids special backpacks with shelf-stable foods to take home over the weekend. In 2023, the NTFB partnered with 300 schools, serving 1,100 children with 730,000 meals.

To support the NTFB, you can:

1. Drop dollar bills or a check with "NTFB" on the memo line in the collection plate during March. If you give online, just click on the appropriate tab. Every \$1.00 donated provides three meals.
2. A group of church members, including youth, can volunteer at the Plano location.

Let's heed the admonition in Matthew 25 to be on the right hand of God by feeding the hungry.



## **UPDATE ON THE CANNED SOUP DROP-OFF**

Cathy Giles, former FUMC member, reports that the canned soup and chili drive-by drop-off on February 10th, benefiting the TAMU-C Lion Food Pantry, yielded 122 pounds of food and a \$50.00 donation. She expressed her gratitude for our congregation's ongoing support for this cause.

## TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees voted to schedule our spring work day this year on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 until noon. This will coincide with the 2024 Operation Blue and Gold, in which university students volunteer their services. We HAVE STARTED this list with the goal of receiving input from our church family. For more details about any particular project and to volunteer and/or to suggest other projects you can contact the office or email [latsonhouse@gmail.com](mailto:latsonhouse@gmail.com).



## SPRING 2024 PROJECT LIST

1. Roof cleaning
2. Shrub/tree trimming
3. Preparing and planting plants/flowers
4. Shovel dirt/mud in the keyhole parking lot
5. Paint French Drain PVC pipes
6. Bush whack around trees on west side of west parking lot
7. Trash pick up all around and in our back pasture
8. Moving the slate roof tiles to the container
9. Removing old room panels from behind containers
10. Fire ant treatment all around
11. Burn pile
12. Lights and ceiling tiles in Little Ark

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## Notes From Cheryl



At the first of every year, we as a local church, take stock of our financial situation, income (giving) and expenses for the year. We also count our members, and take stock of who has come and gone. For the year 2023, we had a count of 189 members. The number of members engaged in ministries with the poor went up 21 percent and the number of persons served by our community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy increased 49 percent to over 2500 people, largely because of the ministries we provide to the poor and marginalized. We counted at least 20 of these ministries, including the Commerce Food Pantry, Clothe-A-Child, Blessings Table, Bread of Life, Manna Movers, Prayer Shawl, Angel Tree Prison Ministries, and more. That's a number to celebrate. God gives us the vision and provides the means!

Holy Week is coming up the last week of March. We will begin Sunday March 24 with a Palm Sunday Celebration, led by children and youth, with beautiful music by our choir to take us through the events of that week when all our ideas about the Kingdom of God were "up-ended" by the crucifixion, then resurrection of Jesus.



After Palm Sunday worship, we will have a Gathering with coffee and pastries while we watch the children's Easter Egg Hunt. Thursday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, March 28) at noon, we will celebrate Holy Communion in the Sanctuary with an opportunity to visit "Stations of the Cross." We hope you will join us for these worship services, plus our Easter Sunday Celebration on March 31.



**Prayer List 2-29-24**

**Recent Concerns:**

- ◆ All who are affected by the war in Israel
- ◆ Diana Richards
- ◆ Clarence Jensen
- ◆ Tom Bailey
- ◆ Anna Blohm
- ◆ Mike Smith
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Mike King
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Shealee Morgan
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Jack McDaniel
- ◆ Sam Elwell
- ◆ Bob Clark
- ◆ Kerry Clark
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ Vance Underhill
- ◆ Glenda Helton
- ◆ Rob Lee
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Suzanne Kizer Carter

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- ◆ Priscilla McFarland
- ◆ Michael Vickers, Ginny Haight's father
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother
- ◆ Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Janet & Jim Payne, Becky Coker's sister
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Manuel Harrison
- ◆ Melanie Cortea
- ◆ Judy Cortea
- ◆ Harold & Becky Coker
- ◆ Mabel and Carl Little
- ◆ Robert Seay

**Austin:**

- ◆ Ruby Vander Velde

**Ft. Worth:**

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

**Those serving in our military:**

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

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

- March 5-Women's Study Group** at 3pm
- March 5-Primary Elections** from 7am-7pm
- March 7-Serve team** meets at 10:30am
- March 7-First Thursday Luncheon** at noon
- March 9-Jerry Hutton's memorial gathering** at 1pm
- March 10-Ad Council** after worship
- March 11-Prayer Shawl** meets at 9:30am
- March 12-Trustees** meet at 6:30pm
- March 15-Little Ark closed** for Spring Break
- March 16-Parent's Night Out event** from 5-8pm
- March 21-Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am
- March 23-Church Workday** from 9-noon
- March 24-Palm Sunday Youth-led worship**, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt
- March 28-Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am
- March 28-Maundy Thursday communion service** at noon
- March 29-Good Friday, Little Ark closed**
- March 31-Easter Sunday**

**ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group** meets at Texas Café Diner at 8am
- Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsals** at 7pm.
- Thursdays-M&M After School Choir** from 3:45-5:30pm

**BI-WEEKLY EVENTS**

- Thursdays-Youth (7th, 21st)** meets from 6-7pm

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



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](mailto:lhuffman01@cumbytel.com).

# Youth News

February was a great month for FUMC-C youth. We enjoyed helping at the Souper Bowl of Caring. It was great to see the congregation show up and show out to help fight food insecurity in our community. Our Annual Pancake supper was a big success. Thank you for all your unending support. March will be a busy month for our youth. We will host another Parents Night Out event on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm. Youth will also lead the service on Palm Sunday, followed by an Easter egg hunt after worship.

Our Spring flower fundraiser is up and running. Please head over to <https://FUMCYOUTH.fpfundraising.com> and check it out. Orders ship directly to you and are due by May 15th.



# Little Ark Gallery



L to R: Happy Valentine's Day from our Tiny Tots; Birthday Donuts in Toddler 1; Pre-K Chapel with Pastor Cheryl on Ash Wednesday.

*If you would like to volunteer to help with the upcoming Parent's Night Out event or help to provide dinner/snacks, please see Jamie or Ashlyn. Thank You!*

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

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