

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas

Volume 25, Issue 3

March 2025



An army is coming! An army is coming! Don't be alarmed. You don't have to throw up any defenses. This is the UMARMY, United in Mission Action Reach-out Mission by Youth. Hundreds of churches open their doors wide each summer to welcome this army of teenagers who have paid a fee so that they can do projects to assist the low-income, the elderly, or the disabled. Projects range from yard work to painting interior and exterior walls to repairing or rebuilding fences, to building ramps, and more.

The program began in 1979 when a Methodist church in Houston joined other churches to take teenagers on a week-long mission trip to Athens, Texas. Over the years, UMARMY has refined its procedures.

Before the campers arrive, adults come and survey the church. They take numerous pictures and make space for the campers. Adults also survey each site to make sure it is appropriate, and to determine what materials (at no expense to the homeowner) will be needed. Then the campers arrive. At FUMC-Commerce, we host a welcoming dinner, and then a week of intensive work begins. Throughout the week, there are several opportunities for worship beginning before breakfast. One of the most fun experiences for the clients is at lunch. Campers bring lunch for the homeowners who join the group for lunch and a devotional each day. Thursday night, the campers host a dinner for their clients and church members. Then everyone adjourns to the Sanctuary where clients recount their experiences which are very heartwarming. Then all join in a worship that includes communion. A memorable experience for all.

FUMC-Commerce has a long history with UMARMY. Though now retired, Jim Patton served as a member of the Board of Directors. He can still be seen at work sites in an advisory capacity. He and Susan developed such a good reputation as cooks that one church asked them to come cook when no one else from our church was involved. After Mikey Elwell turned 18, he remained affiliated with the program on the Youth Advisory Board.

Lent is a time of reflection when Christians meditate on the sacrifices Christ made for us and how we may honor him. Contributing very generously to UMARMY is one way we can honor Jesus. Please pray earnestly about this. The experience makes an indelible impression on clients and on the youth whose faith is deepened. So does the feeling they get from helping someone.



Notes from Cheryl

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and reread these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

The events of Christ's passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. Yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient stories open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 5, on Ash Wednesday. Join us for a pancake supper to benefit the youth camp fund, then stick around for Worship – Imposition of Ashes – in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. The adult chancel choir will rehearse after worship about 7:45.



Prayer Shawl Ministry ladies have taken on a new project of crocheting and knitting lap blankets to be presented to Oak Manor residents next Christmas. This is in addition to our current projects: card ministry, hats & scarves for Operation Gratitude, cancer hats for Hunt Regional, prayer shawls, and lap blankets. We welcome new members to join us for fellowship, fun, sharing of ideas, and refreshments the second Monday of each month at 9:30 in the Prayer Shawl room. You don't have to crochet or knit to join us (but we are happy to teach these if you like)!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Prayer List 2/12/2025

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All affected by the war in The Middle East
- ◆ Wally Jeffers (FISH) Heart transplant
- ◆ Blake Cooper, Heart transplant
- ◆ Mary Beth Sampson
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Lisa McGuyer
- ◆ Pastor Cheryl Murray
- ◆ Patricia Mulkey, Jim Patton's sister
- ◆ Mike Clay
- ◆ Debbie Dunham
- ◆ Judy Rudoff
- ◆ Diane Garcia

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Chandler Teague grandchild of Lee Riddle
- ◆ 1st Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- ◆ Lt. Dan Barton
- ◆ Daniel Chamberlain
- ◆ Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

March 2 —Confirmation Sunday

March 5 —Pancake dinner by youth at 5:45

Ash Weds. Service at 7:00

Followed by Adult Choir

March 9 —Scouting Sunday

March 10-14 —Spring Break

March 10 —Prayer Shawl Meeting at 9:30

—Little Ark Meeting at 5:00

March 11 —Women's Study Group at 3:00

—Trustees Meeting at 6:30

March 12 —No Music & More-Spring Break

March 13-14 —Church closed for Spring Break

March 13 —Little Ark Teacher Work Day

March 14 —Little Ark Spring Break

March 16 —St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck & Bingo

March 17 —Finance Meeting at 6:00

March 20 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30

March 25 —Women's Study Group

March 27 --Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30

Ongoing Activities

Men's Breakfast at Texas Café Tuesdays at 8:00

Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00

Music & More (Children's choir) Weds. at 3:45

WOW! Worship on Weds. Dinner and small group/youth at 6:00

Weds. Adult Choir Rehearsals at 7pm

Beauty



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

Fun at Little Ark



Pre School flowers for parents; Pre K Valentine's Picture; Toddler 2 Crazy hair, Don't Care; Baby Room



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



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