

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 26, Issue 3

March



The Lenten Offering Mission is UMARMY

UMARMY, United in Mission Action Reach-out Missions 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.

We are hosting a UMARMY team here the week of June 7th! When 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, June 11th, 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 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. After Mike 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. The experience makes an indelible impression on clients and on the youth whose faith is deepened.

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl kept busy over the holidays showering our community with love.

They made and delivered 33 lap blankets to the residents of Oak Manor for Christmas. Prayer Shawl welcomes anyone who would like to learn crochet or knitting. No experience necessary. Our regular meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month, and Craft Days are the 3rd and 4th Thursdays every month. All meetings are at 9:30AM.



Finance Report

Budgeted Income:

Member Contributions: \$11,205

Little Ark Reimbursements: \$3,372

Total \$14,577

Budgeted Expense: \$16,636

Difference: **-\$2,059**



Prayer List 02/24/26

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ Family of Jean Stachowiak, Mother of Bob Stachowiak
- ◆ Carter McLeroy (needs a heart transplant), Grandson of Julie and Bob McLeroy
- ◆ Priscilla McFarland
- ◆ Marcia Hakala
- ◆ Mark & Donna Streetman
- ◆ Kyle Smith
- ◆ Becca Rowe
- ◆ Patricia Mulkey, Jim Patton's sister
- ◆ Debbie Dunham

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Richard Young
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Cortea
- ◆ Robert Seay

Those serving in our military:

- ◆ Chandler Teague (US Navy)
great-grandson of Lee Riddle
- ◆ Captain Cameron Lehr
- ◆ Lt. Dan Barton
- ◆ Daniel Chamberlain
- ◆ Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith



Upcoming Important Dates

- March 3—Women's Study Group 3PM
- March 5—Serve Team 10:30AM
- March 9—Prayer Shawl Meeting 9:30AM
- March 10—Trustees 6:30PM
- March 11— Spring Break No Children's Choir
- March 13— Little Ark Closed
- March 16—Finance 6PM
- March 17—Women's Study Group 3PM
- March 19—Prayer Shawl Crafting 9:30AM
- March 26 --Prayer Shawl Crafting 9:30AM
- March 29 — Palm Sunday Service 10AM
Children's Choir Performance
Easter Egg Hunt & Pot-Luck After Service
- March 31—Women's Study 3PM

Ongoing Activities

- Men's Breakfast (Omega's): Wednesdays 8AM
- Country Home Estates: Wednesdays at 2:00PM
- Children's Choir: Wednesdays from 4-5:30PM
- Youth: Wednesdays at 5:30PM
- Pastor's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 5:30PM
- Adult Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 6:30PM
- Children's Sunday School (ages 4-9): Sundays 10am
- Friendship Class: Sundays at 11am

If you are interested in giving flowers for the altar, please contact Luann Huffman at 903-366-2899 or email lhuffman01@cumbytel.com

Fun at Little Ark



**For emergency
pastoral care,
call Pastor
Cheryl at
903-468-7178.**



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