

# First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 21, Issue 5

May 2023 Newsletter

## MISSION OF THE MONTH-F.I.S.H. MINISTRIES

The Serve Team has designated Hunt County Shared Ministries, F.I.S.H., as its Mission of the Month.

First Presbyterian Church pastor Reverend Bill Hunt, who kept food supplies at the church for people in need, was looking across Joe Ramsey Blvd. at the Unitarian church and wondering if they might collect gently used clothing to distribute to individuals. A quick call began a partnership that became Hunt County Shared Ministries. Forty years later, at its current location at 2805 King Street, F.I.S.H. offers a slew of services beyond providing food. Today, F.I.S.H. is poised to offer even more programs for Hunt County residents..

F.I.S.H. bought a facility at 2825 O'Neal, which is about ten times the size of the current facility. Upon remodeling, it will house a commercial kitchen where F.I.S.H. will begin a weekly soup kitchen. Part of the space will also be used for an inclement weather shelter where individuals can cool down from scorching summer weather or warm up on frigid winter days.

Hunt County Shared Ministries will immediately begin offering mental health services under the umbrella of Hunt County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. A fundraiser golf tournament will be held May 19, to benefit this new program.

Meanwhile, Hunt County Shared Ministries continues its current programs from its King Street facility including: food assistance, help with rent and utilities, MARK-Meals for At-Risk Kids which sends qualified youngsters home with shelf-stable foods for the weekend, payment for doctor's visits, eye exams and glasses, Hunt County Shares food boxes that are distributed each Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Food assistance is available Monday through Friday until noon. Individuals must submit an application verifying residency in Hunt County before 11:30. Thursday, anyone may drive by to pick up a box of produce without regard to residency. For help with rent or utilities, individuals may register Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday by 11:30.

### How can you support these vital services? You can...

1. Pray for F.I.S.H. and its clients.
2. Assemble a team of four and enter the Shotgun Scramble fundraiser to be held at Deer Run Golf Club in West Tawakoni on May 19. To register go to [www.hcbhlt.org](http://www.hcbhlt.org)
3. Be on the lookout for the details of the annual Bar-B-Que fundraiser to be held later this year.
4. Be part of a group to volunteer at F.I.S.H.
5. Drop dollar bills--or a check with F.I.S.H. in the memo line--in the collection plate during the Sundays in May. If you give online, click the Mission of the Month button.

F.I.S.H. originally referenced the Biblical story of the loaves and fishes. CEO Wally Jeffers has given those letters a new interpretation. F.I. S.H. Faithfully Involved in Shared Hope. Let us be involved in that shared hope.

# SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

**Monday through Thursday, July 31st through  
August 3rd from 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.** If you are interested in helping, please contact Amy Stark at 903-246-1487.



*Notes from Pastor Cheryl*



If you look on page 38 in the United Methodist Hymnal, you will find our baptismal vows or the vows that we as United Methodists take at baptism or someone takes for us if we are infants:

“To faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.” Well, at least part of it. Notice the word that is missing: *witness*. *The word witness was added in 2008 after the hymnals were printed. When we repeat these vows, we are reminded that as Christians, we are called to a particular way of life.*

This year on May 28 we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, the day the church designates as its birthday, when the Spirit “rained down” on the disciples meeting in Jerusalem. But we are not just celebrating a birthday party for ourselves. On the first Pentecost, thousands of people visiting Jerusalem witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit, which made the disciples speak in tongues so that everyone could understand the Good News of Jesus Christ, and that this gospel was offered to everyone, each and every child of God, man, woman, child, Hebrew, Gentile, etc. Peter preached under the power of this windy, fiery Spirit, and the throngs who heard him went home and told of what they had seen and heard.

There’s a pattern in this scripture that is familiar: First, the disciples gathered. Then as they prayed, they were filled with God’s Holy Spirit. This power equipped and empowered the people to witness to and feed God’s lambs.

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to point to Jesus, to reveal, to help us to remember, to witness to his life and teachings, and to give new life. The Holy Spirit’s mission to the disciples is to give a witness, a story to tell, to teach, to remind, to guide, and to abide, to make a home, with us.

The Holy Spirit has called us to this congregation. To whom, what, and where is God calling you to use your gifts and resources to witness to what God has done in your life through Jesus Christ? How do you experience the Holy Spirit? Has it kissed the top of your head as a burning flame, or maybe strangely warmed your heart? Let us pray for wisdom to discern where the Spirit is taking us at FUMC Commerce to change the world.

Watch for youth sightings at various places this summer! Animal shelter, retirement home, maybe even Six Flags! Also watch for Superheroes of our Faith in VBS. Sign up to help, and for goodness’ sake, pray God’s Spirit will rain down on us over and over!

**EXCITING THINGS ARE IN THE WORKS AT FUMC-COMMERCE!**

FUMC-Commerce will be offering an after-school program this fall that will include a children’s choir, handbells and chimes. We are planning to get information out to the community before the school year ends. This program will promote the presence of the church in our community, as well as the presence of children and parents in our church.



*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.*

Individuals interested in volunteering for Sunday School or any program that involves direct contact with children are required to complete Ministry Safe training prior to beginning their work. This can be done online in your home. Training takes around 30 minutes to complete. Stop by the church office to pick up registration paperwork.



## Prayer List 4-27-23

### Recent Concerns:

- Our world, country, & leaders
- The Elwell Family
- Family of Karla Roffee
- Diana Richards
- Amanda, named by Jan Helton
- Jack Gray
- Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother  
(Advanced Parkinson's)
- Priscilla McFarland (FUMC-C member)
- Emma Dean, recovering from a serious infection,  
now back at school
- Tom Bailey
- Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- Carlos Rickman
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinon

### 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

## HELP WANTED!

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help with mowing and trimming. We save the church around \$800 annually by mowing/trimming the area on the northwest side of the church. We have two volunteers and could use a couple more. If willing, please contact Dick Latson at 903-456-4328 or at latsonhouse@gmail.com.



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.



Thanks to Mike Roberts and his crew for removing the "problem shrubs" from around the church. We appreciate our volunteers so very much!

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

**May 1– Ad Council** meets at 5:30pm

**May 4-Serve meeting** at 10:30am

**May 4-First Thursday luncheon** at noon

**May 8-Prayer Shawl** meets at 9:30am

**May 9-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm

**May 9-Trustees** meet at 6:30

**May 14-Happy Mother's Day!**



**May 18-Prayer Shawl crafting** meets at 9:30am

**May 21 Mariann's Retirement Reception** after worship

**May 23-Women's Study Group** meets at 5:15pm

**May 25-Prayer Shawl Crafting** meets at 9:30

**May 29-Memorial Day** Church Office and Little Ark closed

## 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

# So Much to Learn and Do at Little Ark



Top row: Preschool Easter Egg Hunt;  
Toddler 2 getting ready to hunt some  
eggs!; Toddler 1: Fire Drill!

Bottom Row: Baby Room Easter!; Pre-K  
making "Resurrection Rolls" for Easter.

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

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