



Notes from Pastor Cheryl

Because we follow Jesus, we can say we walk with him on a lifelong journey to transformation, with generosity as a rule of life. This time of year churches are usually having stewardship drives to see where we stand financially in planning ministries for the coming year. This year I want you to consider what God is calling you to do, rather than what the church needs. Generosity is not about the amount you give so much as the fact that you give and do it regularly. Generosity also means in presence, and giving of ourselves, to listen and discern where God is leading us to walk, both individually and as a local church.

In weeks to come we will be talking about gifts and service and holistic stewardship that encompasses our whole lives. We can become stewards of God's will for our lives and for the people around us. How can we realign our priorities with what is required right in front of us? God gives each of us gifts that align with the needs of the world around us. "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Frederick Buechner, (1926-2022) a great author, preacher, and theologian.



Change is in the air, and I'm not just excited about the cooler temperatures. We are exploring the possibility of restructuring our church committees to better align with our vision of how God is calling us to serve our community. Monday, October 3 will be an informational meeting about this proposal. I will have reading material available if you can't make the meeting.

After all we can say and do, God still says, "But I love you." We are God's beloved forgiven children, and God keeps giving and giving and giving. Pray during the month of October for God to show you where and to what you are called, right now in this time and place. (Remember, disciples never retire!)



FUMC Commerce is pleased to introduce Ashlyn Woods as our new Youth Director.

Ashlyn is a teacher at Little Ark and will work closely with Pastor Cheryl in building and growing our youth program.

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.



CLOTHE-A-CHILD OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

 by Judy Rudoff

The Mission of the Month for October is Clothe-a-Child. Imagine how nice a new jacket or new gloves or a new pair of PJs would be for a child in need. This county-wide organization, partnering with Wal-Mart, provides such items for qualified students. According to Belinda Miller, Commerce coordinator, students are recommended for the program by counselors, teachers and even social service agencies. Once a child's eligibility is verified, every school-aged member of the household also becomes eligible. That might also include the baby of a teenage student.

In 2021, about 185 Wal-Mart gift cards for \$60.00 were distributed to students early on a December morning. Mrs. Miller went on to say that the exact method to distribute funds this year has yet to be determined. She also stated that Wal-Mart has not reported any misuse of the cards.

This program NEVER operates at a deficit. The total amount of donations determines the amount of the gift card for each recipient. Families are not notified of their inclusion until the money is at hand.

Children are our future. Please show your support by dropping dollar bills--or a check designating Clothe-a-Child in the memo line--in the collection plate during October. Click the Mission of the Month button to give online.

CALLING ALL ANGELS

Dear FUMC-Commerce,

After 23 years of involvement in the Angel Tree program, it is time for me to withdraw from this mission. Angel Tree helps children of prisoners feel God's love by purchasing Christmas gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parents. For the last several years, Tricia Dempsey and I have partnered to carry out this mission, which this congregation has lovingly embraced. There are a lot of moving parts, and Tricia needs a new partner. If you are interested and want to find out more about the project, please call or text Tricia at 903 366 1055. If you want to purchase gifts, you can let Tricia know at the same number.

In Christ,
Judy Rudoff



The Merry Market is Back!

Mark your calendars! We are excited to announce that **The Merry Market will return as an in-person event at FUMC-C this year on December 3, 2022.** Volunteers are needed in a number of ways. It is truly a church-wide ministry. **Whether you can decorate a Christmas tree, provide baked goods or items to sell, make or serve soup, run a booth, share your musical gifts or simply help organize this event, your talents are needed!** A planning meeting will be scheduled very soon. Watch your email for further information. The Merry Market is a wonderful kick-off to the Christmas season. Please help us make this year's Merry Market the best ever.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- October 2**-World Communion Sunday
- October 3**-Committee restructuring at 6pm
- October 6**-Serve Team at 10:30, followed by First Thursday Luncheon at noon
- October 10**-Pledge Cards due
- October 11**-Trustees meeting at 6:30
- October 13**-Collaborative Team meeting at 7pm
- November 1**-Nominations committee at 6pm
- November 8**-Election Day
- November 9**-Charge Conference at 6pm

Prayer List 9-29-22

Recent Concerns:

- **Our world, country, & leaders**
- Brenda Newman
- Judy Chapman, Pastor Cheryl's sister
- Carlos Rickman (M.D. Anderson Hospital)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- Families of Uvalde
- The leaders and citizens of Ukraine

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Bill Heitholt
- Janet & Jim Payne, sister of Becky Coker
- Rev. Payton Parker
- Georgia Gholston
- Melanie Cortreal
- Frances Sartwell
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's mother)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Harbor Chase-Southlake:

- Virginia Collier

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan

Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):

- Jerry & Sandy 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
- Lt. Colonel Bob Farmer



Trustees Report-September 2022

Your Trustees have been actively working on managing our Church properties.



Now that our roof has been replaced and our drainage issues fixed, we will begin work soon on the gathering area, repairing the water damage in the ceiling and replacing the carpet.

We have started trimming our trees to give a better visual reference to our Church and opening up our facade. This is ongoing and plans are to continue trimming and perhaps removing more trees on the north, along with finishing stump grinding. Your input and suggestions are welcomed.

We were able to clean out our container storage that sits in the back of our parking lot. The tables and chairs were donated to area churches and were much appreciated. This has enabled us to move items that have accumulated and freed up space for the growth we have experienced in the Little Ark program. We built shelving and created a storage area for all of their needs. Additionally, we have moved the growing Prayer Shawl ministry into the Dough Rollins classroom. We are also in the process of creating space for our Youth program in one of the classrooms.

We had workday this spring and a team of three mowing throughout the spring and summer to help offset some of the cost to our Church.

It was a pleasure for us to help Pastor Cheryl move into our parsonage and have cleaned and fixed up around the house. There is more to be done. We will soon be replacing some windows, cleaning out the gutters and such.

We plan in the fall to begin clearing the woods behind our Church (on the west) to create a more open area that we will be able to mow and maintain.

There is more to do, and some of our future plans include resurfacing and striping the parking lot on the south, replacing/repairing our sidewalks and adding some signage.

We have a list of suggestions we have received, but lack the resources or person power to pursue. If any member of our Church family would like to help out with or take on any of the projects listed below, that would be wonderful.

1. Parking lot garage sale of items around our church that are no longer needed, along with donations.
2. Church pews upgrade capital campaign. We have the cost and a plan but need someone to conduct a fund raising campaign.
3. Landscaping. We have a few spaces to plant new foliage now that we have removed a few trees.

Lastly, we are but a few but we are mighty, and we are passionate about taking care of our beautiful properties. Any and all help is appreciated. Contact any Board Member with your questions or comments.

Dick Latson - Chairperson, Gene Lockhart, Dennis Anderson, Tiffany Harrison, Al Stapleton and Monty McGuyer.

Lots Going On at Little Ark!



Top row: Saying hello after her friend returned from vacation!; Pre-K: Community helper week...fun in the pop-up tent!; Toddler 2 dress up; Preschool: Learning about families and who lives in your house.; Toddler 1 story time

Little Ark Annual Pumpkin Auction

Auction starts on October 24th and winners will take pumpkins home on the 28th.



Take home an awesome Halloween decoration and support a great cause!

You're Invited to Trick or Treat with Little Ark

Church members are invited to participate in **Little Ark's Trick or Treat** event at FUMC-C on **October 28th**. Parents, staff and church members will stand in classroom doorways to hand out candy to preschool and Toddler 2 classes. **Trick or treating will begin at 11:00am, so come to the church by 10:45 with a few treats to share with our little goblins.**

This event is bound to bring a smile to young and young-at-heart alike. We hope you will join us!



**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