

First United Methodist Church Commerce, Texas



Volume 21, Issue 9

September 2023 Newsletter

MUSIC & MORE STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 7TH

Music and More (M&M) is starting up September 7th and will take place every Thursday from 3:45-5:30pm. We are so excited to welcome these children into the church and teach them all about God's love through music and stories. We are asking for volunteers to provide a snack for the children. This can be something that you prepare and bring up to the church that day or something as simple as goldfish or pre-packaged snacks. We are expecting between 12-25 kids to attend. We have a child with a peanut allergy so please no peanuts or peanut related snacks. Please



get with Ashlyn Woods if you would like to volunteer to bring a snack.

YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

We are happy to announce that we have exciting things planned for the Youth. Youth will be meeting bi-monthly on Thursday evenings from 6pm-7pm, starting September 14th. Keep an eye on the calendar for fundraiser opportunities for Bridgeport Summer Camp and much more. Ashlyn and I are very excited at the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the children and youth of our community. If you would like to donate drinks or snacks to the Youth room, please contact Jamie Bourcy or Ashlyn Woods. (Please no snacks containing peanuts). Also if anyone has a mini fridge they no longer use or need, it would be greatly appreciated to help keep drinks cold for our youth and children.

We are hoping and praying to build up our children and youth ministry. Our goal is to have 3 different age groups (ranging from Prek-5th grade) meeting in the Fellowship hall for Sunday School during worship and to have a nursery open. Please let Ashlyn know if you would like to volunteer to help.

MISSION OF THE MONTH-THE WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry was selected by the Serve Team to be the September Mission of the Month. Although FUMC-Commerce no longer has a formal tie to the Wesley, the congregation continues to support the director and its programming.

Since February of 2022, the Campus Ministry has had a new full-time director, Reverend Christina Hardy. She is continuing the Wednesday night Bible study and is adding programs that have garnered The Wesley the designation of "Best Student Organization of 2023."

Reverend Hardy wasted no time in building the campus ministry program. She added a Thursday night activity to the Bible studies. The most well-attended was "Painting with Purpose" where she gave a theme, and the participants painted their response. The paintings were so beautiful and powerful that they now decorate the Wesley walls. This year, she is planning a Picnic in the Park and, most intriguing, "Playing in Church" where the leader asks profound questions while people play games, hula hoop or throw Frisbees. Having once participated in the exercise, she found it very effective in provoking thought.

There are several ways FUMC can support this ministry.

1. Pray for the director and students as they travel on their faith journey.
2. Drop dollar bills or a check with Wesley on the memo line in the collection plate during the Sundays in September. If you give online, just click on the appropriate button.
3. Join a group to provide a dinner for 45 to be delivered by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights, or volunteer to coordinate the groups providing the meals.



Please help FUMC-Commerce demonstrate its support for this important work.

Notes from Pastor Cheryl



“...when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”
– Matthew 18:20 (MSG)

Have you ever heard a child say, “Oh, no! Not Communion again!” Of course not! Because they understand it as a special sacred time we spend in the presence of Jesus.

This month we will enter a worship series called “Come to the Table.” We hear the call to dine with Jesus – an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. The table was where Jesus fed people and challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God’s way. When we say “yes” to a place at Christ’s table, we accept a way of life that embraces God’s definition of love, peace, grace, and joy. Let us celebrate the depth of communion to which we are called.

If you have these items to share during the month, please let me know: Last Supper print or sculpture; place settings for a modern table as well as a Bible times table; vase with fresh or silk flowers, pretty glasses, etc., variety of goblets and chalices, and bread plates, anything involving place settings or dishes from other parts of the world; peace sign poster.

The series will end, fittingly, on World Communion Sunday, October 1. After worship that day, we will celebrate with a potluck and invite you to bring food that is served in other parts of the world. It could be fried chicken, tacos, French bread, stuffed cabbage rolls, spaghetti, chili, fried rice, Caribbean jerk chicken, etc., falafel, saffron rice (and I haven’t even started on dessert)!

Before all that, however, we will have a Meet & Greet Gathering after worship on September 10, a chance to meet someone new or reconnect with long-time friends. The Connect Team would love to have your help in preparing simple food for gathering, appropriately enough, in the Gathering Area after church.

Pray for the new faces we are expecting this fall. Our children’s choir will begin meeting the first Thursday of this month from 3:45- 5:30. Youth have many activities planned and will meet every other Thursday after children’s choir from 6-7 in the Family Life Center, starting September 14 for 6th – 12th grades. Invite your neighbors, friends, and relatives. We want some new faces to come to the Lord’s table with us!



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.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP

David Kemp, doctoral seminary student at Illiff Seminary in Denver, Colorado, claims our church as a place where his call to ministry began to take shape in his undergraduate days at TAMU-C. He has offered to form a peer support group of University students to meet by Zoom. He preached here back in August. Check it out on our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9f4uRtcY7k>



To be notified when the Zoom Peer Support Group is starting, contact David at davidckemp117@gmail.com.

A VERY SPECIAL FIRST THURSDAY!

Join us on September 7th at noon in the Family Ministry Center to celebrate **Mary Mean’s 99th birthday** during our First Thursday Luncheon! Please bring your favorite potluck item to share at lunch, and stay to enjoy birthday cake celebrating Mary’s birthday.



FALL FEST FOR MISSIONS OCTOBER 28, 10AM-3PM



Join us and invite your friends for a Saturday of fun, fellowship and shopping. We will have baked goods, Prayer Shawl handmade items, market items, Silent Auction, cookbooks and lunch. For the kids, there will be a bounce house and games. Mark your calendars and spread the word.

If you have gently used market items to donate OR you or someone you know has a carnival game we can borrow, please contact Amy Stark 903-246-1487.

Prayer List 8-30-23

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country, & leaders
- ◆ Madonna St. Clair
- ◆ The family of Helen Cole
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Chris Wilcoxon
- ◆ The citizens of Lahaina, Maui County, Hawaii
- ◆ Suzanne Kizer Carter
- ◆ Wyatt Bourcy
- ◆ Michael Sandel, Tiffany Evans' father

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Communities affected by Hurricane Idalia
- ◆ Mel Fox
- ◆ Priscilla McFarland
- ◆ Michael Vickers, Ginny Haight's father
- ◆ Kyle Smith
- ◆ The Elwell Family
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother
- ◆ Tom Bailey
- ◆ Pete and Ann Chamberlain
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Robert Seay
- ◆ Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)

Austin:

- ◆ Ruby Vander Velde

Burleson:

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

Legacy Oaks (Midlothian):

- ◆ Jerry Hutton

Those serving in our military:

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



CONNECT TEAM UPDATE



The Connect Team will be bringing back monthly food and fellowship time after services. We would love to recruit volunteers (this usually involves two or three people) to prepare and serve items such as muffins, donut holes, cookies, etc... This is a perfect time for our congregation to enjoy visiting with each other. In the event we have visitors or new members join, it is an added bonus time for welcoming them to our church. If interested, please call or text 903-453-5641. Thank you, in advance.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

September 5-First Day of School for Little Ark

September 5-Women's Study Group at 5:15pm

September 7-Serve team meets at 10:30am

September 7-First Thursday Luncheon at noon in the Family Ministry center **celebrating Mary Mean's 99th birthday**

September 7-M&M After School Choir from 3:45-5:30pm

September 8-Griddle Cakes with Grandparents at 8am

September 10-Food & Fellowship Gathering after worship

September 11-Prayer Shawl meets at 9:30am

September 12-Women's Study Group meets at 5:15pm

September 12-Trustees meet at 6:30pm

September 16-Youth Car Wash from 2-3pm, swim party following

September 18-Finance meets at 6pm

September 21-Prayer Shawl crafting meets at 9:30am

September 24-Welsh Tenor Recital at 2pm

September 28-Prayer Shawl Crafting meets at 9:30

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays-Men's Breakfast Group meets at Texas Café Diner at 8am

Wednesdays-Country Home Estates worship at 2pm

Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsals at 7pm.

Thursdays-M&M After School Choir from 3:45-5:30pm

BI-WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursdays (14th & 28th)-Youth meets from 6-7pm

Fun Things Going on at Little Ark

Top row: Fun morning for Preschool at the new splash pad!

Bottom Row: Last days before Kindergarten- Toddler 1



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

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