

First United Methodist Church

Commerce, Texas



Volume 22, Issue 9

September 2024

MISSION OF THE MONTH-THE WESLEYAN

The Wesleyan has been selected by the Serve Team to be September's Mission of the Month. There is an air of excitement at the Wesleyan on Lee Street. A new semester will begin in a completely overhauled building with expanded programming, according to Reverend Christina Hardy, pastor and campus director. Those who have been members of the church know that the building has been plagued with structural problems, particularly the ceiling. That ceiling, the electrical system, and the lighting have all been replaced. Flooring is also new along with the refrigerator. The interior has a fresh coat of paint highlighted with a beautiful mural. Finishing touches and new furniture will complete the extensive renovations. Extermination has also gotten rid of the rats. The price for all this is \$ 28,000.00, and Reverend Hardy is busy raising the money with preaching at area churches and applying for grants. She invites everyone to drop by Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday to see all the improvements.

Although we no longer have a formal tie to the Wesleyan, we continue to have a close relationship with them. To support this mission, drop dollar bills or a check with Wesleyan on the memo line in the collection plate during the Sundays in September. If you give on line, just click on the Mission of the Month button.

To accompany the overhaul is exciting programming that will help students examine their faith and expand their knowledge of the Bible. Painting with Purpose is scheduled on Wednesday nights. After a full meal, participants, can use art to express their feelings about a topic. This year the topics come from the Psalms, specifically Psalms 17, a call to worship, Psalm 18, and Psalm 19, the ABC's of understanding God. One such topic will be "restore and renew." On Thursday nights there will be a Bible study. Students are always welcomed to hang out and fellowship with other students.

Let's show our support for this vital outreach to the Wesleyan.



Grandparents Needed

Can you volunteer for **Griddlecakes with Grandparents?**

Not all children in Little Ark have a grandparent that can attend, and you could sit with them that morning. It's Friday, Sept. 13th from 8:00 to 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. It will be fun!

RSVP by text to 903-246-5650 or email littlearkcenter@gmail.com

Notes from Cheryl

This month in worship, we are into the Epistle (Letter) of James, a beautifully written and under-appreciated book of the Bible that nudges us to put our faith into action. It always reminds me of a Charlie Brown comic strip that shows CB and Linus wrapped up tight in coats and hats in a snow-storm.



They come across Snoopy who is shivering in the cold. They go over to “comfort” him by saying, “Be of good cheer, Snoopy!” “Yes, be of good cheer.” Of course, Snoopy is puzzled by their words and their lack of real attention to his needs.

Although we proclaim salvation by grace, as God’s free gift to us, we shouldn’t neglect the warning of James that “Faith without works is dead.” You are invited to learn some good theology

to go along with practical relationship advice for the beginning of Fall.

Wednesday nights at 5:15 pm – 6:00 pm, you can share Dinner and Wiggle Worship (especially if you have a hard time getting everyone to church on Sunday morning!) Worship will consist of singing, story time, prayer, and a brief spiritual activity. All generations are welcome. At 6 pm on Wednesdays, we will be studying the *Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman, a book and study that’s been around a while but stands the test of time. We especially invite our Little Ark parents to join us, but this study is also for all generations to help us learn to connect better with others, including God. If you wish, you can do a little quiz online before the first session (not required) to find your individual love language. Search for *Five Love Languages* or pick up a print copy from the table in the Narthex. There are options for teenagers, people raising children at home, singles, as well as those in a relationship or marriage. It’s not necessary to purchase a book for this study. Take the kids to Music & More after Dinner & Worship, where they will work on a musical presentation with our children’s choir director Meagan Jones to be presented later this fall along with our Adult Chancel Choir. Speaking of which, join us for Choir Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7 – 8 pm. Nursery will be open.



Prayer List 8/21/24

Recent Concerns:

- ◆ Our world, country and leaders
- ◆ All who are affected by the war in Israel
- ◆ Diane Garcia
- ◆ Judy Rudoff
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Rita Sims
- ◆ Nancy Roberts, Mike Roberts' mother
- ◆ Larry Eldridge
- ◆ Danny Duncan

Continued Prayers (long term):

- ◆ Bill Heitholt
- ◆ Lisa McGuyer
- ◆ Carlos Rickman
- ◆ Mike Smith
- ◆ Charles Webster
- ◆ Betty Martin
- ◆ Anna Blohm
- ◆ Wyman Williams
- ◆ Rose Stapleton
- ◆ Jack Kelly, Jill Grove's father
- ◆ Glenda Helton
- ◆ Rita Thompson
- ◆ Jack Gray
- ◆ Richard Stapleton, Al Stapleton's brother
- ◆ Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
- ◆ Georgia Gholston
- ◆ Manuel Harrison
- ◆ Melanie and Judy Cortea
- ◆ Brenda Mosley Longhoffer
- ◆ Robert Seay

Ft. Worth:

- ◆ Mary Louise McMahan

Those serving in our military:

- ◆ Sgt. Kyle Ray Capps
- ◆ Celeste Young, and Chandler Teague grandchildren of Lee Riddle
- ◆ 1st Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
- ◆ Lt. Dan Barton
- ◆ Daniel Chamberlain
- ◆ Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- September 3 Little Ark Class move up day
- September 5 -Serve Team at 11:15
- September 5 –Mary Mean’s Birthday Party at noon
- September 8 –Baby Shower for the Harrell’s at 11:15
- September 9 -Prayer Shawl meets at 9:30am
- September 9-Trustees meet at 6:30pm
- September 10 & 24-Women’s Study Group at 5:15pm
- September 13 Griddlecakes with Grandparents
- September 19 -Prayer Shawl crafting at 9:30am
- September 26 -Prayer Shawl crafting at 9:30am

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays-Men’s Breakfast Group meets at McKay’s at 8am

Wednesdays-Country Home Estates worship at 2pm

Wednesdays-WOW! Worship on Weds dinner at 5:15pm and small groups/youth/M&M at 6:00

Wednesdays-Choir Rehearsals at 7pm.

Women's Study Group

Join the Women’s Study Group! We are starting a new book, “Original Blessing” by Matthew Fox. Our books are biblically based and we have lots of discussions and opinions. We meet at the church from 3:00 to 5:00 on every other Tuesday. We would love to welcome You!

To join, you can just show up on Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 3, or call Jan Helton at 903-450-7335



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



Top Row: Tiny Tots playing wit a new toy.
Preschool fun day Bottom row: Last day of
pre K.

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

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