

First United Methodist Church Commerce, TX



Volume 25, Issue 9

September 2025



At Commerce ISD, Family Services is here to help students and their families overcome challenges that can affect learning and well-being. We emphasize compassion, confidentiality & preserving individual dignity, and relationship building as we work to connect families to the resources they need and provide assistance in time of crisis — ensuring that children can focus on learning and thriving.

Your generous donations to Commerce ISD Family Services make a real difference. They help us:

- **Connect families with resources** — Referrals to local and regional service agencies, mental health providers, and community assistance programs.
- **Provide crisis and emergency support** — Help with housing or utility costs, fuel for transportation, and emergency food assistance.
- **Guide parents through school processes** — Assistance navigation forms, protocols, and available supports.
- **Supply essential school items** — Ensuring students have the tools they need to participate fully in class.
- **Stabilize families** — Meeting urgent needs so parents can focus on their child's education and well-being.

Thanks to your continued generosity, we can meet families where they are, offer encouragement, hope, and work together to create a stronger, more resilient community.

Online Giving makes donating easy, scan QR Code or go to www.fumccommerce.org and click “Ways to give”





Notes from Cheryl

I heard from a colleague that I could type in congregational responses to a question and then ask AI (Artificial Intelligence) to compile the response into a newsletter article. I tried it various ways and found it to be quite fun and distracting. One thing that struck me is how different the article would be if I put AI, hope, God's call in a different order each time. The first time, here's what it gave me:

The Beacon: AI, Hope, and God's Call: Illuminating the Path Forward in an Age of Wonder Embracing the Future: Artificial Intelligence Through the Lens of Hope and Calling.

As we stand at the threshold of a new era, the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) beckons us to reflect not just on the marvels of technology, but upon the enduring sources of hope and the deep resonance of God's call in our lives. This newsletter seeks to knit together these threads—AI, hope, and divine calling—so that we may enter the future not with trepidation, but with courage and purpose.

The Promise and Responsibility of AI

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant dream of science fiction; it is the living, breathing reality of our day. Yet with every technological leap comes a call for discernment—a need to pause and ask, “What does this mean for us, as people of hope and faith?”

The promise of AI lies in its capacity to amplify our abilities, to solve problems once thought insurmountable: eradicating diseases, predicting natural disasters, or connecting communities scattered around the globe. But as stewards of creation, we must also reckon with the responsibilities AI lays at our feet. How do we harness these tools for good? How do we ensure that technology uplifts the marginalized, preserves human dignity, and does not supplant the gifts of the human spirit?



Prayer List 8/27/2025

Recent Concerns:

- Our world, country and leaders
All affected by the floods in Central Texas
Carter McLeroy
Marcia Hakala
Donna Streetman
Emily Lampe
Kyle Smith, son of John Kinney Smith
Becca Rowe
Patricia Mulkey, Jim Patton's sister
Mike Clay
Debbie Dunham

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Bill Heitholt
Jack Gray
Richard Young
Rev. Dennis Wilkinson
Georgia Gholston
Melanie and Judy Cortea
Robert Seay

Ft. Worth:

- Mary Louise McMahan

Those serving in our military:

- Sgt. Kyle Ray Capps
MMN 1 Chandler Teague grand-son of Lee Riddle
1st Lieutenant Cameron Lehr
Lt. Dan Barton
Daniel Chamberlain

Upcoming Important Dates

- Sept. 1—Little Ark and Office closed
Sept. 2—Little Ark begins new year
—Men's Breakfast at Omegas at 8
Sept. 3—M & M starts back at 4:00-5:30
Sept. 4—Serve Team Meeting at 10:30
Sept. 7— Bring a Friend Sunday Pot-luck
Sept. 8—Prayer Shawl Meeting at 9:30
—Little Ark Team Meeting at 5:00
Sept. 9 —Trustees at 6:30
Sept. 15—Finance at 6:00
Sept. 18 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30
Sept. 22—Admin Council at 6:00
Sept. 25 —Prayer Shawl Crafting at 9:30

Ongoing Activities

Men's Breakfast resumes at Omegas @ 8 on Tuesday Mornings

Country Home Estates Service on Weds. at 2:00

Music & More on Weds. from 4:00-5:30

Choir rehearsals Weds. at 6:00

Financial Update as of August 26th :

Total YTD member giving \$112,061

Total YTD member giving Needed to meet 2025 Budget \$114,338

Difference of <\$ 2,277>

Your Finance Committee



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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SEPT 2025

Little Ark Cuties



**For emergency
pastoral care,
call Pastor
Cheryl at
940-613-5375.**

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