

CONNEXION

Volume 13 Issue 7

July 27, 2018

Jack's Journal



First United Methodist Church
Irving, Texas

First United Methodist Church
211 West Third Street
Irving TX 75060
www.fumcirving.org

Connexion 13 Issue 7



I was blessed by Kyle Powell this week as he preached a sermon and called us to do a “self-check” on our faith and works. I later thought, “Am I a just consumer of the faith or am I a producer of the faith?” I believe we are called to be producers of the faith, and that production on this earth is not finished until our last breath. As, Kyle reminded me (if I remember correctly) there is a progression of faith, where works of piety and works of mercy never end (John Wesley, also); there is no retirement in our faith and works.

At creation, God made the animals (Genesis 1:22) and humanity to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28). Also, stories in the Gospels either directly or indirectly call us to be producers to bring the Kingdom here on earth as we answer the call of our mission from Christ “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (Matthew 28). Furthermore, the parable of the talents where Christ calls us to invest the Gospel (Matthew 25), the parable where Christ calls us to sow the seed of faith (Luke 8), and the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples (John 13) further support our call to be producers rather than just consumers of the Gospel.

Over the past several months, I witnessed producers of the faith in action, thus being “a bright beacon of God’s love to Irving and beyond.” The evidence is clear through music, worship, greeting, fellowship, teaching, caring for children, vacation Bible school, Refuge R.O.C.K.S, youth and children’s camps, Shepherd’s Care Team, members of the staff, Sunday school facilitators, members of the church’s leadership team, Wednesday Work Crew, Many Helping Hands, Irving Cares, Family Promise, audio-visual team, choirs, Mission Possible Kids, upcoming Guatemala Mission, and the list goes on. Furthermore, I give God thanks and praise for you all being the producers God calls you to be faith in action. Thanks for answering the call.

As the summer is upon us (seventeen 100+ degree days), production, shining the beacon of God’s love, continues. I hope and pray we fulfill our call of God as producers and help bring faith into action. Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is the ongoing mission that never takes a vacation or summer break and neither does our guiding vision to be “a bright beacon of God’s love to Irving and beyond.” Thanks in advance for your part in the production faith in action, and being fruitful and multiply.”

Grace and peace,

PS. If you are on vacation, or out of the area for an extended time, please continue to remember your financial support of the mission and ministry of FUMC through various electronic giving options or US mail. Contact Barbara at the church office for details or donate through our website.

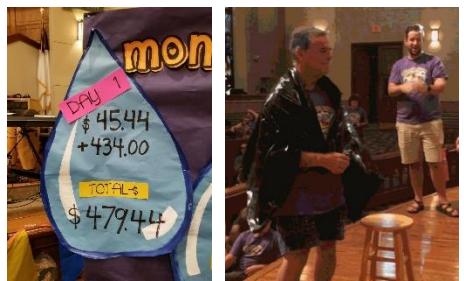
ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>



This summer's **Vacation Bible School** was a huge success. Our excellent leaders were able to touch the lives of 85 different children during the week. Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way to make this a great VBS.



The **clean water** and sanitation mission project was also a big hit. We had excellent presentations during the Mission Moment by several of our leaders plus a City of Irving employee. The children learned much about how important water is to our lives. Our collection totaled \$1300 which will be sent on to UMCOR. Thanks to Jack, Kyle, and Reid who were good sports about getting their hair/beards sprayed with red, white, and blue to celebrate our accomplishments.



The Children's Ministry **float** won the most patriotic category in the annual city July 4th parade. We were honored to use pictures of our own church members who served in our Armed Forces. We are forever grateful.



We were blessed to witness the baptism of JW and Caden Lawrence on July 15th. We are very glad to welcome all four of them into our church family.

Blessings to all,

Ms. Bonnie Jones
Children's Director

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JULY 2018

IN MEMORY OF Max Whitley to:

General Budget from Pam and Allan Knott
General Budget from Darla Liesman
General Budget from Marsha Tribbett
General Budget from Dr. F.M. Gilbert
General Budget from Rebecca Velez
Alzheimer's Association from Jan Mayo
Alzheimer's Association from Clifford and Joyce Bradley
Alzheimer's Association from Donald and Linda Martzall
Chapel Renewal Fund from JoAnn Maykus
Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy and Christine Burkett
Music Fund from Mary Good
Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen
Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Bill and Marni Monty
General Budget from Lynda O'Neal
General Budget from Jerry Wicks
Bereavement Fund from Jackie Whitley

IN MEMORY OF Terry Hudnall to:

General Budget from Roy's Pawn Shop
General Budget from Dr. F. M. Gilbert
General Budget from Karl Mullins
General Budget from Bill and Marni Monty
Emma's House from Jimmy and Christine Burkett
Chapel Renewal Fund from Mickey and Linda Wheeler
Children's Ministries from Cheryl Jennings
Children's Ministries from Kevin Sturdy

IN MEMORY OF:

Kay Bassford to General Budget from Pam and Allan Knott
Evelyn Bauman to General Budget from Pam and Allan Knott

Finance Update for General Cost of Ministry

Beginning Balance as June 30, 2018	-\$70,754.00
Contributions & Other Income through July 25, 2018	\$51,084.00
Expenses through July 25, 2018	-\$51,090.00
Closing Balance, July 25, 2018	-\$70,760.00
Giving to ministries outside the General Cost of Ministry	\$74,436.00

Thank you for your offerings, blessings, and support!

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

This past month has been an absolute whirlwind. I have officially memorized how to get to Bridgeport without using GPS and loved my first full week of summer camp out there. This summer we sent 14 youth to summer camp out at Bridgeport. Our high schoolers and the middle schoolers had an amazing time at camp doing all sorts of incredible activities and learning about the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your continued support of these youth and your dedicated prayers to building them up to be the young men and women God created them to be. As we transition in to getting ready for school, I ask that you start praying for them, their classmates, their teachers, and their parents as the insanity of the school year will be here before we know it.

Grace and Peace,
Kyle Powell
Director of Youth Ministries



Music Notes



Upcoming Fall Music Schedule

Chancel Choir

First Rehearsal - Wednesday, August 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
First Sunday Service - Sunday, August 19, 10:30 Service

Refuge R.O.C.K.S.

Kick-off party Saturday August 25, 12:00-1:30 pm Hargrove Hall
First Rehearsal - Sunday, September 9, 4:00-5:00 pm

Alleluia Ringers (Adult Handbells)

First Rehearsal - Sunday, September 9, 3:00-4:00 pm

Children's Choirs (Chimes; Angel; Cherub)

Children's Choirs Kick-Off Party Wednesday, August 29
5:30-6:45 pm – Hargrove Hall

Praise Band

Practice every Sunday morning from 8:30-9:15 am in the Sanctuary

If you have any questions, contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org or 609.439.2655.

For Your Information:

IRA Charitable Rollover Made Permanent

Another Way to Give to the Church

Congress has made permanent the opportunity to make a charitable gift from an IRA plan. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a direct transfer from your IRA account to First United Church – tax free!

How it works:

- The gift must be transferred directly from your IRA account to First United Methodist Church, Irving.
- You must be at least 70 ½ years old.
- You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year.
- If you haven't already taken your required minimum distribution in a given year, a qualifying rollover can count towards meeting this requirement.
- Distributions from 401 (k) and 403 (b) accounts or other employer-sponsored retirement plans do not qualify.
- Your IRA transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you don't itemize your taxes.

Parent's Day Out



We are having a fun summer at PDO. Some learning and lots of friend fun!! Some of our friends are getting ready to go back to school. If you haven't been to the PDO FACEBOOK page - make sure you check it out. There are some really fun pictures of activities happening daily. The pictures are priceless.

Just a reminder - we are still open for FALL ENROLLMENT at this time. Classes are quickly filling and we are making plans for our upcoming new school year. School begins at PDO on Tuesday, September 4. If you know anyone who is looking for a great program - please pass the info on. We are a Montessori-based program from babies up through Pre-Kindergarten. (Just a side note of pride - for the last 3 years our Pre K group has left our program reading.....just saying!)

All of the staff at PDO hope you are having a wonderfully blessed summer.

Ms. Sandi and Staff