



First United Methodist Church
211 West Third Street
Irving TX 75060
www:fumirving.org
Connexion 12 Issue 11



EMMANUEL IS BORN!

It's the day after Thanksgiving Day, a large delectable feast. Most of our family members in Texas gathered about three tables adorned with beautiful fall colors.

As the food was set ready to eat in various ways ranging from veracious to savoring, the family gathered together for a Thanksgiving Prayer. However, this year, by the request of my daughter Heather, we began the exquisite meal with a prayer of thanksgiving for family present and remembrance of family members absent, especially those who passed away recently. Further thanks was given for everyone dressing the tables in memory of Doug's mother, Shirley, who went home to the Lord a few days earlier in the week. Then the Thanksgiving prayer grew to the memory of what Christ has done for each of us and thanks for bread and cup that we were going to partake of in Holy Communion.

Pops and Mimi, our home hosts, served each of us the Lord's Supper in praise, thanksgiving and remembrance of those present and those at the banquet feast of eternity. It was heartwarming to witness the emotions that were shared quietly amongst the family as they received the communion bread and juice and that our gathering connected all the way back to the birth of Christ on Thanksgiving Day.

All the more reason why I believe Thanksgiving ushers in our preparation for Christ, the Baby, the Emmanuel to come in our life for the first time, or again and again. The Great Thanksgiving of our Holy Communion at our Thanksgiving Day Feast, points immediately to not only the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, but as one person says it, "He was born to die" or "He had a birthday, and we got the Gift." In Thanksgiving we enter Advent and Christmas to celebrate and give thanks that Emmanuel Is Born! The Emmanuel of Joy, Hope, Peace and Love is born into our lives! Let us give thanks and look with expectancy of Him being born in us! Emmanuel Is Born!

12/10	10:30 am	Emmanuel of Peace!	<i>"Festival of Lesson and Carols" Cantata</i>
12/17	10:30 am	Emmanuel of Joy!	Psalm 126
12/24	10:30 am	Emmanuel of Love!	Luke 1:46-55 candle lighting
12/24	7:00 pm	Emmanuel is Born!	Luke 2:1-20 candle lighting

Sunday services will be 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. "Festival of Lessons and Carols" Cantata with choir and orchestra will be at the 10:30 worship service on December 10th. Christmas Eve candlelight services with Communion will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary (nursery provided for all services).

This is an ideal time and opportunity for each of us to reach out to those in our circles of influence and invite them to "Emmanuel Is Born." Promotional material concerning this exciting time has been made available not just for us at FUMCI, but also for us to personally invite others to participate and seek to reflect on the themes with biblical support. Each Sunday in Advent will focus on an Advent theme that can help us and others in our times of darkness, of despair, hopelessness, feelings of abandonment, facing the struggles of life alone, and the redemption that comes from a community of love and forgiveness. Another opportunity to "be a bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond."

Prayer: *O Emmanuel, may we, young and old, be transformed by your Holy Spirit as your disciples. May we take our role as disciples seriously and may we help fulfill your mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and the vision of "being a bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond" through "Emmanuel Is Born." Amen.*

Grace and peace of "The Gift" to you,

Jack

On Line Giving Now

Available via QR Scan

1. Download QR Code App
2. Point Camera
3. You're Done



Giving just got easier

FUMC's YOUTH

This semester has absolutely flown by and it has been an absolute joy to spend that past few months getting to know this amazing group of youth. The weekend before Thanksgiving, the Refuge went camping out at Loyd Park. It was a great time to get out in nature and to get unplugged from the rest of the world. God was definitely moving in our youth as they spent time hanging out with one another and with God throughout the trip. Thank you all for your continued prayers as we train up the next generation of church leaders!

Kyle

Kyle Powell
Director of Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church Irving
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Thank you to all of the children who participated in the worship service as part of the **stewardship emphasis** on November 5th. You all did a great job and thanks to the adults who were there to encourage them.

The December meeting dates for Mission Possible Kids are the 3rd and the 10th, so join us at 5:00 p.m. in room 323 and become an **Agent for Change** in the world. Thank you to everyone who contributed funds for our November mission. We were able to complete 40 hygiene kits to send to UMCOR.

Calling all children to come every week to **Sunday School** (9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.). Our studies for the month will include Jeremiah's messages, the birth of Jesus from Matthew and Luke, and the shepherd's visit from Luke.



All children are welcome to meet at Avante at 5:30 p.m. on December 13th to go **Christmas caroling**. There will be a children's choir party in Hargrove Hall following caroling.

December 16th is the annual "**Christmas Goodie Making**" date. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. We will sell our goodies Sunday morning with all proceeds going towards expenses such as VBS and summer camp.

Please join us for one of our **Christmas Eve** services where the children will be participating in an impromptu pageant.

Blessings

Ms Bonnie



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS NOVEMBER 2017

BRICKS:

In honor of **Rodney Alleman**
In honor of **Glenda May**
In honor of **Kathy and Mike Minturn**

HONORARIUM:

Honoring **Steve and Susan Cagle** to General Budget from Pete and Daria McNabb
In honor of the **Sinclair family** to Country Church Choir from Judy Baggett
In honor of **David Patrick, Cheryl Jennings, Stephen Patrick and Donna Kercher** to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Mom and Dad Patrick
In appreciation of **Senior Adult Committee** to General Budget from JoAnn Patrick
In honor of Special **Adult Committee** from Doris Voss

IN MEMORY:

Louise Modlin to General Budget from Pathfinders Sunday School Class
Jim Brown to General Budget from Irving Women's Club
Aubrey Temples to General Budget from Harrold and Ruth Henson
Aubrey Temples to Wednesday Work Crew from Ralph and Terry Hudnall
Janice Summers to General Budget from Jan Mayo; from Ruth Henson; from Jerry and Sally Wicks
Janice Summers to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy and Christine Burkett: from Mickey and Linda Wheeler
Janice Summers to Homeless Ministry by Alice and Wayne Weatherby
Mary Nell Cox to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy and Christine Burkett
Mary Nell Cox to General Budget from Ruth Henson
Novice Nicholson to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy and Christine Burkett; Katie Adams Schaeffer; Joe and Janice Huffstutler
Mary Dixon to General Budget from Jerry and Sally Wicks
Mary Dixon to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Richard and Jeanell Bischofhausen
Mary Dixon to Chapel Renewal Fund Frank J. and Marilyn Louise Whittier Wilson, (parents of Ralph and Carol Marcia Wilson); Ralph and Sue Wilson

As of December 4, 2017, 43 of our 200 active households have committed to support the 2018 Give Thanks Stewardship Campaign. With your support, FUMC will continue to help children, youth and adults experience the love of Christ through our ministry programming and as we prepare to "be a bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond." Please return your pledge card in the provided envelope by mail, delivering it to the church office or by placing envelope in the offering plate.

As this year ends, we need \$172,708 to celebrate the meeting of the cost of ministry for 2017. Please consider an extra gift to the church by December 31, 2017.

Need for the Cost of Ministry 2017

Need January 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017	\$117,655
Need for December 2017	\$55,053
Total Need by December 31, 2017	<u><u>\$172,708</u></u>

Thank you for your generous donations