



First United Methodist Church  
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[www.fumcirving.org](http://www.fumcirving.org)

Connexion 13 Issue 10



# CONNEXION

Volume 13 Issue 10

October 30, 2018

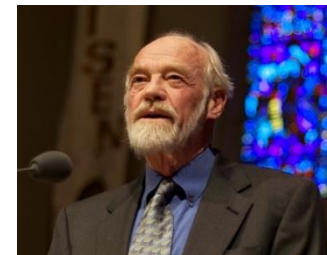
Read: Psalm 84

*"How lovely is your dwelling place O Lord of hosts."*

Psalm 84:1 The Message

## Jack's Journal

Just today, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I awoke at 5:30 a.m. to take on my day. This was about two hours before sunrise. I went out on the balcony porch in the darkness, settling into my lounge chair with coffee, Maddie, our lab, devotional, smart phone, and pen, to enjoy my quiet time with the Lord in my dwelling place.



I opened up Facebook (not normally the first thing) and immediately saw a post at the top of the list about Dr. Eugene Peterson, passing away. Eugene Peterson, pastor, professor, Hebrew and Greek language scholar is the author of the Bible paraphrase, The Message. I had heard that Dr. Peterson was having health issues and even though he was in his early 80s, he continued to anoint his audience with God's grace, love and joy. In fact those were the characteristics that permeated his other written works, interviews, and even discussions with U2 band lead singer, Bono. Listening to him was as if you sat at the feet of Jesus.

After reading a brief biography (obituary) from Christianity Today, remembering not only The Message but a few books (not finished with his library yet) I read, that he authored, I started my devotional time with a sense of awe, gratitude, hope and joy. I opened my Celtic Daily Prayer book and began my liturgy of the Daily Office Morning Prayer. I decided I would read my scripture selections for that day from The Message translation in honor of this saint. Listen to what I read in Psalm 84:1-4:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. *Selah*

Peterson, like Paul, would count it all joy. Even to his dying moments he expressed joy that his soul was leaving his physical dwelling place and abiding in his heavenly dwelling place with Christ for eternity. As witnessed by family in Christianity Today, "Among his final words were, 'Let's go.' And his joy: my, oh my; the man remained joyful right up to his blessed end, smiling frequently. In such moments it's best for all mortal flesh to keep silence. But if you have to say something say this: 'Holy, Holy, Holy.'"

Life was not perfect for Dr. Peterson, but he chose joy because in my opinion he lived and lives in God's dwelling of what I coming to understand as Hope, Victory, Confidence and Love, and Peterson shared the same with me and the multitude. I wished I had met him face to face, but I had and have the privilege to meet him in his thirty books and The Message translation in the meantime. Thank you, Dr. Peterson.

**Prayer:** O Lord you are my dwelling place and help me to grasp and live your hope, your victory, your confidence, and your love in and through my life. Yes, you are my dwelling place. All praise to you!!! Amen.

Grace and peace,

### ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>



other children's activities.



## ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

**OCTOBER 31 @ 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**



We hope to see everyone at the Fall Festival on 10/31 from 5:30-7:30 in the Family Life Center for games, food, candy, s'mores, pumpkin painting, face painting, sand art and costume contest.

Blessings to all,

*Ms. Bonnie Jones*

Children's Director

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

SEPTEMBER 2018

### Centennial Bricks:

Celebrating **Susan and Steve Cagle's** wedding – 10/2017

Honoring **Lewis & Nita Patrick** from Kum Double's Class

### IN MEMORY OF Terry Hudnall to:

General Budget from Nancy Smith & Bill Clyatt

General Budget from Mike & Kathy Minturn

General Budget from Sandy Minturn

### IN MEMORY OF Walter Barnett to:

General Budget from Paul & Mary Good

General Budget from his sister, Patricia Shipley

General Budget from Pathfinders Sunday School Class

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Mary Nell Cox** to Air Conditioner Fund from Richard Cox

**Max Whitley** to General Budget from Pathfinders Sunday School Class

**Daniel Harms** to General Budget from Nancy Smith & Bill Clyatt

### Finance Update for General Cost of Ministry

Beginning Balance as September 30, 2018	-\$102,548.00
Contributions & Other Income through October 26, 2018	\$49,036.00
Expenses through October 26, 2018	-\$48,572.00
Closing Balance, October 26, 2018	-\$102,084.00
Giving to ministries outside the General Cost of Ministry	\$102,130.00

**Thank you for your offerings, blessings, and support!**

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.

Consult your financial advisor with any questions you may have.

# FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

This past month has been a great one. We've slowed down after the initial rush of the beginning of the school year and are taking time to ask some hard questions and taken time to answer them. Pray that our youth continue to ask questions and grow. We also have our bake sale coming up on November 18th, so be ready to get your desserts!

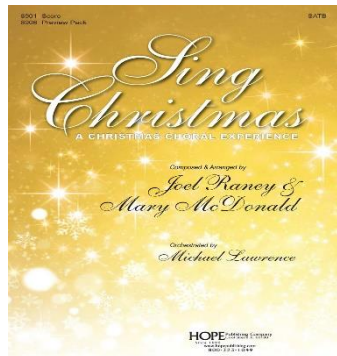
Blessings,  
*Kyle Powell*  
Director of Youth Ministries



## Music Notes



### “Sing Christmas”



I am thrilled and proud to announce that our Chancel Choir will be joining with DCINY (Distinguished Concerts International, New York) Group to perform at the Carnegie Hall in New York, November, 2019. Fortunately, “Sing Christmas” Cantata Music that we will be singing on the annual Christmas Cantata is the same music we will be performing at the Carnegie Hall next year, 2019.

This year, the annual Christmas Cantata will be on December 16th, at 10:30 service.

This announcement is an open invitation for anyone who would like to have a great opportunity singing at the Carnegie Hall with us next year, please join us to prepare for this wonderful and inspiring Christmas Cantata, “Sing Christmas “ by Mary McDonald & Joel Raney. Rehearsal schedules for the Cantata will be every Wednesday at 7:00pm. If you have any additional questions, please contact David Lee, at [music@fumcirving.org](mailto:music@fumcirving.org). We hope to see you at Cantata Rehearsal!



## Parent's Day Out



PDO is in full swing with everything Fall! As an adult, sometimes we "take for granted" or "forget to stop and smell the roses". When working with children, we as teachers are blessed to see all things through our student's eyes. Recently, I heard a student who is 3 ask his teacher "where are the GREEN leaves going?" Obviously, he was noticing the leaves on the trees were not the "norm" right now. His teacher explained the leaves turning bright colors and that it is a sign of Fall. The conversation became a group one and continued on a 3 year old level ending with - “I love the colored leaves, it is my favorite. God probably did that for me because he knew it was my favorite." His teacher said "yep. He probably did." The teacher and I later were talking about how cute the conversation was later in the day. We both had taken a look at the leaves several times that day. So again....out of the mouths of babes....! Don't forget to listen to our "littles" and hear what they see.

Sandi Parker

Parents Day Out, FUMC, Irving