

CONNEXION

Volume 13 Issue 3

April 3, 2018

Jack's Journal

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Colossians 3:12-17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

There have been several times when I had the opportunity to officiate a wedding and the couple selected the "Love Chapter" 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and Colossians 3:17-17 as the text to be read at their wedding. It is interesting that in both cases, Paul the Apostle, is making the case for the church and the church's behavior, yet, the couple desires to apply the scripture to their life together. I agree that these two scriptures, if applied in a marriage, will affect the couple's behavior and help the marriage to grow and thrive.

However, as recent as the past few months, and with the culmination of Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services at FUMC Irving, I realized that the two scriptures were applied well (even subliminally) to the preparation and leading of the four worship experiences in those three days. Amazing. "Faith, hope, love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love" and Colossians 3:17 above showed forth as we moved through the Upper Room, betrayal, arrest, scourging, crucifixion, death and resurrection of the Christ.

Throughout the preparation, even when seating arrangements changed, chancel area rearranged, new voices, instrumentalists, readers added, it was done in the prompting of God's love and grace. The result was a Holy Week experience like none other in my past twenty-four years as a pastor. Love and grace abounded in my heart and I hope in your hearts. In retrospect, we took Colossians 3:17 seriously, and the Holy Spirit worked amazingly amongst all of us. Glory BE!!!

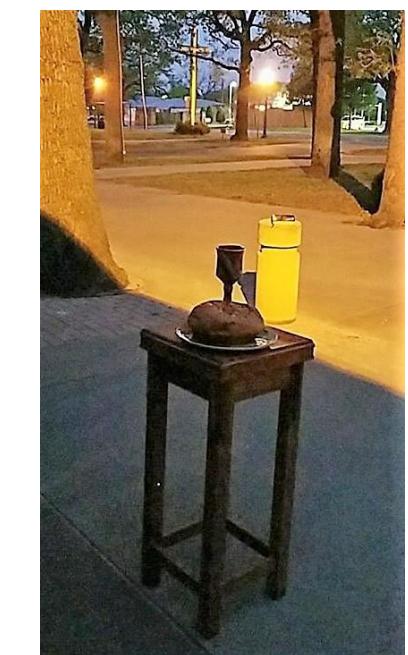
Our worship team and staff have evaluated the services and processes and are making adjustments for the next time, but in the meantime I do believe He Is Risen with His Love and calls us to emulate Him even after the lilies stop blooming.

All my thanks goes to God for bringing such a great worship together, from administrative, decoration, voices, readers, instrumentalists, Holy Communion in order to usher in a fresh wind and fresh fire of the Holy Spirit, in the reflection and exultation of the presence of God throughout worship, and for all the people who adored the Risen Christ! He is risen, INDEED! Forever!!!

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, you are welcome here. Amen.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack



ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>



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

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MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
MARCH 2018



Mission Possible Kids collected eye glasses and cases for a group who goes to the country of Belize to help children who have vision problems. Since Belize is close to the Equator, we also sent several pairs of sunglasses to help them protect their eyes. We cleaned and carefully packed all and made some lanyards for the children to use when they are not wearing the glasses.



Another one of our projects was to write encouraging messages to our servicemen and women on quilt squares which will ultimately be made into warming quilts for wounded soldiers.



Mark your calendar (July 9-13) for this summer's exciting Vacation Bible School. We are already working on great ideas and gathering supplies to help this be the best event ever. Please contact **Bonnie Jones** about volunteer opportunities.



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was held after worship service on Palm Sunday, March 25th. Thank you to all who donated candy and eggs. We are also very thankful for help from the youth. The Easter Bunny was portrayed by our very own Mikaela Jauregui. Thanks to all for the great time of fun and fellowship.



Blessings

Ms. Bonnie

IN MEMORY OF:

In Memory of Daniel Harms, Ruth Henson's grandson:

General Budget from Gayle and Windell Baggett

General Budget from Paul and Mary Good

General Budget from Karl Mullins

General Budget from Theresa and Al Bowers

In Memory of Evelyn Bauman:

General Budget from Mary and Paul Good

General Budget from Theresa and Al Bowers

Ruth Woodward to General Budget from Gayle and Windell Baggett

Bubba Pardo, Connie Baker's brother, to General Budget from Ruth and Harrold Henson

Bubba Pardo to General Budget from Jan Mayo

Jerry Allen to Choir Fund from Mary E. Good

Jerry Beavers to Chapel Renewal Fund from Ralph and Sue Wilson

Vivian Callan to General Budget from Peggy Allison

Finance Update for General Cost of Ministry

Beginning Balance as February 28, 2018	-\$14,670.00
Contributions & Other Income through March 21, 2018	\$51,588.00
Expenses through March 21, 2018	-\$49,784.00
Closing Balance, March 21, 2018	<u><u>\$12,866.00</u></u>
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Giving to ministries outside the General Cost of Ministry	<u><u>\$19,111.00</u></u>

Thank you for your offerings, blessings, and support!

Please note that our actual web address is www.fumcirving.org for information about the church as well as the giving tab for the church. Don't be confused by other web sites. Please call the church office at 972-253-3531 if you have any questions.

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

Two weeks ago we had a 24 hour mini mission experience to the youth space in the Family Life Center. We had 18 students and a handful of wonderful adult leaders who helped throw out clutter, repaint the second floor, assemble furniture, and totally transform the youth space. Our youth are thrilled with their updated space and are excited to invite their friends to come and see all the hard work they've done. There will be before and after photos, along with a recap video coming soon, once everything has been completed.

Kyle

Kyle Powell

Director of Youth Ministries

214-404-7984

A Message from the Church Emergency Response Team

Because of our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and our vision to be "a bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond," we as a church are called to protect people who come into our midst in mission and ministry on our campus. With that in mind, and in the wake of recent tragic events, there has been increased concern over how we can be safer as a church, and how we would respond should the unthinkable happen. Your concerns have been heard.

The Church Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been established and tasked with identifying and mitigating safety risks, as well as developing plans for responses to emergencies. These plans are aimed at bridging the gap between an emergent event and the arrival of Irving Police or Fire Departments. You may have noticed a few changes such as exterior doors being locked or more activity in the foyer and entry ways during services.

There are additional changes coming that you may not see, but know that we are working hard to improve things like exterior lighting, internal communications, making doors more secure, and surveillance.

Please forward questions, concerns, or suggestions to Chris and Jessica Anderson at viper3bee@gmail.com.



Music Notes



FUMC 2018 Talent Show

Liberty & Responsibility



If you would like to be a part of the Talent Show let David Lee know.

DEADLINE: **Sunday, April 8**

Contact David Lee music@fumcirving.org OR 609.439.2655

The Talent Show:

5:30 – Baked Potato Dinner in the Family Life Center

6:30 – Talent Show! In the Sanctuary

Group Vocal Technique Class

Wednesday nights 6:15 pm

Group Vocal Technique Class is to teach you how to make your voice sound more powerful, how to sing with more freedom, how to use vocal technique to expand your range and expression, and how to become more confident in singing. This class explores understanding how to take care of your voice as well. This class is a fantastic starting point for anyone wanting to make the most of their voice through an individual lesson, video demonstrations, and more.

If you would like to know about this class contact David Lee music@fumcirving.org OR 609.439.2655