



First United Methodist Church
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Connexion 13 Issue 8



ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

CONNEXION

Volume 13 Issue 8

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Read: **Philippians 1:12-26**

Jack's Journal

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21



On Friday, October 5th, I look forward to playing in the Coventry Reserve of Wylie Charity Golf Tournament. The Tournament raises funds used to support adults with special needs the opportunity of discovery in mental, physical, emotional and spiritual areas of life. Please go to their website for more information about this vital ministry.

www.coventryreserve.org.

So back to the tournament. For those of you who are golf enthusiasts you will understand the tournament is in a "scramble format." But for a lot of us, basically, all four players on a team have the opportunity hit their ball from the same location after selecting which location has the best "lie" or position on the course. Furthermore, out on the fairway you may improve the lie within one club length no closer to the hole. This definitely improves the abilities of the team and there are usually bragging rights and prizes for the winners. But I submit, it's a great way enjoy team fellowship together on the course and make a donation to charity at the same time.

One thing I have to admit. Even though I enjoy being on a team with a scramble format, each time my team improves our lie, I feel a bit guilty. For in the real game of golf, if you improve your lie, you are penalized. The name of the real game of golf is playing it as it lies.

For that matter, life really should be played as it lies. Oh sure, we try to take short cuts, take advantage, work the system to improve the odds, or network to get the best deal. So many times we just don't like playing life where it lies.

In our scripture text, Paul gives us the ultimate example of playing life where it lies. Paul is in jail, with life in the balance, the possibility of execution. He struggles with going home with Christ, or remain on this earth with his people and ministry. To go home would be the best for him, but to live would allow him to continue to share the gospel. He has a dichotomy in his heart of which he prefers most.

Either way, Paul, plays his life as it lies for Christ. He continues swinging for Christ, hitting the ball of life right where it is; he is always taking his best swing for the Gospel. Whether in converting prisoners in prison, sharing the Gospel on the Ignatian Way, giving the message of Christ while mending nets, or sharing God's love while walking among the outcast, Paul lived for Christ regardless of the circumstances. He played life where his life lies and all along the course of life, he had a sense of peace. Whether he lives or dies, he plays life where it lies taking the best swing possible each time.

I recall that Jesus played life as it lies. He could have escaped, run away, said no to God his Father, and not suffer and die on the cross. Rather, Jesus played it as it lies for us. Oh, for us to do the same. Play it where it lies by receiving God's grace in Christ that is sufficient for life, to have assurance, and to have peace. Play it where it lies to share the Gospel in order to help others play it where it lies.

Prayer: O Lord helps us to play life where it lies. Amen.

Grace and peace,



We had a great time with Vacation Bible School and Church Camp at Bridgeport, but the summer has flown by and the children have all gone back to school. We celebrated the students, teachers, and administrators with a blessing during the worship service on 8/19. I pray for their safety and that they will always do their best in all studies/activities that they are involved with.



The children will begin their new fall Sunday School curriculum on 9/2. The two younger classes will be using *Deep Blue At Home with God*, which includes adventure, exciting stories, animated video storytelling and active games – all combined into a faith experience that helps children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today.



The Fourth graders are starting *CONNECT*, a new two-year study intended to engage pre-teens in God’s big story through videos, Bible exploration, and hands-on projects.



The Fifth graders will take a one-year Bible survey that will prepare them to make the transition to the youth group. *Submerge* emphasizes nurturing faithful relationships while engaging students in fun and creative activities.



The first Mission Possible Kids for the school year will be September 9. The start time will change to 4:00 p.m. to coincide with Refuge Rocks for the convenience of parents. We have some exciting missions planned so I hope to see all Kindergarten through Fifth graders in Room 323.

Just as the children and teachers have to be prepared for any emergency at school, we at church must also be aware of our surroundings and know how to respond in case of an issue. We want to thank CERT (Church Emergency Response Team) for holding an information session for the students, parents, and teachers this month.

The Children’s Ministry calendar of events for the 2018-2019 school year has been published, so watch for upcoming events involving our children.

Blessings to all,
Ms. Bonnie Jones
Children’s Director

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
AUGUST 2018

HONORARIUM:
Jack Carnell’s 90th Birthday to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen

MEMORIAL BRICK: In memory of **Terry Hudnall** from Kum Double Class

IN MEMORY OF Max Whitley to:
Chapel Renewal Fund from Ruth and Harrold Henson
General Budget from Jean Tyrone
General Budget from Al and Theresa Bowers
General Budget from Yvonne Breaux
Music Ministry from Hans and Nancy Smith and Bill Clyatt

IN MEMORY OF Terry Hudnall to:
Chapel Renewal Fund from Ruth and Harrold Henson
General Budget from Bill and Mary Holcomb
General Budget from Wednesday Work Crew
General Budget from John Tilley
Music Fund from Mary Husa Good
General Budget from Al and Theresa Bowers
General Budget from Pam and Allan Knott
General Budget from Windell and Gayle Baggett

IN MEMORY OF:
Leroy Garey to General Budget from Jean Tyrone
Buddy Uhr, Tom’s brother, to Music Ministry from Hans and Nancy Smith and Bill Clyatt

Finance Update for General Cost of Ministry

Beginning Balance as July 31, 2018	-\$81,867.00
Contributions & Other Income through August 23, 2018	\$49,485.00
Expenses through August 23, 2018	-\$65,256.00
Closing Balance, August 23, 2018	-\$90,638.00
Giving to ministries outside the General Cost of Ministry	\$77,931.00

Thank you for your offerings, blessings, and support!

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

This past week we had our fall kickoff for the 2018-2019 school year. It is so crazy how fast the summer flew by but we were able to do and see so much. This year as we begin our new school year, please continue to pray for the students, parents, and teachers of this community. Pray that those who are lost might be found, those who are seeking might find, and those who don't know what they are even looking for might find peace. The school year ramps up quickly and people get overwhelmed easily so let us pray together that we might all feel the peace of the Spirit in this next season.

Blessings,

Kyle Powell

Director of Youth Ministries



Music Notes



Music is an active and exciting part in the life of First United Methodist Church, and there is a place for you in our Ministry of Music! Singing in a choir, no matter your age, creates community, and can help each person develop in their spiritual journey. These small groups offer fellowship and friendships while creating music for the glory of God. We have offerings for all ages, and welcome you to contribute to our worship.

Chancel Choir

Wednesday evening 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sunday, 10:05 – 10:30

Refuge R.O.C.K.S. (Youth Choir)

Sunday, first rehearsal, September 9 – 4:00-5 pm

Alleluia Ringers (Adult Handbells)

Sunday, first rehearsal, September 9 – 3:00-4:00 pm

Children's Choirs

- 1) Angel Choir (1st to 5th grade): Wednesday 6:00-6:45 pm
- 2) Chime Choir (3rd to 5th grade): Wednesday 5:30 – 6:00 pm
- 3) Cherub Choir (Ages 3 to Kindergarten): Wednesday 6:00- 6:30 pm

Praise Band

Sunday morning from 8:30 – 9:15 am in the sanctuary

Special Worship Service

110th Anniversary Worship Service; 9/30 (Sun), 10:30 am

If you have any questions about these events and want to join in singing contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org

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.

Consult your financial advisor with any questions you may have.



Parent's Day Out



PARENTS DAY OUT FUMC, Irving just finished our summer session with a "clap-out" wishing all those going back to school (and those leaving our Pre-K program starting their first day at BIG school) a great and successful year! Now - our teachers are getting ready to start our new PDO year on September 4th. We have teacher-in-service training, room cleaning, and lesson planning to do in the next 2 weeks to make this upcoming year the best yet. We are starting the new year with 50 children currently enrolled. (Enrollment is still open)

We also want to thank those men who are busy getting our floors cleaned, the playground cleaned, and the repairs needed to meet our health and state requirements. Lots of work - but most appreciated!!!

Please keep our program in prayer for this new year.

Sandi Parker and the wonderful PDO Staff