



First United Methodist
Church
211 West Third Street
Irving TX 75060

Connexion 12 Issue 10



CONNEXION

Volume 12 Issue 10

October 30, 2017

Jack's Journal



"O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for His steadfast love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34"

Yes, the stores display Halloween items, and our Walmart already has Christmas displays. It seems our society will pass by Thanksgiving except for a turkey dinner and a football game. So sad.

The challenge for me and possibly many of us, though, is to be thankful. To give thanks is very important for our wellbeing each and every day. God calls us to give thanks with a grateful heart for the big things, the little things and the things in between.

Maybe we could begin to give thanks on a daily basis from today through Christmas, rather than limit it to one Turkey/Football day? Yet, I am in awe of some of you who are already thankful; in fact, you radiate thankfulness.

As I reflect back to this morning, I recall two instances (yes, I know there are many more) where I was called to be thankful. First, I prayed with a friend whose husband is in neuro-ICU and began with, "Thanks to you O God, for this beautiful, cool morning." And then I added additional thanksgivings for the family, hospital and staff, and friends who are caring with and for them, and for Jesus' healing.

Second, earlier this morning, Marlane told me about a Facebook post from our daughter, Meri, about an intimate moment with our granddaughter, Zoey. Marlane read it to me what Meri wrote:

Every night I sing the song Jesus Name Above All Names to Zoey before bedtime. After the first verse I use the same tune to sing a prayer for her, our 2q [Zoey's chromosome deletion] friend Madeline, Mya, Frankie, Papa, and then whomever else we need to pray for always in THAT order. Tonight, I prayed for Madeline first. Zoey pushed up into a sitting position and signed "Me" and "music". Hahaha! She knew that I was doing it out of order and told me to pray for her first.

After reading the post myself a few moments ago, I immediately gave thanks that Meri prays with Zoey. I gave thanks the Meri sings a song she learned as child in Kid's Praise that she can share with Zoey to give comfort and assurance of God's love. I gave thanks that Meri teaches Zoey to pray for others as Marlane and I taught Meri as a child. I gave thanks that God shows us again and again that Zoey understands, and even if she is not as verbal as we would hope at this point of her life, she is able to communicate visually to acknowledge her understanding.

So brothers and sisters, maybe we should not emphasize Halloween and whisk forward to Christmas, but enter into a life to *"GIVE THANKS to the Lord for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever."* AMEN!

Give thanks for His grace and peace,

Jack

Pastor Jack

On Line Giving Now Available via QR Scan

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2. Point Camera
3. You're Done



Giving just got easier

It's finally here. The children have been counting the days until our annual **Fall Festival**. This is a church-wide event so we want to see young and old, and everyone in between, on 10/31 in the Family Life Center from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. There will be games, food, candy, s'mores and a costume contest. We want to thank everyone in advance who have already pledged their time and talents to make this a successful event.

November will bring more exciting events for the children. On November 5th, all of the children will be participating in the worship service as part of the **stewardship emphasis**.



On November 17th, the monthly children's event will be our annual **Thanksgiving meal** where each child brings his or her favorite dish to share with others. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. and after we eat there will be a craft project for all.

Mission Possible Kids have completed three projects so far this year. The November meeting dates are the 5th and the 12th, so join us at 5:00 p.m. in room 323 and become an Agent for Change in the world.



Summer dates have been announced: Children's Camp at Bridgeport will be June 25-29 and Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 9-13.

FUMC's YOUTH

The past month of Refuge has a testament to God's faithfulness. As the school year carries on our students, who are involved in a variety of activities and courses, can easily get worn out. However, each week I have watched students come and truly find a Refuge with us on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Although not everyone has been able to make it to each and every event, every student feels comfortable enough to come when they can and allow God to work in their lives even when they are beyond stressed out. Please be in prayer for our youth in the upcoming weeks before Christmas as this will be one of the more stress filled and anxious times of the year!

Blessings,

Kyle Powell
Director of Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church Irving
214-404-7984



Friends,

It is a blessing to be in your midst as Interim Director of Music. As we gather in choirs and as the congregation in worship, we are reminded of the ~~powerful~~ role

music has in our faith development and our witness. We are also humbled by the opportunity to lift our praise and prayers to God.

I like to think that worship leaders and people in the congregation are in a dance before the Lord – just a bit like King David. But sometimes when the dance partners are new they step on each other's toes as they get used to dancing with each other. I apologize for any "toe crunching" I cause you as I become familiar with your steps. And as I ask for your grace, I am even more assured that God's grace covers all our missteps. Indeed it is God who enables our dance in the Spirit and accepts the praise of his people. So let's strike up the music together and dance before our God.

Grace and peace

Ken

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

OCTOBER 2017

In HONOR: GLENDA MAY

on her birthday to General Budget from
Russell May

In Memory: JEAN BROWN

to Chapel Renewal Fund from JoAnn Maykus
to Music Fund from Mary Good
to Memorial Fund from the Pathfinders
Sunday School Class
to General Budget from Pam Knott

In Memory: SOCORRO JAUREQUI

to Music Fund from Mary Good

In Memory: TOMMY CONRAD

to Chapel Renewal Fund from Max Robbins

IN MEMORY: AUBREY TEMPLES,

Becky Flanery's dad

to Chapel Renewal Fund from Cynthia Stone
to General Budget from Karl Mullins
to General Budget from Lewis and Nita Patrick
to General Budget from Allan and Pam Knott
to General Budget from Gary and Sandra
Dinsmore
to Memorial Fund from George and Jo Carol
Adamson
to Memorial Fund from Windell and Gayle
Baggett

In Memory: LOUISE MODLIN

to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy and
Christine Burkett
to General Budget from Janice Summers
to FUMC Benevolence Fund from family of
Louise Modlin

Finance Update for General Cost of Ministry

Beginning Balance, September 30, 2017	\$108,704.00
Contributions & Other Income thru October 26, 2017	\$49,977.00
Expenses thru October 26, 2017	-\$64,567.00
Closing Balance, October 26, 2017	<u><u>-\$123,294.00</u></u>
Giving to ministries outside the General Cost of Ministry	
	\$77,908.00

Thank you for your offerings and blessings

and support