

CONNEXION

Volume 16 Issue 8

August 2021

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. – Romans 12:10



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211 West Third Street
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I find this verse speaks volumes in these times. God wants a living, breathing relationship with us that grows day by day. A strong relationship is built through good times and bad times. In marriage, parental, and friend relationships, it is often the difficult times that deepen the love, security, and strength of the bonds. This is also the case with God. So let us use Romans 12:10 to deepen our relationship with God through the trials and tribulations of life.

Rejoice in hope: In Philippians 4:4 we read the command: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). No matter what the circumstances, we are to live in the hope of Jesus Christ. Rejoicing requires us to look for ways to be thankful and to look for what the Holy Spirit is doing around us. We also know that through faith in Jesus Christ, we have an eternal hope. See the joy in the now and look ahead to the joy of eternity.

Be Patient in Tribulation: Tribulation can mean any difficulty or struggle. We certainly had plenty the past couple of years! Frankly, my patience has worn thin. However, I am encouraged when I remember that "love is patient" (1 Corinthians 13:4). Instead of gritting my teeth trying to be patient, I can see patience as an act of love. I can be more patient, kind, gentle, and accommodating towards others if I treat them with love. Also, God loves us, therefore we can rest in His love while we wait for circumstances to change. While you wait ...

Be Constant in Prayer: Waiting for things to change is not meant to be a passive act. We have the privilege to play a major role in affecting change through prayer. We can either wait in frustration or we can "wait upon the Lord" (Isaiah 40:31) through prayer. "Being constant in prayer" challenges us to make prayer an ongoing conversation with God. I have sometimes neglected my prayers for pandemic to end because, "I've already prayed for that." But being constant in prayer challenges me to be like the persistent widow in the parable Jesus told "to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). The widow didn't give up asking until she received her answer. May we be constant in our prayers.

Join us this Sunday for Sunday School and worship. We continue our popular outdoor worship at 8:00 am and we have live-streaming available at our 10:30 am service (www.fumcirving.org). Some of our Sunday School classes also have Zoom options to join remotely. Email Jessica at churchoffice@fumcirving.org for more information. In the meantime and always: *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer!*

Blessings!

Doug

P.S. Join us for a "Solemn Assembly" on Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7 pm. We are hosting a Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) time of worship and prayer for The United Methodist Church. The first step towards revival is repentance. There will be gatherings all over the world during this time that will publicly cry out to God for forgiveness for the failings of the UMC.

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

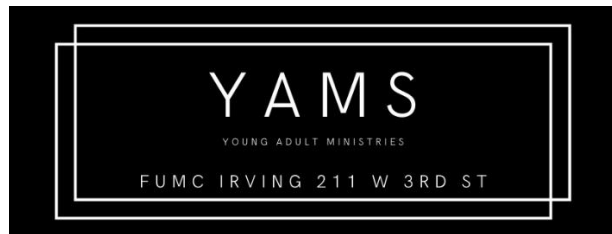
2021 Bible Reading Challenge!

This year we will be reading through key parts of the Bible from the Old Testament through the New Testament. The major themes of Scripture will be encountered as you read God’s inspired word. The Sunday message will almost always be taken from the week’s readings.

Week (Theme)	Reading
August 30 – Sept 5 (Ezra’s Revival)	Ezra 1; 3; 6 Nehemiah 1; 8-9
Sept 6 - 12 (Jonah)	Jonah 1-5 Psalm 116
Sept 13 -19 (Messiah!)	Malachi 3-4 Matthew 1-4
Sept 20 - 26 (Sermons)	Matthew 5-7 Luke 6
Sept 27 – Oct 3 (Parables & Miracles)	Matthew 13-14; 17-18; 25

Masks Strongly Encouraged

Due to the recent spike in the delta variant of Covid-19, Bishop Mike McKee has "strongly encouraged mask wearing in our churches." Wearing masks at all inside gatherings is strongly encouraged. In our Sanctuary, our West section is designated for socially distanced seating. Wearing a mask is a tangible way to demonstrate “Love thy neighbor.”



YAMS is still going strong! We have been meeting throughout the month and have gotten into a consistent groove of meeting online via ZOOM! We are continuing to grow and have established a core group of individuals for our college/post graduate study. Of course, all young adults are welcome to join us on Sundays from 7-8:30pm on ZOOM, however, if you don’t feel like you fit the college/postgrad group, then be on the look out for some Sunday school classes that span a larger spectrum of young adult groups!

If you would like more information on how to help YAMS or are in need of the ZOOM link for any given week, then please email youngadults@fumcirving.org. As always, for more frequent and current information then follows on all social medias at fumc.yams .

Colin Craft
Director or Young Adult Ministries & Spiritual Director of Youth

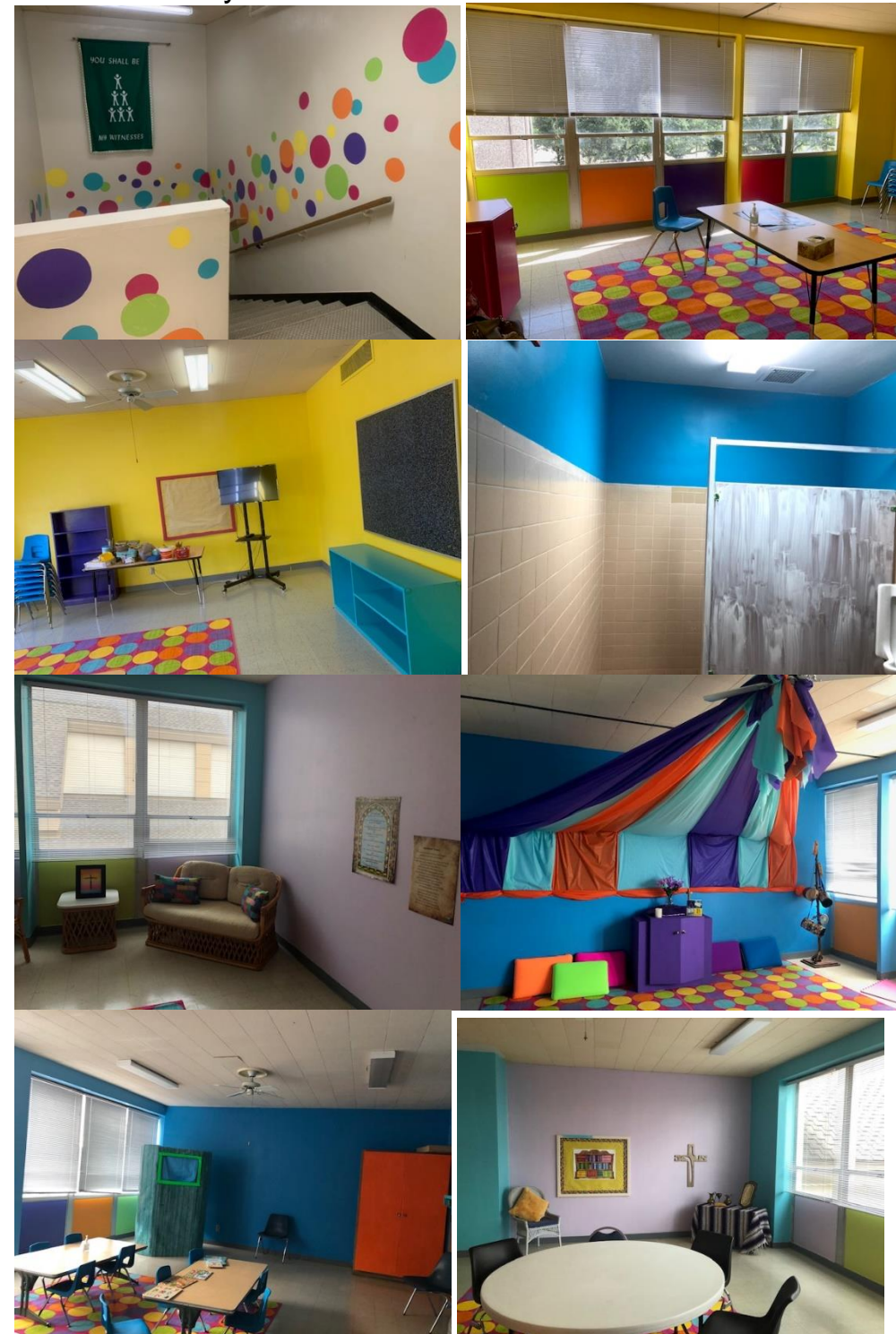


Blessings Church,

Pictures are worth a thousand THANK YOUS!! We have had volunteers scraping, painting, repainting, and cleaning up. I have some pictures of halfway done and some finished rooms and stairway. THANK YOU!!!

A Thankful director,

Juanell Montoya



Refuge Youth

All of our youth are back in school now. We have started our regular fall schedule with our middle school youth meeting from 6:30-8:00 pm and the high school youth meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. They are enjoying worship together and then some time apart doing some service projects and playing games.

We will begin confirmation for our 6th and 7th graders on September 12th. If you are interested in your youth participating, please reach out to me. Also, we are needing mentors for our confirmands. Please be in prayer for our youth as they are back in school trying to have a more normal year.

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth Activities
youth@fumcirving.org

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

AUGUST 2021

In Memory of:

Billie Case to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

Owen Caudill to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

In Memory of Pat Reed

to Music Ministry from Bill & Linda Taylor

to General Budget from Harrold & Ruth Henson

In Memory of Barbara Hargrove

to General Budget from Bob & JoAnn Dobson

to General Budget from John Tilley

to General Budget from Dr. F.M. Gilbert

to General Budget from Walter & Susan Lundgren

to General Budget from George & JoCarol Adamson

to General Budget from Harrold & Ruth Henson

to General Budget from Karl Mullins

to General Budget from Butch & Darla Liesman

to General Budget from Christine Anderson

to General Budget from Farley & Maria Meadows

to Music Ministry from Richard & Jeanell Bischofhausen

to Chapel Renewl from Anne Berling

In Memory of Glenn Chandler

to General Budget from Harrold & Ruth Henson

to General Budget from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

to General Budget from Bill & Mary Holcomb

to Music Ministry from Connie Smart Baker

to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

Music Notes,

Music Department the Fall schedules

Chancel Choir

. The First Rehearsal: September 8th, 6:45-8:00 pm in the sanctuary

Youth Choir

. The First Rehearsal: September 12th, 4:00-5:00 pm in the sanctuary

Alleluia Ringers (Adult Bell Choir)

. The first rehearsal: September 12th, 3-4 pm in the sanctuary

Angel Choir

. The first rehearsal: September 8th, 6:00-6:45 pm in the Children's Choir room.

Children's Chime

. No Children's Chime rehearsal until further notice

Cherub Choir

. The first rehearsal: September 12th, Sunday, 9:15- 10:00am in the Cherub Choir room.

If you have any questions about the Fall schedules, please contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org



Parent's Day Out



PDO starts back with a brand new school year on September 7. AND - we are all very excited that things are getting back to our normal - thank you Lord!! We are still enrolling at this point in all ages, but have been blessed with a lot of new registrations lately. That means new friends, new experiences, new excitement for a new year! Our staff has gotten their CPR and first aid class all completed and current once again. We will be having some in-service training and getting rooms all ready and inviting. Pass the word please. We are also continuing our "The Zone" group of elementary school age children who are learning virtual or home schooled. Now on another note, our pre-k's from this past year have all gone off to their respective BIG schools and we have already gotten incredible reviews back from their families and some of their teachers. We can 100% say that we sent that group of kiddos more than ready to conquer Kindergarten!

From me personally, I can also say that the staff I have is amazing. It is those ladies who work hard to make us all look good. As always, we ask that everyone keep keep PDO in prayer and best wishes.

Blessings -

Sandi Parker
PDO