



MISSION
"MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF
THE WORLD"

VISION
"A BRIGHT BEACON OF
GOD'S LOVE TO IRVING
AND BEYOND"

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

Connexion 17 Issue 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10 – Palm Sunday

Music Ministry Presents: Easter Cantata: Jesus

Easter Egg Hunt for all children through 5th grade

April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service- 6:30 pm

April 15 – Good Friday Service- 6:30 pm

April 17 - Easter Sunrise Service- 7:00 am

April 17 – Easter Sunday Service – Online and in person- 10:30 am

April 24 – Confirmation Sunday- Online and in person- 10:30 am

May 7 – Women's Event- 10:30 am

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

CONNEXION

Volume 17 Issue 3

March 2022

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." Luke 9:51

We are in the season of Lent which takes us from Ash Wednesday through the crucifixion of Jesus to the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Based on Jesus' forty days in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-14), the church takes a forty-day journey during this time to intentionally focus our lives on following Jesus and loving others.

Referring to the Luke 9:51, quoted at the top, when Jesus knew the time had come for him to sacrifice his life for our sins, "he set his face to go to Jerusalem." Jesus did not shirk from his appointed assignment. Jesus did not accidentally get arrested and crucified. Jesus intentionally went to Jerusalem to fulfill his purpose. Jesus intentionally went to Jerusalem to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and that we could have a new life of salvation.

Because of what Jesus did for us, we can be in a loving relationship with God. But like Jesus, we also need to be intentional. We need to "set our face" towards the purpose of a relationship with God. We need to set aside times to prayer, to read Scripture, to worship, and to serve others. Do we set our face towards a relationship with God, or do we just glance His way on occasion or when the mood strikes us?

For the past ten years I have been trying to get better at being a runner. This was a goal of mine, but I did not do anything to intentionally reach that goal. I would go for a run as often as I could, but most of the time something would get in the way, or I would simply not feel like it. It was very rare that I would go for a run more than once or twice a week and there were many weeks when I did not run at all. This year, I have joined a group with a set plan to run three times every week. This year I have been intentional, and I make plans every week to get in those three runs! I am now on my ninth week having completed three runs a week for eight weeks in a row. Intentionally planning and acting on those plans has been the key.

To this end, we will continue our Bible Challenge readings. We begin our reading by asking, "God, what do you want to say to me today through your Word?" How will you respond to God's word for you? Through Lent we are also intentionally finding ways to fast (giving up a particular food or not eating for a meal or a day). I also encourage each of us to intentionally pray more often and more deeply. We are also to "love our neighbor as ourselves" by doing something for another. In our Thursday evening Pastor Study (6:30 in Hargrove Hall) we are also adding journaling. The main principle is for us to put into action ways to practice loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving others.

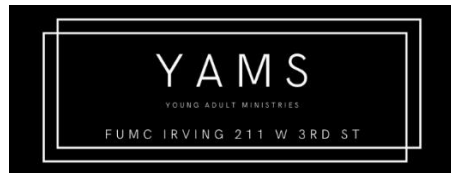
I look forward to worshiping with you each Sunday, on Maundy Thursday (April 14 at 6:30 pm) and Good Friday (April 15 at 6:30 pm). Blessings to you this season of Lent!

Blessings!

2022 Bible Reading Challenge!

Before reading, pray and ask,
“God, what do you want to say to me today?”

Week	Reading
March 7-13	Genesis 15:1-21; Ps 27 Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
March 14-20	Isaiah 55; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
March 21-27	Joshua 5:10-12; Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-32
March 28-April 3	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126 Philippians 3:1-16; John 12:1-8
April 4-10	Psalm 118:19-29; Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40
April 11-17	Isaiah 53:1-6; Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 23:1-49 (Passion); Luke 24:1-12 (Easter)
April 18-24	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31;
April 25-May 1	Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19



Yams has been up to a lot in the past month! We have continued to meet for Sunday School every Sunday morning, Sunday night Bible study, and we have even started “renovating” our own space!

All of our young adults have also come off of spring break where most of us got some much needed rest to push us through to the summer.

We hope to have our space finished by the time summer rolls around so when our students return home we can jump back in to in-person ministry! So, if you have any furniture that you are willing to donate to the Young Adult program, then please send pictures of the furniture to Colin or show him pictures when you see him around the church. Colin’s email is colin@fumcirving.org.

YAMS would also like to thank everyone for their continued support through prayer and we ask that you don’t stop ... we are just getting started!

Thank you,
Colin Craft
Director of Young Adult Ministries & Spiritual Director of Youth

Prayer for the Children’s Department



Heavenly Father, You have sent many children to our Free Friday Fun Night that don’t attend church or Sunday School. For some of these children this is the only way they hear about Your saving grace. Thank you for the opportunity to tell them about Your perfect love!

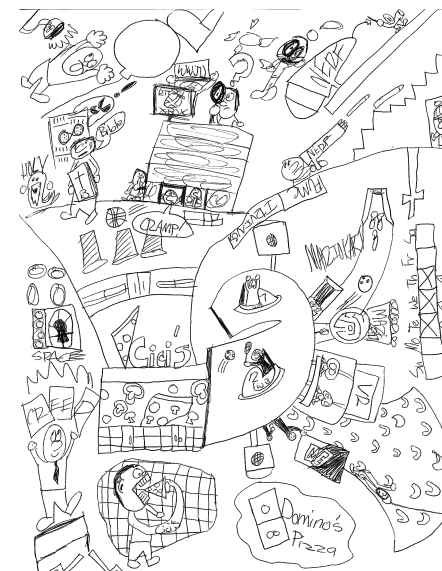
We know we can provide the message and if they will believe, the Holy Spirit will take residence within them. We would love the chance to nurture and grow their faith. We ask that you bring children to us. Help us to stay bold and determined. Help us to prepare meaningful memorable experiences that will transform the lives of all who are present.

We need substitute teachers and teacher’s helpers. We need more volunteers for our monthly outreach and for Vacation Bible School. We need people to prepare and hide Easter Eggs.

Refuge Youth

The youth are continuing to meet every Wednesday for our worship and lesson from Colin and on Sunday mornings for Confirmation and Sunday School for our older youth. Confirmation is starting to wrap up and please save the date of April 24th, the Sunday after Easter, to come and support our Confirmands on Confirmation Sunday. During Spring Break we did a lot of fun things. Our confirmation class met to have a short lesson and then went to Main Event. The next day all youth got to play Whirlyball and then had a Lock in at the church. Then the older youth went Rock Climbing. Even though it was tiring, it was a great to be able to spend time together doing fun things! See some picture below, and a drawing by Rhett Bowyer depicting all the fun. Please continue to pray for our youth as the school year starts to wrap up and the busyness of that time comes along.

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth Activities





Parent's Day Out



PDO wants to take this time to send a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have donated supplies and snacks to our program. Everything is definitely being put to use. PDO is a very happy place.

Well - it soon will be Spring. On our nature walk, we have already heard the birds singing. We all tried to sing like the birds, but we decided that we sing better as kids. This month we are learning about all things changing from winter to spring. If you get a chance, take a walk or sit outside in the sunshine and listen to the birds or watch the trees bloom, etc. It is a beautiful to see, especially through a child's eyes.

Happy March to you all.

Sandi Parker & PDO Staff

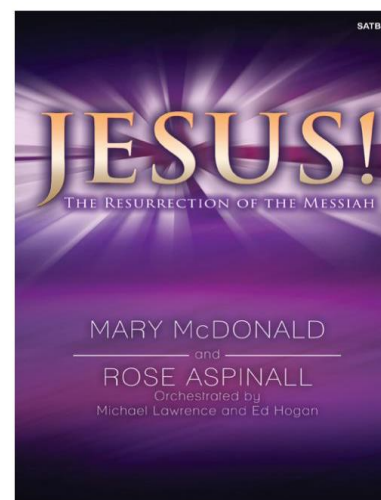
Music Notes

Thank you to the Congregation from Refuge R.O.C.K.S. Youth Choir! We raised \$1,620 from the Talent Show! Praise God!

The Choir Tour is on June 2-7, which will build a closer relationship with Jesus and bind each other to share love of Jesus Christ to build His Kingdom together.

I want to thank those who helped make it happen, performers, parents, volunteers, youth Choir, Children's Sunday School kids and teachers, Jana Fox with Doug's dancing was surprised ^^, Women's Trio, Praise band, solos, sound team, and specially Yeonok Lee, who played the piano for the show.

Easter Cantata



FUMC Irving Music Ministry will present Easter Cantata Music "Jesus" by Mary McDonald on Sunday, April 10, at the 10:30 am worship service by the Chancel Choir with the Orchestra. The Chancel Choir has been working hard to present this wonderful Easter Cantata Music to celebrate the resurrection of our Jesus Christ. I encourage you to share our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ with your family friends and bring them to our church on Palm Sunday, April 10th. Also, there will be live streaming on Facebook: "FirstUnitedMethodistChurchIrving" Therefore, "spread the word". If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at music@fumcirving.org

David Lee

Director of Music and Worship

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022

In Memory of:

John Tilley to General Budget from Nancy Smith

John Tilley to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

Tim Good, brother of Paul & brother-in-law of Mary Good, to General Budget from Debby Werle

Tim Good to General Budget from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Tim Good to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

Tim Good to YAMS from Steve & Carole English

Mike Harrison, brother of Patrice Tilley, to Music Ministry from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Mike Harrison to Praise Band from Debby Werle

Carolyn Sue Stout, mother of Donna Plunkett, to Praise Band from Debby Werle

Carolyn Sue Stout to Children's Ministry from Christine Burkett

Mildred & George Havins to General Budget from Belinda Havins Dyer

Bill Clyatt to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

John Dixon to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

Tom & Anne Uhr to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

Phyllis Stowe to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

JoAnn Patrick to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

Kathy Stramp to General Budget from Pathfinders Class

Herb Cooper to General Budget from Pathfinders Class