

CONNEXION

Volume 14 Issue 8

September 6, 2019



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 14 Issue 8



"Lord, Teach Us to Pray."

Read: Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:7-15; James 5:16

As Christians, most of us know we are supposed to read the Bible, we are supposed to help others, and we are supposed to pray. So we go to Bible studies to become better at reading the Bible. We get involved with various ministries in the church to become better at helping others. But what about prayer? I think sometimes we believe that we are supposed to know how to pray or that prayer is not something we can become better at. Yet prayer is the one question that the disciples specifically ask Jesus to teach them about: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). In response, Jesus teaches them what we call the Lord's Prayer.

There are two versions of the Lord's Prayer in Scripture. One is in Matthew where Jesus is teaching a crowd during the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:9-13). The other is in Luke where Jesus responds to the question from the small group of Disciples (Luke 11:2-4). As a result, we pray like this every Sunday. Our children learn the Lord's Prayer at an early age by watching adults. When we don't know what to pray, we go to the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is the model prayer given to us by Jesus!

I am excited for our next sermon series to be on the Lord's Prayer. I have a friend near Buffalo, NY, who is doing a Doctor of Ministry on the Lord's Prayer. When I read his work, my prayer life was transformed. I took his study (he *did* give me permission!) and crafted a sermon series that speaks into my life and I hope will speak into yours. Applying these teachings in my prayer life has deepened my relationship with God and with others.

We will explore together what it means that God Almighty desires us to call him "our Father." We will consider the deeper implications of praying for the Kingdom of God to be "on earth as it is in heaven." We will look at how asking God for "our daily bread" has strong connections to the miraculous working of God in our lives both physically and spiritually. We will tackle the issue of receiving forgiveness conditional upon whether we also "forgive those who trespass against us." Finally we will encounter the loving God who leads us away from temptation and who "delivers us from evil."

I sincerely pray that this series on prayer will deepen your relationship with God, impact your connection to others, and provide a basis for a more powerful prayer life. "The prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Blessings!

Doug

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>



Congratulations to JW Lawrence for memorizing all of the summer Sunday school bible verses. He worked very hard on them and won a prize for completing the task.

The children collected outgrown school uniforms for one of their summer mission projects which will be donated an IISD elementary school to help with their needs.

In addition to the uniform collection, we wrote encouraging notes to a couple of fourth grade classes in the El Paso school district. The students were hesitant to return to school after the shooting in their community over the summer and our children wanted to let them know how special they are.

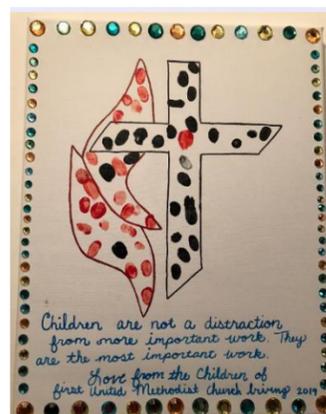


Thank you to Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Karen for hosting our end-of-summer swim party. We had a great time swimming and eating hot dogs, watermelon, ice cream, etc.

The fourth graders are starting a new two-year Bible-centered Sunday school curriculum where they will revisit the Bible's greatest stories, uncover major biblical themes, and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. Rhett, J.J. and Ashlynn were presented with their new bibles in worship on August 25th.



Thank you to the children's committee and parents for making my last Sunday as children's director a very special one. I so appreciate the punch and goodies, flowers, fingerprint painting, gift cards and presents. You made me feel so special. I have loved working with your children and will continue to love and pray for them.



Blessings to all,
Bonnie Jones
Children's Director

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

This past week Refuge Youth kicked off all our fall activities. I am are so excited to be getting back into our normal rhythm and cannot wait to see how God works in the lives of our students and volunteers this year. We have a lot of exciting things planned for this school year so please be in prayer for how you might be able to get involved and how we might include even more youth in our area in the youth ministry here at FUMC Irving!

Blessings,

Kyle Powell

Director of Youth Ministries



Music Notes



Upcoming Fall Music Schedule

Chancel Choir

First Rehearsal-Wednesday, August 28, 7:00-8:30 pm
First Sunday Service-Sunday, September, 10:30 am Service

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

First Rehearsal with Kick-off party, Sunday, September 8, 4:00-6:30 pm Choir Room, Hargrove Hall

Alleluia Ringers (Adult Handbell)

First Rehearsal-Sunday, September 8, 3:00-4:00 pm

Children's Choirs (Angel; Cherub; Chimes)

Angel Choir First Rehearsal-Wednesday, September 4, 6:00-6:45 pm Children's Choir Room (Room 206)
Children Chimes First Rehearsal-Wednesday, September 4, 5:30-6:00 pm Sacristy Room (In the sanctuary)
Cherub Choir First Rehearsal-Wednesday, September 11, 5:30-6:00 pm Cherub Choir Room (Room 204)

Praise Band

Practice every Sunday morning from 8:30-9:15 am in the sanctuary

David Lee
Director of Music & Worship

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS
AUGUST 2019

IN HONOR OF

Bonnie Jones to Children's Department from Connie & Jeff Baker

IN MEMORY OF

Paul Gonzales:

to Music/ Choir Fund from Mary Husa Good
to Chapel Renewal Fund from Theresa Bowers
to General Budget from Jerry Wicks

Celia Lopez Espinoza, mother of Lydia Janda Medina to Music/ Choir Fund from Mary Husa Good

Margaret W. Couch, friend of Gary Husa, to Music/ Choir Fund from Mary Husa Good

Agnes Blevins to General Budget from Jerry Wicks

Marjorie Garey to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett



Parent's Day Out



Here at PDO, our teachers are busy getting ready to start our new school year on September 3. They are planning and cleaning and getting more and more excited about their new classes and the children they will have. It is truly an exciting time of year for the teachers and the children we are blessed to get to educate, care for, and love. Truth be known, we learn and receive from them just as much! We are starting off this new year with a circus theme the "The Greatest School On Earth". So - COME ONE COME ALL!

We are still taking some registrations in certain age groups - so please pass the word.

Here's to the best year ever!!

Thanks to Our Lord for PDO.

Ms. Sandi and PDO Staff