



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

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

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Connexion 14 Issue 7



ONLINE GIVING



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CONNEXION

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First Things

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; Matthew 6:33; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 22:13; Ephesians 3:20

This is my first Connexion article as the new pastor of First UMC Irving! This is one of many firsts in being the new pastor.

Some of those firsts are just fun! The first time meeting the Staff Pastor Relations Committee who talked about how much they love this church. The first time being greeted at the front door with a sack lunch (as long as my name was on the homeless distribution list). The first time hearing the choir (and praise team) sing. The first time having an empty email box (only because my church email address was brand new). The first time meeting with our outstanding staff. The first time remembering someone's name.

Some firsts are a bit more awkward. The first time I stood up at the wrong time during the worship service. The first time I got lost in one of our hallways. The first time I called the wrong person on the phone. The first time I introduced myself as the new pastor of First United Methodist Church of McK ... I mean Irving! The first time I missed the deadline for a Connexion article. The first time I forgot someone's name.

Some firsts are holy. The first time worshiping with this wonderful congregation. The first time having the honor to participate in communion here. The first time attending a funeral of a beloved saint of the church. The first time hearing a child excitedly share their memory verse from Vacation Bible School (Ephesians 3:20). The first time being with a group of church members praying. The first time praying for a member of the church. The first time reminding someone that God loves them and *a/ways* knows their name.

Firsts are normally just that ... firsts. They happen once and are done. However, in our faith, we have firsts that last forever. Paul talks about that which is always to be of first importance: "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus tells us to always "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). We also read that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation and is to be first (or preeminent or supreme) over everything (Colossians 1:15,18). These are firsts that remain for all eternity.

I look forward to sharing many more firsts (and seconds and thirds and ... etc. etc.) with you. But of first importance is sharing the truth, love, and power of Jesus Christ with you. Jesus Christ is the first *and* the last (Revelation 22:13).

Blessings!

Doug



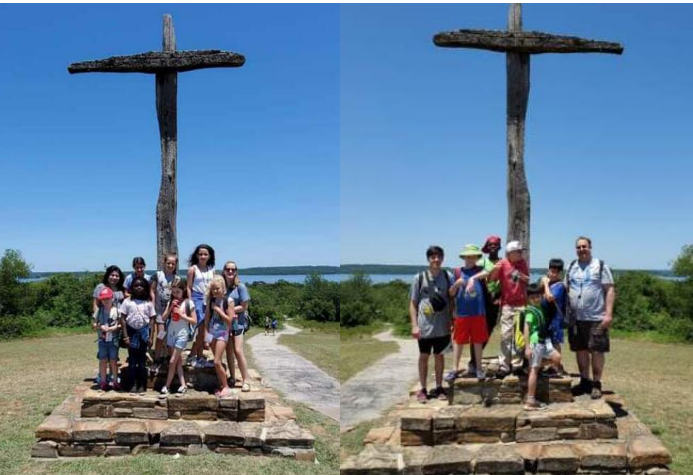
“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!” We had a great time at “To Mars and Beyond” Vacation Bible School with the large number of children who attended. Thank you to all the adult and youth volunteers who gave up their personal time to make this a memorable week.

“God is greater than the highs and lows of childhood diabetes.” Our VBS Mission Project to support juvenile diabetes was a huge success. We collected over \$1300 and made 50 “low” bags to donate to JDRF. May God bless all of you who gave and helped with this project.

We are continuing our Super Summer Sunday School for the summer. We are all meeting together in the large room and have different activities planned for each week. So far, we have watched a movie, made crafts, experienced Worship 101 and acolyte training, a talent show and played board games. We are learning bible verses and enjoying each other’s company.



FUMC was well represented at summer camp this year with 12 students, 2 junior counselors, a college intern and 3 adult counselors. The theme was “Blueprint of the Church” and all had a great time of fun, fellowship and spiritual formation.



Blessings to all,
Bonnie Jones
Children’s Director

FUMC REFUGE YOUTH

This is summer, like most in youth ministry, has flown by. We had 14 of our youth go to summer camp out at Bridgeport where they spent a week learning what the Blueprints of the church were. One of the fundamental pieces of these Blueprints were understanding that they are the church. The building is important, but the most important part is understanding how God is moving and working in each and every one of them. This fall, as they prepare to go back to school (for some of them, next week) please be in prayer that they might represent the love and acceptance of Christ to all they come in contact with. In doing this, it is our hope that Refuge Youth and FUMC Irving might become home to new students this fall!

Blessings,
Kyle Powell
Director of Youth Ministries





Music Notes



Thank you to all who helped make “Heart of Texas” Fundraising Concert a great success for God’s glory at the Toyota Music Factory Plaza. **Tom, and Loyd**, you guys were awesome and did a wonderful job. **The Country Church Choir**, for hard working to put this together to support FUMC Irving Music Ministry. **Jana Fox**, for your marvelous singing and joining us to support for the fundraising. You are a great addition to FUMC Music Ministry.

Yeonok Lee for her hard work accompanying of the Country Church Choir. **Sharon Barbosa, and Crain Dwane**, for helping many things for this event. I appreciate your hard work and efforts. **Debbie Werle, Melissa Pringle, and Cathy Ballard**, you guys did a great job as greeters at the Plaza. **Patrice Tilley**, for your hard work as a MC and you were amazing. **Thank you** to the Congregation for your generous support and prayer.

David Lee: Director of Music & Worship



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JUNE 2019

IN HONOR OF

Barbara Canafax to Chapel Renewal Fund from Dick & Jeanelle Bischofhausen

Barbara and Sammy Hargrove to General Budget

Pat Clough's 80th birthday celebration to General Budget from her family

IN MEMORY OF:

Agnes Blevins to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Harvey Dockery to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Bruce Cake, Mary Good's brother, to Choir Fund from Paul & Mary Good

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JULY 2019

CENTENNIAL BRICK: In Memory of O.L. "Butch" Murden

IN MEMORY OF:

Leta Oling to Music Ministry from Mary Good

Leta Oling to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Agnes Blevins to Chapel Renewal Fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

Agnes Blevins to General Budget form Pathfinders Sunday School Class

Paul Gonzales to Chapel Renewal Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

Paul Gonzales to General Budget from Connie & Jeff Baker



Parent's Day Out



It seems as if our summer is flying by!! We are winding down to the end of our summer session soon and making plans for our new school year.

We ask that you keep all the children (both young and older) going back to school soon in prayer.

Thanks to Our Lord for PDO.

Ms. Sandi and PDO Staff