



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

Connexion 17 Issue 9



2022 Bible Reading Challenge!

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

Week	Reading
September 26 - October 2	Lamentations 3:18-33; Psalm 130 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-6
October 3 - 9	Jeremiah 29:4-14; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:20-24
October 10 - 16	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 18:1-8 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Psalm 119:97-104
October 17 - 23	Joel 2:23-29; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 18:9-14
October 24 - 30	Philippians 3:7-11; Luke 19:1-10; Deuteronomy 10:12-17; Psalm 119:129-136
October 31 - November 6	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10; Psalm 145:1-13; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 6:19-21

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

CONNEXION

Volume 17 Issue 9

September 2022

Why I will disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

If you are a member of our church, you received a letter and were invited to a presentation on September 14 regarding disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church. I am very grateful for the Disaffiliation Task Force who composed the letter and gave the presentation. The Task Force is comprised of the chairpersons of the Church Council (Sheryll Bunt), Staff-Pastor Relations Committee (Mickey Wheeler), Finance Committee (Bill Monty), the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference (Linda Wheeler), Trustees (Allan Knott) and the Lay Leader (Cindy Alleman). They were under the direction through a unanimous vote of the Church Council to engage in the disaffiliation process. I want to state that I was very much in favor of their work.

I was asked by several people as to why I did not speak at that meeting. The quick response is that the people are the church, and the members are tasked with voting on their future. Pastors are not even members of the church, so I have no vote in these matters. However, I believe you should be aware of where I stand as your pastor. My future will not be with The United Methodist Church. When this happens and how this happens in relation to First Irving is yet to be determined. My hope, of course, is that First Irving and I will disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church simultaneously.

The UMC is the only denomination I have ever joined. I was confirmed and baptized as a pre-teen in Florida, joined churches in Texas, and have been a clergy member since 2004. Over the many years, I have seen the continual degradation of the UMC away from its historical roots, theological foundation, and biblical authority. The Task Force presented many examples, and I could mention many, many more. The bottom line for me was summarized eloquently by a member who attended the presentation, “I’m not leaving the UMC; the UMC has left me.”

To personalize this, my mother told me something that broke my heart and solidified why I must leave the UMC. She is my wonderfully proud mom who loves telling people that her youngest son is a pastor in Irving, Texas! She has received cards from members and was warmly received when she visited here. She asks about this church all the time and prays for you. When asked what denomination I pastor in, she reluctantly says, “He’s United Methodist,” but then quickly adds, “... but he’s one of the good ones.” My mom is reluctant to say that I am United Methodist! Frankly, when I encounter yet another example of United Methodist clergy and leadership going against biblical principles, I feel my mother’s pain.

We are a connectional system. United Methodist Churches and pastors acting out contrary to our Discipline reflects on us all and is frankly inexcusable. I cannot remain a member of a denomination that my own mother cannot proudly endorse. A time-limited window of opportunity has been presented for churches and pastors to make a choice about their future. As for me, I love God, the Bible, and my mom too much to remain United Methodist.

If you would like to talk to me further about this, I would be honored to meet with you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug".

Discernment Task Force Update

As you may know, we had a churchwide information meeting regarding possible disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church on Wed. Sept. 14th. This was not a Church Conference but was attended by our District Superintendent Rev. Edlen Cowley. There was a presentation by the Task Force representative Cindy Alleman followed by a Question & Answer time led by the entire team, plus Rev. Cowley. A non-binding “straw vote” indicating where members currently stand regarding disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church was taken. The result of the vote was that 81% chose yes to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. This vote was to be an indication to the Discernment Task Force to continue the discernment process. This could lead to a Church Conference where a final vote would be taken.

The Annual Conference asked Rev. Jill Jackson-Sears, who is Senior Pastor of Lake Highlands UMC and the President of our local Wesleyan Covenant Association, to pick four other representatives to join her at a meeting on September 27th at the Annual Conference offices. Rev. Jackson Sears asked Mickey Wheeler to serve on the team. The team met with the Assistant to the Bishop along with other major chairs or directors of committees of the Annual Conference such as Board of Trustees, Board and Pensions and Health Benefits, Connectional Resources, Treasurer, etc. The meeting was an attempt to negotiate a more amicable separation from the North Texas Annual conference. While we made some headway on our objectives, we still believe the Annual Conference needs to agree to more favorable terms, particularly financially. Our Task Force does have a scheduled meeting on October 3rd with Rev. Cowley to discuss what is next in the process.

SPRC Updates:

SPRC continues to be very busy. Again, I would like to thank the search committee, who has been evaluating and interviewing candidates for both choir director and accompanist. Julie Schilling, Ron Zimmerman, Sheryll Bunt and Sue Wilson from the SPRC have done an amazing job. Dennis Rueffer and Matt Adamson from the choir are assisting as well. As you know by now Billy Pritchett has been named our part-time choir director through the end of the year. After that he will become full time. The search team will continue to look for a permanent accompanist. In the meantime, Sue Fiske will serve as our interim accompanist and Cathy Gribnitz will play the organ on an interim basis.



We were so excited to see and hear the Children's Choir sing on Sunday Sept. 25th. Our growing Children's Choir is one more exciting thing we are doing to reach out to our community. Our goal is to expand our Children's Programming on Wednesday Night to include a light meal at 5:00 and an art lesson from 5:30-6:00. After the art lesson children would attend Children's Choir rehearsal from 6:00-6:45. We are looking for volunteers who can commit to preparing and serving the meal and be present during the art activity. We believe that parents would be more likely to enroll their kids if we include a meal. If you can help, please contact Jennifer or Traci.

Our next Free Friday Fun Night on October 14th (6:00-8:00pm) is going to a little different. We are asking families to attend instead of just the children. We are looking for church members to act as stand in family members for kids whose parents cannot attend. Families will learn a song and be asked to attend church to sing the song with their kids on October 16th, which is the Children's Sabbath.

Our annual Fall Festival is right around the corner. Please bring wrapped candy and small trinkets to church. The Fall Festival Committee has set the ambitious attendance goal of 600 people. We need everyone's help spreading the word about the event. We also set the goal of gaining 7 new church or Free Friday Fun Night attendees from this outreach. **Please pray that we meet or even exceed our goal.**

Continue to pray for all our children and the children of our community. Pray for our teachers and volunteers. Pray that we can reach our community and they will know that “We love because He first loved us.” 1John 4:19

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FREE FALL FESTIVAL 
FESTIVAL DE OTOÑO LIBRE
OCT. 31
6:00-8:00pm


- Carnival Games
Juegos de carnaval
- Candy
Caramelo
- Face Painting
Pintura facial
- Big Slide
Gran tobogán

First Methodist Irving, 211 W. 3rd St.

DONATIONS NEEDED! 
Wrapped Candy, Trinkets &
Prizes for a Drawing
 **FOR OUR FALL FESTIVAL** 

Refuge Youth

Our students have made it through the first six weeks of the school year. They are already busy with school and outside activities. Please be in prayer for them as they continue working on grades and extracurricular activities.

We are continuing Sunday School at 9:15 am every Sunday with separate classes for middle school and high school. We also are still having Wednesday nights with middle school from 6:30-8:00 pm and high school from 7:00-8:30. One thing you may not know about these students is that they love to play pool. All of them, all ages. It’s been fun to watch them learn how to play and to watch them get better.

We have started a new curriculum on Wednesdays focusing on embracing the life of a Christ-follower. I am looking forward to walking with them through this year-long look into how to follow Christ in everything we do and how the Scripture guides us to do that.

We have some fun things planned for the rest of the semester and I am excited for all of it.

Youth Choir is starting this Sunday at 4:00 pm in the Choir Room and Billy already has some great ideas for this group.

If you know of any youth 6th -12th grade that are looking for a place to belong, please invite them to join us!

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

SEPTEMBER 2022

In Honor of
SteveAnn Stockstill to General Budget for her love and devotion, from Patsy Webster and family

In Memory of
Dick Bischofhausen to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
Todd Chilton to Music Ministry from Mary Husa Good



Parent’s Day Out

WOW! Is PDO blessed or what?! We started our new school year on September 6 with 60 students.

S-I-X-T-Y!



We are so excited (and so busy!) It is great to have all the smiles and even the tears back to school. It is also a huge boost to our program. Teachers are all excited to share their knowledge and care with these students.

We are off to a spectacular start. Thank you for your support and prayers for our PDO School. Please keep them coming!

We are studying "ALL ABOUT ME". We are talking about people having differences in hair color, skin color, their likes and dislikes - BUT we are all loved by God. (Just a little funny for you - We have a 2 1/2 year old who is truly loving everyone. He has obviously listened in class because he is hugging everyone and telling us "I like you". Problem is - he is doing it non-stop!) Not a bad problem to have at school.

We get to come to school and laugh lots of days - doesn't get any better than that.

Happy September to all.

Ms. Sandi

PDO School