

CONNEXION

Volume 15 Issue 4

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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
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Connexion 15 Issue 4



A Word of Encouragement from the Gospel of John

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

In these times of social isolation, I am continually reminded that Jesus came and lived among us so that we would never be isolated from God. We have a living and loving God who will guide us through these times. In this Connexion are personal ways that I lean on, that help me to be who God wants me to be through these strange days.

- 1) *No Fear*: Fear does not come from God. When I am fearful, I immediately know that I need to turn back to God for his confidence. "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).
- 2) *Prayer*: Spending time with God connects me with the One who cares for me the most. Practically, I need to spend more time praying about something than I do thinking about something, worrying about something, or complaining about something.
- 3) *Sing*: "Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts" (Ephesians 5:19). As I listen to music that lifts my soul, my heart is filled with hope. Maybe we need a little less news and a little more Newsboys (one of my favorite Christian groups)? Go ahead! Make that joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 150:1).
- 4) *Read Scripture*: Reading (or listening to) the Bible really does help! I wholeheartedly believe that God was working ahead of us when the church embraced the Jeff Baker Memorial Bible Challenge at the beginning of the year. I have loved reading through the Scriptures with you. We are starting in the Gospel of John (see below), which is a great place to jump in if you are new to the challenge. Through the month of May, our Sunday morning messages will reflect on a passage from John we have read that week.
- 5) *Connect with Others*: Calling people on the phone is a blessing! Checking on others, just saying "Hi!", and getting to know somebody better allows us to share the love of Christ. Tell them about your prayers, music you are listening to, and the Scripture you are reading. Invite them to join us for our virtual worship services on Facebook (search for "first united methodist church irving") or Youtube (search "fumcirving").

If you have prayer concerns, have other needs, or just want to let me know how you are doing (and what music you are listening to!), email me (doug@fumcirving.org) or call me (972-253-3531). I look forward to seeing you all face-to-face! God be with you until then!

Blessings!

Jeff Baker Memorial New Testament Bible Reading Challenge

Week	Reading
May 3 - 9	Luke 23 - John 1
May 10 - 16	John 2 - 5
May 17 - 23	John 6 - 8

Week	Reading
May 24 - 30	John 9 - 12
May 31 - Jun 6	John 13 - 17
Jun 7 - 13	John 18 - Acts 1

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

Refuge Youth

Hi everyone,

It is crazy to think that this is our second connexion article that has gone out since all of this social distancing began. I cannot believe a month has passed since we've met together for worship in person but it has been a true joy to continue to worship our God together online through technology. I have felt your prayers for us as a church as well as for my family personally as we been going through this season and I continue to pray for you, your family and our whole church as we continue to serve and love God and the people we interact with.

Right now we are in the early stages of a new class for high school and middle school students that dives into the topics covered during confirmation. This is not a confirmation class, but is taking its place this year as we transition the confirmation program into the youth department. Please be in prayer for me as I lead this class and for our students as they continue to discern, learn, discuss, and grow in their own faith.

Rev. Kyle Powell
Associate Minister and Director of Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church Irving
214-404-7984

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS APRIL 2020

Centennial Bricks:

In Memory of Sandy Gee Kinkeade
In Honor of Rev. Dr. Douglas Fox

In Honor of Jimmy Bellew to General Budget from Connie Gifford Herrington for Easter VIPs deliveries

In Memory of

Dylan Davis to Choir/ Music Fund from Paul & Mary Good
Bill Bailey to Wednesday Work Crew from Pam & Allan Knott



Parent's Day Out



When I go up to my office at PDO lately, it is way too quiet and way too barren. There aren't the normal happy smiles, bright faces, and squealing giggles that make our day special. (and I am not just talking about the kiddos, this includes our teachers). But - there is a message there. We miss those days right now. From the snotty noses to the battles over a toy, from the bathroom struggles to the "see how fast I can run in my new tennis shoes". And at the top of the list - the hugs when you least expect them. It goes without saying that we can't wait to get back to class and all the things that go with it.

We did have a little fun trying to be "normal" for Easter. Every child in PDO got an Easter basket delivered to their home. It wasn't our normal Easter parties and egg hunt, but it was very special in a different way.

We will be back to class soon. Registration will begin for the summer and Fall sessions. We will have made it!! And you will have too!!!!

3 H's - Healthy, Happy, & Hopeful to all of you.

Sandi Parker
Director PDO



I want to tell you how much I miss seeing your faces. It has been a different month for sure. Worshipping the Holy Week at home with David was a new experience and I tried to help the children learn about Passover as well. We are continuing our Zoom meetings for Sunday School and now choir on Wednesday. The children are excited about their musical and we all hope to see it in person when it is safe. Since we cancelled the Easter Egg Hunt we had some donated candy left over. I was able to give the candy in the Police parking with Darius Hill, a representative of the Police Department. The children were excited to find out they still were able to give back to the community even though they were staying home and staying safe.

I would like to hear from the VBS volunteers how you feel about doing the VBS this year. You can contact me through email children@fumcirving.org or my cell phone 940/445-0738. We want to give the children some positive experiences this summer. July 6th is coming and I think we can work out some activities for the children and still stay safe. Please be in prayer with me as we work out details.

Bless you all,
Juanell Montoya
Children's Director

