



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

Connexion 16 Issue 11



CONNEXION

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The angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” I love this line from Scripture! Each phrase is packed with meaning and hope. During these times, and all times, we are to **“fear not.”** In our Bible Challenge we read, “Perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). The perfect love of Christ fills us so that there is no room for fear! **“For behold”** means we need to be looking for Christ in our lives. Look! There’s Jesus! The angel said, **“I bring you ...”** meaning that the message is given to us. All we must do is receive the message. We would not want to reject a Christmas present given to us by a loved one! And the message is **“good news!”** The good news is that Jesus is Christ the Lord! Jesus removes our sins as Christ who died on the cross and Jesus guides us into life, life abundant, and life eternal as Lord who was resurrected. This should bring us **great joy!** Is your joy easy for others to see? And this message **“that will be for all the people.”** We should be like the shepherds, who upon seeing Jesus, “made known all that had been told them concerning this child.” Who can you tell about this good news of great joy? Who needs to hear these words, “For unto **you** is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord!”?

Christmas Activities Abound! Invite neighbors, family, friends, and all!

- *Christmas parade in downtown Irving.* Watch or walk with us Saturday, Dec. 4, 6:00 pm.
- *Free Friday Fun Night for children!* Dec. 10, 6 – 9 pm. There will be food, games, snow, and Christmas movies! Kindergarten to fifth grade! (Did I say snow?!?!)
- *Christmas Cantata by our choir.* It’s back! Sunday, Dec. 12 will be the “Festival of Christmas” at 10:30 am in our Sanctuary (live-streamed at www.fumcirving.org).
- *Christmas Cheer Sing-a-long.* Sunday, Dec. 19, 4 – 5 pm. This will be an outdoor event for all ages with caroling, hot chocolate, snow, and Santa! (Did I say snow *and* Santa?!?!)
- *Christmas Eve services.* We will have an outdoor drive-in service at 5 pm, a Sanctuary service at 7 pm (live-streamed at www.fumcirving.org), and a “midnight” Chapel service at 11 pm. Each service will include Holy Communion and candlelight.

May the *Hope, Love, Joy,* and *Peace* of Jesus Christ be with you this Christmas season.

Doug

P.S. Let’s finish the year financially strong through your year-end-giving. Although the church office will be closed starting at 1:00 pm on Christmas Eve, gifts can be made during Sunday worship or during our Christmas Eve services. Also, Jimmy Bellew will be available for year-end-giving by appointment through Dec. 31. Call him directly at 972-573-0204.

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

2021 Bible Reading Challenge!

This year we will be reading through key parts of the Bible from the Old Testament through the New Testament. The major themes of Scripture will be encountered as you read God’s inspired word. The Sunday message will almost always be taken from the week’s readings.

Week (Theme)	Reading
Nov. 29-Dec. 5 (The Love of God)	Luke 3 Romans 12 Ephesians 5:1-20 1 John 3-4
Dec. 6-12 (Christmas Cantata)	Isaiah 7:10-17 Isaiah 9:2-7 Micah 5:1-4 Luke 1-2
Dec. 13-19 (The Peace of God)	Psalm 133 Isaiah 11:1-11 Isaiah 40:1-31 Galatians 5:16-26 Philippians 4:4-9
Dec. 20-26 (Praising God!)	Psalm 117, 134, 150 Luke 1-2
Dec. 26 – Dec. 31 (Beginning & End)	Genesis 1-3; Revelation 21-22
Nov. 29-Dec. 5 (The Way of Love)	Luke 3; Romans 12 Ephesians 5:1-20; 1 John 3-4
Jan. 1-2, 2022 (Epiphany Sunday)	Matthew 2

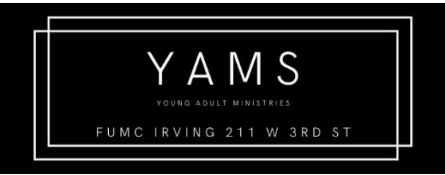
Masks Strongly Encouraged

As we continue to respond to the COVID pandemic, Bishop Mike McKee has "strongly encouraged mask wearing in our churches." Wearing masks at all inside gatherings is strongly encouraged. In our Sanctuary, our West section is designated for socially distanced seating. Wearing a mask is a tangible way to demonstrate “Love thy neighbor.”

Refuge Youth

Refuge Youth had our annual Campout the beginning of Thanksgiving week. We had 18 youth and 4 adults attend. We had a great time playing games and bonding as a group. Getting outside and being around friends was a great start to the week. We will be having a Christmas party some time in December. We will also continue to have Confirmation class and regular Sunday School at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings and Wednesday youth with middle school attending from 6:30-8:00 pm and high school attending from 7:00-8:30 pm. Please pray for our youth as they wrap up the semester and participate in Semester Exams.

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth Activities
youth@fumcirving.org



YAMS has had several firsts in the month of November! We had our first ever “Friendsgiving” which went very well. We had a great time catching, hanging out and eating delicious food that we and our families made! We also cannot forget the amazing turkey that we got from Oakhaven UMC! It is safe to say that Friendsgiving will become tradition for YAMS.

November also brought about our first ever meeting for Sunday school! We are going to be exploring and working through Luke 1 and 2 during the season of advent. This class is open for any and all young adults at the moment! So if you know a 18-30 year old who is looking for a place to be on Sunday mornings, then send them our way!

YAMS is also continuing to meet on ZOOM every Sunday at 7pm. We are wrapping up our study on the Gospel of Mark and will be moving into a new study as the new year approaches! If you see one of our young adults, feel free to ask them to tell you about Mark ... they should all be experts at this point.

The coming month of December will also be a busy month for YAMS much like the rest of the church so be on the look out for some fun events during the month of December!

As always, if you need the information for any of our future events, then please follow/check our social media [fumc.yams](https://www.facebook.com/fumc.yams) for current dates and information. If you need the link to access our Sunday evening ZOOM sessions, or if you have any questions, then please email youngadults@fumcirving.org or contact Colin directly.

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



Dear Church,

The last time I wrote, the children’s ministry was anticipating our Fall Festival. Well, we had quite a showing with over 430 heads counted and 140 door prize registrations. We used these registrations to send out invitations for our first Free Friday Fun Night on November 12. We had 34 children show up and participate in eating pizza, a scavenger hunt of ‘Where is Pastor Doug,’ making placemats for Avante, and making a home table decoration for Thanksgiving. The intent of these Friday night events is to encourage children to join us in Sunday School and children’s choir. During the scavenger hunt the choir rooms were featured with David Lee, Sue Wilson and Yeonok Lee as surprise guests! There were a lot of smiling faces! The children’s team is planning their next Free Friday Fun Night on December 10!

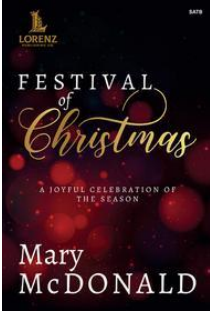
All of this leads me to say that our department is growing, and we have a good team working. I feel it is time for me to resign my position as Children’s Director and take care of David in our home in Denton. I appreciated the prayers while I was serving at FUMC-Irving and hope you will pray for us in our new adventures.

Blessings,
Juanell Montoya
“Where God guides, He provides.” Isaiah 58:11

Note from the SPPRC: We are thankful for the work of Juanell Montoya over the last two years and pray for her as she goes through this transition. There is a strong children’s team in place. Part of this team is Traci King, who will serve as the interim administrator for our Children’s Ministry. All children@fumcirving.org and other correspondence will be received by Traci.

Music Notes

Christmas Cantata, “Festival of Christmas” December 12, Sunday at 10:30 am.



Please join First United Methodist Church of Irving on December 12, Sunday at 10:30 a.m., as our Chancel Choir with Chamber orchestra presents A Christmas Cantata ‘Festival of Christmas’ a Joyful Celebration of the Season by Mary McDonald. We have been waiting for two years to perform Christmas Cantata. It would be a fantastic story of Jesus's birth in song and word. Bring your family and invite your friends and neighbors to this FUMC tradition and get in the Christmas spirit! We will be streaming live on Facebook and YouTube as well. For more information, contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org.

Christmas Cheer Sing-Along, December 19, Sunday at 4 p.m.



Sing along with your favorite Christmas carols! First United Methodist Church of Irving Praise Band leads a cheerful selection of seasonal favorites, traditional Christmas carols such as *Jingle Bells*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Feliz Navidad*, *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, *Joy to the World*, and more on December 19, Sunday at 4 p.m. at the west wing of the outside of the sanctuary. Please bring your children and grandchildren. Also, please invite your family and friends to have a wonderful time singing carols they already have known from their young ages. We will have hot chocolate and cookies after the event. We hope to see snow while we are singing carols. A jolly enjoyable time! For more information, contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org

David Lee
Director of Music and Worship
David Lee
Director of Music and Worship
609-439-2655



Parent’s Day Out



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone from PDO. This month has been an especially fun one at school. We got to here what everyone is thankful, for which is always

sweet and funny. We celebrated our Veterans and gathered around the Bell Tower where we said the Pledge and a Prayer. Then Mr. Jimmy rang the Bell Tower 6 times for us in celebration of all of the Veterans. We had fun clapping while the bells rang. It was a special moment for sure. We also had our annual Thanksgiving Celebration, with a program and a feast. All of our families came to celebrate with us. It was a great time with great food!

Nearing the end of this year, we are blessed to have made it through the pandemic as well as we have. We are continuing to pray for more students. Please pass the word if you know of anyone in need of a program like ours. We have not recouped financially at this point as we would like. Therefore, we will be putting a box near the entrance to the sanctuary soon to collect some items that we always use. We need paper towels, plain white paper plates, heavier paper plates for snacks, plastic spoons, plastic forks, glue gun sticks, cases of bottled water, clorox wipes, lysol spray. We would be most appreciative if you can help us with this.

Happy Holidays to All.

Sandi Parker

PDO Director and Staff

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS NOVEMBER 2021

In Honor of:

- Danny Elms** to General Budget, celebrating his 70+ years membership at FUMC and his 78th birthday on 10/22 from Judy Elms
- Sammy Hargrove** to General Budget, for many years of service to FUMC from Judy Elms

In Memory of:

- Susan Schaeffer** to Music Fund from Mary & Paul Good