

CONNEXION

Volume 15 Issue 7

July 2020



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
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Connexion 15 Issue 7



Can I Get a Witness?

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15-16

We are still in a time of waiting. Bishop McKee informed the Metro District churches that we are not to "gather in person through Labor Day" meaning **we will NOT hold in-person worship services until at least after September 7.**

Waiting is not wasted time since God is always at work! Look what God did following times of waiting. Noah waited in the Ark before emerging to a fresh start. Joseph waited in prison until freed by the Pharaoh, allowing him to rescue his family. Moses waited in the wilderness for forty years before being called by God out of a burning bush to rescue the Israelite people. Elijah waited during a famine before achieving a great victory over the prophets of Baal. The Israelites waited for 70 years in exile before returning to the Promised Land never again to worship false idols. The people waited without prophetic voice for 400 years before the birth of the Messiah, Jesus. The disciples waited in the Upper Room until they received power from the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And most powerfully, Jesus waited in the tomb for three days until he emerged to conquer sin and death through His resurrection.

I do not know what God will do through this time of waiting. But we need to be ready! One way to be ready is prepare our personal testimonies of the times we encountered God in our lives. As we concluded Acts together through our Jeff Baker Memorial Bible Challenge, we read how Paul shared his testimony with King Agrippa (Acts 26). He shared his **background** to connect himself with King Agrippa (they were both Jews). He told about his **past** (he persecuted Christians). He described his **encounter with God** (hearing the voice of Jesus while on the road to Damascus). He showed **how he was changed** by his encounter with God (he traveled around sharing the good news of Jesus Christ). He **invited a response** ("do you believe?"). What is your testimony? Are you ready to share it with others?

If you have prayer concerns, have other needs, or you want to share your personal God-encounter story, email me (doug@fumcirving.org) or call (972-253-3531)!

Blessings!

Jeff Baker Memorial New Testament Bible Reading Challenge

Week	Reading
July 26 – Aug 1	Acts 27 – Romans 4
August 2 - 8	Romans 5 - 10
August 9 - 15	Romans 11 - 16

Week	Reading
August 16 – 22	1 Corinthians 1 – 6
August 23 – 29	1 Corinthians 7 – 10
Aug. 30 – Sept 5	1 Corinthians 11 - 16

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JULY 2020

In Honor of:

Tom Uhr to General Budget from Richard & Jennifer Cox

In Memory of Theresa Bowers

to Children's Ministry from Bonnie Jones
to Children's Ministry from Jan & Jason Mayo
to Children's Ministry from Bill & Mary Holcomb
to Children's Ministry from Caren Lawrence
to Children's Ministry from Cheryl Jennings
to Children's Ministry from Alma Shattuck
to Children's Ministry from Bobby & Sherry White
to Children's Ministry from Mr. & Mrs. Leonel Zuniga & family
to Children's Ministry from Becky Whitfield
to Children's Ministry from James & Tina Streck
to Children's Ministry from Cordia York
to Children's Ministry from James & Cristie Hahn
to Children's Ministry from Don & Helen Rice
to Children's Ministry from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
to Children's Ministry from W.H. & Debra Allen
to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good
to Chapel Renewal from Jason Phillips
to Chapel Renewal from Don & Helen Rice
to Chapel Renewal from Nancy Smith
to Chapel Renewal from Darla & Butch Liesman
to Chapel Renewal from Ron & Maryla Zimmerman
to Chapel Renewal from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

In Memory of:

Ange Coleman, mother of Sheree Lorich, to A/C fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
Bill Marks, brother of Phil Marks, to A/C fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
Helen Gryzeck, sister of Bob Maletic, to A/C fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
Marilyn Jean Janesko to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good
Terry L. Walburn to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

From the finance committee

A memorial was graciously received from Rev. Edward and Marion Blythe through their Charitable Gift Annuity. Rev. and Mrs. Blythe loved First United Methodist Church of Irving and wanted to provide for it even after their deaths. Rev. Blythe served as senior pastor of FUMC-Irving from 1981-90.



Parent's Day Out



Normally - PDO would already be well into our enrolling process for the new school year. But - it doesn't really matter - BECAUSE WE ARE NOW ENROLLING FOR OUR NEW SCHOOL YEAR which begins Tuesday, September 8. We are starting to make our plans accordingly and looking forward to what the year will bring. If you have or know of any family looking for a great program, please have them to contact us ASAP. We take children from 6 weeks to pre-Kindergarten. In addition - we are opening up a new class for those children who are home schooled or doing online school - K thru 5th grade. They will be doing their schooling with teacher aids, etc. in the mornings and after lunch will get to have their free time.

As always, we ask for your prayers for a successful upcoming year.

Sandi Parker
PDO Director

Music Notes

We have been live streaming worship for more than four months. But thankfully, the work of the Holy Spirit has been and blessed us every Sunday. I know online worship will never replace the genuine fellowship of meeting together, but we give thanks to God that we are able to continue live streaming worship during these uncertain times.

I truly thank musicians who have involved in preparing for live streaming worship during this time. I pray that the Holy Spirit will keep helping our Music Ministry to provide excellent music for our congregation and communities. Our praise and worship will never stop in any circumstances, and nothing can block our hearts to praise and worship Him. Psalm 145:2 "My praise will never cease. I will praise You every day; I will lift up Your name forever."

I believe that Our Savior, Jesus Christ, will be with our church all the time, and the Holy Spirit keeps working on us. I hope we will be back worshipping in the sanctuary soon, and I eagerly look forward to that day, but until then, nothing will stop us from joining and worshipping our Lord. Psalm 71: 8 "That is why I can never stop praising you; I declare your glory all day long."

David Lee

Director of Music & Worship



July is over but the memories for the children will live on. Bridgeport offered camp in a box. Zoom being the new box. I know as a church member I looked forward to hearing the children and youth reports following camp. I asked for comments of what their favorite parts were, and several said the Lip-Sync Contest. JW said *"I enjoyed meeting new people and getting to hear their point of views."* Rhett

said, *"Everything, but the best part was Colin Craft being my family group leader."* And then the proof is in the pictures Crazy Hair Day was a success.

Thank you for your prayers during the two weeks of camp. Remember the parents and children as school is starting. Thanks for the school supplies dropped off at the church. This is a church who pray and give. I am so pleased to be the Children's Director. Blessings from Juanell Montoya

God bless you all,
Juanell Montoya Children's Director



Refuge Youth

Hi everyone,

We are trucking along through this very weird summer. We are continuing to have our weekly social distancing lunches with a handful of youth and this past week kicked off a new small group curriculum with two different groups of youth. It has been so good to see them and we've had some very good conversations over the past week and half. Please be in prayer for our students as they continue to open up and share with one another about what is going on in their lives and the uncertainty around the upcoming school year!

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