



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
www.fumcirving.org

Connexion 17 Issue 7



2022 Bible Reading Challenge!

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

Week	Reading
August 1 – 7	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 8 - 14	Isaiah 5:1-17; Psalm 80:7-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 15 - 21	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
August 22 - 28	Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 18:1-19; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:7-14
August 29 – September 4	Jeremiah 18:1-17; Psalm 139:1-18 Philemon; Luke 14:25-35
September 5 - 11	Jeremiah 4:11-22; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:11-32

ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

CONNEXION

Volume 17 Issue 7

August 2022

**[Jesus said,] "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross daily and follow me. " - Luke 9:23**

Darrow and Vicki Frazier are our missionaries serving with Cadence International reaching Marines for Christ for over ten years. We heard their call story on Sunday (watch here: <https://www.fumcirving.org/the-sermons/darrow-frazier-missionary-to-okinawa-8-7-22/>).

Darrow told us that he wants the marines to become "Christ-followers." This phrase has really captured me. The word "Christian" has tended to lose its meaning. Society lumps all Christians together, usually in a negative way. Many people believe that going to a church makes you a Christian. Christians may just be *not* something else, not a Jew or a Muslim, or a Hindu. Yet being a Christian is being a Christ-follower.

Jesus said, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." This is a packed statement. Being a Christ-follower means that we consider the other person more than ourselves. Being a Christ-follower means that we willingly sacrifice our time, money, energy, and desires for Christ. Being a Christ-follower means that we do all this daily. Being a Christ-follower means that we are not following our own ideas or the trends of society or our friends or even our pastor! A Christ-follower follows Jesus Christ!

There are very practical steps for being a Christ-follower:

- 1) A Christ-follower is a person of prayer. To follow Christ, we must be in a relationship with Him. A relationship is only developed through conversation. Are you daily talking to God through prayer and daily listening to God through prayer?
- 2) A Christ-follower is a person of the Bible. To follow Christ, we must grow in knowledge of Christ wants us to be. This knowledge comes through the Holy Bible. Are you reading the Bible regularly? Are you reading our weekly Bible Challenge reading?
- 3) A Christ-follower is a person of the Church. Jesus gathered people together. Jesus knows that we cannot do this on our own. We need each other. We need the church. Are you regularly attending worship services? If you can only attend on-line, are you actively engaging in the worship service? Are you connecting in a group like a Sunday School class? Is Jesus saying, "Follow me to worship this Sunday?"
- 4) A Christ-follower is a person of service. Jesus commands us to love our neighbors. This can be in the church through children, youth, choir, the sack lunch ministry, Shepherd's Care Team, ushering, Wednesday Work Crew, etc., etc. This can be in the community through organizations like Many Helping Hands, Crisis Ministries, Family Promise, giving blood, etc. etc. This can be in your "neighborhood" through visiting, cooking a meal, calling a lonely person, writing an encouraging note, etc. etc. Where is Christ saying to you, "Come, follow me to serve here?"

Are you a Christ-follower?

Blessings,

Discernment Task Force Update

We want to inform you of the progress of the Discernment Task Force that the Church Council appointed on May 23 to collect and disseminate information about possible disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. We have been working hard to finalize information for our presentation to the congregation. We have been meeting regularly to accomplish this task and have completed two practice presentations, the first with the Church Council. The second was to incorporate the council's suggestions and questions. We were hoping to have started the public meetings, except that the North Texas Annual Conference is changing the Disaffiliation Process almost weekly. Just in the last few days, substantial changes were made that impacts the presentations. We are expecting that more significant changes could be made within the next few days. These changes have occurred so frequently, and make such an impact on our presentation, that we are probably looking at altering the format to a single churchwide presentation. Because the Church Council resolution was for us to prepare small group meetings, we will ask them formally at the Church Council meeting this month to allow us to make the presentation in a single churchwide setting. If Church Council approves, we anticipate making the announcement of that date very soon.

Blessings,

Discernment Task Force:

Church Council Chair - Sheryll Bunt

SPRC Chair - Mickey Wheeler

Board of Trustees Chair - Allan Knott

Finance Committee Chair - Bill Monty

Lay Leader - Cindy Alleman

Lay Member to Annual Conference - Linda Wheeler

SPRC Updates:

Music Director and Accompanist Search Update

The search team has interviewed candidates for the Music Director position. Top candidates will rehearse with the choir on the afternoon of Sunday August 28. You can be a part of this rehearsal choir! Contact Sheryll Bunt through the church office for details. We are blessed that Yeonok will be able to be with us through August. We will bring on a permanent accompanist when we have completed the music director search.

Young Adults Ministry (YAMS)

Julie Schilling has graciously volunteered to lead our Young Adult Ministry! They continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 and various activities are being planned. For information, email [youngadults @fumcirving.org](mailto:youngadults@fumcirving.org).



Thank you to everyone who made VBS 2022 (The Circle J Ranch) possible.

I can't begin to list all the people who pitched in. It is phenomenal to consider how many people in our congregation and community who prayed for VBS and volunteered. Clearly God has put the desire to minister to children in our hearts at First Methodist, Irving.

Here are some statistics you might not have heard yet. We averaged 89 children per day.

On Tuesday we had 103 children in attendance! We averaged 57 volunteers per day. On Friday we had over 50 kids kneel at the altar and accept Jesus as their Savior! GOD IS SO GOOD!

Our Children's Cowboy Church and The Jamboree also were well-attended. Many families came back and worshipped with us.

The Children Department is already looking forward.

"Never lacking in zeal, but keeping our spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" Romans 12:11.

We have our next Free Friday Fun Night on August 12. We have also started planning for the Fall Festival in October.

We are a church that: Loves Jesus, Loves Worship and Loves Children. We are living out our mission to Be a Bright Beacon of God's Love. If you are looking for a way to get more involved in the mission of our church, volunteer at Free Friday Fun Night or join the Fall Festival Committee.

Jennifer Cox

jennifer@fumcirving.org

Traci King

children@fumcirving.org



Refuge Youth

It is official, summer is over. School for almost all of our students will be starting next week. This summer has been such a great time. We met every Wednesday evening and had a great time just hanging out together.

During July, both the Senior high and the Junior high went to camp, and we helped out at VBS. To wrap up the summer, we celebrated with a lock in and had so much fun.

We will be welcoming in our new 6th graders this weekend with Promotion Sunday happening this Sunday, the 14th. Starting on the 17th of August, we will go back to our usual Wednesday night meeting with the middle schoolers hanging out from 6:30-7:00 pm having worship and a message from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm and then the high schoolers hanging out until 8:30 pm.

I am so grateful that in the wake of Colin moving to his new job, the SPRC has given me the amazing task of being the Director of Youth. I am so excited about this new journey and the added responsibility.

Please be in prayer for our students as they start a new school year!

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth



Parent's Day Out

It seems like the summer has flown by here at PDO. We are making plans for the start of our new school year and still enjoying the last days of summer at PDO. Please pass along our info to anyone who may have a need for a program like PDO. We are a

Tuesday/Thursday program that is faith and Montessori based. Hours are 9:00 to 2:20. We also have The Zone which is home schooled or virtual grade school children. Come check us out.

We ask for your prayers for all the kiddos who will be going back to school everywhere. We also ask for prayers for a great year for PDO and our instructors.

Stay cool.

Ms. Sandi and PDO



We

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JULY 2022

In Honor of David & Yeonok Lee to Music Ministry for their years of service from Nancy Smith

In Memory of:

Thomas Wayne Nelson (Father of Dave Nelson) to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
Thomas Wayne Nelson (Father of Dave Nelson) to Children's Ministry from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
Gerald Carver to General Budget from Chris & Kim Arrington
Gerald Carver to Wednesday Work Crew from Ron & Maryla Zimmerman
Tom Uhr to General Budget from Gary & Sandra Dinsmore
Gerald Carver to General Budget from Gary & Sandra Dinsmore
Eve Harper to Music Ministry from Mary Husa Good

In Memory of Murphy Webster:

to Wednesday Work Crew from Ron & Maryla Zimmerman
to General Budget from Jack & Pat Carnell
to General Budget from Ruth Henson
to General Budget from Billie & JoAnn Connell
to General Budget from Nancy Smith
to General Budget from Shirley Clement
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship from Dick & Jeanell Bischofhausen

In Memory of Carol Ayles:

to Children's Ministry from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
to General Budget from Vernard and Deanna Grimes
to General Budget from Ruth Henson
to General Budget from Nancy Smith
to General Budget from Burelene Welch
to General Budget from Jack & Pat Carnell
to General Budget from Jerry Wicks
to Music Ministry from Mary Good

In Memory of Jean Tyrone:

to Music Ministry from Velton & Bernice Davis
to Missions from Cheryl Jennings
to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

In Memory of Jo Taylor:

to General Budget from Jerry Wicks
to General Budget from Don & Beverly Perry
to General Budget from Shirley Cary & Steve Bell
to Children's Ministry from Christine Burkett