

CONNEXION

Volume 16 Issue 7

July 2021



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 16 Issue 7



"Let us worship together in Spirit and Truth!" -- from John 4:24

Last month I focused on our declaration at the beginning of each of our worship services: "This the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" There is so much each day to rejoice in! Even when I was sick, I found that there was so much to rejoice in, although I missed spending time with you all!

At the conclusion of the announcements, we end with the declaration, "Let us worship together in Spirit and in Truth, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." This comes from Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

I am more convinced that this is foundational to the lives we are called to live in Christ. Worshiping is not just a Sunday morning experience, but a call to keep ever present in our hearts and minds the *worth* of God in our moment-by-moment existence. God is Spirit and is always with us. Give worth to God by looking for His presence in your life.

But we must worship in a two-fold manner: in Spirit and in Truth! We do not want to go through the motions of worship even on a Sunday morning. We should greet one another in the excitement of what the Spirit has been doing in their lives! We should sing with excitement as we welcome the Spirit into our presence! We should pray expectant of God who hears and answers. We should encounter the Word of God to hear what God is speaking into our hearts and lives. Are you actively seeking a Spiritual encounter with the living God?

We not only seek a Spiritual encounter, we also seek *the* Truth (not *a* truth or *my* truth). The Truth is Jesus Christ ("I am the way, and the truth, and the life," John 14:6) and Jesus sends us the "Spirit of truth" (John 14:17). We seek the Truth through Scripture as the Bible grounds us in God's Truth. God's Truth commands us to love Him with all our heart, mind, and strength. God's Truth commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. God's Truth tells us that Christ is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit as we put our faith into action. Are you actively seeking to live in the Truth that leads us to make a difference?

Join us this Sunday for Sunday School and worship. As always, we will proclaim, "Let us worship together in Spirit and in Truth!" Watch and see how the Holy Spirit will lead you this day!

Blessings!

Doug

P.S. Jana and I cannot thank you all enough for the prayers as we slowly recover from Covid. We are truly blessed by you.

P.P.S. Don't forget to pray for our Guatemala Mission team, August 4 – 11!

ONLINE GIVING

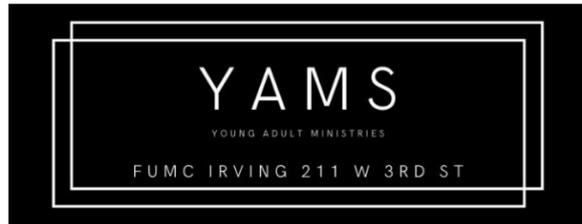


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2021 Bible Reading Challenge!

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
July 26-August 1 (Samuel the Prophet)	1 Samuel 1-7
August 2 - 8 (King David)	1 Samuel 16-17 2 Samuel 7; 11-12 Psalm 51
August 9 - 15 (Solomon's Temple)	1 Kings 6-9 Psalm 23
August 16 - 22 (Elisha the Prophet)	2 Kings 2-6
August 23 - 29 (Ezekiel the Prophet)	Ezekiel 8-11; 37
August 30 - Sept 5 (Ezra's Revival)	Ezra 1; 3; 6 Nehemiah 1; 8-9



We have had a great month for our Young Adult Ministries, YAMS!

We kicked off our program on July 23rd by going Axe Throwing. We had a total of 7 young people come out and we even had some new faces join us for the event. We also had two of our members, Claire Schilling and Macy Story, get two bulls eyes! An added bonus is everyone made it out with all 10 fingers and everyone had a great time.

We are also starting our first fall Study on August 1st at 6:30pm! We will be spending a few weeks talking about the state of the modern American Church with the goal to process and discern what it looks like for young adults to function as the church in the modern world! We will be providing a small meal to our young adults and then jumping into the actual discussion around 7pm!

With there beginning to be more action happening within the life of our program, there is a need for your continued prayers for the program and those who are involved in it! If you would like to offer more than your prayers for the program, then please reach out to me and let me know how you would like to help us!

As always if you know a young person send them my way, have them give me a call/text, or even email me at colin@fumcirving.org.

Colin Craft
Director or Young Adult Ministries & Spiritual Director of Youth



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The children's summer is almost over. We finished *Wednesday Wonders* with an award-winning game challenge thanks to Mikayla King's effort as our Recreation leader on July 28th. A special thank you goes to Jana Fox, Judy Baggett, David Montoya, Traci King, Mikayla King, Shekhinah Fox, Marni and Bill Monty. We could not have done the program without them. We also had special Art teachers Jennifer Cox and Cynthia Stone for our canvas art project that I think will be a special keepsake for years to come. The children learned that they can be part of the FUMC Irving Mission team by preparing sandwiches for our homeless.

Our Sunday School has been meeting in person since May and we are preparing rooms for our new church year. Jana Fox and her team had a paint day, and it is definitely brighter up there on the third floor in the Pre-school room. We have teachers for three classrooms now and will split up after opening assembly starting August 22nd. **Thank you to Wayne Fletcher, Karen Fletcher, Pam Knott, Jan Mayo, Deb Bellew, Jennifer Cox, Traci King, Judy Baggett, Denise Bolton, Jana Fox and Christine Burkett** for answering the call to teach the Bible to our children for our upcoming year.

I must also thank **Robin Bowyer** for her years of service to the children as teacher, committee member and Fall Festival coordinator (and more than I could list here). She will still be a big helper as I coordinate this year's Fall Festival. Please be in prayer for us this new year with our new responsibilities.

Blessings,
Juanell Montoya

Refuge Youth

The youth had so much fun at Whirlyball, as always. We are planning some fun things over the next few weeks to celebrate the end of summer. We will welcome our new 6th graders into the youth group, and then have a pool party. Colin and I are working on what the fall will look like and are excited for some changes that might come.

We are still meeting every Sunday for Sunday school at 9:15 am upstairs in the FLC. Please be in prayer for the students as school is quickly approaching. Also pray for our recent graduates as they head to college soon.

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth
Activities



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

JULY 2021

In Honor of

Matt Adamson, Jana & Doug Fox, and the 8am service crew from Richard & Jennifer Cox

In Memory of:

Robert Byrd to Music Ministry from Mary & Paul Good

Nell Cake Dove to Music Fund from Mary Cake Good

Franchelle Byington, mother of Vickie Fisk & Cathy Ballard to Guatemala Mission

Betty Rodgers, daughter of Ernestine Overland and sister of Lydia Perkins, to General Budget from Mickey and Linda Wheeler

In Memory of Pat Reed

to Music Ministry from Beth and Micky Shearon

to Music Ministry from Nancy & Dwayne Dehaven

to Music Ministry from Pam Harbaugh

to Music Ministry from Christine Burkett

In Memory of Barbara Hargrove

to Children's Ministry from Jimmy & Christine Burkett

to Children's Ministry from Connie Baker

to Wednesday Work Crew from Jan Mayo

to Chapel Renewal from JoAnn Maykus

to Music Ministry from Mary Good

to General Budget from Allee Anderson

to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

to General Budget from Danny & Judy Elms

to General Budget from Bill & Marni Monty

to General Budget from Lana Lambert

to General Budget from Jerry Wicks

to General Budget from Dr. & Mrs. Tim Walker

to General Budget from Taylor Thompson

to General Budget from Charles E. Baker

to General Budget from Walter K. Clayton

to General Budget from Samantha Stockert

to General Budget from Nancy Smith

to General Budget from Burelene Welch

to General Budget from David & Sandy Brady

to General Budget from Pathfinders SS Class

to General Budget from Richard & Jennifer Cox

to General Budget from Paul & Dottie Creech

to General Budget from Bill & Mary Holcomb



Parent's Day Out



PDO is registering for their Fall term that starts soon.