

CONNEXION

Volume 16 Issue 10

October 2021

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



MISSION
"MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF
THE WORLD"

VISION
"A BRIGHT BEACON OF
GOD'S LOVE TO IRVING
AND BEYOND"

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In Paul's conclusion to his first letter to the Thessalonians, he gives us a great recipe for life. He instructs us to (1) Rejoice, (2) Pray, and (3) Give Thanks. The world gives us plenty to make us downcast. Scripture, however, reminds us to lift up our heads towards a loving and merciful God and rejoice, pray, and give thanks! Jesus tells us, "In the world you will have trouble. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

We are in the middle of our annual Stewardship Campaign that has the theme, "Attitude of Gratitude." This theme was chosen intentionally by our Finance Committee to remind us that there is always much for which to be thankful to God. This church has been faithful through the difficult time of the pandemic. Although there has been much suffering and loss, we are still to "give thanks in all circumstances" for the ways that God has sustained us and blessed us.

In our Stewardship Campaign, we have the opportunity to consider how each one of us will respond to God's call to support the church with our financial giving, as well as our prayers, presence, service, and witness. I invite you to follow Paul's pattern: Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks.

- Rejoice in the many ways God has been faithful to you.
- Pray for guidance from God on what you are being called to pledge towards the 2022 ministries of the Church.
- Give Thanks for all God is doing through the church and all that God will do in 2022!

On Sunday, November 14, you will be invited to present your "Attitude of Gratitude" Stewardship Cards in worship as a faithful act of thanksgiving. The cards have been sent out with a stamped return envelope so you can also mail your cards in before the 14th. The letter from John Schilling, our finance chair, also has on the back various ways that you can give to the ministries of the church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jimmy Bellew, our financial manager, at 972-253-3531 or finance@fumcirving.org.

Join me in *rejoicing* over God's love and care for our church, *praying* for God's guidance and blessing of our church, and *giving thanks* for what God has done and will do through our church as a beacon of God's light to Irving and beyond!

Blessings!

Doug

P.S. See you Sunday at our popular Drive-in outdoor worship at 8:00 am or in-person at 10:30. Live-streaming is available for our 10:30 am service (www.fumcirving.org).

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 |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Oct. 25-31 (Stewardship) | John 15; 1 Corinthians 12-13 2 Corinthians 8-9 |
| Nov. 1-7 (Heaven) | John 14; 2 Corinthians 4-5 Hebrews 12; Revelation 21 |
| Nov. 8-14 (The Holy Spirit) | Acts 2, 10; Romans 8 John 16; 2 Corinthians 3 |
| Nov. 15-21 (Giving Thanks) | Psalm 103; Habakkuk 3 Philippians 2; 1 Thessalonians 5 |
| Nov. 22-28 (Christ Will Return) | Daniel 7:9-14; Daniel 12:1-12 Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 24 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11 |
| Nov. 29-Dec. 5 (The Way of Love) | 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 |

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

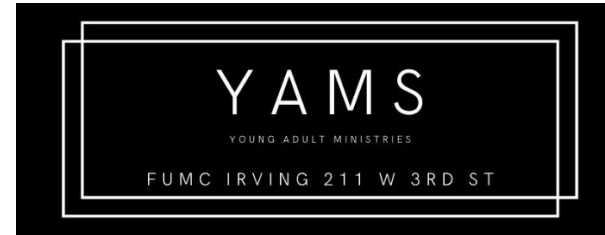
Confirmation class on Sunday morning with our 6th and 7th graders is continuing every Sunday. We have had all 7 show up on a consistent basis even if they have other activities to attend after Sunday School. We are very proud and excited they are showing the desire to learn.

We are continuing our Wednesday night fun every week with fellowship and lessons. With football season and marching band season coming to an end, we expect more participation on Wednesday nights.

We are very excited that we have planned our annual Fall Campout. It will be the week of Thanksgiving and Wayne Fletcher will be cooking. The youth can't wait to start up our tradition again.

Please pray for our students as they continue school and navigating the school year still in the midst of Covid.

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth Activities
youth@fumcirving.org



The month of October has been a good month for YAMS. We have moved into a new Bible study on the Gospel of Mark! We have been taking the time to intentionally and thoroughly work through what Mark has to say and offer us. Through our conversations with one another have not only learned the themes that lie within Mark, but have also learned what Mark has to offer us as a community of Christians!

We are still meeting every Sunday at 7pm on Zoom. If you are a young adult or know a young adult, then please feel free to send them my information or have them email youngadults@fumcirving.org for the Zoom link!

We are also in the process of planning some events as our students will be returning for the holidays! So make sure to follow us on social media at fumc.yams to stay up to date on what we are doing!

As always, continue praying for the young adults of this church as they navigate school, work, and the world!

Thank you,

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

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

OCTOBER 2021

In Honor of:

Rev. Dr. Doug Fox, Rev. Albano Tayengo, & Jennifer Cox from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

In Memory of:

Barbara Hargrove to General Budget from Gayle & Windell Baggett
Anne & Tom Uhr to General Budget from Martha & Ronald Hudson
Rev. Billy Abraham to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
Christopher English, nephew of Steve English to General Budget
Pamela Lydick Whiting to Music Ministry from Paul & Mary Good

Music Notes

Christmas Cantata, "Festival of Christmas" by Mary McDonald



FUMC Irving Music Ministry will present Christmas Cantata Music "Festival of Christmas" on Sunday, December 12, at the 10:30 worship service by the Chancel Choir and string ensemble. You are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Chancel Choir rehearses just for Christmas Cantata Music Wednesdays from 7:15 – 8:15 pm in the sanctuary. If you were interested in being a part of this joyful celebration, please come to our rehearsals. If you have any question about the Christmas Cantata, please contact David Lee at music@fumcirving.org

David Lee

Director of Music and Worship

609-439-2655



Parent's Day Out



It is FALL Y'ALL!! This month at PDO we have been studying about community helpers and how we each can be helpers also, even in little ways. We had the firemen to come and visit with their big truck. They told us all about what they do as helpers. Towards the end of our visit, they got a REAL call and had to leave quick with their sirens and lights all going. We didn't even get scared because we knew they were going to help someone.

We also have a student in "The Zone" class who held her own lemonade stand and made \$215.10. She then brought it to school and gave it to Mr. Jimmy to help feed the homeless. Now - that's a helper!! We have had children help carry bags up for the little ones in the morning drop-off. That's a good helper! We had a class decide to pick up trash around the playground and fence on their own recess time. That is a good helper! So - we all need to take these examples to heart. Community helpers do wonderful jobs for us and just maybe...we can do the smaller jobs to help too. Makes us all (and I quote)..... "Good SMATINS." (Samaritans) Here is to being a helper this Fall, y'all.

Sandi Parker
PDO Director and Staff



Dear family, As I write we are preparing for Fall Festival Sunday at 4-6pm. It is our second outreach since Covid started. We will follow that up with our first 2nd Friday monthly activities of Friday Fun night in Family Life Center 6-8pm. We started painting and cleaning in July to brighten up our rooms on the third floor. As part of our Attitude of Gratitude we will host an Open House on November 17th during the Sunday School hour. We are so thankful for the time and talents used to make these changes. There will be more details to come. Remember us in prayers as our children our growing in the Lord.

God blessings,
Juanell