

# CONNEXION

Volume 15 Issue 2

February 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"

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## Journey with Jesus Through the Season of Lent

*Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.*

James 4:8

We will make a *Journey with Jesus* during this Season of Lent. The forty days of Lent are a reminder of the forty days Jesus was in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, ... was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days" (Luke 4:1-2). To *Journey with Jesus*, we already see that we must be full of the Holy Spirit and Spirit-led. We essentially need to tap into the Holy Spirit. How do we do that?

Fortunately, we are given spiritual disciplines that will help us to draw closer to God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. They are "disciplines" in that we need to work at them, however the exercise of these disciplines makes us stronger in our faith. Sunday mornings in Lent will focus on some of these disciplines as we *Journey with Jesus*. We will also have moments to experience God's grace in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. We will talk about **prayer** as we hear from Rev. Grace Oh, a pastor from the Chicago area that has experienced the miraculous power of prayer in her life. In March we also talk about the spiritual discipline of **fasting** and how this can open the door to a deeper connection with God. On March 15 we will have an opportunity to experience **anointing** through a worship service on the healing power of Jesus. Remembering that we are to love God *and* love our neighbor as ourselves, we will also spend two weeks talking about **ministry** of all believers to impact the world and Christ-centered **compassion** as we seek to see others as Jesus does.

April will be a glorious month of worship as we begin on Palm Sunday, April 5, with our inspired choir singing **Jesus! The Resurrection of the Messiah!** This is definitely a Sunday to invite your friends and family. We will remember Jesus' Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 9, and then experience the darkness of Good Friday at a service on April 10. Easter Sunday, April 12 will be a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! We start with a sunrise service at 7:00 am, have an opportunity for breakfast together, and conclude with powerful worship at 10:30 am.

Let's *Journey with Jesus* together this Lent and keep reading the inspired Word of God!

### Jeff Baker Memorial New Testament Bible Reading Challenge

Week	Reading
Feb 23 - 29	Mark 4 - 6
Mar 1 - 7	Mark 7 - 10
Mar 8 - 14	Mark 11 - 14
Mar 15 - 21	Mark 15 - Luke 1

Week	Reading
Mar 22 - 28	Luke 2 - 4
Mar 29 - Apr 4	Luke 5 - 8
Apr 5 - 11	Luke 9 - 11
Apr 12 - 18	Luke 12 - 14

### ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>



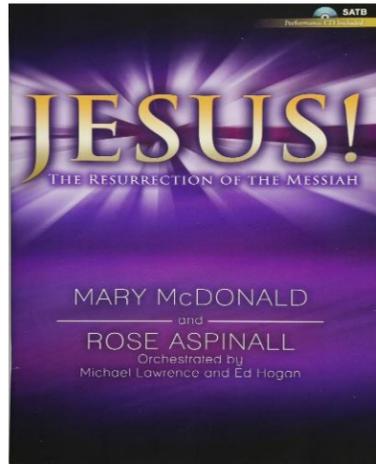
## Music Notes



Thank you to the Congregation from Refuge R.O.C.K.S. Youth Choir. We raised \$1,293 from the potato diner and the Talent Show. It was a great success! Thank you all for your generous support investing in our youth Choir for their upcoming Summer Tour in June 5-10 which will build a close relationship with Jesus serving people and churches in San Antonio.

I am very thankful to all the performers, and volunteers who make this happen. All the directors, accompanists, Youth Choir, Cherub choir, Angel Choir, Chancel Choir, Praise band, solos, duet, and specially to Sound Team, Tim Lawrence, Tami Lane, and Cathy Ballard, Tiffany Chambless, Jennifer, and Richard Cox for the decoration in the sanctuary and FLC. Julie Schilling and Youth Choir parents who set up and prepared for the potato dinner. Once again, I would like to say from bottom of my heart "thank you" for your help with the servant heart.

### Easter Cantata, "Jesus" The Resurrection of the Messiah



Our Chancel Choir with orchestra under the direction of David Lee presents the Easter Cantata "Jesus" The Resurrection of the Messiah, by Mary McDonald on April 5<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday at 10:30 service. We invite you to join us to present this beautiful Easter Cantata. It is not late to join. We will provide sectional CDs and MP 3 files that you can practice with it on your part. Just present yourself with your heart to sing for our Savior who resurrected from the dead and practices will be held Wednesdays at 6:45 PM in the choir room. For more information, contact David Lee, at [music@fumcirving.org](mailto:music@fumcirving.org)

**David Lee**

**Director of Music & Worship**

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

FEBRUARY 2020

**Gifts to Guatemala Mission Experience** fund for stove and water filters (5)

### In Memory of Jeff Baker

to General Budget from Paul & Dottie Creech  
to General Budget from Grace & Robert Schulze  
to General Budget from Jack & Pat Carnell  
to General Budget from Peggy Garmon

### In Memory of Bill Bailey

to General Budget Theresa Bowers  
to General Budget from Jerry Wicks  
to Choir/ Music fund from Mary Husa Good  
to Youth Specials from Mickey & Linda Wheeler  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Jimmy & Christine Burkett  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Pathfinders Sunday School Class  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Nancy Smith  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Pat & Jack Carnell  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Butch & Darla Liesman  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Windell & Gayle Baggett  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Ron & Maryla Zimmerman

### In Memory of Marty Walker

to General Budget from Jerry Wicks  
to General Budget from Windell & Gayle Baggett  
to Choir/ Music fund from Mary Husa Good  
to Youth Specials from Mickey & Linda Wheeler  
to Chapel Renewal Fun from Nancy Smith

### In Memory of:

**Joan Knuth**, friend of Mary Husa Good, to Music Fund  
**Norman Jones** to Wednesday Work Crew from Bob & Marge Wood



## Parent's Day Out



We are very busy with our classes and studies these days at PDO. We now have 5 Pre-K'ers who have begun to read, 4 year olds writing their names on lined paper, 2's busy at Montessori based "work-jobs", and our little's at becoming big boys and girls learning some independence. Life is very fun and very busy. We have enjoyed going to the gym at our recess times as well.

We had a wonderful day of "hearts" on Valentines Day with our parties and with our "Jump for Hearts" activities.

We want to remind everyone to like us on FACEBOOK and other social media. We don't use anyone's names, but it is a lot fun seeing the pictures of activities we are involved in at school.

PDO wants to give a huge THANK YOU to Mr. Jimmy (Bellew) for greeting everyone at the door in the early mornings when we come to school. It is very cold out there and he lets Ms. Sandi and Ms. Jennifer stay inside on our floor to welcome our friends for the day. He is definitely a blessing to PDO.

Stay Warm, Safe, and Happy!!

Sandi Parker

Parents Day Out, FUMC, Irving



Well this month started with a 2 ½ minute drive instead of 2 ½ hours. A special thank you to some of our youth who helped clean the house, move boxes and set up the bedroom for us. David and I were so appreciative of their help and we got a start on meeting some of the leaders of our group.

Sunday School has been averaging 20 thanks to our Sunday School teachers and a special thank you to Caren Lawrence who stepped in to coordinate while the church searched for a new Children's Director. Bonnie Jones did a great job of leading and she is missed. Bonnie you deserve a break and thank you for your help in the transition. The children are always so excited on Sunday mornings but we have our routine together and everyone gets to participate. I hope you are enjoying the children's message as much as I do. I know there are prayers being offered for me and the children during this time. I do appreciate prayers.

We had our Mission Activity with special guests from our Cub Scout pack. Together we made 80 Valentine 'cushies' that the choir delivered to Avante. (sorry no pictures this time I will work toward that for next month.

We have 8 students, 2 Junior counselors and 2 counselors going to Bridgeport June 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep all involved bathed in prayer as the Bible is explored and the children have various outside sports.

Now another special prayer request for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be July 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> with the theme Knights of North Castle. (we got a little preview of the castle at Sunday's Talent Show) Our banner verse is "Be strong in the **Lord** and in the strength of **his power**. Ephesians 6:10. We will be exploring the Bible through drama, music, crafts, Science, recreation, Mission and snacks. Please let me know at [children@fumcirving.org](mailto:children@fumcirving.org), (940) 445-0738, or [juanellm@gmail.com](mailto:juanellm@gmail.com), if you want to continue in your regular position or want to try something new. I do not have a co-director (hint, hint) and will take all the help and advice you have to share. I have been in contact with some people already but that does not mean I don't need you. Half of the leaders of not been filled and only a few guides have volunteered. The children are knights, and those who walk around and guide them to their rooms are called guides. I am excited for the opportunity to direct this year and get to know the talents of our church. Come, join Sparky and help us put on our armor for the Lord.



In Service of the Lord,  
Juanell Montoya  
Children's Director