



First United Methodist Church
211 West Third Street
Irving TX 75060
www.fumcirving.org

Connexion 17 Issue 10



2022 Bible Reading Challenge!

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

| Week | Reading |
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| October 31 - November 6 (All Saints) | 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10; Psalm 145:1-13; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 6:19-21 |
| November 7 - 13 (Stewardship Celebration) | Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; Luke 21:1-4 |
| November 14 - 20 (Thanksgiving) | Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 17:11-18 |
| November 21 - 27 (Advent: Hope) | Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; John 1:1-18 |
| November 28 - Dec 4 (Advent: Love) | Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 133; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 1:68-79 |
| December 5 - 11 (Advent: Joy) | Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Philippians 2:1-11; Luke 1:47-55 |



CONNEXION

Volume 17 Issue 10

October 2022

Give Thanks for the Past While Looking Forward to the Future

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully
or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:17*

I am writing this on my birthday and pondering the phrase "cheerful giving" from 2 Corinthians 9:17. I have been the recipient of many expressions of cheerful giving. Jana, parents, friends, and even occasionally my children (LOL!), have made up their minds to, not regretfully or under compulsion, give me something with great cheer. They gave out of what they had to bless me. In these circumstances, the person's love for me magnified the joy of the gift.

Now imagine our heavenly Father being the recipient of *your* expression of love as you cheerfully give to Him. This is the point of stewardship: that we cheerfully support His church with our *prayers, presence, giving, service, and witness*.

The stewardship theme for this year is "Give Thanks." We give thanks for the past year as we look forward to the future. We give thanks that God has carried us through a pandemic even as we grieve loss, and we look forward to reaching more people through the continued 8:00 and live-stream services. We give thanks to God for carrying us through our disaffiliation process even though this has been difficult and not everybody agreed with the final decision. We do look forward to getting back to focusing on God's future for our church, regardless of what denominational name we go by. We give thanks for the Free Friday Fun Nights as we look forward to reaching more children through more Friday nights, Wednesday ministries, VBS 2023 and the many other children's ministries. We give thanks for our 2022 Confirmation Class of sixth and seventh graders as we look forward to having our youth grow deeper in their faith through Wednesday ministry, campouts, and summer camps. We give thanks for the start of a Young Adult ministry as we look forward to growing this vital ministry. We give thanks for our missions in Okinawa, Cameroon, and the Middle East as we look forward to another mission trip in summer 2023 to Guatemala. We give thanks for an exciting "For Such a Time as This" women's event and look forward to a new and growing women's ministry. What else do you give thanks for as you look forward to what God will do next?

On Sunday, November 13, you are invited to present your "Give Thanks" Stewardship Cards in worship. You can also mail your cards in before the 13th. If you did not receive the stewardship mailout from our Finance team or if you have any questions, please reach out to Jimmy Bellew, our financial manager, at 972-573-0204 or finance@fumcirving.org.

Cheerfully give thanks for what God has done and look forward to what God will do through our church as a beacon of God's light to Irving and beyond! For God loves a cheerful giver!

Blessings,

Doug

Report from Transition Team (Formerly the Discernment Task Force)

As most of you know we took a disaffiliation vote on Oct. 22 at a Church Conference called by Rev. Edlen Cowley the DS of the Metro District of North Texas Annual Conference.

The vote did carry by 91% (90.6% to be exact) in favor of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church.

On Oct. 24 by a unanimous vote of the Church Council the Discernment Task Force was renamed the Transition Team.

The Task Force (now Team) has been working all along with what would we do should the church vote to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. We have discussed several options from remaining independent to joining other Wesleyan based Methodist denominations. Our strong recommendation is to join the Global Methodist Church. The GMC best represents the values and beliefs of our church. The GMC provides the easiest and best transition as many of our structures and practices would remain in place. Unlike the UMC, there is an easy way to exit the GMC in the future so there is really no downside at this point.

On Sunday, November 13, at 5:00 PM, the Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Greggory, President Pro-Tem of the Mid Tex Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church will give a short presentation and answer any questions we may have about the GMC. "President Pro-Tem" means that she the acting Bishop of the Mid-Tex Conference. For the 5:00 PM presentation, we are honoring a request to invite other interested churches in the North Texas Conference to hear about the GMC as well. On that same evening, following the presentation and Q&A, we recommend that the church have a vote on affiliation with the Global Methodist Church. This is a vote requiring a simple majority (50%) of members present.



The Children's Department is busy. As I write this, we are looking forward to the Fall Festival. I can't tell you how grateful I am for all the provisions God has made for the event. He has provided volunteers, candy/ trinket donations and monetary donations. Please pray that this outreach will be a catalyst to bring someone to know Jesus.

Our October Family Free Friday Fun Night was the first time we invited parents and guardians to stay and participate with their children. We had 26 kids, 13 parents, 6 youth volunteers, and 14 adult volunteers attend, for a total of 15 total families participating! It was powerful to see families eating, playing, painting, singing and praying together. For our November Free Friday Fun Night, the theme will be patriotism, in honor of Veteran's Day. We always welcome new volunteers.

We want to thank everyone for Children's Sunday. The kids were proud to participate in service with the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed and the Offertory Prayer as well as singing. We appreciate your generous donations. The Noisy Offering raised \$711. Thank you so much!!

On November 6, it will be everyone birthday in Children's Sunday School. We have several children with birthdays in November, so we decided to celebrate everyone's birthday on November 6th during our gathering time. If you have children or if you know kids that only attend occasionally, make every effort to get them to Sunday School on November 6th.

We have many more events coming up like the City of Irving Christmas Parade, decorating for Christmas and Ornament Making. If you are looking for a way to get more involved, we would love to have you help us in the Children's department.

Email Jennifer (jennifer@fumcirving.org) or Tracie (chidlren@fumcirving.org) for more information.

To God be the glory!

Jennifer and Traci



Refuge Youth

We are continuing Sunday School at 9:15 am every Sunday with separate classes for middle school and high school. We also are still having Wednesday nights with middle school from 6:30-8:00 pm and high school from 7:00-8:30.

We are loving our new curriculum on Wednesdays that is focusing on embracing the life of a Christ-follower.

We will have our annual campout the week of Thanksgiving and we are all excited about this time to get out in nature and enjoy being together.

Youth Choir is changing their meeting time to Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Choir Room.

If you know of any youth 6th -12th grade that are looking for a place to belong, please invite them to join us!

Jessica Jones
Director of Youth

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

OCTOBER 2022

In Appreciation of the Transition Team for untiring efforts to the Children's Ministry

In Memory of Dick Bischofhausen:

to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Jerry Wicks
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Ruth Henson
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Jack & Pat Carnell
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Mickey & Linda Wheeler
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Nancy Smith
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Mark & Mary Morris
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Dr. & Mrs. J.C. Ainsworth III
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Danny & Judy Elms
to Music Ministry from Mary Good

In Memory of Jean Tyrone

to General Budget from Ruth Henson
to General Budget from Jack & Pat Carnell

In Memory of Paul Mitchell

to Children's Ministry from Kum Doubles SS Class
to Children's Ministry from Jimmy & Christine Burkett
to General Budget from Kay Crofford
to General Budget from Bill & Mary Holcomb

In Memory of Lee Medina to Music Ministry from Mary Good

In Memory of Kathie, George Adamson's sister, to General Budget from Ruth Henson



Parent's Day Out

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!!!

As always in PDO School, we love this time of year- lots of activities, fun, events, etc.



We recently got to visit with local firemen and see their truck and equipment. It was exciting seeing First Responders and learning to Stop, Drop, and Roll. They were very friendly and not scary at all.

Now , we are very excited about our "Trunk or Treat". We get to wear our costumes, have a parade around the building, go trick or treating at our "Trunk or Treat", and then even have a classroom party. We have parents who are involved and excited as well. We thank our parents a lot.

Obviously, our color of the month is "everything orange". We sing about orange, we wear orange, we do work with orange, and we do games with orange! If you have not worn your "anything orange" this month - oops!

We are now blessed with 61 children in our program. We are on wait-list in several rooms. However, we do still have a few spaces available in our 4's, Pre-K, and The Zone. Please pass our name along to anyone you may know who may need our program.

Remember to visit our FACEBOOK and see a lot of what we have going on in PDO SCHOOL.

Blessings -

Sandi Parker, PDO DIRECTOR

Christmas is only 59 days away.

If you would like to help Darrow and Vicki Frazier give fully stuffed stockings to the Marines that will be spending Christmas with in Okinawa just [click HERE to see their Amazon wish list](#). They've also added some things to the list for ministry and hospitality.

It can take up to a month to receive orders so please get your order in by November 18th.

All orders will be delivered to the chapel, the address is programmed into the wish list so be sure to order through the list.

If you prefer to make a donation specifically for this project, place your donation in the secure mailbox or give it to Jimmy marked Stockings for Soldiers and I will be sure it gets to the Fraziers.

Thank you in advance for helping to support this ministry.
Jennifer Cox

