

CONNEXION

Volume 16 Issue 9

September 2021

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. – Matthew 18:5



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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Connexion 16 Issue 9



We read this Scripture in our Bible Challenge this past week. (See the *2021 Bible Challenge* in this Connexion to join in our weekly Scripture reading!) First United Methodist Church of Irving is called by Jesus to be a church who welcomes children in the name of Christ. I have been greatly encouraged by our age-related ministries where children and youth are welcomed. Thanks to the leadership of Juanell Montoya, Children's Director, Jessica Jones, Youth Activities Director, and Colin Craft, Youth Spiritual Director, our Fall ministries are off to a great start!

Children's Ministry: A team of volunteers have been cleaning, painting, and updating the children's area on the third floor. There is also a great team of teachers including "tried and true" as well as new faces! Children's Sunday School begins with a gathering time of singing followed by Sunday School classes with Bible story lessons.



Photos:

L. The new gathering space for our Children's Sunday School.

R. Christine Burkett getting into the spirit of the Sunday School Bible story.



Youth Ministry: The Wednesday evening youth ministry is a fun and meaningful time for youth. The time format has been revised so that Middle School students gather at 6:30pm and stay until 8:00pm while High School students gather at 7:00pm and stay until 8:30pm. Sunday mornings are also active times for the youth. Confirmation is back after a COVID break with sixth and seventh grade students meeting. There is also a class for parents of children and youth that follows the Confirmation curriculum.

How can you be a part of welcoming children and youth in the name of Jesus? *First*, prayers are powerful and effective (James 5:16). "Dear Heavenly Father, bless your children and youth as they gather to grow in their faith. Bless their teachers and leaders. Bring more children and youth to believe in Jesus and by believing have life in His name." *Second*, your faithful giving allows financial resources for ministries like these. Offerings designated for children or youth ministries, above your regular giving to the church, are greatly appreciated.

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 |
|--|--|
| Sept 27 – Oct 3 (Parables & Miracles) | Matthew 13-14; 17-18; 25 |
| Oct. 4-10 (The Nature of Jesus) | John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:1-11 Colossian 1:15-20; Hebrews 1; Luke 4:14-30 |
| Oct. 11-17 (Jesus' Crucifixion) | Mark 15; Psalm 22; John 3; Romans 6 Revelation 5 |
| Oct. 18-24 (Resurrection!) | Matthew 28; John 11, 20 1 Corinthians 15; Acts 9 |
| 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 |

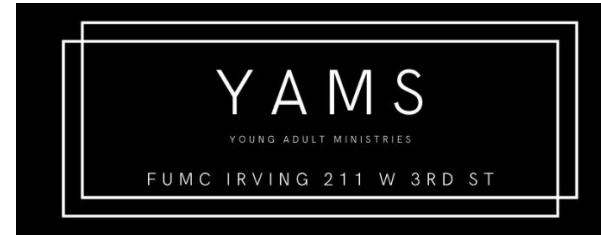
Masks Strongly Encouraged

Due to the recent spike in the delta variant of Covid-19, 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

We have started Confirmation class on Sunday morning with our 6th and 7th graders. It has been and will continue to be a time to come together and learn more about a personal relationship with Jesus and each other as a church community. We do still need mentors for a few of the youth, so please reach out to me if you are interested. We are continuing our Wednesday night fun every week with fellowship and lessons. 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



YAMS is continuing to go well! We are continuing to maintain our core group of people, but are also continuing to reach out to our friends and communities to grow. So, if you know a young person who is looking for a group to call home, then send them my way.

Over the past month we wrapped up our initial study titled "The State of the Church." As a group we have decided that we as a church have a lot of work to do and we should look to the example of Jesus and the Acts of the Apostles to find our guidance! We have now moved into an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark where we are exploring the many themes that the author of Mark presents to his reader.

We also have some events that are in the works that will be happening towards the end of the year, so be on the look out for those. As always, we will post updates on all events on our social media pages [fumc.yams](https://www.fumc.org/yams) !

If you are, or you know a young person who would like to join us then please tell them to contact me at colin@fumcirving.org or youngadults@fumcirving.org so I can send them the link for our ZOOM meeting.

As of right now we are not in need of any volunteer help, however; your prayers and support are much appreciated as we continue to establish this program!

Thank you,

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

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

SEPTEMBER 2021

In Honor of:

Jennifer Cox, Mission Leader to Guatemala, to Family Promise Fund

In Memory of:

MaryLou Niethamer to Family Promise Fund from Connie Baker

Pat Reed to Music Ministry from John & Deanie Westfall

Glenn Chandler to General Budget from Gary & Sandra Dinsmore

In Memory of Annie Joe Sanders

to Senior Adult Ministry from Lance & Gail Cary

to General Budget from Joella Taylor

to General Budget from Dr. Mike & Liz Shelton

to General Budget from Diana Hanway & Niki Wallace

In Memory of Barbara Hargrove

to General Budget from Cynthia Stone

to General Budget from Gary & Sandra Dinsmore

In Memory of Mary Ellen Wise, mother of Maryla Zimmerman

to General Budget from Cynthia Stone

to General Budget from Gary & Sandra Dinsmore

In Memory of Debbie Workman Watts, mother of Keri Moreno

to General Budget from Mickey & Linda Wheeler

to Children's Ministry from Christine Burkett



Parent's Day Out



PDO has been blessed for sure. We were trying to get back to normal class numbers with this new school year due to the pandemic. With lots of prayer and work, we are more than excited to say that we have very much increased our enrollment. These new students are the product of the pandemic and being closed in at home and not much outside social exposure. This is an exciting situation for our teachers across the board. We are the ones who get to teach them even things that they would have already experienced in a normal no-pandemic time. It is very special to see major growth so soon in the year.

Please always pass the good word for us. Thank you in advance.

Blessings -

Sandi Parker

Director