

# CONNEXION

Volume 15 Issue 3

March 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"

First United Methodist Church  
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Connexion 15 Issue 3



## A Word of Encouragement (and Challenge) from Scripture

*I thank God whom I serve, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.*

*As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.*

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

From 2 Timothy 1:3-7

These words above from Holy Scripture have spoken volumes to me during these times. Each of these phrases encourages and challenges me. May each of these speak to you as well.

*I thank God whom I serve.* Yes, even in these times and especially in these times, we need to give thanks to God who loves us and cares for us. The Bible is filled with people going through difficult times. In every case, those who continue to turn to and thank God are blessed.

*As I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.* I pray for our church (that's you!) *all* the time. And yet, there is still a challenge. I need to pray more! We need to be a people praying for each other, remembering each other before the very throne of God night and day!

*I long to see you.* May this Covid 19 evil be over soon! I truly long to see you, to shake your hands, to hug you good morning, and to worship together in our sanctuary. What a day that will "be filled with joy!" Until then, let's reach out to one another through phone calls, email, and zoom! Let's, worship on Facebook live ([www.facebook.com/firstunitedmethodistchurchirving](http://www.facebook.com/firstunitedmethodistchurchirving)) or through Youtube live (search for *FUMC Irving*). Let's be community!

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.* If we are fearful, this is NOT of God. God gives us what we need. Power to overcome fear. Love to reach out to one another even in these difficult times and to find safe ways to love our neighbors. And self-control so that we will remain safe until we can meet again.

This is a different Holy Week. Yet we still remember and celebrate that Jesus died for us and that Jesus rose from the dead! Join us Maundy Thursday (April 9) at 7pm, Good Friday (April 10) at 7pm, Easter Sunday at 10:30 am, and every Sunday after that!

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Doug".

## Jeff Baker Memorial New Testament Bible Reading Challenge

Week	Reading
Apr 5 - 11	Luke 9 - 11
Apr 12 - 18	Luke 12 - 14
Apr 19 - 25	Luke 15 - 18

Week	Reading
Apr 26 - May 2	Luke 19 - 22
May 3 - 9	Luke 23 - John 1
May 10 - 16	John 2 - 5

## ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

## Refuge Youth

This month has been absolutely insane. From a youth ministry standpoint, we were preparing to leave on our mission trip to Denver when all of the sweeping changes came due to the Corona Virus. Since then we've taken all of our programming online, streaming worship, doing small groups on zoom, and even playing online games together. As we continue our shelter in place and stay home protocols be in prayer for our students who are missing out on certain high school rites of passage, especially our seniors who may be losing prom, graduation, and other events. Pray that we keep finding new ways to connect and continue growing in our relationships with God and each other.

Rev. Kyle Powell

Associate Minister and Director of Youth Ministries  
First United Methodist Church Irving  
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## Parent's Day Out



We have been out of school since the start of Irving ISD spring break. It is hard not to see all the smiles and stories we get from both parents and children at PDO. However, the time away will only make everyone more feel more blessed and appreciative. As the Director, I could not be more proud of our PDO staff. The teachers have stayed in contact with each and every child through social media. They have sent them songs to sing and dance to, age appropriate work to still be completed, science projects to do with the family, etc. They have really stepped up to the plate.

This is a time of unknowns and never-befores. But it is also a time of "for-sures." It is for sure that our Lord has all this in hand. It is for sure that people who may not pray daily now are. It is for sure that families getting back to some basics is a wonderful thing. It is for sure that we are taking the time to think about others. It is for sure that these things will get better because people have returned to faith and hope. And for PDO - it is for sure we will get more smiles than ever when we get to resume school.

PDO wishes the best for all of you. Stay well, healthy. and happy.

Blessings to all -

Sandi Parker

Director PDO

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

MARCH 2020

#### In Memory of Bill Bailey

to Wednesday Work Crew from John Tilley  
to Wednesday Work Crew from Harrold & Ruth Henson  
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Dick & Jeanell Bischofhausen

#### In Memory of Marty Walker

to General Budget from Dr. Francis M. Gilbert  
to General Budget from Dick & Jeanell Bischofhausen

#### In Memory of Doyle Hix to Choir/ Music Fund from Mary E. Good



Well March has come and gone but it is not a month we will forget. We had to make a hard decision to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt, but we must remember we are NOT cancelling Easter. Jesus is alive and going through this with us. He is with each coloring page I chose for the children to go along with our weekly Baker Bible readings or the sermon. He is with each of us as we stay home and stay safe. The little children do this for the elderly of our church because they want to see everyone's faces when we are finished. Robin Bowyer is hosting the 'Zoom Sunday School and Chime time' so we can see each other's faces now. I tried to record a video for our FUMC Irving Children's Ministry Facebook, but I left the sound off. I will keep trying. I have prayed daily for our families and would love to pray for you if you have a special request [juanellm@gmail.com](mailto:juanellm@gmail.com) or [children@fumcirving.org](http://children@fumcirving.org). I leave you with special

coloring page:

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

