

# faith | FALL 2018

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON

## FALL AT FUMC *of* ARLINGTON

BACK TO  
GRACE RECAP

UPCOMING EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES

CHANCEL CHOIR  
SINGS *MESSIAH*

COMMISSION ON A  
WAY FORWARD

# STAFF

**Senior Pastor**

*Rev. Steve Langford*

**Associate Pastor of Discipleship**

*Rev. Kay Lancaster*

**Associate Pastor**

*Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez Jr.*

**Associate Pastor**

*Dr. Eugene B. Robertson*

**Director of Caring Ministries**

*Rev. Tolly Macalik*

**Director of Missions & Outreach**

*Michelle Clark*

**Director of Music & Worship**

*Sean Hale*

**Director of Youth Ministries**

*Michelle Freeman*

**Assistant Director of Youth Ministries**

*Brittany Wright*

**Director of Children and Family Ministries**

*Susan Bishara*

**Nursery and Preschool Coordinator**

*Becky Steimle*

**Director of Communications**

*Mary Gibson*

**Media Production Specialist**

*William Martin*

**Technical Services Coordinator**

*Roger Stephens*

**Business & Finance Administrator**

*Mary Lobban*

**Receptionist/Event Planner**

*Kathy Martin*

**Membership/Office Administrator  
& Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor**

*Lori Davis*

**Building Superintendent**

*Miguel Galaviz*

**Maintenance**

*Shawn Dickler*

**Director of Big Hope**

*Jill Regina*

**Dir. of Testament Youth Choir & Center313**

*Greg Haugen*

**Director of Children's Music**

*Janie Johnson*

**Director of Youth Orchestra**

*Arthur Busby*

**Senior Organist**

*Jamila Javadova-Spitzberg*

**Security**

*Tina Lara*



## STAY CONNECTED

We post the most recent pictures, news and sermons to share with our members. Connect with us for your daily bit of community.



FUMCArlington



@FUMCArlington



**Watch Latest Sermons Online**

*Traditional*

arlington**methodist.org/**

*Traditional*

*Contemporary*

arlington**methodist.org/**

*Contemporary*



**On TV**

Our television broadcast is currently unavailable.

Contact the church office for DVDs of the worship service at 817-274-2571.

# CONTRIBUTORS



Rev. Steve Langford  
*Senior Pastor*



Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez  
*Associate Pastor*



Sean Hale  
*Director of Music and Worship*



Janie Johnson  
*Director of Children's Music*



Mary Gibson  
*Director of Communications*



Michelle Freeman  
*Director of Youth Ministries*



Betsy Eudy  
*Church Member*



Susan Bishara  
*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Not Pictured: Tim Van Orden



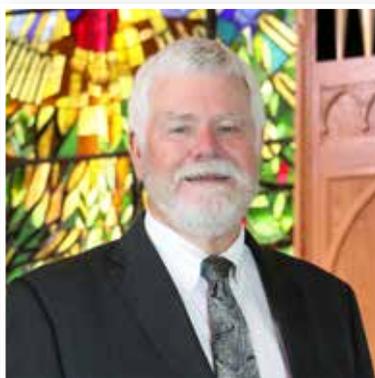
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## LEARN MORE ONLINE

Read Pastor Steve's new blog online  
at [stevelangford.blogspot.com](http://stevelangford.blogspot.com)

# FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

BY: REV. STEVE LANGFORD  
*Senior Pastor*



WOW! What a full, fabulous summer! Children and youth calendars were full with VBS, Special Needs VBS, Sr. High Mission Trip, our annual Testament

Choir Tour, Jr. High Mission Trip, Music Week, Bible Camp, Dance Camp, and Crochet Camp! Each week also included a family movie night. In August, we launched our new partnership with Webb Elementary, Loving Webb. The beginning of school brought our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and the launch of the 2019 Confirmation class. And we topped off the summer by joining with other Arlington UM churches in celebrating our Wesleyan heritage: Back to Grace – Who are these people called Methodists and what do they have to offer? Can we take a minute to catch our breath?!

But that's not all we did this summer. We also welcomed new staff members! Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez was appointed by the bishop to serve as associate pastor, effective July 1. Ramiro is the designated pastor for the 11:00 am contemporary service, Revive. He also oversees our hospitality/connecting ministries. Rev. Tolly Macalik joined the pastoral team on August 1 as Director of Congregational Care. Tolly (think "Molly" with a T) will lead us to expand our care-giving ministries while expanding our touch on the lives of others through support groups of all

kinds. She will help us learn to embrace life's crises as opportunities to deepen our experience of God and to grow spiritually. Susan Bishara also joined our staff, effective August 1, as our Director of Ministries to Children and their Families. Susan brings creativity, energy, an entrepreneurial spirit, classroom experience, and a heart for people to her role. Her husband, Mel, is pastor of St. Luke's UMC in Fort Worth. Bill Watson has rejoined the staff, September 1. Bill served as Technical Services Director here between 2001 and 2007. His move back to Arlington from Pennsylvania allows him to contribute his knowledge and skills again as we seek to expand our digital video ministry.

Each of these new staff members filled a critical vacancy on our staff team! These additions strengthen our staff team as each brings leadership skills, knowledge, experience, and passion to their area of focus. Make an effort to meet and know each one. Please introduce yourselves to them and pray for them as they live into their new roles, leading us into the future God has for us.

Sunday, September 9, was our Welcome Back Sunday. That Sunday, Ramiro and I began a sermon series entitled "A Future with Hope". We will use the great prophetic messages found in Isaiah 40 – 43 as the foundation of our preaching. The preaching of this unidentified prophet guided the nation of Judah into the unknown future that God had for them. Surely the future that God has for us is A Future with Hope.

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During the fall, we will also be hosting a series of conversations around the Council of Bishops report entitled, A Way Forward. This report will be presented in February of 2019, at the special session of General Conference in St. Louis. Our conversations will be designed to help us understand the issues, history, and positions related to this report. We will also seek the Spirit's guidance in how we respond to decisions (as yet

unknown) that will be made at the Conference. These conversations are informational – FYI. They are an opportunity to practice Christian conferencing as we seek our way forward in being faithful to our purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

## A NOTE OF THANKS

BY: REV. RAMIRO RODRIGUEZ  
*Associate Pastor*

I have been overwhelmed by the love this church has extended to me and my family. We felt blessed when we found out we were appointed to this church, but the last few weeks have blessed us in ways we never dreamed possible. This is a church which abounds in the love of Christ, and my family and I have felt this love in an amazing way. We thank you for the incredible welcome you have graciously given us.

I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you in small group settings, and have listened as you have shared your hopes, dreams, and anxieties with me. In listening to you, a couple of things have become clear:

1. Many of you are scared about the future of this church.
2. Many of you have specific ideas on how we can become a stronger church.
3. All of you care very deeply about our church.

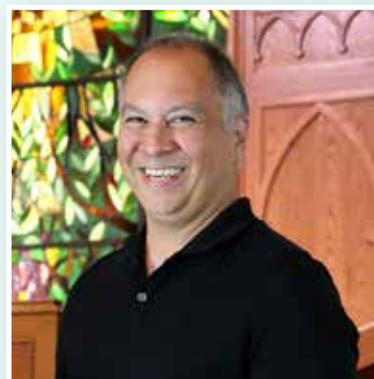
There is so much passion within this church. There are so many people who are deeply committed and invested in our church. My prayer for all of us is this: I pray that all of us realize that even though we have different ideas on how to make our church stronger, all of us share the same vision for this

church. All of us want our church to be a beacon of light for this city and for our world. All of us want this church to be a place where all are invited to grow in our ability to reflect the love of Christ. All of us want God's Presence to illuminate the hearts of everyone who walks into this beautiful building.

I pray that all of us focus on the love of Christ which envelops this church, and which all of you have shown me. I pray that this transformative love helps us see that even though we have different opinions and beliefs, we are united in our love for God and our love for each other. I pray we realize we are not defined by our differences, but by our love and shared vision of what this church can be.

The Spirit is moving within this church. I am thankful, excited, and blessed to journey with all of you as we discover how God can use this church to help build God's kingdom.

Peace and Blessings,  
Ramiro



# WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Rev. Tolli Macalik  
*Director of Congregational Care*

Rev. Tolli Macalik is returning to her home church FUMC of Arlington. She was born in Indiana but has lived in Texas for over 40

years. She grew up on the west side of Fort Worth and graduated from Western Hills High School. Rev. Tolli did her undergraduate work at Dallas Baptist University in Business Management. She earned her Master of Divinity from SMU Perkins

in 2016, with a certificate in pastoral care. Rev. Tolli became a licensed local pastor in 2011 and is currently a provisional Elder. She has been working as a hospital Chaplain and most recently at White's Chapel UMC as the Executive Pastor for Care and Support.

Rev. Tolli and her husband—Frank, are a blended family with two daughters, two sons, and their spouses. They have five grandchildren under the age of 7. Currently the Macaliks live in North Richland Hills.



William Martin  
*Media Production Specialist*

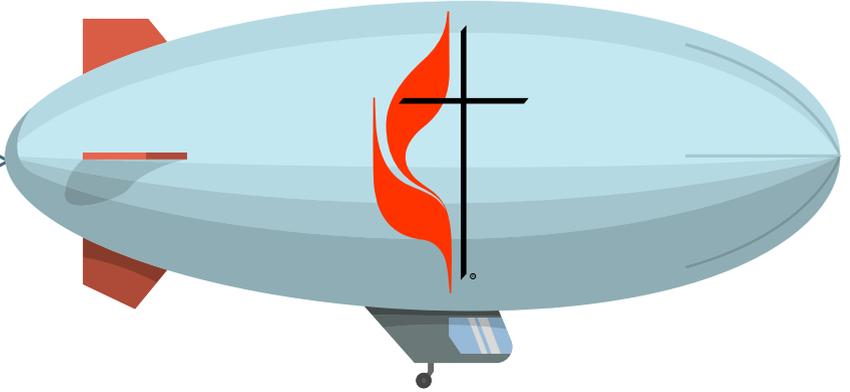
We're happy to welcome back a friend from the past as a new member of the FUMCA staff. William (Bill) Martin joins us as video

specialist, a position he held here while he and his family were members from 1997- 2007.

Bill and his family lived near extended family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for the past 11 years, before returning here this summer. His wife, the Rev. Elizabeth Watson-Martin recently became the Vice President of Faith and Spirituality Integration at Texas Health Resources (THR).

Bill spent his professional career as a Federal Special Agent specializing in forensic accounting, major fraud investigations, and computer forensics where he was stationed in New Orleans, Washington DC, Charlotte, Fort Worth, and Dallas. He is now retired as an agent, and in addition to some consulting positions in the field, has been involved in church communication and technology, and is a member of several professional engineering and communications groups. He enjoys reading, watching Doctor Who and playing music.

He and Elizabeth have been married 29 years and have two daughters. Grace is a middle school choral director near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Celeste is in her junior year at Penn State.



## Susan Bishara

*Director of Children and Family Ministries*

Director of Children and Family Ministries, Susan Bishara is new to FUMC of Arlington. She is a lifetime Texan graduating from TCU with a BS in ELED. Susan comes to us from a background in teaching Visual and Fine Arts in EMSISD and FWISD and as past owner of Fort Worth based Van Grow Art Studio

for Kids and The Brown Bag gift store- both businesses she started as a college student. Susan and her husband Rev. Mel Bishara (ST. Luke UMC) live in North Richland Hills. They are the parents of two sons Nate Bishara (freshman UNT) and Max Bishara (freshman TCC). In Susan's past she has served as Children and Youth Director at Palmer UMC and Arlington Heights UMC. Her passion for bringing the stories of Christ to your children in a meaningful way brought her to FUMCA.



# GET TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH HISTORY!

- Memorial Historic Walkway tour guides
- Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows
- "Ministers" 1878-2010 - \$10

All available in the church office!





# Handel's Messiah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

**BY: SEAN HALE**

*Director of Music Ministries*

## JOIN THE MUSIC!

The start of the school year usually signifies the time when the church also kicks off ministries that may have been less active during the summer months. Our choirs at FUMCA do not take off for the summer, but we do see the largest number of new members and visitors in the Fall. Perhaps it is the kicking off of Christmas music, or perhaps it is simply a time where people are in town more often and ready to start something new. Either way, we would love to have you join us even if it is

for just a few rehearsals to try it out! Being a part of a musical ensemble is a great way to serve in your church as well as become a part of a small group within the larger community of FUMCA. The choirs and instrumental ensembles represent a way in which you can work together with others to create meaningful worship as well as minister to other members of the choir throughout the journey of our lives together. I hope you'll consider joining us or inviting others as well!

## CHANCEL CHOIR SINGS MESSIAH FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be tackling Handel's Messiah. We did this work for the Christmas season of 2015 and saw a great influx of twenty new choir members that wanted an opportunity to worship with this masterwork. After that incredible experience, we've decided to keep *Messiah* on a regular rotation for our worship service of Christmas music.

Our kickoff rehearsal is Saturday, September 15, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, in the Choir Room. To the right, you will see a rehearsal schedule of 8 rehearsals for anyone who would like to sing the Messiah, but cannot commit to singing in the Chancel Choir year-round. Please spread the word, we would love to have you join us!

# EIGHT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR *MESSIAH*

## SEPTEMBER

**9/15 Saturday**

10:00 am–12:00 pm | Choir Room  
*Messiah* Kickoff Rehearsal

## OCTOBER

**10/13 Saturday**

10:00 am–12:00 pm | Choir Room | Rehearsal

## NOVEMBER

**11/3 Saturday**

10:00 am–12:00 pm | Choir Room | Rehearsal

**11/14 Wednesday**

7:45–9:00 pm | Choir Room | Rehearsal

**11/20 Tuesday**

7:30–8:30 pm | Choir Room | Rehearsal

**11/28 Wednesday**

7:00–9:00 pm | Sanctuary | Rehearsal

## DECEMBER

**12/5 Wednesday**

7:00–9:00 pm | Sanctuary | Rehearsal

**12/8 Saturday**

10:00 am–12:00 pm | Sanctuary  
Choir & Orchestra Dress Rehearsal

**12/9 Sunday**

*Messiah* in Worship in the Sanctuary

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*Kickoff*

BY: JANIE JOHNSON

Director of Children's Music

As the long days of summer fade into fall, memories of the Children's Musical, *Land of the Lost & Found* linger in the hearts and minds of the wonderful children, youth and adults who brought it to life!

Many exciting days are ahead at FUMC of Arlington in the Children's Music Ministry as we began a new Choir year, Sunday September 9. Some special plans for the Children's Choirs include singing in the church services at least once a month with special music at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The choirs also participate in the annual Children's Christmas Pageant which is always a memorable evening for all. In the spring, the choirs sing at various times, and we plan a field trip to see a youth production at Theatre Arlington.

We have two Children's Choirs that meet every Sunday morning, 10:25 am–10:55 am: **Good News Kids Choir:** K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Room 212 and **Agape Choir:** 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Room 214.

Another opportunity for children at FUMCA, is the Drama Club, known as "The Gospel Players"! The children try out for parts in a short drama based on the parables and stories of Jesus and perform them in our Sunday services.

Drama is such an important part our children's musical education and the children have a lot of fun acting out the stories! Please come and join us as we kick-off a brand new year in the Children's Music Ministry at FUMCA!



Annual Children's Musical, July 2018

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Want to keep connected - visit [arlingtonmethodist.org/Youth](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Youth) to find out how to get updates through email, texts, and social media!

# SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7  
**Street Party**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28  
**Costume Dance**

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1  
**30 Hour Famine**

JANUARY 18-20  
**Disciple Now**

Youth  
on the Go

BY: MICHELLE FREEMAN  
*Director of Youth Ministries*

Summer of 2018 was a busy one for the youth ministry! The Senior High traveled to Lubbock, Texas to do home repair for the elderly: building wheelchair ramps, installing chain link fence, building shelves at a women's shelter, repairing a parsonage for a new pastor appointment, and they built shelters for the homeless community - all in just one week!

The Junior High headed off to Madisonville, Texas to do home repair as well. They completed three wheelchair ramps, built a porch, hung gutters, painted a house, did some yard work, and spent a day helping a wounded warrior.

Our Testament Choir (youth choir) who faithfully sing every Sunday in the 8:15 am service loaded up on a bus and headed for New Orleans where they shared the love of God by lifting their voices in song to elderly living in nursing homes and were able to spend part of a day doing work for a non-profit.

In addition to that we have swam, watched movies, gone bowling, worshipped, played, and attended a

Ranger Game and a Mercy Me concert, making it a very busy and fun summer!

This Fall, we will continue to focus on Four spiritual habits that will help lead each youth to a life of discipleship. September and October will be filled with activities focused on community building. Small groups will be in full swing starting Sunday, September 16 with every small group getting to start each night with a mini-party in their rooms (cookie decorating, spas, photo booth, canvas painting, nerf war, card games, tie-dye, s'mores, etc.). What party will you be having?

Our First@First event this year was held on September 9. This event is for all youth AND their parents or guardians! We had a special time together as we shared in a potluck meal followed by special activities meant to help youth and adults start a conversation. We also heard information from the book titled *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy-and completely Unprepared for Adulthood*, and what that means for the rest of us.



# YOUTH & CHANCEL ORCHESTRA

One of the incredible groups that we have at FUMC Arlington is our Youth Orchestra. Not many churches have a program like this, and we are fortunate to offer it with the expertise of Arthur Busby. This group rehearses from 5:50-6:50 in the Sanctuary on certain Wednesdays. The youth orchestra is open to all jr. and sr. high students who play a string, woodwind, or brass instrument. The orchestra plays once a month in the 8:15 and 11:00 services as well as other special services throughout the year.

If you are an adult and have kept up your instrumental skills, you are also invited to play in our Chancel Orchestra that plays for major works, Ash Wednesday, and occasionally joins the youth orchestra.

For more information please contact Sean Hale at [shale@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:shale@arlingtonmethodist.org)

## *Away we Go*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 10:30 AM-2:30 PM

Join us for a day trip to visit the Vintage Flying Museum in Ft. Worth. \$25 covers admission to the museum and lunch. Invite a friend! Reserve your spot in the church office.



Photos from the Vintage Flying Museum's Facebook page

# ADVOCATES *for* SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Mercy without justice is the  
mother of dissolution;  
justice without mercy is cruelty.*  
— THOMAS AQUINAS

BY: TIM VAN ORDEN  
ASJ Member

Author John Green says the truth resists simplicity. The issue of immigration in the United States certainly does, and since we as Christians are called to seek the truth, Advocates for Social Justice (ASJ) believes it is important to devote sufficient time to revealing its complexities. As the topic seems to become almost more controversial by the day, we are presented with an opportunity to go to the Lord in prayer, ask for His peace, and act on His will.

Proverbs 18:15 (ESV) tells us that “an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” To that end, ASJ hosted a series of informational presentations on immigration, presented by a local Methodist Immigration Ministry: Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON).

On September 2, a JFON representative began presenting information on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), individuals commonly referred to as Dreamers. The conversation continued on September 9 with a presentation about human labor trafficking. Finally, on September 16, we wrapped things up with a Q&A panel about the information presented across the entire series.

“We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.” – UMC Social Principles

We hope that you will join us in taking advantage of this opportunity to acquire knowledge, to learn of the struggles our neighbors endure, and understand how we can show hospitality to strangers, entertaining the angels among us (Hebrews 13:2).

If you feel called to help educate others about social justice issues, please don't hesitate to attend one of our meetings!

## LEARN MORE ONLINE

- To learn more about the UMC's stance on immigration, visit [umc.org/topics/topic-immigration](http://umc.org/topics/topic-immigration)
- To learn more about JFON, visit [jfondfw.org](http://jfondfw.org)
- Learn more about ASJ and join our email group online at [arlingtonmethodist.org/ASJ](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/ASJ)



# BACK TO *Grace*

Three nights of fellowship, worship, and celebration of our shared Wesleyan heritage with the United Methodist churches of Arlington



On Sunday, in true Methodist style, we shared a delicious potluck meal!

Personal testimonies on Monday night

Our very own Center313 performing on Tuesday night

## SUNDAY

Highlights: Potluck dinner, worship from "The Way", New World UMC's praise band, and a message from Rev. Felicia Hopkins

## MONDAY

Highlights: Burgers and hot dogs, music from the St. Andrews UMC praise team, and personal testimonies led by Rev. Fred Bates

## TUESDAY

Highlights: Pizza for dinner, worship led by Center313, a message from Rev. Brenda Weir, and displays from UM social service agencies

Photos by Andy Entrekin, Morrow Entrekin, and Mary Gibson

# Bible Journaling

BY: BETSY EUDY  
Church Member

## WHEN & WHERE:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm in Room 151

## WHAT IS BIBLE JOURNALING?

You'll learn how to utilize art techniques in a journaling Bible while studying a bible verse. Led by Betsy Eudy bi-monthly in a come-and-go format. Join at any time!

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

All you need is a journaling Bible (you can find them at Mardel or on Amazon.com - art supplies are provided, but you're welcome to bring your own!

## WHY WE LOVE IT:

Denise Gage

DG I love the fellowship.

Brenda Martino

It's another way of studying the Bible. When I journal a verse, I remember it better and I always go home and think about it.

BM

Becky Stumbaugh

It's a great learning and sharing experience. And doing something you thought you'd never be able to do.

BS



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY: SUSAN BISHARA

Director of Children and Family Ministries



## FALL ACTIVITIES:

### SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS:

**Ages:** K-6th Grade | **Time:** 8 am-3 pm  
(with aftercare available until 6:00 pm)

**Cost:** \$20 per day  
(aftercare is an additional \$5 per family)

We know that today many parents work outside of the home and school holidays can create a hardship. We want to offer up a great option! Allow us to disciple to your children and their guests in an action packed day of fun! There will be crafts, music, games, and special entertainment on each date.

### CAMP THEMES:

#### Monday, October 8

Minecraft & Life-size Games

#### Mon-Tues, November 19 & 20

Native American and Sailing Ships

#### Thurs-Fri, December 20 & 21

Gingerbread Houses & Holiday Palooza

#### Monday, January 21

Horses & "Stuck on You" Cacti

#### Monday, February 18

Mad Scientist Experiments & Slime

#### Friday, April 19

Peeps Dioramas & other  
Egg-stravagant fun!

### PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:

**Ages:** Infant-6th Grade

**Time:** 6:00-9:00 pm

**Cost:** \$10/first child, \$2/addtl. children

**Dates:** 2nd Friday night of the month

Parent's Night Out is an opportunity for parents to have some quality adult time secure in the fact that your children are being cared for by your church family. RSVP in the church office.

## SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES:

**Dates:** 9/16, 10/21, 11/11, 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 4/7

**Kidz in Mission:** 5:00-7:00 pm. Become a secret agent with "missions" bringing aid to organizations in need. Kids will solve complex problems through hands-on mission projects in a creative way, as they are led to break the code of different capers. They will also have an opportunity to Skype with the organization they are helping! **\$20 registration covers spy kit and t-shirt. A snack dinner will be provided.**

**Children's Handbells:** 4:00-5:00 pm. Children will learn the basics of beginner's handbells.

**Parent & Tots Music & Movement:** 4:00-5:00 pm. Come play with the parachute and move with your little learners as they develop self-confidence and problem-solving skills through interactive games, music, and play.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **October 13:** Leanne Hadley training (author of *Blessed to Be a Blessing* and *Way of the Child*) at Arborlawn UMC - register in the church office.
- **October 30:** Webb Elementary Trunk or Treat
- **December 1:** Touch a Truck, sponsored by the Arlington Public Library. Come see fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, and bulldozers up close in the FUMCA parking lot, beginning at 9:00 am
- **December 8:** Las Posadas Family Advent Festival
- **December 8:** Arlington Holiday Lights Parade
- **December 9:** Chancel Choir presents *Messiah*
- **December 16:** Children's Christmas Pageant

### LEARN MORE ONLINE

View a full list of events and activities online at [arlingtonmethodist.org](http://arlingtonmethodist.org)



# Commission on a Way Forward

## INFORMATION & RESOURCES



In July of 2018, the United Methodist Council of Bishops received a report from the Commission for a Way Forward. That commission was formed in 2016 to look at how the denomination could move forward with many different approaches, beliefs and opinions about human sexuality and how churches are to be in ministry with LGBTQ persons. At the center of the Commission's study and report is same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons.

### WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN FOR FUMCA?

As in most churches, members of FUMCA hold diverse positions regarding human sexuality and, especially, regarding ministry with and by LGBTQ people. Consequently, we cannot make “agreement” on these issues be the driving force of our life together as the followers of Jesus. Something bigger than a single issue must be the center of our life and the guiding force of our decisions.

Our life together centers on God's claim on our lives as beloved children of God and God's call to live as the followers of Jesus, faithfully living the ways of the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught and lived. The New Testament language for this center is “Jesus is Lord!” As the followers of Jesus, our commitment is to grow in and live out of the ways of the Kingdom, loving others in Jesus' name. Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If we are to be faithful, our commitment and our purpose must guide our response to these issues and the decisions that will be made regarding them.

Ultimately, on February 27, 2019, regardless of the action of the General Conference, we will still be

FUMCA. Our commitment and purpose will not change. We will continue to seek to be faithful in our own discipleship as we love others into becoming disciples, too. In the season after the 2019 General Conference there will be decisions to be made and possible changes to be put in place. The following are some possible effects if one of the below plans is to be passed in its entirety by the General Conference.

**The One Church Plan:** If the One Church Plan were to pass, a Church Conference will be held to determine if our facilities will be available for a same sex wedding. A Church Conference is a meeting in which the entire membership of the church is allowed to vote. A change in building use policy requires a 51% majority. It is possible that an openly gay or lesbian married person could be appointed to serve FUMCA sometime in the future.

**The Connectional Conference Plan:** This plan has an incredibly slim chance of passing the General Conference. If the Connectional Conference Plan were to pass, FUMCA would choose to become aligned with one of the newly formed Connectional Conferences. Those Conferences are aligned around theological positions, not geography.

**The Traditional Plan:** The primary impact of the Traditional Plan will be on clergy and LGBTQ individuals. Clergy would have to decide about their alignment with and participation in a denomination with prohibitions on same-sex marriage and the ordination of openly gay and lesbian persons. LGBTQ individuals would have to decide if they would participate in a denomination that views their

sexual orientation and lifestyle as incompatible with scripture. Ultimately, individual members would also have to decide if they would participate in a denomination with this stance.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Between now and the special session of General Conference in February 2019, we invite the congregation to a time of prayer, discernment, and conversation regarding these issues. Underlying these conversations are several key questions. What is the distinguishing mark(s) of a follower of Jesus?

How does scripture inform our position? How are we to be in ministry with LGBTQ people? Who are we to be as the people of FUMCA?

The first opportunities for guided conversation will take place on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 4:00 pm, and Thursday, Oct. 4, at 7:00 pm in the Banquet Room.

### **MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES**

A list of additional links and resources related to the Commission on a Way Forward can be found online at [arlingtonmethodist.org/WayForward](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/WayForward)

# SMALL GROUP COMMUNITIES

Have you connected with a Small Group Community yet? Below is a directory of our actively meeting communities - Contact Rev. Kay Lancaster for more information on joining!

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### **Breakfast Club (Young Adults College-35 Years)**

Sunday | 9:30-10:30 am | Church (Red brick house at the corner of Center & North St.)  
Contact: Sarah Graves at 817-807-3502

### **Elliott Community**

Every other Sunday | 5:00-6:00 pm | 76006  
Contact: Sam Elliott 817-548-9695

### **Spiritual Formation Community**

Tuesday | 10:00 am | Church - Curriculum Room  
Contact: Rev. Francine Copeland

### **Bible Journaling**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays | 6:00-8:00 pm | Church-Room 154  
Contact: Betsy Eudy

### **Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast Community**

Wednesday | 6:00-7:00 am | Church - Room 154  
Contact: Kirby Warren at 817-845-4717

### **M&Ms Women's Community**

Wednesday | 9:30-11:00 am | Church - Parlor  
Contact: Church office at 817-274-2571

### **Mujeres Unidas de Arlington Women's Community Group**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday | 11:00 am-2:00 pm  
Church - Room 154  
Contact: Sara Caballero at 817-333-7552

### **ConneXions Community**

#### **(Parents of 11th & 12th Graders)**

Every other Wednesday | 6:30-8:00 pm  
Various homes - North Arlington  
Contact: Kim Crawford 817-269-5998

### **Central Arlington Community**

Wednesday | 7:00-8:00 pm | 76013 area  
Contacts: Emily Fairbanks 817-522-2067  
or Johnny Sue Bucek 817-461-2909

### **Shelton/Dalton Community**

Every other Wednesday | 7:00-8:30 pm | 76012

### **Reams Community**

Thursday | 7:00-8:30 pm | 76016  
Contact: Bob & Sandy Reams 817-996-4187

### **Young Adult Weeknight Community**

Thursday | 7:00 pm | Various homes  
Contact: Sarah Graves at 817-807-3502

### **Hosea Community**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays | 76006  
Contact: Gretchen Hosea 817-996-4187

### **Men@First**

First Saturday of the month | 8:30-9:30 am  
Division St. Diner

# Fall

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



### FIRST YOUTH ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Any youth grades 7-12 that play a string, woodwind, or brass instrument are invited to join the youth orchestra as we start a new year.

### EPHESIANS STUDY-CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

SEPTEMBER 12 | 6:15-7:00 PM | BANQUET ROOM

Week two of a six-week Wednesday study on Ephesians, led by Pastor Steve.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF STUDY

SEPTEMBER 13 | 1:30-3:00 PM | PARLOR

If you or someone you know is grieving the death of a loved one, please join us for an 11-week study that uses Scriptural wisdom to explore the pain and emptiness that accompanies the grief journey. Church and community members are welcome.

### PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

SEPTEMBER 14 | 6:00-9:00 PM

Ages: Infant-6th grade. Parent's Night Out is an opportunity for parents to have some quality adult time, secure in the fact that your children are being cared for by your church family. RSVP in the church office. \$10 first child in family, \$2 per additional children per family. Second Friday of each month.

### MESSIAH CHOIR KICKOFF REHEARSAL

SAT, SEPTEMBER 15 | 10 AM-12 PM | CHOIR ROOM

The Chancel Choir invites anyone to join us as we begin rehearsing Handel's Messiah. There is an eight-rehearsal schedule for anyone that would like to sing that is not regularly in the choir. Messiah will be in worship on Dec. 9th. Help us spread the word!

### ABCS OF MEDICARE

SEPTEMBER 16 | 9:30-10:45 AM | BANQUET ROOM

Suzi McAlpine will offer information and education only to help navigate the Medicare enrollment process. Sponsored by Lamplighters class.

### DISCIPLE I: BECOMING A DISCIPLE THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS | 5:30-7:30 PM | BANQUET ROOM

This 34-week study will be led by Linton Davis and will cover the entire Bible from Creation to New Jerusalem. Books are available in the church office.

### DISCIPLE IV BIBLE STUDY: UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

SEPTEMBER 18 | 10:00-11:30 AM | ROOM 100

The phrase "Under the Tree of Life" conveys the promise of finding shelter, security, and rest in God's love. This 32-week Tuesday study covers Old Testament Writings, Gospel of John, Epistles of John, James, Jude and the Book of Revelation.

For a full listing of upcoming studies and events, visit [arlingtonmethodist.org/Events](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Events)

### FLU SHOTS

SUNDAY, SEPT 23 & OCT 21 | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Kroger pharmacists will be in the upstairs alcove to administer flu and pneumonia immunizations. Bring an ID and your insurance card.

### IMMERSION STUDY: MINOR PROPHETS

WED, SEPT. 26 | 10-11 AM OR 6:30-7:30 PM | RM 151  
A six-week study on the minor prophets, led by Rev. Kay Lancaster.

### PRAYER SHAWLS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 2:00-3:30 PM | ROOM 153  
Join us the last Thursday of each month as we make prayer shawls and prayer patches for those facing adversity.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR IN SANCTUARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 11:00 AM | SANCTUARY  
Come to the 11:00 Sanctuary service as the Children's Choir leads us in worship!

### BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 | 7:00-8:00 PM | SANCTUARY  
We are hosting a benefit concert in the Sanctuary as a fundraiser for Families in Transition—an AISD program that aids students who are homeless, living out of vehicles, or in friends houses. Choirs singing: FUMC Chancel Choir, UTA University Singers, Arlington Children's Chorus, and Martin HS Choir!

### LEANN HADLEY SEMINAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Seminar for all Adults working with children . RSVP Cost will be covered by Children's Ministry Location @ Arborlawn Methodist Fort Worth Must make reservation. Contact Susan Bishara for more information.

### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY MEETING ABOUT UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOLY LAND, ENGLAND, AND GERMANY

SUN, OCTOBER 14 | 12:15-1:30 PM | BANQUET ROOM  
Come learn about upcoming pilgrimages to the Holy Land December 2018, the Wesleyan Heritage Tour August 2019, and to Oberammergau Germany in August 2020. Meeting will be led by Education Opportunities Tour Host Rev Kay Lancaster at 12:15 pm in the Great Hall. Light lunch provided. (Donations appreciated.) Registration for the meeting is online.

### COLLEGE BOXES GO OUT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28  
Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinates a mailing of Care Packages to our college students in time for finals (twice a year). We want to let them all know we are praying for them and that they are remembered. If you have a college student (whether here in town or away – they all need to know we care) we would love for them to be included.

### AWAY WE GO: VINTAGE FLYING MUSEUM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 10:30 AM-2:30 PM  
A day trip to visit the Vintage Flying Museum in Ft. Worth. \$25 covers admission to the museum and lunch. Invite a friend! Reserve your spot in the church office.

### YOUTH SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 | SANCTUARY SERVICES

### LOYALTY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 8:15, 9:30 & 11 AM  
During worship, you will be invited to bring your pledge card to the altar to support the ministries at FUMCA. Join us this day as we express our love for God and our church.

### 30-HOUR FAMINE LOCK-IN

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1 | 7:00 PM-8:00 AM



Save  
the  
Date:

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

11 am in the Sanctuary

We're celebrating paying off our mortgage early with a special dedication service at 11 am in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, December 16.

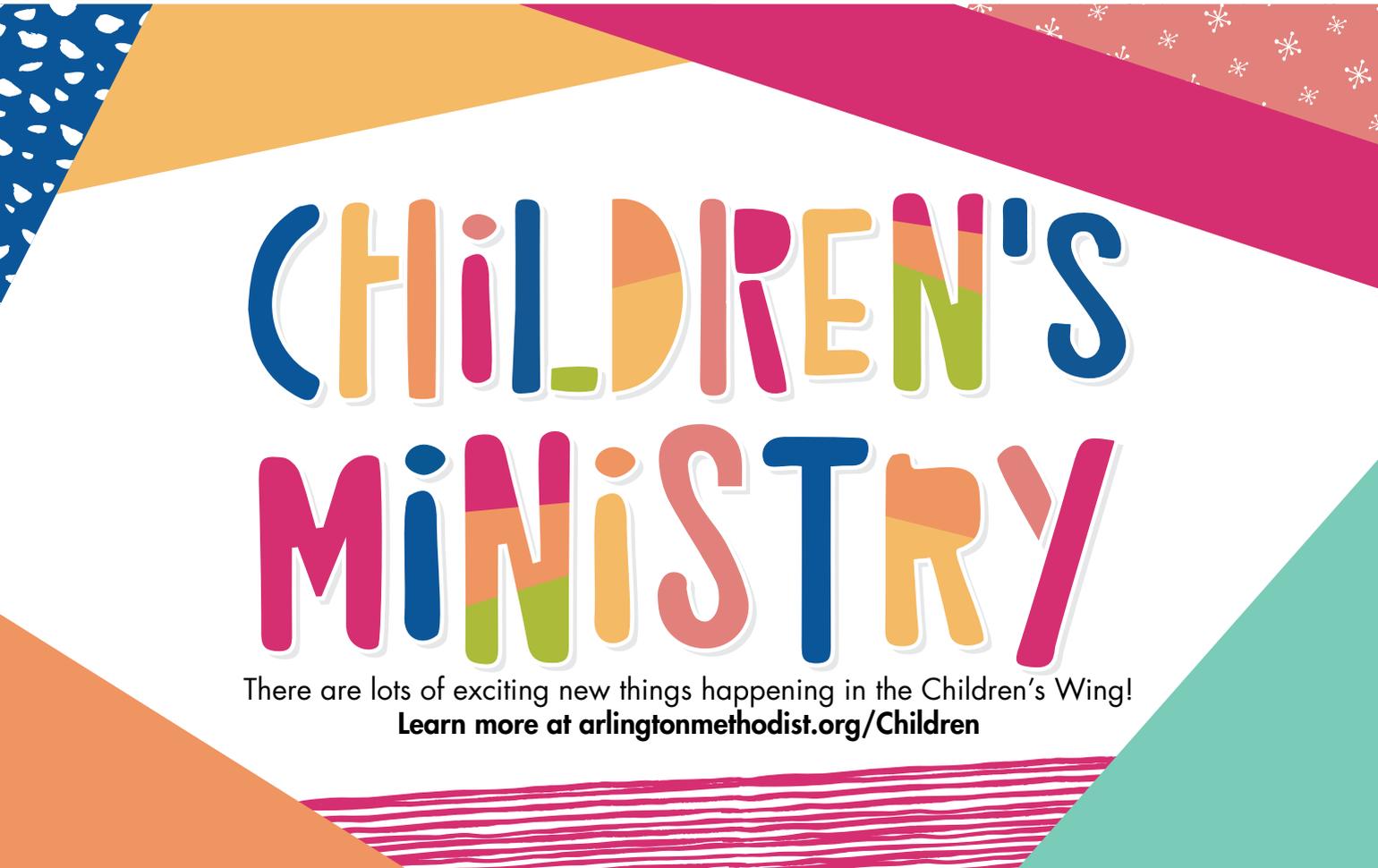


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[arlingtonmethodist.org](http://arlingtonmethodist.org)

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A decorative banner at the bottom of the page. It features a white background with a large, colorful, abstract shape that resembles a house or a tent. The shape is composed of several overlapping triangles in shades of blue, orange, pink, green, and teal. The top edge of the shape is decorated with a pattern of small white snowflakes. The bottom edge of the shape is decorated with a pattern of horizontal pink and white stripes.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

There are lots of exciting new things happening in the Children's Wing!  
**Learn more at [arlingtonmethodist.org/Children](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Children)**