

faith | FALL
2019

Homecoming

FALL AT FUMCA

HOMEcomings
WEEKEND

CHRISTMAS
CHOIR

FALL MISSION
OPPORTUNITIES

THE LIBRARY
AT FUMCA

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Chris Hayes

Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Kay Lancaster

Associate Pastor of Evangelism
Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez

Caring and Outreach Ministries
Michelle Clark

Director of Music & Worship
Sean Hale

Director of Children and Family Ministries
Susan Bishara

Nursery and Preschool Coordinator
Becky Steimle

Director of Communications
Mary Gibson

Video Production
Beth Henkel

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

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

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



@FUMCArlington



Watch Latest Sermons Online

The 11:00 am Sanctuary service is live streamed on our Facebook page each Sunday. Past sermons can be found online on our Facebook page, Youtube, and Vimeo. Direct links to the sermons on Vimeo are below:

Traditional
arlingtonmethodist.org/Traditional

Contemporary
arlingtonmethodist.org/Contemporary

Contact the church office for DVD copies of sermons at 817-274-2571.

CONTRIBUTORS



Rev. Dr. Chris Hayes
Senior Pastor



Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez
Associate Pastor



Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor



Kim Crawford
Church Council Chair



Mary Gibson
Director of
Communications



Sean Hale
Director of Music &
Worship



Michelle Clark
Caring & Outreach
Ministries

Not Pictured: Ann Watley, Tim Van Orden

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

HOME SEPT. 28 & 29

COMING

Weekend

HOME COMING WEEKEND, p. 9



DEFYING GRAVITY, p. 6



CHRISTMAS CHOIR, p. 10

If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy of the magazine, please contact Lori Davis in the church office at 817-274-2571 or ldavis@arlingtonmethodist.org

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY | 13 YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS |
| 6 DEFYING GRAVITY | 14 MISSION & OUTREACH |
| 8 HOLY LIVING & FALL STUDIES | 15 JOY IN THE NURSERY |
| 9 HOMECOMING WEEKEND | 16 A SPECIAL NEED |
| 10 CHRISTMAS CHOIR | 17 SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT |
| 12 THE LIBRARY AT FUMCA | 18 FALL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES |

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

BY: REV. DR. CHRIS J. HAYES
Senior Pastor



Living in the great State of Texas, homecoming usually means fall weekends, football games, tailgates, and large mums. All of these things to welcome home people who have moved away or not had the opportunity to connect

with past classmates and friends. As a church, and more importantly as Christians, homecoming is an attitude we are called to have as we live our lives with one another and with God. We are invited by Christ's love to feel at home and constantly welcomed home to God no matter where the journey of life might have taken us. Furthermore, we are called to be a part of God's party in welcoming others home into Christian community and God's presence.

Over the last couple of months my family and I have been amazed at the welcome reception we have felt in our homecoming to this congregation. So many people have gone out of their way to make us feel loved, welcomed, and at home. We are so excited to be back at First UMC Arlington, and we want everyone else to have that same feeling and experience. We want the greater Arlington community to feel as welcomed and loved as we have, and we know that this church family can make that happen.

This fall at First UMC Arlington, we want to welcome everyone home! First and foremost, home to God's unconditional love and grace that is always available to everyone. In addition, we want to welcome you, your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family home to this amazing part of God's family at FUMCA. God is doing amazing things around here and we believe God is calling us to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to feel a part of the celebration that we are having together.

As we all get back into the routines of the school year, we hope that that the routine of worshipping and serving God with FUMCA can continue to be or perhaps become a vital part of your life. We will be looking together at the spirit of homecoming and even throwing a homecoming party the weekend of September 28th and 29th. Not only do we want you here, but we want you to invite others who might have been away for awhile or those who have not had the opportunity to connect with us in the past. We believe that God wants us all to come home to God's love and grace, and we believe that First UMC Arlington is an amazing gift from God that helps us experience that spirit of homecoming. Come home to God and home to FUMCA this fall!

May God Bless and Keep,
Pastor Chris

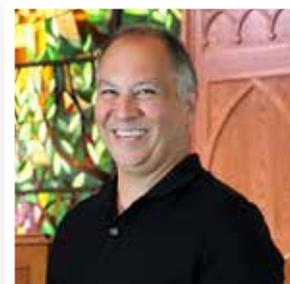
JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 FOR A SPECIAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND.

Saturday, September 28 | Churchwide Picnic | 5:00-7:00 pm: Invite your friends to join us on the church's west lot under the oak trees for: food, live music from Center 313, a cornhole tournament, and other games & fellowship

Sunday, September 29 | Sunday Morning Brunch: Brunch foods will be available between 9:00-11:00 am throughout the church as you mix, mingle, & fellowship between services and the Sunday school hour. Join us for worship at 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 am. Bring a dish to share with others!

HOMECOMING

BY: REV. RAMIRO RODRIGUEZ
Associate Pastor of Evangelism



A couple of years ago, I spent three days in Carbondale Illinois which is where I spent a good chunk of the 1990s. Carbondale is home to my alma mater, Southern Illinois University, and was the place I called home

during an important time of my life. Carbondale was the place where the first flickerings of adulthood pierced through the fog of my extended period of adolescence. In a way, Carbondale is where I grew up.

I was excited as I approached Carbondale - making my way down a road I hadn't traveled in 20 years- but my excitement was also mixed with confusion. I would excitedly see things that I hadn't seen - or even thought about - for years, things that I had forgotten even existed. But, I would also be confused by things that looked kind of familiar while simultaneously being completely foreign: Was that store always there, or is it new? Did that sign always exist? Was that house always red?

Memory is a slippery thing, and as I sped toward Carbondale I started realizing that our memories are not always completely reliable, and homecomings are more complicated than we often imagine.

In the Gospels, according to Mark, Matthew, and Luke, we read that Jesus' homecoming was filled with a complicated mix of emotions. People were excited. We read that many were astonished to hear Jesus preach, but that excitement soon gave way to less joyful emotions. "Isn't that Joseph and Mary's kid?" "Isn't that the carpenter's boy?" "What gives him the right to preach to us?"

Carpenters were craftsmen; they were not the educated elites. When people saw Jesus preaching in his hometown synagogue they couldn't see and hear who he really was because they couldn't get past the memories of seeing him as a child with his mom and dad. They remembered Jesus and his family fitting into a very specific slot in the social hierarchy of Nazareth; a slot which did not - which could not - produce someone with the authority to preach God's truth.

Our memories often prevent us from seeing each other as we truly are. When I returned to Carbondale and talked with friends I hadn't seen in decades, many of them were amazed that I was a pastor. They remembered the person I was, and had difficulty seeing the person I had become. But after a little while, as we talked, reminisced, laughed, and caught up they were able to see that even though I had changed in many ways, in many other ways, I was the same goofball I always was. As we talked, they were able to see how much they too had changed and how much they too had also stayed the same.

Homecomings can be great. When I returned to Carbondale and I took my first bite of Quatro's Pizza in over 20 years, I was thrilled with how it was exactly like I remembered. Nothing feels as good as coming home and re-experiencing what we love. But if we want our homecomings to be everything they can be, we need to remember that even though our favorite pizza can miraculously stay exactly the same as we remember, people don't stay the same.

We all grow. Life changes all of us. My prayer is that whenever we journey home- whenever we celebrate a homecoming with those we love- that we are able to see past the memories of who we were and are able to see the amazing people God is calling us to be.



DEFYING GRAVITY

BY: REV. DR. CHRIS J. HAYES
Senior Pastor

We live in a world where we constantly feel the pull of gravity in our life. Gravity is a God-given reality of our world and something that we don't really have the ability to change. However, there are other things in our life that pull us down or keep us from soaring into the places and activities that God wants us to be a part of in this life. Sometimes our attitude and spirit can keep us from rising to the level of beauty and wonder that God created us to experience. We often treat very changeable things like we do gravity and assume that we cannot do all of the things that God might want us to do.

What if we could defy those things that pull us down in life and free ourselves up to go wherever and do whatever God is calling us to? What if the only thing holding us down was the Earth's gravitational pull, not our past experiences, not the world around us, not our attitudes of scarcity, or our preconceived opinions and assumptions?

As we strive to be the people that God created and desires for us to be, we must free ourselves up for the amazing things that God wants to do in and through

each of us individually and all of us collectively as FUMCA of Arlington. God has big and amazing plans for us to share Christ's love with our community and the world, but we must be up for the challenge and commit ourselves to doing our part in overcoming the obstacles between here there. I cannot wait to see all that God will do in the years to come, and I am certain that God needs and wants us to participate with God in making those things happen through our financial gifts, talents, time, energy and prayer. We can do all things through Christ, even defy those things that so often pull us down or keep us from living into God's vision of the future.

How can you be a part of offering yourself and your resources to God so that we can live into the amazing future that God has for us? What might God want you to do, be, or give in order to make the dreams of reaching more people with God's unconditional love a reality? In the year to come, we will need to do several important projects around the physical campus of our church in order to reach people with God's love. We will also need to have the best staff and resources available to reach

people with God's message of grace and hope when they connect with us here (especially our children and youth). In addition, we need to spend more time connecting with our community and the world around us so that people who might never come to church here will experience God's unconditional love from us as a family of faith.

I want everyone to know that FUMC of Arlington is a place where you can experience God's love, and where you are challenged to share that love with the world. None of these dreams are possible without the support and action of each one of us working together to give who we are and what we have to make God's vision become reality.

Together, with God's help, I am certain that we can defy the things that keep us down and can help this church and this world live into God's hopeful future of love and grace. Come be a part of the amazing work that God is doing at FUMC of Arlington! Thank you for your commitments of time, energy, money, and prayers that will make all of this a reality.

The Defying Gravity sermon series begins on Sunday, November 3.
Learn more about the series online at arlingtonmethodist.org/SermonSeries

“While physical training has some value, training in holy living is useful for everything. It has promise for this life now and the life to come.”

-1 TIMOTHY 4:8

HOLY LIVING:

Spiritual Practices for Building a Life of Faith



BY: REV. KAY LANCASTER
Associate Pastor of Discipleship

As Christians, we crave a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. Spiritual disciplines are activities and practices done in our daily walk through life that bring us closer to Christ. They also help us to make a difference in our world. Practicing these spiritual disciplines opens us to God's transforming love and helps us experience holy living.

The Holy Living study series looks at eight areas of spiritual disciplines, the element of holy living each one opens up to us, and the practices we can take on to allow our lives to become transformed in Christ.

Each discipline is covered in four sessions along with an introduction. The study will begin with an

overview of the discipline, and then dive deeper into it. Finally, the final week of study brings together what has been learned and gives guidance on how to incorporate the discipline into daily life.

The spiritual practices for building a life of faith that we will be studying are Discernment, Prayer, Worship, Neighboring, Simplicity, Confession, Celebration and Study.

Rev Kay Lancaster will be facilitating this study each Wednesday through November 20 in Room 151. Two sessions on the same material will be led each Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 am and 6:30-7:30 pm. Books are available in the office for \$10.

OTHER ONGOING STUDIES:

PASTOR RAMIRO'S BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS | 10:00-11:00 AM OR 6:00-7:00 PM | ROOM 151

Pastor Ramiro will be discussing various books of the Bible such as Job, Ruth, Esther, and Ecclesiastes, followed by a 7-week study on the Book of Revelation. After the evening study, walk over to On Tap for a time of fellowship.

BIBLE JOURNALING

1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS | 6:30-8:30 PM | BANQUET ROOM

Creative Bible Journaling instruction on how to utilize art techniques while studying different bible verses. Led by Betsy Eudy bi-monthly in a come and go format. Join at any time!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

HOME

SEPT.
28 & 29

COMING

Weekend

SATURDAY

SEPT. 28

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC | 5-7 PM

Invite your friends to join us on the church's west lot under the oak trees for:

- Grill-out Food
- Live Music from Center 313
- Cornhole Tournament
- Other Games & Fellowship

SUNDAY

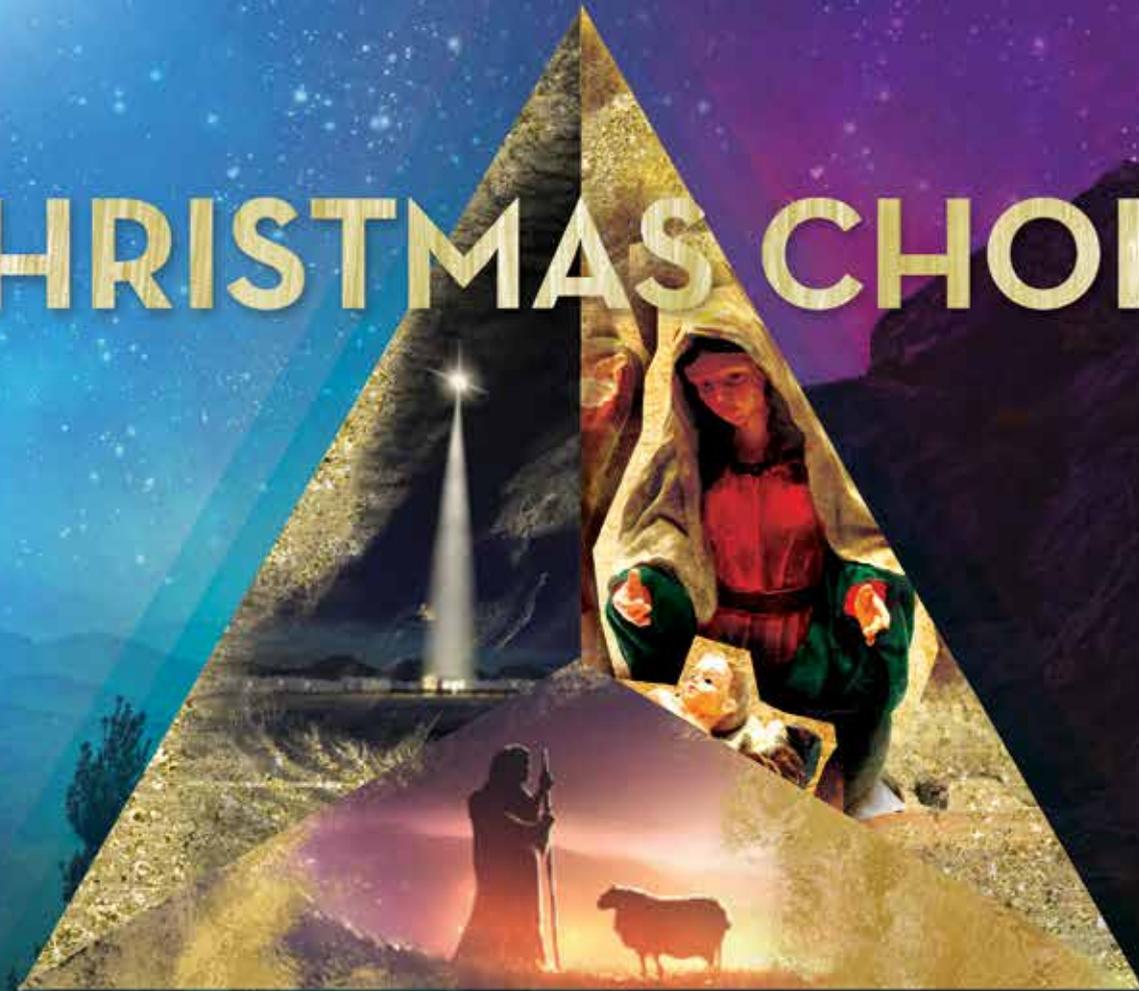
SEPT. 29

SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCH

Brunch foods will be available between 9:00-11:00 am throughout the church as you mix, mingle, and fellowship between services and the Sunday school hour. Join us for worship at 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 am. **Bring a dish to share with others!**

If you or your Sunday school class/small group would like to volunteer on either day, please contact the church office at 817-274-2571 or mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org

CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Featuring the music of Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagenberg, and Francesco Durante's Magnificat, presented on Sunday, December 8 at 11 am by the Chancel Choir & Orchestra

BY: SEAN HALE
Director of Music & Worship

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 guests 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 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!

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

For our musical presentation for Christmas this year, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be singing Christmas music which portrays different perspectives of the Christmas story. We will sing a couple of familiar Christmas carols arranged by active composers of our time Dan Forrest (O Little Town of Bethlehem and The Sheperd's Carol) and Elaine Hagenberg (Sussex Carol). In addition we will be doing Francesco Durante's (1684-1755) setting of Magnificat. The text for a Magnificat comes from scripture, Luke 1:46-55. It is often referred to as

"Mary's song" since it is a song of praise from Mary after she discovers and is told she is pregnant with the Messiah. Many composers have set this text to music and it is called a Magnificat because the first words of the latin text are Magnificat anima mea dominum (my soul glorifies the Lord). It is a lively arrangement that highlights the joy and anticipation of the coming Messiah.

KICKOFF REHEARSAL

Our kickoff rehearsal is Saturday, September 21, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, in the Choir Room. Below you will see a rehearsal schedule of eight rehearsals for anyone who would like to sing with us for the Christmas presentation, but cannot commit to chancel choir year-round. Please spread the word. We would love to have you join us!

8 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 9/21
10:00 am-12:00 pm | Choir Room
Kickoff Rehearsal

OCTOBER

Saturday, 10/26
10:00 am-12:00 pm | Choir Room
Rehearsal

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 11/13
7:45-9:00 pm | Choir Room

Saturday, 11/16
10 am-12 pm | Choir Room

Wednesday, 11/20
7:30-9:00 pm | Choir Room

Tuesday, 11/26
7:15-8:30 pm | Choir Room

DECEMBER

Wednesday, 12/4
7:00-9:00 pm | Sanctuary
Rehearsal

Saturday, 12/7
10:00 am-12:00 pm | Sanctuary
Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal

CHANCEL CHOIR
COME & SEE:
7:00-8:30 pm
in the Choir Room

The Chancel Choir is inviting anyone to come and experience a rehearsal with us (for regular Sunday morning worship, not the Christmas Choir). If you've ever considered coming to sing with us, this is the time to come and check it out at our regular Wednesday rehearsal.

The library can be accessed any time during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 8 am-5 pm) or on Sunday mornings.

The LIBRARY AT FUMC OF ARLINGTON

BY: ANN WATLEY
FUMCA Library Volunteer

First United Methodist Church Adult Library and the Arlington Public Library (APL) are in partnership to serve our faith community. Your library committee has been charged with providing a FUMC library collection to supplement the reading of seminary students, clergy, and Biblical scholars as well as casual readers. Toward that aim, books supporting Bible study, books about Christianity, devotional materials and Christian fiction are currently ready for your checkout and reading. In addition, reference materials are available for use in the library.

Ann Watley, FUMCA library volunteer, tells us a community outreach initiative of the APL is to place

the titles of our collection into an on-line catalog. Daniel Bull, an APL cataloger has been charged with this task. Once he completes the entries, you will be able to check FUMCA item ownership on line. A link will then be provided to allow you access to this wonderful resource.

In the meantime, 2,000 titles are already available for your reading and study pleasure! The library is open every Sunday. To access the library at other times, see the office staff. The library is located on the second floor across from the Curriculum Library. You will find comfortable places to read, good lighting, and at least 2000 adventures.



UNIVERSITY CARE PACKAGES

Every semester members of our church put out care packages to our college students as they study and cram for finals.

We want to make sure every college student is included in this ministry. Whether they are here in town or away we want them to know we care. We are starting a new college list this year, so make sure your college student gets put on the list!

Members of the congregation fill the boxes with treats, toys, gift cards, and notes, but (most importantly) they receive love, support, and an assurance that their church family cares for them and is praying for them.

Please get this info in to the church office ASAP so that your college student can be included in the mailing for the fall finals.

In August, our student leadership team spent some time together on a retreat in East Texas. They were busy planning and dreaming fun and exciting events for the Youth of our church and community. They also got to have a little bit of fun time to build community amongst themselves. Thank you to the Hoseas for hosting us on our retreat.

They each are serving on one of the following subcommittees, mission, worship, Communications, or community. These committees will meet each month to plan and organize events, mission opportunities and worship experiences.

Here are just a few of the fun events they have planned for this school year:

- OCTOBER 13:** Street Party
- OCTOBER 27:** Halloween Party with other churches
- NOVEMBER 24:** Thanksgiving Feast

This year serving as chairman is Domenic Regina, vice chair is Morrow Entrekin, and secretary is Avery Fox. Also serving on the student leadership team is Matthew Brown, Jackson Hosea, Mallory Menard, Brenda Cervantes, and Eddy Cervantes. Domenick Regina and Matthew Brown will also be serving on the church council. This is going to be an exciting year with great leadership.



Information we need for each college student:

NAME: _____

COLLEGE: _____

ADDRESS AT SCHOOL: _____

FOOD ALLERGIES: _____

LIKES (5) OR DISLIKES: _____
 *i.e. coffee or tea, kind of candy, snack food, cookies, or anything that might make a package more personal for them. This information will really help the person filling the box.



LOCAL OUTREACH

BY: MICHELLE CLARK
Caring & Support Ministries

PARTNERSHIP WITH WEBB ELEMENTARY

- Groups can sign up now to provide teacher appreciation for the faculty & staff of Webb during a particular month of the year. Let me know which date you might want. It can be breakfast, lunch, snacks, etc. Very flexible.
- Mentors are needed to provide friendship one hour a week at the school one-on-one with a student.
- Trunk or Treat is scheduled at Webb Elementary on Wednesday, October 30, from 5:00-6:30 pm (finished in time to get back for choir practice!) Volunteers for trunks will be needed. CANDY will be needed and can be donated anytime in September & October.



FOOD FOR AUM HOMELESS LUNCHES

Ongoing need for non-perishable, individual serve items for Arlington Urban Ministries homeless lunches. Items include tuna/chicken packets, peanut butter, Vienna sausages, protein/granola bars, apple sauce, fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter crackers, plastic spoons & forks, paper bags.



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Donations will be accepted for children's stockings for Arlington Urban Ministries and stockings for our older adult members in nursing facilities and assisted living. Small toys, chapstick, hand lotion, gripper socks, candy, small stuffed animals, etc.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Contact Michelle Clark at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org to find out how you or your group can get connected with various outreach opportunities in our church and local community.

JOY IN THE NURSERY

BY: KIM CRAWFORD
Church Council Chair

It has truly been a pleasure for me to continue our mission of Connecting in Christ by volunteering in our church's nursery for the past two years! In 2017, Becky Steimle visited our Sunday school class looking for volunteers to help her in her efforts to grow attendance in our nursery. Although I knew I would miss attending our Sunday school class, I felt that volunteering in this important area might be something I could do to help grow attendance at our church and to help attract young families. Since Scott and I are soon going to be empty nesters, I also reflected on how thankful we are that our girls were raised in a loving church family! I love being around babies and toddlers and felt like it was my time to give back to the families at our church.

If only I'd known how rewarding it would be, I would have volunteered earlier! It is such a joy to be with the kids in the nursery, and I am genuinely sad when I am out of town and can't be with "my babies". I am reminded of the joyful simplicity of baby and toddlerhood where sometimes a snack and a hug is all that is needed. Even though I have raised two girls, it is still amazing for me to see how fast these little ones change and can develop so quickly from week to week. One week they are crawling and pulling up on things, and then the next thing we know, they are walking. I also love seeing the children come out of their shells and sing and dance when we have music time.

An added benefit to volunteering has been getting to know the other volunteers and strengthening relationships. I have enjoyed volunteering with other church members who I wouldn't have met otherwise and with my own sister, Karol Clay. It has also been a pleasure getting to know the parents of the kids in our nursery.

It has been my pleasure to serve our church as chair of church council for the past 18 months, and through this role I have been made aware by many church members that attracting young families to our church is important to the future of our church. I have also seen through the work of many task forces and ministry areas, that we are a congregation that deeply cares about the future of our church and about each other. We have many positive things going on in our church, and I know our future is bright! I hope that you will consider volunteering somewhere new in our church. Whether it is working with people inside or outside of our church, I know our congregation can come together and work to show the light of Christ!



VOLUNTEER IN THE NURSERY

For more information on volunteering in the nursery or PreK classes, contact Becky Steimle in the church office at bsteimle@arlingtonmethodist.org or 817-274.2571

A Special NEED

BY: TIM VAN ORDEN
FUMCA Advocates for Social Justice

“Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’”

LUKE 14:12-14

Helping people with special needs is hard to deal with. It’s messy, it’s time consuming, it’s inconvenient. It’s scary. It’s uncomfortable. What is it about helping someone with special needs that makes some of us so uncomfortable?

Does it hit too close to home? There, but for the grace of God, goes someone I might have been obligated to care for? Maybe what stops some of us is the uncertainty. How do I help, what do I say, how long will I be expected to do this?

Maybe it’s not glitzy enough. Migrant children being detained

in inhumane conditions, children killed at another school shooting, travel bans, LGBTQ+ and racial oppression. These are all attention grabbing headlines, but did you know that of the almost 140,000 Texans on a waiting list to receive funds for community-based care, most will wait more than a decade? (If you didn’t, I’m sure Ellen Bauman would like a moment of your time.)

Maybe we’ve really bought in to the phrase “God only gives us what we can handle.” We assume the current caregivers have been gifted with this special needs child because the Lord also gifted these caregivers with saint-like

patience, so we can safely wash our hands of it. If this reason speaks to you, by the way, I encourage you to watch a show on Netflix called Atypical for a glimpse into the messiness that is a family who has to care for a special needs individual.

To be honest, I don’t know. I can’t speak for you, of course, but I’m no saint. Frankly, I’ve not been nearly as attentive to this issue as I probably should have. There’s only so much responsibility one person can assume before they start to deny that other responsibilities even exist. Milton Mayer writes in his book “They Thought They Were Free”:

“The greater the combined load of my private and required public responsibility, the weaker my impulse to take volunteer public responsibility; if I’m building a new house and I have to enroll in Civilian Defense, my work with the Boys’ Club will suffer . . . Responsible men never shirk responsibility, and so, when they must reject it, they deny it. They draw the curtain. They detach themselves altogether from the consideration of the evil they ought to, but cannot, contend with.”

One of the aspects that first drew me to FUMC of Arlington was the compassion I saw the congregation extend to those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, as well as their caregivers.

It was only recently that I realized the blessings extended both ways. As Bob Cratchit explained to his wife and daughter in the 1951 A Christmas Carol (the definitive Alastair Sim rendition):

“[Tiny Tim] told me, he wasn’t going to be shy if people looked at him because he was a cripple, as it might be pleasant to them, being in church, to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk and blind men see.”

No one in this church makes me smile quite the way Jimmy Adams’ exuberance does, and no anthem brings more joy to my heart than the sound of Judy Jones in the eleven o’clock service expressing, “Thanks be to God!” These people are, just like me, part of the body

of Christ, no less valued or cherished by our Father.

If you are feeling so moved, you can help as early as November when FUMCA hosts the quarterly A Look Ahead conference for families of people with disabilities; volunteers are always needed, contact the front office for more information. First Fridays are another great way to get involved - every first Friday of the month from 6:00-9:00 pm, volunteers provide one-on-one respite time for children and adults with special needs, and their siblings. And, of course, all are welcome to join the Advocates for Social Justice every second Tuesday of the month at 12:15 pm in Room 154. Come and find out who else is cherished by God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

KOINONIA

(koy·now·nee·uh)

AGE: 40+
TIME: 9:30 AM
ROOM: ROOM 258



Meet the Koinonia Sunday school class! An adult group of believers working together to be involved as leaders in the community and our world. We want to show our love to others as the hands and feet of Jesus. We study issues important to our lives, led by members of the class. We work to grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ through study, worship, service and fellowship.

Many of the class members are new members of FUMCA so be sure to welcome them to our church!

FALL

EVENTS *And* ACTIVITIES

For a full listing of upcoming activities and events, visit arlingtonmethodist.org/events

SEPTEMBER 26 | PRAYER SHAWLS

1:00-2:30 PM | HEARTS OF SERVICE ROOM
Join us as we make prayer shawls and prayer patches for those facing adversity. Come check out our new craft room! (formerly the Disciple Learning Center)

SEPTEMBER 28 | HOMECOMING PICNIC

5:00-7:00 PM | WEST PARKING LOT
Invite your friends to join us on the church's west lot under the oak trees for: food, live music from Center 313, a cornhole tournament, and other games & fellowship.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 | HOMECOMING BRUNCH:

Brunch foods will be available between 9:00-11:00 am throughout the church as you mix, mingle, & fellowship between services and the Sunday school hour. Join us for worship at 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 am. Bring a dish to share with others!

SEPTEMBER 29 | KIDS IN MISSION*

12:00-2:00 PM | UPSTAIRS IN THE CHILDREN'S WING
Kids in 3-6th grade are invited to come on the 2nd and 5th Sundays for Kids in Mission and a snack lunch - a time when we get together to have fun and do cool mission works for local and global kid-related missions.

SEPTEMBER 29 | PARENTING THROUGH THE PHASES SMALL GROUP STUDY*

12:00-2:00 PM IN HAGLER HALL
Parenting through the Phases is a small group study that empowers you as a parent by targeting the de-

velopmental milestones your children are reaching through a Christian perspective. It meets on the second and fifth Sundays, with childcare available for infants-sixth graders.

OCTOBER 4 | FIRST FRIDAYS | 6:00-9:00 PM

First Fridays is a Respite Program for parents of special needs children. Approved volunteers provide one on one care for the special need child and siblings at no cost. Reservations are required following approval of an application. For more information on participating or volunteering contact Rev Kay Lancaster at klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org.

OCTOBER 5 | MEN@FIRST

8:30 AM | DIVISION ST. DINER
Join men from FUMC of Arlington on the first Saturday of each month for fellowship, food and a devotional. They meet at Division St Diner at 8:30 am.

OCTOBER 6 | BLESSING OF THE PETS

5:00-7:00 PM | GENE PATRICK PLAZA
Bring your Pet and join us for a Blessing of the Pets and a Popsicle - while the UMC may not traditionally celebrate St Francis Day -the Kid's Ministry knows how great a guy he was and his love for the ecology and animals! So we are celebrating the joy pets bring to our life! Come for a Popsicle and bring your pets for a prayer of health and happiness! This is a come-and-go or stay-and-chat gathering. **All pets must come with a human and be on leash or portable home.*

OCTOBER 9 & 15 | CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

OCT. 9, 1-2 PM | OCT. 15, 10-11 AM | ROOM 102
A brief time of respite for caregivers to gather and share experiences as well as helpful resources. Group is facilitated by Sharla Martin.

OCTOBER 10 | UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF

1:00-2:30 PM | ROOM 101
Grief Support Group for those who have lost a loved one or are anticipating the loss of a loved one who would like to process their grief and have the support of peers in the process. Facilitated by Diane Hamilton-Hancock and Michelle Clark.

OCTOBER 16 | FAMILY SUPPER AND SUGAR SKULL DECORATING*

6:00-9:00 PM | HAGLER HALL
Bring your family for supper and stay to make and decorate a traditional Mexican sugar skull. Originally created to celebrate the life of loved ones who have passed, it is now considered a folk art. Cost: \$20

OCTOBER 20 | FLU SHOTS

8:00 AM-12:00 PM, UPSTAIRS NEAR THE ELEVATOR
Flu, pneumonia, and other shots will be available, administered by a congregation member who is a pharmacist through Kroger pharmacy. Bring insurance information for billing.

OCTOBER 27 | QUARTERLY MEETING FOR LEADERS OF CLASSES AND SMALL GROUPS

12:15-1:15 PM | BANQUET ROOM
Discussion of Joyous Generosity, the 3rd Core Value of our Congregation, and how we grow in our discipleship through this Core Value.

OCTOBER 30 | WEBB TRUNK OR TREAT

5:00-6:30 PM | WEBB ELEMENTARY
We are headed over to Webb again this year for Trunk or Treat with the students and faculty. Volunteers for trunks will be needed. CANDY will be needed and can be donated anytime in September & October - contact Michelle Clark for more information on volunteering.

NOVEMBER 6 | COOKIE DECORATING CLASS*

6:00-8:00 PM | ROOM TBD
Parents & kids will learn to create an assortment of stunning fall-themed cookies like you would buy in upscale bakery. You will learn to create and use great techniques on the cookies as you take home your plate of gorgeous cookie works of art! Cost \$30.

NOVEMBER 9 | A LOOK AHEAD CONFERENCE*

8:30 AM-2:30 PM | VARIOUS ROOMS
A quarterly conference Series brings together expert speakers for training focused on improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, the people who support them, and the community at large.

DECEMBER 1 | UNBOXING CHRISTMAS

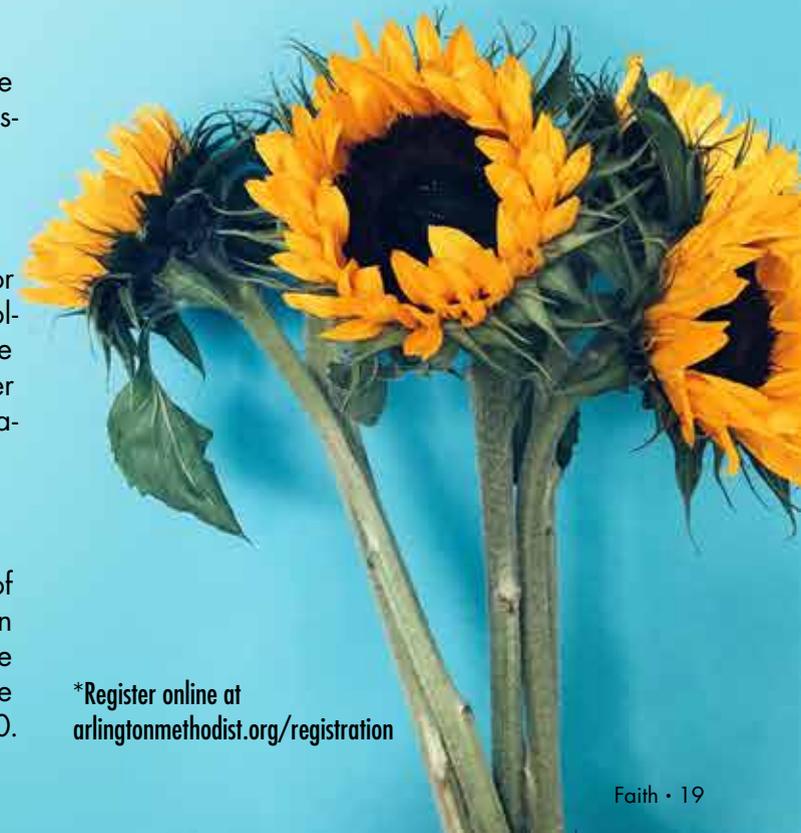
9:00-11:00 AM | HAGLER HALL
Come Experience the Joy of Unboxing Christmas during this family experience. It is a time of holiday cheer with family gingerbread house decorating, music, games, and skits. This is a whole church event - bring your "tribe" and let's make memories!

WEDNESDAYS | HOLY LIVING: SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

10:00 AM OR 6:30 PM IN ROOM 151
The Spiritual Practices are historical practices that can guide us in our daily walk, bringing us closer to Christ. The Holy Living Series enables us to apply these practices to our current lives opening us to God's transforming love.

THURSDAYS | PASTOR RAMIRO'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00-11:00 AM OR 6:00-7:00 PM IN ROOM 151
Pastor Ramiro will be discussing some of the smaller books such as Job, Ruth, Esther, and Ecclesiastes. Following the evening study, feel free to join us over at On Tap (200 N Mesquite St).



*Register online at arlingtonmethodist.org/registration

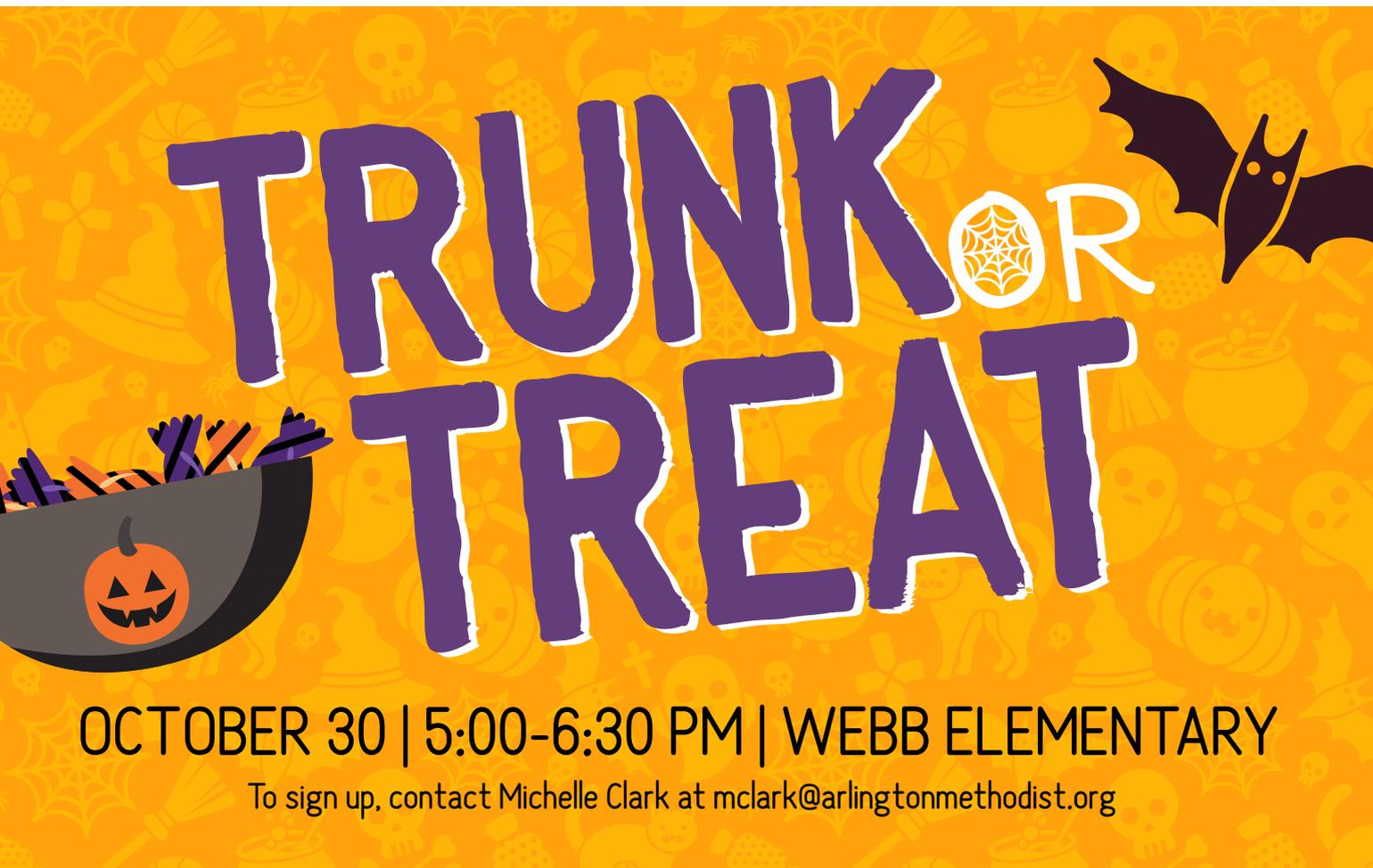


313 N Center Arlington, TX 76011

p: 817.274.2571 | f: 817.459.0579

arlingtonmethodist.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 171
Arlington, TX



OCTOBER 30 | 5:00-6:30 PM | WEBB ELEMENTARY

To sign up, contact Michelle Clark at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org