

# faith | FALL 2017

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON



**FALL FRESH:**  
*New Studies,  
kick-offs  
and more!*

CHRISTMAS CHOIR  
PRESENTATION

JOYOUS  
GENEROSITY

DEBT REDUCTION  
UPDATE

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SPOTLIGHT: CORNERSTONE

# STAFF

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*Rev. Steve Langford*

**Senior Associate Pastor**

*Rev. Brian A. Young*

**Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation**

*Rev. Kay Lancaster*

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*Roger Stephens*

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*Mary Lobban*

**Receptionist/Event Planner**

*Kathy Martin*

**Membership/Office Administrator**

**& Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor**

*Lori Davis*

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*Miguel Galaviz*

**Maintenance**

*Shawn Dickler*

**Director of Big Hope**

*Jill Regina*

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*Manny Martinez*

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

*Greg Haugen*

**Director of Children's Music**

*Janie Johnson*

**Director of Youth Orchestra,**

**Asst. Director of Chancel Orchestra**

*Arthur Busby*

**Senior Organist**

*Jamila Javadova-Spitzberg*

**Security**

*Lee Flowers*



## 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.



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**Watch Latest Sermons Online**

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Traditional

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Contemporary



**On TV**

Our television broadcast is currently unavailable.

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

# CONTRIBUTORS



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Senior Pastor



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Associate Pastor of  
Communications & Evangelism



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CHANCEL CHOIR SINGS

# the Music of John Rutter

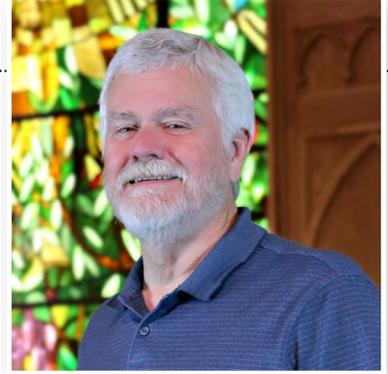
FOR CHRISTMAS



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# FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:



**C**reetings from the new kid on the block! What a joy it is to be here as your pastor! Thank you for how warmly you have welcomed Etta and me. You have helped us feel welcome and a part of this great congregation.

I appreciate your help (and patience!) in learning your names, including wearing name tags. Please continue to tell me your name even though we have met before. I am just as eager to be able to call you by name as you are for me to do so. Again, thank you for your patience and help. I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to meet with different small groups as well as one-on-one with different individuals. I look forward to continuing this process of getting acquainted. Please contact Lori Davis in the church office to arrange for me to meet with your group or for an appointment to meet together.

My agenda during these first six months is simple: get to know you and First Church while helping you get to know me. I (with Lori's help) will continue to fill my schedule with getting-acquainted opportunities. In addition to meeting with small groups and individuals, I am meeting with various committees and committee chairs to get acquainted with the workings and culture of First Church. In my conversations thus far, I have encountered an open spirit full of hope... tinged with varying degrees of anxiety. I am grateful for that openness and hopeful spirit. The anxiety is normal and to be expected.

This getting-acquainted work is essential. We will build on it - in the near future - as we seek God's guidance into the future God has for us.

I am grateful to be here to share the journey with you. I am hopeful about our future together.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

## Getting to Know Pastor Steve:

Pastor Steve comes to us after serving the First United Methodist Church of Georgetown for seven years. He has over 40 years of pastoral experience, 25 of them as an elder in The United Methodist Church. Previously, he served as pastor of St. John the Apostle UMC of Arlington and Cogdell UMC of Waco. His first appointment in The UMC was as Associate Pastor and Director of Lay Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Round Rock.

Pastor Steve is married to Etta, a retired elementary school teacher. They have three sons,

Josh, Jon (and wife Linda), and Justin – and four grandchildren: Damon, Lillian, Scarlett, and Axel. Their 16-year-old grandson Damon lives with them.

Pastor Steve attended Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, where he earned a B.A. in New Testament Greek and Christian Theology. He earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth. He is the author of *Why the Bible Is So Hard to Understand...and Tips to Understanding It* (Xulon Press, 2015).

# Away <sup>WE</sup> Go

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Join your friends for an entertaining afternoon which includes lunch before a performance of *Sister Act* at Artisan Theater Center in Hurst. Bus leaves the church at 12:30 pm and returns at 5:30 pm. \$25 per person.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Join us for a trip to the Dallas Arboretum to see the fall color. Transportation and lunch included in the price of \$25 person. 10:00 am-3:00 pm, meet at the church.

Away We Go is a group of adults who meet quarterly for local day trips + lunch around the metroplex. Everyone is welcome- bring a friend and away we go!



## Why the Bible is So Hard to Understand... and Tips to Understanding It

Flip to page 15 for information on Pastor Steve's upcoming study for his book.

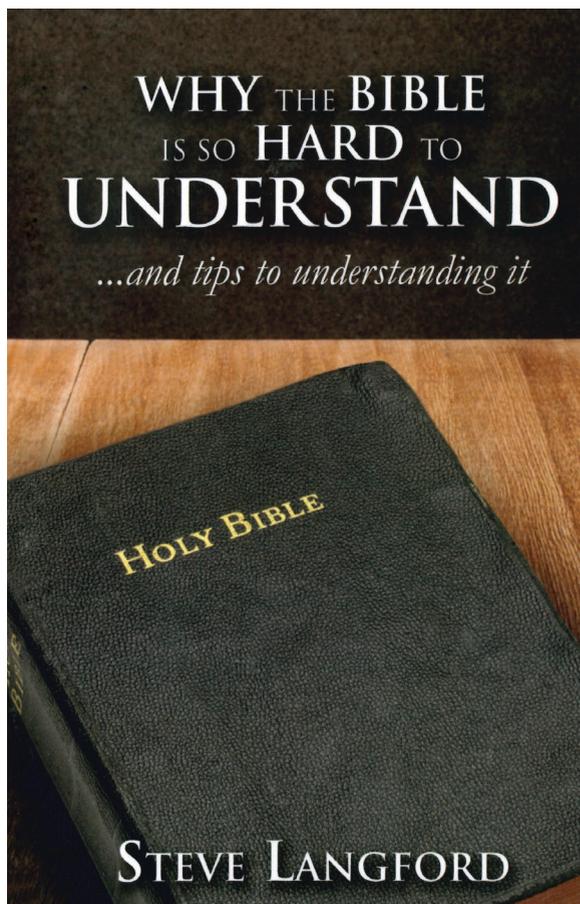
Pastor's Steve's book – entitled, *Why the Bible Is So Hard to Understand...and Tips to Understanding It*, (Xulon, 2015) – explores the challenges readers commonly encounter in reading the Bible. The book identifies the Near Eastern perspective from which the Bible is written, contrasting it with the radically different, scientifically trained perspective of today's readers. It offers a simple model for unwrapping the spiritual truth from its human “wrapper” plus guiding principles for doing so. The book is built around five key questions:

- Why is the Bible so hard to understand?
- How do I read the Bible so that it makes sense?
- Isn't there a simple way to understand the Bible?
- How do all the pieces fit together?
- How do I know what to believe?

The book comes with a warning: understanding spiritual truth has the power to transform how we think and live! The book includes discussion guides for use in small group studies.

### GRAB YOUR COPY!

Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$10.00. It is also available as an ebook at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [bn.com](http://bn.com).



*you are invited to*

# KICKOFF SUNDAY

*September 10*

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FUN  
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM CONTEST  
COBBLER CONTEST • HOT DOGS  
BURGERS • DUNKING BOOTH  
FOAM PARTY • FACE PAINTING  
TAILGATING GAMES • LIVE DJ



Meet and greet our  
new senior pastor,  
Dr. Steve Langford!

By: Rev. Kevin Wilson  
*Associate Pastor of Evangelism  
and Communications*

Looking ahead at the calendar, I see that school will soon be back in session and that means the fall season of church life is about to begin. In the fall, I enjoy cooler temperatures, leaves changing color, and fresh produce at the farmers' market. I love this season of church life...partially because football season is back, but most importantly, because it is a strategic time to launch into peak influence and attendance within the church.

Many churches consider the Sunday after Labor Day to be the kickoff time of the year, and coincidentally that is when the Dallas Cowboys season begins as well. It is a great time to begin anew. With a new school year comes a new routine. Choose to make church part of your routine.

Kickoff Sunday falls on September 10, 2017 this year. We will be having our regular worship services: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:15 am & 11:00 am; Wesleyan Worship in the Sanctuary, 9:30 am; La Jornada (en Español) in the Chapel, 9:30 am; and Revive (Contemporary Worship) in the Great Hall, 11:00 am. Sunday school classes and small groups for children, youth, and adults will be held at their regular times.

Following the worship services we will have a grand party to celebrate the connection we have

here at FUMCA. It will be a picnic, a family reunion, a Methopalooza, an extravaganza, and a joyous event all wrapped up into one from 10:45 am-1:00 pm.

You are invited to come. Invite a friend. Dress casually and enjoy the day. There will be hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings cooked on the grill. Feel free to bring your favorite snacks to share. The big tent will be set up in the parking lot, so there will be shade from the sun.

This year we are having a **homemade ice cream and cobbler contest**. Make your special ice cream or cobbler to share. Pack your ice cream ready to serve. Be creative. Judges will hand out blue ribbons for different categories just like the state fair.

There will be fun and games for all ages. **We invite classes and groups to have tailgating games** like cornhole, washer toss, hillbilly golf, horseshoes, ring toss, etc. There will be a dunking booth, a foam party for kids, and a live DJ to entertain us all.

During this time, you will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new friends. Building relationships is what the church is about. See you then!

If you or your Sunday school class would like to sign up for the homemade ice cream and cobbler contest, to host a tailgating party, or to donate snacks, **register online at [arlingtonmethodist.org/Volunteer](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Volunteer)**

# JOYOUS GENEROSITY

BY: DR. STEVE LANGFORD

*Senior Pastor*

One of our traditions is to spend extended time each fall talking about stewardship. That tradition speaks of stewardship holistically, as more than financial stewardship. Christian stewardship views everything – time, skills and abilities, knowledge and training, passions, opportunities, relationships, material wealth - as God's gift to us, given freely as an expression of God's goodness and grace. These gifts are for our benefit. Our annual stewardship tradition reminds us that these gifts are not just for our benefit. They are to be shared freely to make a difference in the life of another in Jesus' name.

Jesus, along with the biblical writers, taught these great stewardship themes. The topic of material possessions and wealth surfaces frequently in the biblical witness, often in the form of a warning. Jesus spoke of material possessions and wealth as a god that competes for our attention and focus. You cannot serve God and wealth, Matthew 6:24 NRSV. At the heart of our human condition is a what's-in-it-for-me spirit that is self-seeking and self-serving. That spirit impacts the way we view and relate to material wealth. It leads to scarcity thinking that accumulates and protects what we have while always seeking more. Scarcity thinking fosters a calculating spirit when it comes to giving, i.e., what can I afford to give? When we get trapped in this kind of thinking, we tie our sense of identity and our sense of security

to our bank account, our portfolio, where we live, what we drive, how we dress, where we travel. In other words, we seek from material things what only God can give. No wonder Jesus spoke of material things as a master that we serve.

Our annual stewardship focus becomes the basis for setting our ministry budget for the coming year. But the stewardship focus is not primarily about the financial needs of our church. It is a spiritual issue. It is to help us recognize and address this what's-in-it-for-me, self-seeking, self-serving spirit that is inherent to our human nature. It is to help us live out of the generosity of God rather than out of our scarcity thinking. It is to teach us to find life in giving rather than in getting, in sharing rather than possessing and spending. It is to teach us to live the ways of God, the ways of the Kingdom. Yes, we give out of our love for First Church and our desire to support its ministries. But more importantly, we give for our spiritual and emotional wellbeing. We give because we have freely received. We give because we were created in the likeness of God who gives freely and lavishly and are committed to growing in that likeness. We give because we are the followers of Jesus, committed to living the ways of the Kingdom. We give to teach ourselves to live out of a different spirit – a Christ-like spirit – a spirit of joyous generosity.

## **PLEDGE ONLINE**

For more information on pledging online, visit [arlingtonmethodist.org/Give](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Give) or contact Mary Lobban, *Business Administrator* at [mlobban@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:mlobban@arlingtonmethodist.org)

# DEBT REDUCTION UPDATE

BY: MARY LOBBAN  
*Business Administrator*

This year we will continue to focus on debt reduction. To date, we have received over \$65,000 towards debt retirement. In January of this year the principal balance was \$439,000 and today the principal balance is \$300,000. This reduction in principal has afforded us the opportunity to refinance and transfer the existing debt to the Texas Methodist Foundation at a much lower interest rate. This will reduce our interest payments by over \$35,000.

We currently pay close to \$175,000 annually towards the debt. If we can raise, and apply, an additional \$65,000 to principal by December 31, 2018, we will be able to pay off the loan completely by that date. We can then begin Calendar Year 2019 debt free, having freed up nearly \$175,000 annually to be used for programming, ministry, missions, and capital improvements. Donations can be made at any time to help with this effort. Every gift matters. Each contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference and brings us closer to being debt free.

The finance committee would like to recognize the efforts of Kim Shelton who has been instrumental in continuing the work towards eliminating the debt. If we pay off the principal balance by the end of next year, Kim's dedication will have taken 2½ years off the term of the loan and saved the church over \$60,000 in interest payments.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP US REACH THIS GOAL:**

Contact Mary Lobban, *Business Administrator* at [mlobban@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:mlobban@arlingtonmethodist.org) for more information on contributing to the Debt Reduction plan.

**\$300,000**  
**PRINCIPAL BALANCE**

Down from \$439,000  
in January 2017

**\$60,000+**  
**SAVED IN INTEREST  
PAYMENTS**

Plus 2.5 years taken  
off of the term of  
the loan

**\$175,000**  
**PAID ANNUALLY  
TOWARDS DEBT**

After paying off the loan,  
we will be able to use this  
towards ministry,  
missions, etc.

**2019**  
**DEBT FREE!**

If we can raise an  
additional \$65,000 by  
December 31, 2018

# REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR SEASONAL SINGERS & YOUTH

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, 9/16**

10 am-12 pm | *Choir Room*

Christmas Choir

Kickoff Rehearsal

12-1:30 pm | *Great Hall*

Lunch (\$6) - New members, college students, and youth eat for free!

## OCTOBER

**Saturday, 10/14**

10 am-12 pm | *Choir Room*

Rehearsal

## NOVEMBER

**Saturday, 11/4**

10 am-12 pm | *Choir Room*

Rehearsal

**Wednesday, 11/8**

7:45-9:00 pm | *Choir Room*

Rehearsal

**Wednesday, 11/15**

7:30-9:00 pm | *Choir Room*

Rehearsal

**Tuesday, 11/21**

7:00-8:30 pm | *Choir Room*

Rehearsal

**Wednesday, 11/29**

7:00-9:00 pm | *Sanctuary*

Rehearsal

## DECEMBER

**Saturday, 12/2**

10 am-12 pm | *Sanctuary*

Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal

**Sunday, 12/3**

8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 services

*Sanctuary*

Music of John Rutter

in Worship

CHANCEL CHOIR SINGS

# the Music of John Rutter FOR CHRISTMAS

BY: SEAN HALE

*Director of Music & Worship*

Over the past two years, our Chancel Choir and Orchestra have tackled masterworks of music—Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Through the process of rehearsing and presenting our music in worship, we have delved deeper into our own faith by connecting with a strong history of music that has lasted throughout generations.

This year, the choir will be singing the music of John Rutter for our Christmas celebration. Rutter is an active composer from England and has written some of the most significant pieces in choral music of our time. His Christmas music has always spoken to hearts and minds of singers and listeners alike. Our kickoff rehearsal is Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, in the Choir Room. To the side, you will see a rehearsal schedule of eight rehearsals for anyone who would like to sing these great pieces by Rutter, but cannot commit to Chancel Choir year-round. Please spread the word. We would love to have you join us!

### SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Christmas choir presentation will be on  
**Sunday, December 3** in all Sanctuary services.

# JOIN THE MUSIC!

BY: SEAN HALE

Director of Music & Worship

As you well know, music plays a central role in worship as it touches our hearts and our minds. Whether you are a participant in the singing of congregational song or listening to a musical ensemble, music has the power to speak to your soul. As the Director of Music and Worship at FUMCA, I take the role of music in worship very seriously. We do our best to provide a wide variety of music in our church that can touch the lives and hearts of all people so that they can further their relationship with Christ.

If you want to take that a step further, FUMCA offers many different ensembles and ways to actively participate in choirs, orchestras or bands for all ages. I always tell the adult choir that

rehearsal is worship, too. Every aspect of what we do in preparation is an act of worship and that should be our guiding light as we begin learning a new piece of music. Below you will find a quote from the English composer, John Rutter, that sums up what it means to participate in a musical ensemble.

**“And I always say that a church or a school without a choir is like a body without a soul. We have to have a soul in our lives. And everybody tells me, who has sung in a choir, that they feel better for doing it. That whatever the cares of the day, if they maybe meet after a long day’s school or work, that somehow you leave your troubles at the door. And when you’re sitting there,**

**making music for a couple hours at the end of the day, that’s the only thing that matters at that moment. And you walk away refreshed. You walk away renewed. And that’s a value that goes just beyond the music itself.”**

-John Rutter

(in a video interview with JW Pepper)

God has given us music as a powerful tool all on its own. When we combine the powerful tool of music with the intent of worship, our lives and our hearts will change. That is the invitation that we have for you to participate with us!



## YOUTH & CHANCEL ORCHESTRA

**O**ne of the incredible groups that we have at FUMC of Arlington is our Youth Orchestra program. Not many churches have a program like this, and we are fortunate to offer it with the expertise of Arthur Busby. This group’s first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 13th, 5:50-6:50 pm in the Sanctuary.

The youth orchestra is open to all junior and senior high students who play a string,

woodwind, or brass instrument. The orchestra plays once a month in the 8:15 am and 11:00 am Sanctuary services, Ash Wednesday, as well as playing at an off-site location (usually a nursing/retirement facility). Senior high students are also invited to play with the Chancel Orchestra (comprised of adults) for our major works and annual presentation (Music of John Rutter for Christmas 2017).

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).

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra performing Vivaldi’s *Gloria* in December of 2016.



# Fall Children's News:

BY: RACHEL PATMAN  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

## KINDERGARTEN PRAYER BUDDIES

Each child who is entering Kindergarten can sign up to get a Prayer Buddy for the school year. Prayer Buddies commit to pray for children and send them notes and small gifts over the course of the school year. Please let Rachel know if your child would like a prayer buddy, or if you would like to be a prayer buddy for one of our kindergarten children. All correspondence between the Prayer Buddy and the child is sent through the church office, so it's easy to participate!

## DIVE INTO THE SCRIPTURE

There are several activities and events this Fall to help children get more acquainted with the Bible:

**September 17– October 15:** How to Use My Bible Sunday school class for children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**September 15-16:** Bible Discovery Camp at Glen Lake Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; Register online at [glenlakecamp.com/upcoming-retreats](http://glenlakecamp.com/upcoming-retreats). Cost is \$45.

## ACOLYTES/VERGERS KICK-OFF PARTY:

All children entering grades 4-6 are invited to serve by lighting the candles and carrying in the cross for worship. We will have a kick-off party and training for new and existing acolytes & vergers on Sunday, August 27 from 12:00-2:00 pm. Pizza will be provided!

## SPECIAL THANKS

The children and their families would like to offer our love and thanks for the Sunday school classes and individuals who donated to our Children's Bible project. We received enough donations that all the children's classes will have new Bibles to use in Sunday school this Fall. Thank you all for sharing the most precious gift of scripture with our children!

## Summer Camp Fun!

We had so much fun learning, playing, creating, singing, and more during our many summer camps! For more pictures, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/FUMCARlington](https://facebook.com/FUMCARlington)

# Judge Julie Truly

& The case of the Holey Roof!

## AND OTHER CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

BY: JANIE JOHNSON

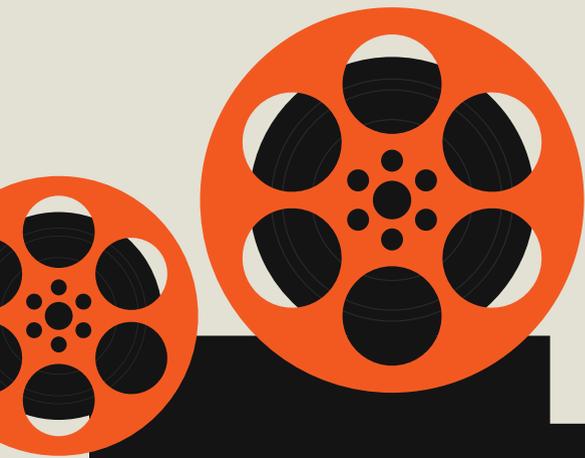
*Director of Children's Music*

As the memories of the summer musical, *Judge Julie Truly & The Case of the Holey Roof!* linger, I am reminded of how blessed our church is to have one of the best Children's Music Ministries that I have ever been a part of! Our Children's Choirs are getting ready for another great choir year. FUMCA has two Children's Choirs: K-3 is the Good News Children's Choir and 4-6 is the Agape Choir. In the fall, the choirs sing in the Sunday services for special times, such as Thanksgiving Sunday and Christmas Eve. The choirs 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 strive to plan a field trip to Theatre Arlington, or another special place.



Another opportunity for children that we provide 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 of the musical arts, and the children have had a lot of fun acting out the stories!

**Please come and join us Sunday, September 10, as we kick off a brand new year in the Children's Music Ministry at FUMCA! Choirs meet at 10:25-10:55 am every Sunday morning.**



# Join the

# TELEVISION MINISTRY!

BY: TIKA COOK

*Media Productions Director*

For more than two decades, our Television Ministry has broadcasted both the 8:15 and 11:00 am Worship Service, as well as, more recently, our Revive contemporary service. Services are currently available online. DVD copies are available upon request.

Over the years, so many wonderful individuals have lent their time and talents to this amazing outreach ministry. Now, it can be your turn to join in!

Formal training or a background in broadcasting is not required. We would rather you have the desire to serve the Lord! All training will be provided. We alternate between

recording the 8:15 and 11:00 am Sanctuary service, depending on the time of year. Time commitment is around an hour each week.

Volunteering doesn't stop there! Want to do more for the ministry? You can! Another way to serve is by joining our FUMCA Photo Team. We are building a team of people who are interested in using their gifts and talents to serve our community by taking pictures of events around our church. Children and youth photographers are welcome as well!

If you are interested in volunteering in the Television Ministry or on the Photo Team, send Tika Cook an email at [mcook@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:mcook@arlingtonmethodist.org) or call the church office at 817-274-2571.

## **MISS A SERVICE?** Catch up online!

Services are posted each week on our Facebook page as well as the church website. All of our past recorded sermons are on Vimeo.

[facebook.com/FUMCArlington](https://facebook.com/FUMCArlington) • [arlingtonmethodist.org/Sermons](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Sermons) • [vimeo.com/FUMCofArlington](https://vimeo.com/FUMCofArlington)

# Fall Studies

BY: REV. KAY LANCASTER  
*Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation*

Our Kickoff Sunday launches us into the fall season here at First United Methodist Church of Arlington. We have several new studies that are beginning around this same time.

## FALL STUDIES

### **Disciple Bible Study III: Remember Who You Are**

*Sundays, September 10-May 20*

*3:30-5:00 pm | Disciple Learning Center*

This study is led by Larry Thomas each Sunday afternoon from September 10-May 20 from 3:30-5:00 pm. The first semester will cover The Prophets and the semester after Christmas will cover the Letters of Paul. Registration is online. Materials will be available at the first session.

### **Why the Bible is so Hard to Understand**

*Tuesdays, September 12-October 31*

*1:30-2:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm | Room 151*

In this 8 week study, Pastor Steve explores the challenges readers commonly encounter in reading the Bible.

### **Immersion Bible Study--Deuteronomy**

*Wednesdays, September 13-October 25*

*10:00-11:00 am or 6:30-7:30 pm | Room 151*

Join Rev. Kay Lancaster each Wednesday either at 10:00 am or 6:30 pm for a six week study on Deuteronomy. Sessions will be Sept 13, 20, 27 and Oct 11, 18, 25. No registration necessary.

### **Men's Breakfast**

*Wednesdays*

*6:00-8:00 am | Room 154*

Come share a light breakfast with us as we share in an early morning Bible study. All men of the church are welcome.

### **Men@First**

*First Saturday of every month*

*8:30-9:30 am | Division St. Diner*

Join men from First United Methodist Church 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, 1800 W Division St, Arlington, TX 76012

## SMALL GROUP COMMUNITIES

Small Group Communities have been established within our congregation and are growing in order for us to support each other on our spiritual journeys. Participation in one of these communities helps members develop relationships within the community and church as well as with Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit. Communities meet in homes once a week. Participants pray together and share their experiences of faith through daily devotions or other faith-based reading. For more information please contact Rev. Kay Lancaster in the church office, 817-274-2571, or online at [klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org)



## LEARN MORE ONLINE

For more information on upcoming studies, or to view a list of active Small Group Communities and their times and locations, visit [arlingtonmethodist.org](http://arlingtonmethodist.org) or contact Rev. Kay Lancaster for more information.



# UNIVERSITY CARE PACKAGES

BY: BRITTANY WRIGHT

*Assistant Director of Youth Ministries*

Every semester members of our church send 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. Please email or call Brittany Wright in the church office with their information no later than October 1 so that your college student can be included in the mailing for the fall finals. 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.

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.



## Upcoming Youth Events:

BY: MICHELLE FREEMAN  
*Director of Youth Ministries*

Summer was great hanging together and talking about what it's like to follow Jesus. This fall, we have lots of fun and exciting things going on as we take a look at prayer, community, and what discipleship looks like.

Each Sunday morning, from 9:30-10:30 am, we will continue to explore the Bible and the books of first and second Peter. Being a part of Testament Choir is always a lot of fun-rehearsal is each Sunday from 4:00-5:15 pm, followed by Youth in the Underground, from 5:15-7:30 pm.

### Below are some special events coming this fall:

**SUN, SEPTEMBER 3:** Small groups kickoff and a trip to the Levitt after youth for a picnic and to enjoy the music together.

**SUN, SEPTEMBER 10:** Church-wide Kickoff Sunday. The youth will be participating with a dunking booth and an entry in the cobbler contest. No Testament Choir rehearsal or youth.

**SAT, SEPTEMBER 23:** Saturday is One Day, Fun Day at Glenlake Camp (Unite). From 8:30 am-5:00 pm we will join other churches from around our conference for a one day event filled with leadership skill-building activities, lunch, and worship. Cost \$15, register online.

**SUN, OCTOBER 8:** A street party after youth. Games, games, games, and an ice cream truck!

**SUN, OCTOBER 29:** Costume Dance. We will participate in a youth costume dance along with other churches from the conference. Lots of food, games, door prizes, and dancing. \$5 at the door.

**SUN, DECEMBER 3:** We will be going Christmas shopping for homeless teens.

**FRI, DECEMBER 29:** A lock-in is in the works, watch for more details.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: CORNERSTONE

## Who is your class geared towards?

The Cornerstone class is geared towards those in their 30s and 40s with or without children. However, all are welcome in the class.

## How many people are in your class?

There are 24 people who regularly attend the class. Average attendance on Sunday is 10-12.

## When and where does your class meet?

The class meets upstairs in room 266 at 9:30 am in the morning.

## How long has your class been meeting?

We have been meeting under the name of Cornerstone for about six years. The class was previously called New Horizons and met for three or four years before changing the name to Cornerstone.

## Are there ways your class gets involved with the One Mile Mission?

One of our favorite projects is to provide Easter baskets for Mission Arlington. Members of the class put together about 75 baskets full of eggs, toys, treats, and other goodies for the huge Mission Arlington Easter Egg Hunt. We also adopt a family at Thanksgiving and Christmas providing them with a meal and gifts.

Another tradition is to host the hot dog stand at Trunk or Treat. Typically we provide about 1,000 hot dogs for all attending Trunk or Treat.

## Tell us something interesting your class has done recently:

A fairly new class tradition is to attend Light Up Arlington together. We find a spot to sit together, eat, socialize, and let the kids play. It's always a fun and relaxing evening for all families.

## The greatest strength of your class is:

Due to the age of our children and stage of life, our schedules tend to be crazy! However, as a class, we do a wonderful job of supporting each other. We celebrate the highs with each other and support each other when the hard times arise. That may be through meals, assisting each other with childcare, lawn care, hospital visits, or anything else that needs to be done.

## Describe your class in three words:

Busy, Supportive, and Involved



Is there something special about your Sunday school class that you would like to share? Whether it's One Mile Mission involvement, mission trips, or fun class excursions, we'd like to hear about it! To nominate your class for a Sunday School Spotlight, email Mary Gibson at [mgibson@arlingtonmethodist.org](mailto:mgibson@arlingtonmethodist.org)



Baptism: Alessandra  
Sherrie Hooston



Baptism:  
Kate Ryan Hughes



Howard Gudgell



Jim & Sharon Cornell

Not pictured: Etta Langford

# FALL EVENTS

## YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS

SEPTEMBER 3 | 5:15-7:30 PM | UNDERGROUND

Youth small groups happen every Sunday, starting September 3, beginning with dinner at 5:15 pm. We will have large group time, followed by small groups, separated out by grade. Afterward, games are played in the Great Hall until 7:30 pm. This is a great time to strengthen relationships and make new friends.

## YOUTH GO TO LEVITT PAVILION

SEPTEMBER 3 | 7:30-10:00 PM | LEVITT PAVILION

The youth will be walking over to the Levitt Pavilion after we finish with Small Groups to see The Hillbenders present Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry. Bring a blanket or chairs and a snack or money for food trucks.

## LINE DANCING - BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE

SEPTEMBER 7 | 1:30-3:00 PM | HAGLER HALL

Invite a friend and learn simple line dance steps, then stay for the second hour to work on intermediate dance steps. No fee, but donations are given to Arlington Urban Ministries. Through November 9.

## AWAY WE GO

SEPTEMBER 9 | 12:30-5:30 PM

Join your friends for an entertaining afternoon. Lunch before a performance of "Sister Act" at Artisan Theater Center in Hurst. Bus leaves the church at 12:30 and returns at 5:30. \$25/person. Sign up in the church office.

## KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10 | 12:15-1:15 PM | BANQUET ROOM

Fun, food, and fellowship for all ages, after worship! Register online at [arlingtonmethodist.org/Volunteer](http://arlingtonmethodist.org/Volunteer) if you or your Sunday school class would like to host a tailgating game, donate snacks, or take part in the homemade cobbler/ice cream contest.

## DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

SEPTEMBER 10 | 3:30-5:00 PM | DLC

This study is led by Larry Thomas each Sunday afternoon from September 10-May 20 from 3:30-5:00. The first semester will cover The Prophets and the semester after Christmas will cover the Letters of Paul. Registration is online. Materials will be available at the first session.

## WHY THE BIBLE IS SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND

SEPTEMBER 12 | 1:30-2:30 PM OR 6:30-7:30 PM | ROOM 151

In this 8 week study, Pastor Steve explores the challenges readers commonly encounter in reading the Bible.



### **IMMERSION BIBLE STUDY: DEUTERONOMY**

SEPTEMBER 13 | 10-11 AM OR 6:30-7:30 PM | RM. 151  
Join Rev. Kay Lancaster each Wednesday either at 10:00 or 6:30 for a six week study on Deuteronomy. Classes will be September 13, 20, & 27 and Oct 11, 18 & 25. Study books are available in the church office for \$10. No registration necessary.

### **YOUTH ORCHESTRA KICKOFF REHEARSAL**

SEPTEMBER 13 | 5:50-6:50 PM | SANCTUARY  
The Youth Orchestra will hold the first rehearsal of the year and all youth grades 7-12 who play a string, woodwind, or brass instrument are invited to join us. We play once a month during the school year for the 8:15 and 11:00 services.

### **CHRISTMAS CHOIR KICKOFF REHEARSAL**

SEPTEMBER 16 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | CHOIR ROOM  
The Chancel Choir will be presenting the music of John Rutter as our musical presentation for Christmas. We invite you to join us for our kickoff rehearsal with a lunch to follow in the Great Hall-free for new members, youth, and college students. There is an 8 rehearsal schedule for anyone that would like to participate in this, but cannot commit to regularly sing with the chancel choir.

### **FLU SHOTS**

SEPTEMBER 17 & OCTOBER 15 | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Flu shots and other vaccines offered by Kroger pharmacies. Bring your insurance card.

### **LIFE SHELTER EDUCATION DAY**

SEPTEMBER 17 | 9:30-10:30 AM | BANQUET ROOM  
Individuals and groups are invited to come hear presentation on the Life Shelter expansion.

### **ONE DAY FUN DAY AT GLEN LAKE CAMP**

SEPTEMBER 23 | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
The youth will be going to a Day at Glen Lake including activities such as: All these activities are included: Youth Group Team Building, Water Activities at the Lake and Pool, Worship, Other Free-Time elements including basketball, gaga ball, and much more. Lunch is included. Register online at [arlingtonmethodist.org](http://arlingtonmethodist.org)

### **THR FLU CLINIC**

SEPTEMBER 24 | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | ROOM 109  
THR will offer free flu shots to children, parents, teachers.

### **BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION**

OCTOBER 1 | 4:00-5:00 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. Choir singing: FUMC Chancel Choir, UTA A Cappella Choir, and more!

### **ASJ-PROGRAM ON MATERNAL HEALTH**

OCTOBER 22 | 9:30-10:30 AM | BANQUET ROOM  
Presentation on Maternal Health - issues and needs in our community - sponsored by ASJ -All Are Welcome!

### **TRUNK OR TREAT**

OCTOBER 28 | 3:00-5:00 PM | PARKING LOT  
Join us as we host Trunk or Treat for the children of our church and community. There will be candy, food, and fun activities.

### **AWAY WE GO**

NOVEMBER 9 | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Join us for a trip to the Dallas Arboretum to see the fall color. Transportation and lunch included in the price of \$25 / person. Sign up in the church office

### **A LOOK AHEAD**

NOVEMBER 10 | 8:30 AM-2:30 PM | FUMCA  
A Look Ahead is a quarterly mini-conference series for families and individuals living with disability, the people who support them and the community at large. Register online at [alookaheadseries.com](http://alookaheadseries.com)

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





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arlingtonmethodist.org

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*you are invited to*

# KICKOFF SUNDAY

*September 10  
10:45 am-1:00 pm*