

faith | WINTER 2018

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON

ADVENT — & — Beyond

LOVING WEBB
PARTNERHSIP

THE YEAR
IN PHOTOS

CHRISTMAS
MUSIC & EVENTS

TASK FORCE
UPDATE

STAFF

Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Langford

Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Kay Lancaster

Associate Pastor of Evangelism

Rev. Ramiro Rodriguez Jr.

Associate Pastor

Dr. Eugene B. Robertson

Director of Caring Ministries

Rev. Tolli 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 School-Based Mentoring

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



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



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



Watch Latest Sermons Online

Sermons are currently being posted on our Facebook page. Past sermons can be found on Vimeo at:

Traditional

arlingtonmethodist.org/Traditional

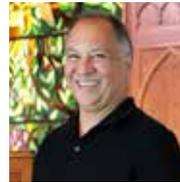
Contemporary

arlingtonmethodist.org/Contemporary

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Susan Bishara
Director of Children
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Not Pictured: Tim Van Orden



The YEAR IN PHOTOS



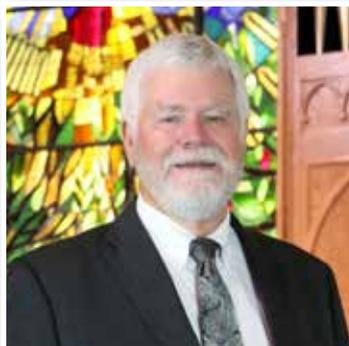
LOVING WEBB

A WEBB ELEMENTARY/FUMCA PARTNERSHIP

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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:



BY: REV. STEVE LANGFORD
Senior Pastor

Hope – what a life-giving, joy-filled word! It is a strong biblical word. Hope is the quiet confidence regarding what lies ahead. It is rooted in God's faithful love. It expresses the faith that God is at work regardless of the circumstances. It rests in the assurance that God will always have the last word. Hope is living in anticipation of life when God...

The season of Advent begins with hope. Hope is the first of the four themes (and gifts!) of the Advent season: hope, peace, joy, love. The Advent season teaches us to live as a people of hope – waiting in the "not yet", anticipating what will be. Hope is the forward look of faith. As a people of hope, we learn to live out of inner peace in the midst of "what is" as we look forward to a time of peace that is more than the absence of war. The biblical image of peace is one of abundance that all enjoy. Such peace and abundance are possible because the ways of God (what the Bible calls the Kingdom) have become the pattern of our lives. Peace coupled with God's abundance gives birth to joy. The season of Advent reminds us that joy is the mark of the people of God and of the followers of Jesus. Hope, peace, and joy are what free us to love as Jesus loved.

The Advent season ushers us into the celebration of Christ's birth and Christmas. Once again, we will contemplate the mystery of the incarnation – God robed in human flesh. Immanuel, God with us! And

God for us! God not only came in Jesus to share this life with us; God came to share God's life with us (what the gospel of John calls eternal life – the life of eternity). God became like us that we might become like him. Talk about hope, peace, joy, and love!

Hope will be the underlying tone of the New Year. We'll follow the gospel of Luke (2019's lectionary gospel) as we explore in worship the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed, taught, and lived. In addition, I will lead a six-week study entitled "Life in the Kingdom". This study will explore the four central characteristics of the Kingdom of God as reflected in the gospel of Luke. Our Lenten journey to Jerusalem will walk through some of the stories that are unique to Luke's gospel. Luke's account of the resurrection will be central in our celebration of Easter and the resurrection!

While we celebrate these great themes in worship, the Lay Leadership team and the Church Council will be leading us in exciting new ventures as we live out of our purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These two teams will lead us in prioritizing and pursuing the many recommendations of the various task forces that have been at work. God is at work, leading us beyond business as usual into the future God desires for us.

Hope gives us courage and strength to live in the midst of what is, knowing that God is at work creating a new thing. But hope also calls us to move beyond what is ... to embrace the new that God is doing ... to be a part of what God is doing ... to live into the hope-birthing vision of what will be. Have you sensed the spirit of hope that is flowing in our midst?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

PASTOR STEVE'S BLOG

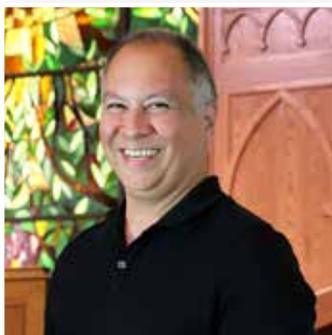
Read Pastor Steve's blog online
at stevelangford.blogspot.com

WE ARE DEBT-FREE!

First United Methodist Church of Arlington is officially debt-free! To celebrate, we will be having a service of dedication on Sunday, December 16 in the 11:00 am Sanctuary service. Join us for this special day!

ADVENT PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

BY: REV. RAMIRO RODRIGUEZ
Associate Pastor



This might be somewhat of a surprise for those of you who envision the Great Lakes region being one huge, desolate snowscape during winter, but in the thirty-seven years I lived in Northern Illinois, Christmas was

usually snow-free. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, hope would build and build that Christmas morning would be a glistening winter wonderland, but more times than not, our dreams for a white Christmas would not be realized. But when there was snow on Christmas, well, those times were extra special.

I've been thinking a lot about home recently. I think that many of us think about home and past Christmases as Christmas approaches. Many of us have wonderful Christmas memories filled with images of love and warmth. Some of our most special memories are centered on firsts.

I remember the first Christmas I spent with my wife's family, the first Christmas Lisa and I were parents, the first Christmas we celebrated here in Texas, the first Christmas I served as a pastor. These firsts are all meaningful and my family and I feel excited and blessed as we prepare to celebrate our first Christmas with the good people of FUMCA.

We are excited to partake in the traditions of this church. We are excited to honor the past of this

church while simultaneously opening ourselves up to a hope-filled future.

Advent is an interesting time. It is a time when we prepare ourselves to celebrate an event which happened 2000 years ago. Advent is a time when the past, present, and future collide. We prepare ourselves to remember how the Light came into the world, shattering the darkness, while we look ahead to a time when the light of Christ shines throughout all of creation.

My prayer this Advent is for all of us to joyfully remember and celebrate the history and tradition of this church. Our traditions connect us to our past and allow our memories to, somehow, live with us in the present. Our traditions remind us of who we are and where we came from.

I also pray that we use this Advent as a time to open ourselves up to the love of Christ which is with us right now. As we read in the first chapter of John's Gospel: The light shines in the darkness. It is present tense. The light shines now and always. I pray we all discover this truth more and more this Advent. And finally, I pray that we use this Advent as a time to prepare ourselves for the exciting future God is inviting us into.

I am thankful and blessed to serve this church. I am thankful and blessed to call this church home, and I am confident that this Advent will lead to an extra special Christmas.

Peace and Blessings,
Ramiro

THE TASK AT HAND

BY: CURTIS LINSOTT
Church Member

Many in our congregation have been hearing about or participating in a number of task forces. This note is intended to give everyone an opportunity to understand the focus of these task forces and provide a brief update on their progress.

By way of background, the leadership of any church, both staff and lay leadership, is tasked with addressing the long-term sustainability of the church. Continuing with the status quo without giving reasonable consideration for the long-term future is not the right approach for any organization, even when an organization is having great success.

ESTABLISHING TASK FORCES

It was in the vein of examining the long-term future of our church that the task forces were established. Task Forces were created and asked to brainstorm about specific topics relating to how our church serves our members, our guests and our community and to think about what our church may want to consider adding to its repertoire as it looks to the future. In establishing the task forces, many members were asked to participate, often times in specific areas that were of particular importance to the member. This approach led to an overwhelming response from our members who wished to serve on the task forces and help think about the future of

our church. Separate Task Forces were established for each of the following areas:

- Children
- Communications
- College
- Downtown
- Historical
- Hospitality/
Connecting
- Environmental
- Missions
- Nursery
- Worship
- Youth

After completing their brainstorming sessions, each task force is presenting their ideas regarding their specific task force area to the church council as recommendations. When the Church Council gives task force recommendations the thumbs up, the recommendations are to be assigned to the appropriate committee and their respective staff liaisons for implementation. At that time, the task force would have completed its role and would stop meeting as a task force. However, it is quite likely that our committees will enlist many of the task force members to help implement recommendations.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

There is not enough room here to outline all of the

STAY CONNECTED

Church council meetings are open to all members. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

specific ideas our task forces have presented to date. In general, there are numerous recommendations related to each of the following:

- Bringing more children into the nursery and children's areas;
- Having a more active presence in Arlington's downtown community;
- Growing our ministries with UTA students;
- Providing more informative communications to both members and our community in a variety of ways, especially through social media;
- Being more intentional with our hospitality to visitors;
- Generating revenue from valuable space we have in our church that typically remains vacant throughout the week.

The recommendations listed above represent a small sample of what some of our task forces have presented to the Church Council to date. There are a number of task forces still working hard to finalize even more recommendations.

IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

With so many excellent recommendations being brought to the church council, prioritization and scheduling will likely be challenging. Once all the task force recommendations are presented, Lay Leaders will work with the Church Council to help prioritize the recommendations that require funding or require input from multiple committees. In the meantime, accepted recommendations that have little to no cost component and don't require the input of multiple committees will be prioritized and implemented directly by the committee receiving the assignment. Some of the things you may have already seen or heard about include the re-establishment of both the nursery council and the communications ministry team (formerly the communications committee), the establishment of a college ministry team and the establishment of a building use team to explore revenue opportunities for our church facilities. These teams are already hard at work implementing recommendations. The Church Council hopes to have all task force

recommendation reports by year-end and will continue to update the congregation as things progress.

One of the true blessings to come out of the task force processes has been the opportunity for church leadership to witness the passion of the members of our church as they have been called to serve on our task forces and our committees. The extent of the involvement by our members has been a refreshing reminder of why our church is special. The time and effort all of our volunteer members have put into developing task force recommendations and the effort our committees are starting to put into implementing them, on top of all the other volunteer work so many of our members already do for our church, has been truly inspiring to leadership. The enthusiasm with which the task forces have presented their ideas and the excitement the task forces demonstrate to see their ideas being accepted has been further evidence of the widespread love our members have for our church and their heartfelt desire to help our church position itself for a bright future.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The task force brainstorming and recommendation process is intended to help strengthen the bridge to our church's future. For the process to be successful, thoughtful planning, communication and execution will be required, along with open and constructive dialogue between all who are involved or impacted. Given the passion and love for our church that our members continue to demonstrate day in and day out, our congregation can take some comfort in the fact that so many people are energized to continue strengthening the bridges to our church's future for the benefit of generations to come.

Please pray that the implementation of the task force recommendations will serve the purpose for which they are intended: helping our church remain strong so we can continue to lovingly disciple to one another, our guests and our community long into the future.

The Good Samaritan

BY: TIM VAN ORDEN
ASJ Member

In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. It's a Sunday School lesson we're all probably pretty familiar with: that while the holy men refrained from helping the man in need, the hated enemy took pity on a stranger and spared no expense in delivering aid.

I often feel drawn to the fact that in context, the Samaritans were so hated by the Jews of Jerusalem, and find myself wondering, if Jesus were telling us this parable today, who would he use instead of a Samaritan to demonstrate neighborly love? Would the parable instead be about The Good Republican? The Good Democrat? Perhaps The Good Immigrant or The Good NRA Member? Dare I say, maybe even The Good Muslim?

Over the years, I've heard preachers try to explain why the holy men felt justified in not rendering aid. But I've never heard anyone explain it better than Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. So I'd like to share a few of his words here, originally delivered the day before he was assassinated:

"Now, you know, we use our imagination a great deal to try to determine why the priest and the Levite didn't stop. At times we say they were busy going to a church meeting, an ecclesiastical gathering, and they had to get on down to Jerusalem so they wouldn't be late for their meeting. At other times we would speculate that there was a religious law that

one who was engaged in religious ceremonies was not to touch a human body twenty-four hours before the ceremony. And every now and then we begin to wonder whether maybe they were not going down to Jerusalem, or down to Jericho, rather, to organize a Jericho Road Improvement Association. That's a possibility. Maybe they felt it was better to deal with the problem from the causal root, rather than to get bogged down with an individual effect.

"But I'm going to tell you what my imagination tells me. It's possible that those men were afraid. You see, the Jericho Road is a dangerous road. I remember when Mrs. King and I were first in Jerusalem...as soon as we got on that road I said to my wife, 'I can see why Jesus used this as the setting for his parable.' It's a winding, meandering road. It's really conducive for ambushing...In the days of Jesus it came to be known as the 'Bloody Pass.' And you know, it's possible that the priest and the Levite looked over that man on the ground and wondered if the robbers were still around. Or it's possible that they felt that the man on the ground was merely faking, and he was acting like he had been robbed and hurt in order to seize them over there, lure them there for quick and easy seizure. And so the first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?'

"But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

As we enter into the Advent season, anticipating the birth of one who would soon find Himself fleeing political persecution with His family and seeking asylum in the shelter of a powerful nation, I am forced to ask myself: “what am I afraid of?” What is it that, despite Christ’s assurances in John 14:27, I am afraid is going to happen to me?

Perhaps it’s not fear that keeps me in check, but apathy. There’s a saying that often gets attributed to the Irish statesman Edmund Burke, and paraphrased heavily on the internet, that all it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing. What would it truly look like for me to ask myself “if I do not help, what will happen?” Am I doing enough? Am I relying on the system to take care of people in need? Am I truly loving my neighbor? Fortunately, a man who understands Christ’s heart far better than I has this to say:

“The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.”
-C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

If you feel called to learn about the struggles your neighbors are facing, and how we can stop and act, the Advocates for Social Justice group meets to examine exactly this question. We recently hosted an educational series about immigration that many who attended found informative. We’ve been asked if we plan on hosting this series again in the future and in a way that could potentially accommodate a wider audience. To that end, we have tentatively planned a repeat of the series in the spring of 2019, scheduled for evening times to accommodate more guests.

We sincerely hope you will join us.

If you want to join our meetings, where we pursue a lot more than just immigration, we meet on the second Sunday of every month, at 12:15 pm in Room 151.

LEARN MORE ONLINE

Visit the Advocates for Social Justice page on our website at arlingtonmethodist.org/ASJ

GROWING

in Joyous Generosity

If you weren't able to be with us on November 18, pledges can be turned in to the church office or made online at arlingtonmethodist.org/Give

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

BY: MARY LOBBAN

Business and Finance Administrator

On the first Sunday of every month, during Communion, we take up a special offering for a designated charity, in addition to other offerings throughout the year. Below are the offerings we received for each special offering during 2018. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

2018 SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Arlington Life Shelter (2/4)	\$275
Ash Wednesday (2/14)	\$1,290 <i>(AUM \$480, Life Shelter \$165, UTA Wesley \$645)</i>
One Great Hour of Sharing (3/4)	\$2,200
Providence Place (4/8)	\$352
Wesleyan Homes (5/6)	\$575
Helping Hands/FUMCA (6/3)	\$224
Lydia Patterson (7/4)	\$89
Arlington Charities (8/5)	\$394
Music Fund Concert (8/12)	\$657
Back to Grace (AUM, UTA Wesley)	\$2,260
JFON (9/3)	\$164
AISD Families in Transition (10/2)	\$1,800
World Communion Sunday (10/7)	\$98
FUMC Helping Hands (11/4)	\$473

TOTAL TO UMCOR IN 2018: \$3,951

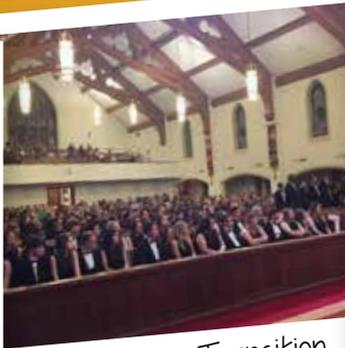
TOTAL TO DEBT REDUCTION IN 2018 \$94,750



The YEAR IN PHOTOS



School Holiday Camp



Families in Transition Benefit Concert



Children's Choir



"Land of the Lost & Found" Children's Musical



Book Carnival



Disciple Now



Bible Journaling



Back to Grace



Trunk or Treat

10 • Winter 2018



Youth Spaghetti Dinner



140th Anniversary Celebration



Vacation Bible School



Egg Hunt



Away We Go Excursion



140th Anniversary Celebration



Book Carnival



Tremendous Thursdays



Youth Spaghetti Dinner



Women's Retreat



Youth Costume Dance



Special Needs VBS



Confirmation Class 2018



Egg Hunt



Vacation Bible School



Bible Camp



Victoria, TX Mission Trip



Bible School
arlingtonmethodist.org



Trunk or Treat



Back to Grace



Senior Class of 2018

CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY: SUSAN BISHARA

Director of Children and Family Ministries

SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES:

UPCOMING DATES: 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 4/7

Kids 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! Led by Michelle Clark.

Children's Chimes: 4:00-5:00 pm. Children will learn the basics of beginner's chimes. Led by Janie Johnson.

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:

- **December 8:** Las Posadas Family Advent Festival
- **December 8:** Arlington Holiday Lights Parade
- **December 9:** Chancel Choir presents *Messiah*
- **December 12:** Caroling with the (Chancel) Choir
- **December 16:** Children's Christmas Pageant
- **December 22:** Breakfast With Santa
- **December 23:** Children's Choirs sing in Revive
- **December 24:** Children's Choirs sing in 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service

LEARN MORE ONLINE

View a full list of events online at arlingtonmethodist.org/Children

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS:

Ages: K-6th Grade | **Time:** 8 am-3 pm
(with aftercare available until 5:00 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:

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/one child, \$15/ 2+ children

Dates: Second 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.



WHY DO YOU *volunteer?*

There are a variety of ways you can get involved with our Children's Ministries, from teaching Sunday school classes to providing snacks. Below are some of the reasons why our members enjoy volunteering.

I LIKE VOLUNTEERING BECAUSE I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY, AND BECAUSE CHILDREN NEED A FOUNDATION AT CHURCH THAT WILL HELP THEM THROUGH THEIR DEVELOPING YEARS AND FOR THE LIFE LONG JOURNEY.

- *Betsy Stephens*

CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHER

MY CHILDREN MAY NOT REALIZE IT BUT THEY WATCH WHAT I DO, WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN, AND HOW I SPEND MY TIME. TIME IS MY MOST VALUABLE ASSET AND I WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH THEM. I WANT THEM TO REALIZE THAT I CARE ABOUT THEM, ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING, AND ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN. BEING A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IS MY WAY OF SHOWING THEM THAT FAITH IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF LIFE THAT I WANT TO SHARE AND LEARN WITH THEM.

- *Jennifer Richardson*

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER & VBS COORDINATOR

VOLUNTEERING IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO - AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR - OUR COMMUNITY... PLUS THE KIDS CRACK ME UP!

- *Amy B*

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

FOR ME, IT IS JUST FUN TO BE AROUND AND INTERACT WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT CHURCH, IT KEEPS ME YOUNG.

- *Scott Russell*

CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHER

WHY DO I VOLUNTEER?
SEVERAL REASONS: 1) I WANT TO GIVE BACK TO THE CHURCH, 2) HOPE TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE AND HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN. 3) MAKE IT FUN FOR THE CHILDREN TO COME TO CHURCH. 4) A BONUS I GET IS I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE WHENEVER I AM PREPARING FOR A LESSON. 5) MOST IMPORTANTLY, IS THAT I HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP CHILDREN BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

- *Scott Russell*

CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHER

I VOLUNTEER BECAUSE THE CHILDLIKE LOVE AND TRUST OF GOD IS REFRESHING! I MISS HEARING THEIR JOYS AND CONCERNS WHEN I MISS A WEEK. I HAVE LOVED WATCHING THE GROUP I SHEPHERD GROW FROM CRAZY KINDERGARTNERS TO 5TH GRADERS WITH BIBLE KNOWLEDGE AND DEEP QUESTIONS.

- *Lori Plamondon*

GET CONNECTED

Find out where your time and talents can be most useful by contacting Susan Bishara, at sbishara@arlingtonmethodist.org or in the church office at 817-274-2571



SHARE THE NEWS!

One of the best and easiest ways to stay in touch and share news about the church is through social media. Facebook and Instagram have algorithms in place that determine what content you see. The more you like, comment, and share the church's posts, the more you and your friends and family will see them!

Another great tool for outreach is simply visually showing all the great things going on here at the church! Snap a few photos of children learning in the Sunday school class you teach, mission projects, Bible studies, etc. - anything you're involved with at FUMCA and would like to share. Pictures can be sent to Mary Gibson at mgibson@arlingtonmethodist.org so they can be posted on our church's social media, magazine, website, and more.

 facebook.com/FUMCArlington

 twitter.com/FUMCArlington

 [@FUMCArlington](https://www.instagram.com/FUMCArlington)

SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

11TH & 12TH GRADE YOUTH

How many people are in your Small Group? 15 people

When and where does your small group meet?

Sunday nights in the Underground at the church.

How many people are in your small group community?

We have 14 members, we meet weekly and usually have 8 or so in attendance.

What has your group been studying recently?

We follow the youth curriculum compiled by Michelle Freeman and Brittany Wright. We just finished a study on spiritual gifts.

Is your group involved with One Mile Mission or other mission work?

Several members of the small group have been on summer mission trips with the church. In addition, they have participated in mission projects as part of D-Now, the choir tour and multiple projects within the Youth Department.

Tell us something interesting your small group has done recently:

We enjoy social gatherings where we work on art projects, watch movies, and share meals.

The greatest strength of your small group is:

Lifelong friends who have grown up together, go to school together, and grown in our faith together.

What are three words that describe your small group?

Artistic, Supportive, Musical





LOVING WEBB

A WEBB ELEMENTARY / FUMCA PARTNERSHIP

Our Loving Webb partnership has started off with a busy, productive, fun first semester! Back in August, Webb Elementary had a series of building issues that set teachers back on their training and new student registration. We were able to host the teachers here and give new students a place to get registered for the new school year. The last minute construction kept teachers from setting up their classrooms on time, so a group of volunteers from FUMCA spent a day moving furniture and helping teachers move back into their rooms.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were also able to donate much needed school supplies, backpacks, and more for students at Webb.

Many of our small groups and Sunday school classes have also provided breakfasts and lunches for the teachers at Webb throughout this semester.

In October, our members and Webb faculty and staff came together to put on a fantastic Trunk or Treat for the students. Hundreds of students and their families dressed up and had a blast trick-or-treating, getting their faces painted, and eating hot dogs.

This fantastic partnership is just getting started, and there are so many ways you or your group can get involved! For more information, contact Michelle Clark at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org or in the church office at 817-274-2571.



BIG HOPE IS NOW KNOWN AS SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING!

To simplify our name and align it exactly with what we do, **Big Hope mentoring will now be called School-Based mentoring.** We will still be working with Big Brothers Big Sisters, but we can now accept interested mentors that are not church members. If you have a friend or family member that would make a great mentor, please put them in touch with Jill Regina, School-Based Mentoring Director at jregina@arlingtonmethodist.org.

It is fun and easy to be a lunch buddy mentor, so help us share God's love by sharing your lunch time with a child who needs a little extra attention!

BY: JILL REGINA
Director of School-Based Mentoring



Two of our most recent matches!

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

BY: JANIE JOHNSON
Director of Children's Music

CHILDREN SINGING IN WORSHIP

The Children's Choirs at FUMC of Arlington are ringing and singing their way through the holidays and into the New Year! The children are busy preparing for the holiday season by rehearsing every Sunday morning at 10:25-10:55 am upstairs in rooms 212 and 214. The Children's Choirs will be singing on December 23 in the 11:00 am Revive service and on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 pm service.

FIELD TRIP TO THEATER ARLINGTON

After a break for the New Year, the Children's Choirs will resume in January, and will have a busy and exciting Spring! On February 25, 2019, the Choirs will sing in the 11:00 Sanctuary service followed by eating pizza and heading off to go on a field trip to Theatre Arlington to see *Junie B. Jones, the Musical Jr.*, a youth production! A very special family monetary gift of love is helping this wonderful opportunity be possible!

If your child, (or if you know of a child) that wants to be in Choir, please encourage them to come. All are welcome!



Christmas Music AT FUMC OF ARLINGTON

BY: SEAN HALE
Director of Music Ministries

The music of Christmas is one of the defining characteristics of the season. Here at FUMC of Arlington, there are many opportunities to participate in some great Christmas music. Here are some of the major musical events to check mark on your calendar for this year:

CHANCEL CHOIR SINGS MESSIAH

On Sunday, December 9, in the 11:00 Sanctuary service ONLY, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. For many people, it isn't the Christmas season until they hear *Messiah*. Come and invite friends to be a part of this special service!

CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR

We are always looking for ways to connect with those who live near the church and caroling is such a great way to do that. On Wednesday, December 12, join members of the Chancel Choir as we share the joy of Christmas with the neighborhood around the church. Everyone is welcome! We will meet in the choir room at 7:30 pm.

CENTER 313 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 19, 7:00 pm at Arlington Music Hall
Tickets are \$5 and concert goers are encouraged to bring a toy per person or one per family that will benefit Mission Arlington's Toy Drive. Tickets can be purchased at center313.com

*"Strike the Harp and Join the Chorus!
Fa-la-la-la-la la-la-la la!"*

Stephen Ministers: *The After People*

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?”
One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- . . . *after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- . . . *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- . . . *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- . . . *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- . . . *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- . . . *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away— and the house suddenly seems empty.
- . . . *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- . . . *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- . . . *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- . . . *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People.
They are ready to come alongside you—or
your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or rela-
tives—and provide comfort and support for
as long after as needed.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information on joining the Stephen Ministry team at FUMC of
Arlington, contact Rev. Tolli Macalik at tmacalik@arlingtonmethodist.org
or in the church office at 817-274-2571.

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Winter

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FIRST FRIDAYS RESPITE PROGRAM

DECEMBER 7 | 6:00-9:00 PM

Families with special needs children are invited to register for our respite program which meets on the first Friday of the month September-May. New families need to submit an application which can be found online. Siblings are also welcomed to attend so that parents can have a few hours of free/respite time.

LAS POSADAS & ADVENT AROUND THE WORLD

DECEMBER 8 | 4:00-6:00 PM | GREAT HALL

Join us for the traditional Las Posadas celebration as we travel to find a place for Mary and Joseph. Then stay and celebrate in the Great Hall as we eat and make advent crafts from many cultures. The party will continue as we walk to Arlington Holiday Lights Parade as a church family.

ARLINGTON HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE

DECEMBER 8 | 6:00-8:00 PM

Join us on the church's float as we share the love we have for our church with the Arlington community. We will meet at the staging area at 5:30 in order to be ready for the start of the parade at 6:00. All are invited to either ride or cheer us on from the parade route!

AMAZING GRACE LIVE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 9 | 9:00-11:00 AM | ROOM 153

Come and walk through the Manger Scene performed by our very own Amazing Grace members.

CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS MESSIAH

DECEMBER 9 | 11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be presenting the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. Come and invite friends to be a part of this special service!

CAROLING WITH THE CHOIR

DECEMBER 12 | 7:30-8:30 PM | CHOIR ROOM

Come and join the choir as we go caroling in our neighborhood! We'll meet at the choir room at 7:30.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 14 | 6:00-9:00 PM

Parents' 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. Limited space RSVP \$10.00 for first child, \$15 for 2+ children

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 16 | 9:30 AM | GREAT HALL

Come watch our children perform in the annual Children's Christmas Pageant!

DEBT RETIREMENT SERVICE

DECEMBER 16 | 11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

We're celebrating paying off our mortgage early with a special dedication service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary, on Sunday, December 16.

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

PARENT & TOT MUSIC & MOVEMENT

DECEMBER 16 | 4:00-5:00 PM | ROOM 103

PreK music with parents to coincide with the monthly children's Sunday evening programs

CHILDREN'S CHIMES

DECEMBER 16 | 4:00-5:00 PM | ROOM 221

Beginners chimes for children, led by Janie Johnson

KIDS IN MISSION

DECEMBER 16 | 5:00-7:00 PM | ROOM 107

K-6th grades join us as a secret agent with "missions" - bringing aid to organizations in need.

DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

DECEMBER 20 & 21 | 8:00 AM-3:00 / 5:00 PM

Make Gingerbread Houses and have a Holiday Palooza Ages K-6th grade. We know that today many parents work outside of the home and school holidays don't necessarily mesh with work holidays. We want to offer up a great opportunity for your children. Allow us to show God's love to your child and their guests in an action packed day of fun! 8am-3pm with available after care until 6pm Cost \$20.00 per day (after care additional \$5.00 per family) Crafts, music, games and special entertainment.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

DECEMBER 22 | 9:00-11:00 AM | GREAT HALL

Dress in your best Christmas Cheer and come enjoy breakfast and pictures and crafts with Santa and his sleigh! Donations are appreciated for breakfast.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER 23 | 4:00-5:00 PM | CHAPEL

During the hectic weeks before Christmas, many people excitedly anticipate the joy and beauty of the season. For families or individuals who have suffered a the loss of a loved one or friend—either recently or sometime in the past—the memories and emotions of the season can overwhelm them. Grief and sadness conflict with a world that is seemingly rejoicing. Join us in a time of remembrance of your loved one.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24 | 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 & 11:00 PM

FUMC of Arlington is the place to be on Christmas Eve - there's a worship service for everyone! The 4:00 pm Sanctuary service is children-led and family-friendly. 6:00 & 8:00 pm are traditional services in the Sanctuary. 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary is youth-led. This year we will also be having a Revive Christmas Eve service in the Great Hall at 7:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to join us this special evening for worship with Communion.

IMMERSON BIBLE STUDY:

THE REST OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

JANUARY 9 | 10-11 AM OR 6:30-7:30 PM | ROOM 151

Learn about messages of ancient times and the relevance to today. The study of the minor prophets will conclude with reading Micah, Nahum Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Led by Rev. Kay Lancaster, begins January 9.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY: LIVING THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM

JANUARY 16 | 2:00 & 6:15 PM | BANQUET ROOM

The Kingdom of God was the dominant theme of Jesus' preaching. This study identifies the four central aspects of the Kingdom as reflected in Jesus' teaching and ministry. The study is based on the Gospel of Luke, the lectionary gospel of 2019. Led by Pastor Steve. Begins January 16.

DISCIPLE NOW (D-NOW)

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JANUARY 18-20

Retreat weekend for youth with worship, mission project, games, fellowship, and more. Early bird registration ends December 23. All registration closes January 7.

MLK WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 20 | 6:00-8:00 PM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Worship Service. All are invited to this community-wide worship service!

MOZART REQUIEM KICKOFF REHEARSAL

JANUARY 26 | 10 AM-12 PM | CHOIR ROOM

The Chancel Choir will have our first rehearsal for the Mozart Requiem. Anyone is invited and encouraged to join us! There is an eight-rehearsal schedule for anyone that would like to sing with us that cannot commit to singing every week. Help us spread the word!





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Join us this

CHRISTMAS EVE

TRADITIONAL SANCTUARY SERVICES:

4:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 11:00 PM

REVIVE WORSHIP:

7:00 PM in the Great Hall