

First United Methodist

972-253-3531  
www.fumcirving.org



# Connexion

Volume 6 Issue 20

November 16, 2011

We will begin the four-week worship season of Advent on November 27. Our word for Advent comes from the Latin word “*adventus*” and means coming. Advent is God’s coming to us in human form. The message of Advent is: **God comes to us so we might come to God.**

Advent is a time of longing, which we prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ and the celebration of Christmas. While others stampede the stores trying to get to the goods on Black Friday; we wait patiently, knowing what’s really good are not goods at all. We bide our time, acknowledging parts of our real selves and some of our real feelings long to be made whole by what the Babe of Bethlehem can cause to be born in us again: hope, peace, joy and love.

The theme of this year’s advent theme is every mood is met by a real person who comes as God in flesh to make souls whole; not by an ambivalent “*I understand*”. All the moods we experience are expressions of our unfulfilled and broken lives. The good news is all moods can find resolution in the person of God coming in Christ. Each Sunday, we’ll consider how the coming of the person of Christ meets that mood.

This year’s advent theme is connected to the Christmas cantata our Chancel Choir will present on December 11-“**The Many Moods of Christmas**”. The cantata will include the refrain from the Christmas carol “Angels from the Realms of Glory” invites us: “*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king.*” I join that angel chorus and invite you to come and worship each Sunday of Advent.

Come and wait expectantly for the coming the Christ child; bringing whatever mood you are experiencing in 2011. Bring your emotional self, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Create a spirit of readiness to receive the grace needed that only the coming again of the Christ child can bring to your life.

I wish you a Blessed Advent!



Oasis has come to an end for the year! We want to THANK everyone who has helped cook, bake desserts, make tea, set the tables, etc..... It has been another successful year at the Oasis Café! THANK YOU!!!

Look for NEW classes and NEW menu's beginning in February 2012!

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER!

# ATTENDANCE

## NOVEMBER 6

10:30 AM Worship	274
6:30 PM Worship (No Worship)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>
Sunday School	175

## NOVEMBER 11

10:30 AM Worship	292
6:30 PM Worship	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>
Sunday School	179

## Financial Update

	October 31, 2011	Year to Date October 31, 2011
Contributions & Other Receipts	\$60,583.00	\$630,491.00
Less: Expenses	-\$76,423.00	-\$710,198.00
<b>Net Gain or (Net Loss)</b>	<b>-\$15,840.00</b>	<b>-\$79,707.00</b>

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Join us for Sunday night service this Sunday right after the Thanksgiving Dinner. This will not be your typical Sunday night service. Sean will be preaching and the youth will be singing. This is our "kick off" service to go to camp! It would mean the world to the youth to see everyone in the Chapel at 6:30pm!

Next Connexion will be mailed and emailed on December 21! If you would like something in the Connexion please have it to Keri by Monday, December 19. [keri@fumcirving.org](mailto:keri@fumcirving.org)

Order Your  
**Poinsettias**

Sunday, November 27 &  
Sunday, December 4

## All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner & Evening Service

Sunday,  
November 20th



5:00 PM  
Family Life  
Center

Last names beginning  
with A - L:

Bring meat  
dish & dessert.

Last names beginning  
with M - Z:

Bring meat dish &  
vegetable or salad.

Immanuel Korean will be our GUESTS!

## Advent Schedule 2011 Many Moods of Christmas

First Sunday in Advent—Nov. 27

Hope in a Child

Second Sunday in Advent—Dec. 4

Peace in a Manger

Third Sunday in Advent—Dec. 11

Joy in a Birth

Fourth Sunday in Advent—Dec. 18

Love in Our World

Christmas Eve—Dec. 24

5:00pm ~ Family Service

6:30pm ~ Traditional Candlelight Communion

11:00pm ~ Traditional Candlelight Communion  
(Chapel)

Christmas Day—Dec. 25

No Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

## Gilligan's Island Sunday School

Each of the seven characters on the island represents each of the seven deadly sins. The Koinonia Class will set sail on their tour of the deadly sins starting in January. We will be looking at lust, envy, pride, greed, sloth, gluttony, anger and wrath.

We would like to invite anyone looking for an interesting lesson series, to come and join us. If you would like a book, please contact Deb Bellew at 972-254-6581 or [deb@bellewfamily.com](mailto:deb@bellewfamily.com).

This is our Christmas angel tree adoption program. These teens are considered at risk by Irving ISD. There will be chance for you to sign up to adopt a teen November 13th - 27th. All gifts are needed back at the church by December 4th.



IT IS ALWAYS INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT OTHERS THINK ABOUT US. WE ARE VERY GOOD AT COMING UP WITH PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT WHAT OTHERS LOOK LIKE OR ACT LIKE OR HOW WE THINK THEY SHOULD LOOK OR ACT. IN FACT, WE ARE VERY GOOD AT COMING UP WITH LAWS, WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN, THAT HELP PEOPLE TO "BE" A CERTAIN WAY. I AM NOT SO SURE THAT THIS IS A HEALTHY THING. THE GOSPEL MESSAGE CLEARLY DISPLAYS THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE TO EMULATE OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. HE SAID, "DO NOT BELIEVE ME UNLESS I DO WHAT MY FATHER DOES" IN JOHN 10:37. IF JESUS DID NOTHING UNLESS HIS FATHER SHOWED HIM, THEN HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE STRIVE TO "BE" WHAT WE SEE IN OUR SAVIOR?



Pastor Sean!

LET ME CHANGE GEARS...I LOVE MY YOUTH KIDS. WE HAVE SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER AND AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE INSTILLING LIFE PRINCIPLES OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN. THIS PAST WEEK, I RECEIVED A PORTRAIT OF ME AS SEEN BY THE YOUTH. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. PERHAPS I SHOULD GIVE IN AND GO ALONG WITH THEIR PERCEPTION OF ME! BLESSINGS TO YOU AND PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUTH AS WE ENTER ANOTHER SEASON OF ADVENT, HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE.

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 & Tuesday, December 27.

Parent's Day Out Craft Fair ~ December 3!

WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 9:00 AM! WE INVITE EVERYONE TO COME AND HELP US!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is next week and Christmas is just around the corner! We have a lot going on during Advent. Here is a brief overview:

**December 4:** We will have our Christmas Workshop during Children's Church. We will leave the sanctuary near the beginning of the worship service and go to SonRise Village where the children will make Christmas gifts for their families. We will not return for Communion. The children's Christmas musical will be that evening at 6:30.

**December 11:** The chancel choir will present their Christmas program during worship. Many children will want to enjoy the program with their parents. As an alternative, we will still have Children's Church with a VeggieTales Christmas movie and popcorn.

**December 18:** The children's Sunday School classes will go Christmas caroling to the adult Sunday School classes. During Children's Church we will have a birthday party for Jesus.

**December 24:** We will have three Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00, 6:30 and 11:00. The 5:00 service will feature a children's time and gifts for the children.

**December 25:** Christmas Day will be a time for families. We will not have Children's Church or Sunday School for children or youth.

**January 1:** We will not have Sunday School for children or youth, but we *will* have Children's Church.

I wish you and your family a blessed Advent season!

Kelly





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**Cindy Alleman**

Program Facilitator

**Barbara Canafax**

**Keri Moreno**

**Jessica Anderson**

Administrative Staff

*.... AMONG OUR PEOPLE .... AMONG OUR PEOPLE ...*

**HONORARIUMS:** In honor of "**Boosh**" **Brown's** birthday to Chapel Renewal Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen.

In honor of **Harvey and Norma Wuistingner** to Chapel Renewal Fund from the Keystone Class.

**MEMORIALS:** In memory of **Sally Marshall**, sister of Susan Smith, to Music Ministry from Jack and Pat Carnell.

In memory of **Jon Waldo** to General Budget from Paula Warthan. To Chapel Renewal Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen.

In memory of **Keith Whitley** to Chapel Renewal Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen. To Building Fund from Joe and Catie Morgan; from Jack and Shirley McGee; from Irving Retired School Personnel Association; from Laurence and Wendy Jenkins; from Irving Book Review Club; from Steve Hamberger; from Paula Warthan; from J.T. and Patricia Price; from Wanda Dale. To Wednesday Work Endowment Fund from Bill and Janet Bailey. To the Children's Department from Brenda Mondy.

In memory of **Bettie Kannenberg** to Building Fund from Wanda Dale; from Keystone Class; from Tommie Moulton. To Chapel Renewal Fund from George (Bear) and Dorsey Denton; from Opal Adamson. To Wednesday Work Crew Endowment from Bill and Janet Bailey.

In memory of **Buck Buchanan**, father of Ronnie Buchanan, to Budget from Ed and Jan Dame.