



the  
Gazette

SENIOR ADULT  
MINISTRY

GOD'S GIFT OF LONGER LIFE

*April showers bring May flowers.  
Welcome Spring!*

*To all who are Mothers,  
Grandmothers and  
Great-grandmothers,  
Happy Mother's Day!*



**Gathering Services Handyman Program**  
**Help with Minor Home Repairs**  
info@FirstRichardsonHelpers.org  
Hotline Number 972-996-0160

Medical Equipment loans:  
dfwdmeexchange.org/equipment/need-equipment

**Mark your calendars! We have two major events for Senior Adults in May:**

- 1) On Monday, May 10th, we will Gather via Zoom at 1 pm to hear Rev. Susan Robb, a pastor at Highland Park UMC, share some ideas from her latest book "Seven Words". It is based on the seven last words of Christ on the cross. At 1 pm on May 10th visit zoom.us, click join meeting, and enter the following: Meeting ID 826 7342 4010 and Passcode 642943
- 2) On Monday, May 17th, you are invited to Huffhines Park at 200 N. Plano Rd. for a picnic and social time. The Men of Faith will provide grilled hot dogs and chips. We ask that you bring your own drinks and a chair. The Gathering will be from 11 am—1 pm. Please register by May 10th (so we have enough food) either at fumcr.com/events or by calling the church at 972-235-8385. This will be a great time to see friends we may not have seen since last March. Plan to be there!





Do you feel as if you are between two realities? On the one hand I feel hopeful that we are on the downhill side of the Pandemic. Vaccinations are increasing. Stores and restaurants are opening, at least to a limited capacity. Some public gatherings are happening, such as sporting events. And there are even times when the Center for Disease Control says we do not need to wear masks, such as outdoors. We are seeing signs of progress.

On the other hand, the virus still has control over us. People are still getting sick, being hospitalized, and dying. The level of vaccination is far from what they need for 'herd immunity' and some people are vowing never to take the vaccine. The group activities we enjoyed pre-pandemic are still limited, such as worship and Sunday School gatherings. We are still considerably limited in how we can gather, and Zoom meetings are getting old.

FUMCR is working toward safe gatherings. Daybreak worship will begin again on May 9<sup>th</sup>. We have opened the doors to limited in-person worship. However, it remains unclear when we can open the doors for Sunday School classes and other group activities. While we are making progress, anxiety and frustration are mounting. We need to lean on the hope that is ours through our connection in faith. We are a people of hope.

When Jesus instructed his disciples 'out' in ministry, he told them to "proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'" (Matthew 10: 7) I have never fully understood when we will experience the 'kingdom,' only that I know it is promised. Jesus of Nazareth who lived and died, and was resurrected, is certainly the key for us to understand the 'kingdom.' Is the kingdom a reality in Him? Some would argue, with scriptural support, that when the 'kingdom' is mentioned, it is an eschatological term, a promise of what God offers us in the afterlife.

However we understand the 'kingdom,' we Christians can be assured that the 'kingdom' is real and it is a promise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is, 'the good news' that Christ brings, and encourages us to share. It is the foundation of our faith, and our hope.

Personally, I believe those who encountered the physical presence of Christ, and the resurrected Christ, had a window to the reality of the 'kingdom.' We.....also have that window as we experience the living Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Hear the words of Christ to his disciples, and to us, again. "As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' We may not know what tomorrow brings, but we do know that the 'kingdom' IS, and WILL BE. That is the hope with which we live!

In Christ,  
Dan L Flanagan

