

SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM

FALL

November

JEWELS
OF DALLAS:
ENCORE!

WINTER

December

CHRISTMASTIDE,
CAROLS &
COMMUNITY

- 7 Texas Hall of State - Fair Park: David Lee, Director of Education
- 14 The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza: Stephen Fagin, Curator
- 21 Nasher Sculpture Center: Susan Stout and Isabel Lee-Rossen
- 5 Christmas Music through the Ages: Mark Pope
- 12 Christmas Music You Probably Don't Know: Amanda Hollis
- 19 Christmas Sing-a-long in the Sanctuary: Clinton Bray
Ugly Christmas Sweaters (Optional) & Christmas Cookies!

Sunday Evening Bible Study SUNDAYS AT 4 PM

November 3 - 24
"The Bible as Story"
Rev. John Mollet

December 1 - 22
"The True Meaning of Advent"
Rev. Joe Stobaugh

Have treasures you would like to share?

You're in luck, then, because the annual

United Women in Faith
Christmas Lunch and Silent Auction

is just around the corner:

Monday, December 16!



- * To contribute items to the AUCTION, please drop them at the church between Dec. 1 and Dec. 16.
- * The area designated for donations is a cart in the *CLOSET under the stairs, AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE WELCOME DESK.*
- * When you leave your contribution, please contact **Phillippa Nierling** @ 214.354.2958 or pjnierling@gmail to let her know that she can pick it up.



UPUMC
FOREVER BEGINNING

WORDS TO THE WISE



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Autumn Years?

If you're anything like me (naturally lazy), Autumn is the best time of the year. Yes, Spring brings May flowers - and weeds, and wind, and deluges, and pollen, etc. Summer is highly anticipated (mostly by school kids) but overrated. Summer's great if you love traffic, long lines, crowds, lawnmowers, leaf blowers, sunburn, mosquitoes and heat. Really hot heat. And you Winter People? Sorry, what can one say?

But Fall has to be the best time to relax and reflect. Soon (I promise) that first real cool front will work its way down from the Arctic. The air will have that indescribable Fall smell. The shadows will grow longer. Leaves will rustle down the street curbs, trying to keep up with you and the dog. Persephone will slowly make her way to the underworld, and the upper world of nature will take a well-deserved rest. Football is finally being played in football weather. The long sleeves come out of the closet and the cargo shorts go back in the drawer.

Some of us grew up in small towns. Even if you grew up in Dallas, you lived in a town much smaller than the one you live in now. Right? Any day now, when that first norther comes through, my mind will take me back to Belton, Texas. Say, around 1969-1970. We're all lucky to remember a time when kids could walk or ride their bikes anywhere they wanted. On Saturdays in the Fall, we got up, ate breakfast, checked in on Dick Tracy, told Mama goodbye, rode out to somewhere, came home for lunch (unless we found a better deal elsewhere), rode out again, came home for supper, caught a few lightning bugs, watched "Saturday Night at the Movies", and went to bed. Long cool walks with friends, to nowhere in particular, talking about everything and nothing, were the best!

Now I hear I'm in my "autumn years." You may hear that, too. Just because the leaves on top have thinned a little and changed color doesn't mean anything. After all, what does the coming of Fall really mean? That it's time to celebrate!

Human beings are fascinating creatures. From afar, our world may seem to be heading for the dark, cold and dreary. Instead of bemoaning the fact, we party. Halloween, Día de los Muertos, Thanksgiving? They're all around the corner. We'll make fun of our fears, then be grateful for our blessings. We'll gather to feast, sing, and pray together. If that's the definition of "autumn years," you can count me all in. Follow that up with Advent and Christmas, and you get a big, meaty bone for you Winter folk. Let's all take this cool walk together, to nowhere in particular, talking about everything and nothing. It's all good. God is good!

Until next time, Blessings! **Mark S. Parker**

Nature does not hurry, yet everthing is accomplished. Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

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September Celebrations



NORMA & BILL MATTHEWS

went PLATINUM celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary!

ELIZABETH BARLOW

turned 108 years old, pictured here with her great-grandson, Daniel.



SEVEN new members joined UPUMC, bringing the total for the year to 22 new members thusfar.



On Sept. 29, the church gathered after ONE SERVICE, to break bread together and celebrate the success of the Capital Campaign.

Book Review by Sharon Christen

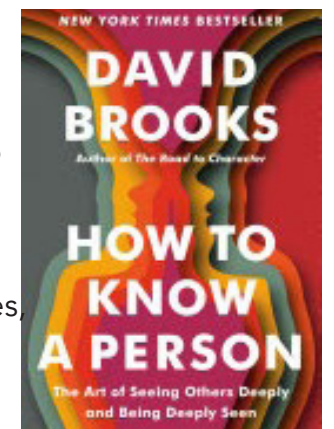
As soon as I saw the title, *HOW TO KNOW A PERSON: THE ART OF SEEING OTHERS DEEPLY AND BEING DEEPLY SEEN*, I knew I wanted to read this book. The author, David Brooks, is one of my favorite TV commentators. His repartee with Jonathan Capehart on PBS is so enjoyable. This old white guy with somewhat conservative leanings in conversation with a young black man with a decidedly liberal bent is captivating. What might degenerate to argument is saved by the obvious respect, admiration and love they have for each other. And of course, my college studies were in sociology and psychology, so just the title intrigued me. It was published in 2023.

David Brooks has spent his life as a journalist interviewing people. On the opening page of the book, he writes: "If you ever saw the old movie *Fiddler on the Roof*, you know how warm and emotional Jewish families can be. They are always hugging, singing, dancing, laughing, and crying together. I come from the other kind of Jewish family. Think Yiddish, act British. We were reserved stiff upper lip types." A preschool teacher told his parents, "David doesn't always play with the other children. A lot of the time he

stands off to the side and observes them." But later in the book, Brooks refers to himself as a "grower," always interested in becoming a better human being.

So, this book was a journey of self-discovery, combined with a good bit of personal growth, and a primer on how he has gone about improving himself professionally. It's filled with the latest research on communication, as well as many personal interviews and conversations related to his work as a journalist. He has talked to world leaders and to people he's met in a diner having a cup of coffee.

He has learned – and will teach you – how to get beyond the surface of conversation to be able to see deeply and to be deeply seen. It's really a good read; and the Dallas Public Library has 18 copies, so you shouldn't have to wait too long to check it out.



"A Blessing of Animals...witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened."

(FROM: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-service-for-the-blessing-of-animals>)

Blessing of the Animals - October 6



Pets and their people gathered on the front lawn to receive blessings from the pastors, including "Pastor of the Day," Izzy Radford.



James Hanna and his dog, Mason.

National Clergy Appreciation Month Celebration

The theme for the School of Essential Wisdom for Thursday, October 17, was: **What It Means to Be Clergy, and How You Get There.** Our Guest Speaker was Rev. Kay Eck, who serves on our conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Following her presentation, we celebrated Clergy Appreciation Month by hosting a luncheon to honor UPUMC clergy, past and present.

