

# The Connection Point

April 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 4



## Death and Resurrection

by Scott Scheetz

The first Sunday in April marks the start of Holy Week. We begin the week with Palm Sunday where we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches line the road. "Hosanna!" the crowd cheers as the Messiah passes by. Those shouts of joy and celebration very soon turn to shouts of crucify. Holy week is the time when we walk that journey with Christ from His triumphant entry, the Last Supper, prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane, His trial, and His death on the Cross.

This year's observance of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*. Fauré (1845-1924) was a French organist and composer, and he composed the *Requiem* between 1887-1890.

Traditionally, the Requiem comes from the Catholic Mass for the Dead. The mass and its settings get their name from the introit of the liturgy, which begins with the words "*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*" (Latin for "Eternal rest grant them, O Lord"). The mass is traditionally made up of 12 texts. In the 15th century, composers began to write musical settings of these movements which evolved into standalone large-scale works of music.

Fauré's *Requiem* differs from the others. The full *Dies ire* (Day of Wrath) text is not used and is replaced with the *Pie Jesu* (Blessed Jesus) text. This text is very short (*Blessed Jesus, grant them eternal rest*). The shortening of the *Dies ire* and the addition of the *Pie Jesu* combined with Fauré's compositional style leads to a very different Requiem. While most are dramatic, loud, and feature almost terrifying *Dies ire* sections, Fauré's comes across as serene, contemplative, peaceful, and content with death. Fauré says this about his *Requiem*:

It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience.

(continued on page 3)

## Upcoming Events:

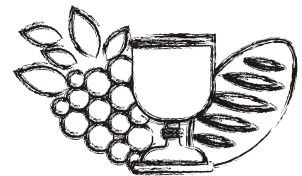


### Palm Sunday

### Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 2, 2023

12:00-2:00 pm



### Holy Thursday

April 6, 2023

7:00 pm - Sanctuary



### Good Friday:

### Requiem by Gabriel Fauré

April 7, 2023

7:00 pm - Sanctuary

## A Note from the Pastor

Sometimes, it is so very hard to work and focus in the church office at Fellowship UMC! Yesterday, there were noises coming from each and every corner of the church office. I must admit that it was a little overwhelming at first! The reconstruction crew was working in the preschool / children's wing to restore damage caused by frozen, burst pipes. A crew was working in the sanctuary painting sheetrock that was reinstalled due to being damaged in the same weather event. Work was being done in the entrance vestibules to repair sheetrock damage from security keypad installation. People and machines were working outdoors beautifying our lovely grounds to make them more accommodating for Easter. I could hear the screams and shouts of joy from preschool children who were racing their tricycles through an obstacle course in the church parking lot. There is so very much going on right now! Lots to do! Lots to focus on! So many moving pieces! So many loud and overwhelming noises!

You're probably thinking of the old television commercial, "Calgon, take me away!" Yet, I find joy in these noises! I find comfort in the chaos of "busy" church. Why? Because it means we are ALIVE!

As we move towards Easter, we have the choice to live in the death of a tomb, or to experience resurrected life in Christ. There is power in resurrection! What was decaying and dead can become alive again! There is hope in the midst of fear! There is light in the midst of darkness!



This is an important message for us today. We find ourselves very divided in our world and even in our own community. It seems that everyone wants us to take a side in this argument or that position. It seems that so much of our world is trapped in the burial shroud of a dark and rotting tomb. Yet, we have hope! Yes, we do! We believe in resurrection!

Early church father and theologian Clement of Alexandria said this, "Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns." As we walk with Jesus through the pain of Holy Week, we will find ourselves before the sunset of the cross. On Holy Saturday, we will linger in the darkness of a tomb. Let's not forget who we are! We are Easter People! Let's prepare our hearts to rejoice and sing for joy as Jesus turns our sunsets into vibrant dawns on Easter morning.

These many and constant noises at Fellowship remind me of the dawn. It is a new day! It is a new beginning! We are living into Jesus' resurrection! We are ALIVE! We are Fellowship!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bill

# Music Ministry



*(Death and Resurrection continued from page 1)*

Fauré's *Requiem* ends with the addition of the *In paradisum* (In paradise) which comes from the Catholic liturgy of burial.

*May the angels receive them in Paradise,  
at they coming may the martyrs receive thee  
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem  
There may the chorus of angels receive thee,  
and with Lazarus, once a beggar,  
may thou have eternal rest.*

I would invite you to come and be moved by the music and the text of this beautiful Requiem setting on Good Friday, April 7th at 7pm. As we observe Christ's death on the cross, let us meditate, pray, and remember that through Christ's death, we have everlasting life in Paradise. The Good Friday service does not end with a benediction as the story continues on Easter morning.

*Christians, to the Paschal Victim  
offer your thankful praises!*

*Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life  
obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!  
Amen. Alleluia!*

The opening and closing lines and *Victimae Paschali*, one of the oldest Easter morning hymns. Written by Wipo of Burgundy in the middle of the 11th-century, this is one of 4 medieval sequences remaining after the Council of Trent in the mid 16th-century.

This beautiful text recounts the Easter morning story, starting with Christ's death.

*Death and life have contended  
In the combat stupendous:  
The Prince of Life, who died,  
Reigns immortal.*

The hymn continues with Mary's discovery of the empty tomb and her joyful proclamation of the good news!

*"Speak, Mary, declaring  
What you saw when wayfaring."  
"The tomb of Christ, who is living,  
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;  
Bright angels attesting,  
The shroud and napkin resting.  
My Lord, my hope, is arisen:  
To Galilee He goes before you."*

The hymn ends with joy and celebration of Christ's rising from death. Alleluia!

On Easter morning we will be blessed to hear a fabulous brass and organ arrangement of this hymn by Texas composer, Michael Bedford. This arrangement beautifully depicts the text beginning quietly and mysteriously, representing the sunrise at the tomb. The piece gradually builds with energy as it depicts the time where Mary finds the tomb empty. The next section is the fastest, and entitled "Go and Tell!" representing the joy and excitement that Mary had as she spread the good news. The piece ends with the final setting of the hymn tune. Marked "Triumphantly, the Lord is Risen Indeed", we hear the tune clearly in the organ pedals with fanfares from the brass. The piece ends with a fast coda entitled "Alleluia!"

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come and join us as we journey with Christ during Holy Week this year.

**Palm Sunday** on Sunday, April 2nd at 9 & 11 am

**Holy Thursday** on Thursday, April 6th at 7 pm

**Good Friday** on Friday, April 7th at 7 pm

**Easter Sunday** on Sunday, April 9th at 7, 9, & 11 am

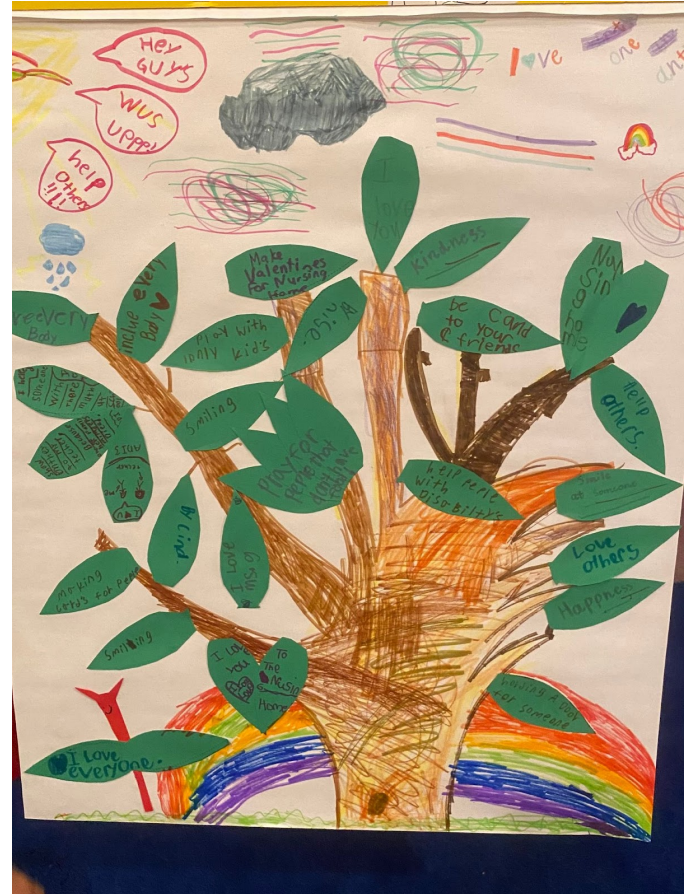
# Children's Ministry

## Wednesday Nights

As part of our study on virtues, we are exploring what God is doing in us to change the world around us. In March, we created a beautiful "Kindness Tree" and filled it with ideas we are doing this spring to show love to our community.



A few of the leaves on our tree read: "Play with lonely kids", "Pray for people that don't have food", "Be kind", "Include everyone", "I helped someone with their math at school", "Make cards for nursing home", "Smile at someone", "Hold a door for someone", "Help others" and "Love everybody".



We also painted and hid rocks to show love to our community. ARKKIDS are making a difference in this world!



## Sunday School Happenings

### Preschool

This month, our theme is “1, 2, 3... it’s Easter!” We are SO excited to share with our youngest friends that Jesus is alive!

- Week One: Palm Sunday  
(Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16)
- Week Two: Easter (Matthew 26:20-50; 27:1-2; 28:1-7; John 13:33; 14:1-3, 28)
- Week Three: Breakfast on the Beach  
(John 21:1-14)
- Week Four: Great Commission  
(Matthew 28:19-20)
- Week Four: Early Church (Acts 2:42-47)

### Kindergarten-5th Grade

This March, our theme is “Community Garden”. If we want to live with humility, God can help us grow from the ground up. We can choose to put others first by giving up what we

- Week One: Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet  
(John 12:9-16; 13:1-17; Matthew 21:1-11)
- Week Two: Crucified and Risen  
(John 18:12-20:23; John 16; Matthew 26)
- Week Three: Being Humble Like Jesus  
(Philippians 2:3-8)
- Week Four: On the Road to Emmaus  
(Luke 24:13-35)
- Week Five: Jesus Restores Peter  
(John 21:1-19; John 18:1-27)

### VBS

Summer is coming and VBS registration is open! The dates of VBS are June 5-8, 2023 and our theme is “Ready, Set, Move!”

To sign up to volunteer or register incoming Kinder-5th grade children use the QR code or visit <https://www.myvbs.org/arkkids>



### Children’s Choir

We are looking forward to having the children’s choir lead worship on Sunday, April 2nd. To quote the famous Palm Sunday hymn: “Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang”. We can’t wait to hear them sing Hosanna as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



The children’s choir is open to 5K-5th grade and will continue to rehearse on Wednesday nights through the end of the school year

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# Missions Opportunities

### Blood Drive with Carter Bloodcare

Sunday, April 30th  
9:00am-12:00pm

### Austin Street Shelter

Sunday, April 2nd  
5:45 am - Van leaves the church to head to Austin St.

### Roanoke Food Pantry Donations

Please see the back page for this month’s needs

### Snack Sack Donations

Food donations for children Lakeview and Medlin schools. Please contact Ginger Dennie for more info at [ginger@fumctc.com](mailto:ginger@fumctc.com)

# Youth Ministry



On March 5, the youth showered Tyler, Kaylee, and little baby boy Sweatt, with so much love. There was wonderful food, beautiful decorations, and lots of fun and games. Seeing the glue on their faces was magical! We're all so excited for this next chapter in their lives. Both Tyler and Kaylee have been such a blessing to this church, especially the youth. We were so thankful to be able to bless this sweet little family.

- Ginger Dennie



# Fellowship Friends Preschool

Our students had a very busy month!

We had a special visitor to our Discovery Day program. Wildlife on the Move came to visit and share some exciting lessons about reptiles and amphibians. Our students had the opportunity to hold these animals and had blast learning about them. We learned that God created these special animals and that each one is unique just like each of us. It was a great program and our students learned some very interesting things about these remarkable animals. What a great experience!



When we returned from spring break, we participated in our Motor Speedway as we studied about different modes of transportation. We all brought our bikes and scooters to school and after a safety lesson from our gym teacher, Mrs. Karen Collins, we got to practice our new skills. Everyone wore a helmet and took those turns with caution. We are growing so big and learning to balance.

This month, each classroom was given a container with special critters. They are very, very small and eat a special diet, wonder what they will metaphorize into? Stay tuned to find out!

We are looking forward to our Easter celebration and learning about all that Jesus did for us.

Our school still has openings for our 3's and 4's program for Fall. Come join us for exciting adventures in preschool. For more information, please contact the office at [barbara@fumctc.com](mailto:barbara@fumctc.com)

Many Blessings,

Barbara Rich Clark



How you can help serve our community needs!  
Purchase any of the items below:

**RICE-A-RONI**

**HAMBURGER HELPER**

**CORN BREAD MIX**

Bring them to church and place them in the labeled bins in the narthex.

Our youth will deliver the donations to the Roanoke Food Pantry.

Thank you for your generosity!

## Recurring Weekly Events:

### Sunday

- 9:00 am Modern Worship
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm Youth Group
- 5:00 pm Adult Bible Study

### Monday

- 10:00 am Creative Christian Women

### Tuesday

- 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (at Dove Creek Cafe)
- 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (at Dove Creek Cafe)

### Wednesday

- 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
- 5:30 pm Children's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal