

FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connection Point Newsletter



“COME AND SEE.”

JOHN 1:39



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BILL

Senior Pastor



Happy New Year! Wait. What? Did I lose my mind and pick the wrong month to write this article for our newsletter? No, let me explain. December begins the short liturgical season of Advent. Advent is a season in which we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ into our world. We remember the longing in the Jewish tradition for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. Did you know that the yearly Christian calendar begins with Advent? What a way to start a year, albeit a religious liturgical one. A new year often invokes new beginnings and new expectations. Let's consider this Advent season a time set apart from our normal hectic and chaotic lives. Let's consider this a time of new beginnings. Let's use this time to anticipate and see the ways Christ is born into our world in new, fresh, and exciting ways. Let's learn how to see Christ reflected in others. With all of the problems in our world, let's take this moment, breath deeply, and prepare our hearts and minds to welcome Christ into our world. Yes, this can be the start of a new year and a new you!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Betsy Modrzejewski,
Director

November was a busy and meaningful time for our Children's Ministry. We began with our first annual Lantern Walk on November 6th. The evening started with prayer, followed by a peaceful stroll through the darkness with our handmade lanterns. Afterward, we enjoyed cookies and juice together. It was a beautiful time of reflection, and we're excited to invite the whole congregation to join us next year. We also gave back by serving tacos with the Fellowship Youth at the Wednesday night dinner, and we're grateful to all the families who donated food and helped serve. Additionally, Ark Kids worked together to pack snack sacks for those in need. Last month was full of service and community as we continue to help others!



We are full of joy that December is here! Our Sunday mornings theme is, "Christmas Playlist: Let Heaven and Nature Sing" We will be celebrating Jesus, God's Greatest gift. Weekly Lessons Include:

December 1: In the Beginning Was the Word John 1:1-5, 14

December 8: An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

December 15: Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-7

December 22: Shepherds and Angels Luke 2:8-20

December 29: Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12



YOUTH MINISTRY

Tyler Sweatt, Director

A few Sundays ago, something truly special happened. Our youth joined with five other United Methodist Church youth groups for a joint Youth and Family Night at Argyle United Methodist Church. It was a night filled with worship, laughter, and the beautiful chaos that comes with bringing together so many hearts united in faith and fellowship.

From the moment we arrived, it was clear that this gathering was about more than just our individual churches, it was about the larger connection we share as United Methodists and as the Body of Christ. The sanctuary buzzed with energy as voices from different communities blended together in song and prayer, creating a tapestry of praise that reminded us all of God's unifying love.

The night was not only an opportunity for our youth to connect with their peers but also a chance to witness what it means to belong to something greater than ourselves. Worship was powerful, conversations were heartfelt, and the joy of simply being together left everyone renewed and inspired.

We are so grateful for the ways God is working through our youth, for the friendships formed, and for the shared mission that binds us as one church. Let us continue to celebrate moments like these, where we see God moving in fresh and exciting ways.

Thank you, Fellowship family, for supporting our youth ministry and for being part of a church that values connection, love, and discipleship.

*"For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them."*

— **Matthew 18:20**





FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS PRESCHOOL

Barbara Rich Clark, Director



Our students were very busy this month learning and exploring their world. A huge thank you to Mrs. Betsy aka Mother Goose who came and read to our students. They laughed and giggled at the puppets and she was amazing. What a special gift she shared with us.



We had some special visitors this month in our outdoor learning classroom. Chickens, Bunnies and Turkeys. The children learned about how to care for them and what amazing creatures God made for us. The kids worked together to create a scarecrow for the Outdoor Learning Area, discussing clothes, the purpose of scarecrows, and the importance of teamwork.



During our Discovery days, we read the book: Stone Soup. This book is about a village of poor people who come together to create a wonderful tasting soup that feeds the village when everyone adds just a little to the pot. What an amazing lesson for our students that when we all add a little the outcome is great. We even made soup for all to share.



Our children have been practicing for our **Christmas program on December 9th & 10th at 10:30a.m in the Sanctuary**. They are super excited to perform for everyone. Mrs. Melissa York, our music teacher, has been working with them to make sure we tell the story of the birth of our Savior at this special program.

Thank you to the ladies at CCW for their continued contributions of materials and support of our program. You ladies are the best!



DECEMBER EVENTS



HOPE, JOY, AND FELLOWSHIP: EVENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A Christmas Prelude: Children's Choir Performance, December 1st

Join us for a heartwarming Children's Choir Performance on **Sunday, December 1st during the 11:00 AM service**. Our young singers will lift their voices in joyful song, sharing the spirit of the season with beautiful melodies that celebrate the hope and joy of Christmas. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the heartfelt talent of our children as they lead us in worship and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. We invite you to be part of this special moment in our worship service and support our Children's Choir as they bless us with their song.

"Dancing Day " Holiday Concert, December 7th

Celebrate the season with "Dancing Day," where traditional Christmas carols and anthems, both old and new, come together in a festive tapestry of music. This concert, performed by the Fort Worth Chorale alongside the Byron Nelson High School Choir, captures the joyful spirit and timeless rhythms that define the holiday season. **This special event will take place on Saturday, December 7th at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Tickets are available at www.fortworthchorale.org or at the door.**

A Christmas Cantata: "And the Word Became Flesh", December 15th

We invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas musical presentation, "And the Word Became Flesh," on **Sunday, December 15, at the 11 AM Worship Service**. This enchanting cantata, performed by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, tells the story of Jesus' birth—from Old Testament prophecies to the arrival of the magi. You won't want to miss this beautiful experience! **Please note that there will be no 9 AM modern worship service on December 15th.** We encourage everyone to support the choir by attending the 11 AM service to fully experience this special presentation.

Sweaters, Cocoa, and Christmas Cheer, December 22nd

Get ready for some holiday fun at our Christmas Sweater & Hot Cocoa Service on December 22nd! **We invite you to join in the festive spirit by wearing your best (or worst!) Christmas sweater to either the 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM service.** After the 11am service, enjoy a cozy cup of hot cocoa in the Narthex as we celebrate the season together with laughter, fellowship, and lots of Christmas cheer.

God with Us: Christmas Eve Services, December 24th

Celebrate the birth of our Savior at our Christmas Eve Services on December 24th. **Join us for a beautiful, reflective time of worship at 5:00 PM or 7:00 PM as we come together to honor the true meaning of Christmas.** These services will feature beloved hymns, scripture readings, and a special message that will bring the light and hope of Christ into your heart. Don't miss our traditional candle lighting during the service, a moving moment to reflect on the light of Christ. We invite you to make this a part of your Christmas tradition and experience the joy and peace of the season in community. **Please Note there will be no nursery or childcare services during our Christmas Eve services.** However, the Cry Room will be open for parents who need a quiet space. Additionally, **Christmas worship bags for children will be available outside the sanctuary to help engage them during the service.** We look forward to celebrating this special time with you and your family!



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

All Wednesday evening events including Fellowship Family Meals, The Clubhouse, The Hangout, and Bible Study, are on holiday break for the entire month of December.

For Sunday Bible Studies, Group meetings, and Choir Rehearsal please check with your respective leaders for any changes to meeting dates during the holiday season.

From December 24th to January 5th, nursery, Children's Sunday School, Children's Chat, and our "Stay and Play" option for children (Preschool-5th grade) **will be on hold as our teachers take time to rest with their families.**

The church office will be closed for the holidays from December 25th to January 1st. During this time, we encourage you to reach out to us via email or leave a message, and we will respond as soon as possible after the office reopens. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a blessed and joyful holiday season!



VOLUNTEER & FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITIES



Join Us for Snack Sack Packing Day

We invite you to join us for the next packing day on **Sunday, December 1st, following the 11 AM service in the Sanctuary.** This month is particularly important as children will be on a longer holiday break, and we want to make sure everyone has a snack over their time off. Come and participate in the spirit of giving as we pack snack sack bags for those in need.



Popcorn for a Purpose: Support Our Youth

Support our Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser and help us reach our goal! This 4-day virtual event runs from Sunday, December 1 to Thursday, December 4, with 50% of sales benefiting our youth mission trip. On December 1, stop by our table after services to learn more and place orders in person. Every bag sold brings us closer to our goal! You can also shop online anytime by scanning the QR code:



Support our Youth! Give Good. Get Good.

December 1st to December 4th

When you buy Double Good's award-winning popcorn, 50% of your purchase goes to supporting our cause and you receive a delicious reward! Shop now to help!

Please support Fellowship UMC Youth to help raise money for our Summer Mission Trip to Memphis, TN!



Roanoke Food Pantry Donations

This month's shopping list includes: **Dry Beans, Hamburger Helper, Stuffing.** Your generous contributions play a vital role in ensuring that families in our community have access to essential food items. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.