

Fellowship United Methodist Church

The Connection Point

November 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 11



Trunk or Treat

A wonderful time was had by all during Trunk-or-Treat! Thanks to those who decorated trunks and made the event a success. A huge shout out to FUMC Youth who handed out candy. WE APPRECIATE YOU!



See more pictures on pages 6 & 7!

What's Inside:



Raise the Song of Harvest Home

by Scott Scheetz
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Upcoming Events:

CCW Christmas Market

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Live Nativity

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023
7:30 & 8:30 pm @ 2509 Trophy
Club Dr, Trophy Club

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023
11 am in the Sanctuary

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023
4 pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023
5 & 7 pm in the Sanctuary

A Note from Pastor Bill

We Christians have a funny language! Have you ever given that idea much thought? Have you ever considered that we often speak a different language? What is it like being a person who visits our church, any Christian Church, for the first time? Will they understand our language?

Here are some possible questions from our normal 11 am traditional worship bulletin:

- What is a Hymn?
- What does “Worship” mean?
- What is “Scripture” and where do we find it?
- What is an “Affirmation of Faith”?
- What does “Prelude” and “Postlude” mean?
- What is an “Offering”?
- What is a “Doxology”?
- What is a “Benediction”?
- What does “Gloria Patri” mean? Did you know this means “Glory to the Father”?

Most of us have grown up in the Christian Church and have been taught these terms. We often take them for granted and we often fail to consider what a person, brand new to the Christian faith, the very person we are trying to reach, reacts to these often weird and undefined terms.

Recently, following a worship service, a visitor asked me what denomination we were. When I told them we are United Methodists, they asked why we pledge our devotion to the Roman Catholic Church. Of course we do not do this. They got lost in the “language” of the church and mistakenly interpreted a line from the Apostles’ Creed that we often take for granted. They misunderstood the line, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church...” They assumed that we were a part of the Roman Catholic Church. I carefully explained to them what this meant in the context of historic Christianity. This may be a great opportunity to refresh our memories.

Here are some interesting tidbits about the Apostle’s Creed:



- The Apostles’ Creed possibly originated in the 4th Century.
- It was first referred to as the Apostles’ Creed in a letter from the Synod of Milan in 390 CE.
- “Creed” stems from a Greek word that means “a sign or token used for identification.”
- The Apostles’ Creed could have been a revision of a previous creed — Old Roman Creed, that Ambrose wrote to Pope Siricius in 390 CE that referred this creed and the Old Roman Creed that dated back to the earliest Christian Church.
- Early church fathers that quoted the Apostles’ Creed or Old Roman Creed included Irenaeus, Tertulian, Novation, Marcellus, Rufinus, Ambrose, Augustine, Nicetas, and Eusebius Gallus.
- The term “catholic” in the Apostle’s Creed does not mean the Roman Catholic Church and actually predates the naming of such as it existed before the historic church split in 1054 CE that led to two branches of Christianity — Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. When used to refer to the Roman Catholic Church, the word “Catholic” is always capitalized. In the Apostle’s Creed, this particular word is not capitalized and is used in its generic term, which means “universal.” When we say we believe in the “holy catholic church”, we proclaim that we believe in the “holy universal church” that transcends denominations and schisms.

As we continue our journey together, let's challenge ourselves to see worship and our Christian language in new eyes and consider how people, who may be totally new to the Christian faith, understand our language and ancient cultural practices. For now, let's simply celebrate this ancient statement of faith that so many have held on to, even before they could legally own or hold a Bible in their hands, that proclaims to the world what we believe.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED - Traditional Version

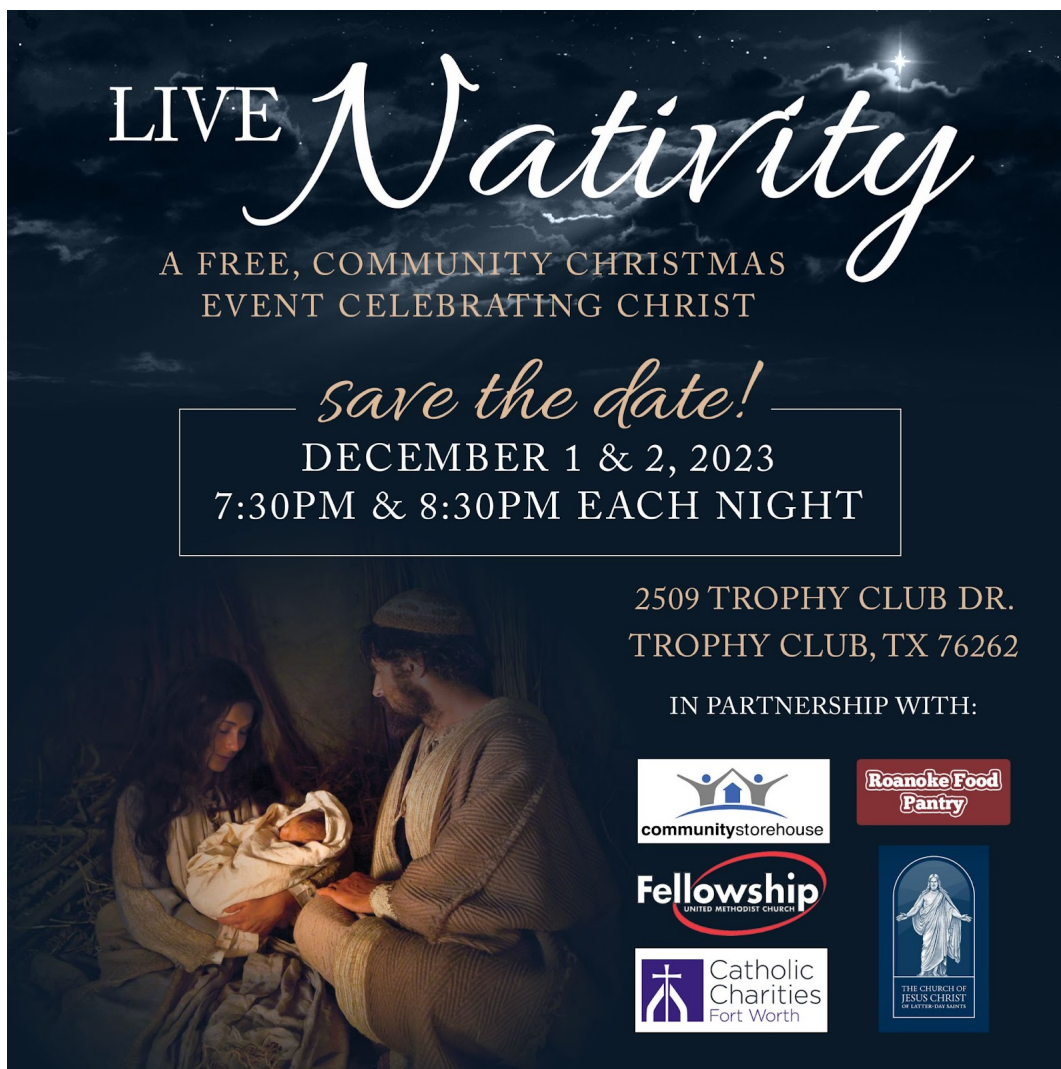
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bill



LIVE *Nativity*

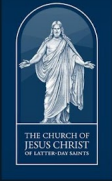




A FREE, COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
EVENT CELEBRATING CHRIST

save the date!

DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2023
7:30PM & 8:30PM EACH NIGHT

2509 TROPHY CLUB DR.
TROPHY CLUB, TX 76262

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Music Ministry



Raise the Song of Harvest Home

by Scott Scheetz

The leaves have changed, temperatures fallen, and we've eaten too much Halloween candy. It must be November! Historically, the fall has been a time of harvest, culminating in the holiday of Thanksgiving where we give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest and all that he has given us.

There are several hymns for this season of harvest and thanksgiving, my favorite of which is "Come, Ye Thankful People Come", written by Henry Alford (1810-1871). Alford was born in a long line of clergymen, was ordained a priest in the Anglican church in 1834, and is well known as a Greek scholar. He completed his translation of the New Testament from Greek to English in 1844. That same year, this hymn was first published in *Psalms and Hymns Adapted to the Sundays and Holydays* under the section "After Harvest".

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

The first verse depicts God's provision through the physical harvest as well as the "harvest home". This term is another word for harvest festival, commonly used in England. These festivals typically would be held at a church where the bounty of the harvest is collected, shown, thanks is given to God, and then the food is distributed to the needy. These harvest festivals are reminiscent of the Feast of First Fruits celebrated by the ancient Hebrews in the spring after the passover. The book of Leviticus tells us of God's instructions for the Feast of First Fruits:

The Lord spoke to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall raise the sheaf before the Lord, that you may find acceptance; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall raise it. On the day when you raise the sheaf, you shall offer a lamb a year old, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. And the grain offering with it shall be two-tenths of an ephah of choice flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat no bread or parched grain or fresh ears until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God. This is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your settlements.

(Leviticus 23:9-14)

In the remaining verses, we see a beautiful shift from focusing on the physical earthly harvest to the final and future harvest depicted in Jesus' parable of the weeds among the wheat found in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43:

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The second and third verses of this hymn mirror the metaphor that Jesus uses in his parable.

*All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last*

*in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.*

The final verse points to the second coming of Christ, also known as the second advent, and is a beautiful transition as we end the church year with around the harvest time and begin a new church year in December with the season of advent. A season which celebrates both the anticipation for his birth and his coming again in Glory.

*Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.*

As we spend this month of November preparing for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, and New Years, let's not forget to take time to be thankful for God's blessings and providence both here on this earth and for the promise of eternal life in heaven when Christ comes to raise His glorious harvest home!

Soli Deo gloria

Children's Ministry

Fellowship Moms Connect

Fellowship Moms connected over coffee in October. It was great to slow down and enjoy each other's company. Our next event will be on November 5 when we welcome local artist Cindy Perreira to lead us in a fun fall themed painting project.



Prayer Buddies

Prayer buddies happily picked up their letters on the third Sunday in October. We can't wait for November's mail delivery day!





Youth Ministry



Dear Church Family,

We are writing to say a big thank you on behalf of our Youth Ministry for coming out and supporting our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off. Your presence and kind donations made the event a success, and have helped us a lot in supporting our Youth Missions.



It was great to see everyone come together to support our youth ministry who are working hard to make a positive difference in our community through their mission work. The money we raised will really help us on our upcoming mission trips and in our efforts to spread goodness and help to those in need.

We had a fun time tasting all the different chili recipes, and the friendly competition made the event enjoyable for everyone. It's clear that our church family has a lot of love and support to give, and it's inspiring to see.



Your continued support means the world to us, and it's what allows our young people to keep doing the great work they're doing. We're looking forward to sharing our experiences from our mission trips with you, and we can't wait for more fun events like this in the future.



Thank you once again for your wonderful support.

Warm wishes,
Tyler and Ginger

A Note from Pastor Bob

I have been writing about tools for Bible study these last few articles. This month I would like to tackle some of the issues we have raised with our sermon series on the Kingdom. We live in a culture with a lot of competing views about what we should do as a country. There have been a number of attempts to mislead us by overstating or misstating information that we must have to make informed decisions for voting and other citizens' duties.

Recently I received a publication that often fields questions about one of the principles our society seems to be confused about. That is our governing (and sometime our legal) documents that lead to the concept of the separation of church and state. With some trepidation, I would like to offer information that I think is quite thoroughly vetted about some of the issues. Our opinions as citizens matter, but hopefully we are open to information without jumping to conclusions about the information offered.

The question is: Was the United States founded to be an officially Christian nation? The answer is: No. It was not. Christian Nationalists constantly hold the position that America was formed with Christian origins. But that is a myth. If an officially Christian nation had been the intent of our founders, our Constitution would list

that prominently in the founding documents. But that is not the case. If this surprises you, see if you can find any such statement in our Constitution. It isn't in there!



The Constitution is a wholly secular document. It contains no mention of either Christianity or Jesus Christ. There are only two references to religion. The First Amendment bars laws "respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." In Article VI, religious tests for public office are specifically prohibited. These provisions can be considered evidence that the country was not founded as officially Christian.

Many of the other questions answered in the publication I am referring to, are also part of our on-going debate about the interface between religion and our governing documents. If you find this interesting and would like further information, email me and I can send some links that you can use to learn more about this topic.

YIC, Bob

Adult Ministry

TO SUPPORT 2024 MISSION ACTIVITES

CCW CHRISTMAS MARKET

Come & Shop for Christmas gifts

NOVEMBER 12
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
IN THE NARTHEX

- shawls,
- lap blankets,
- quilts,
- ornaments
- painted bags &
- much more



These Are The Days

2024 Women's Retreat at Fellowship UMC

Ever get stuck waiting for things to get easier or wishing they would go back to the way they used to be?
Yet, God created us for the here and now!
These ARE the days!
How can we live fully alive in the joy of the present moment?!



Save the Date January 20th



Upcoming Wednesday Night Dinners

Come for food and Fellowship in Legends Hall every Wednesday Night during the school year. Dinner is served from 5:00-6:30.

November 8th - Finger Food & Appetizer Potluck

Come bring your favorite finger foods or appetizers and share it with others!

November 15th - Thanksgiving Feast!

November 22nd - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES - Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29th - Soups & Stews

Hosted by our Administrative Board

December 6th - Picnic/Sandwich Potluck

Come bring your picnic foods or sandwiches and share it with others!

December 13th - Spaghetti Night

Hosted by our Youth Ministry

December 20th - Carolling, Nachos, and Hot Cocoa

Hosted by our Children's Ministry

December 27th - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES - Merry Christmas!

Missions Opportunities

Please contact Karen, our office administrator (karen@fumctc.com | 817.430.1500) for information or ways to connect and serve



Snack Sack Donations

Food donations for children at Lakeview and Medlin schools. Please contact Ginger Dennie for more info at ginger@fumctc.com

Desserts for the Roanoke Senior Center

FUMC has partnered with the Roanoke Senior Center and provides desserts the 2nd Wednesday of each month. If you would like to partake, please donate desserts to the Roanoke Senior Center by 10:45 am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Roanoke Food Pantry Donations

This partnership helps those in need right here in our own community. Please see the back page for this month's needs.

Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

The pop tabs go to help fund the Ronald McDonald House in Dallas. This 13 bedroom house provides housing for traveling families who have a sick child being treated at a nearby hospital. Pop tabs are being collected on the Missions Bookcase in the narthex.



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

HAMBURGER HELPER

RAMEN NOODLES

MACARONI & CHEESE

VIENNA SAUSAGES

JELLO

Bring them to church and place them in the labeled bins in the narthex. Deliveries will be made to the Roanoke Food Pantry throughout the week.

Thank you for your generosity!

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sunday

- 9:00 am Modern Worship
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 4:00-6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00-8:00 pm High School Youth Group

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)
- 7:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday (August -May)

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