

The Connection Point

February, 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 2



Leaving the Mountain Top

by Scott Scheetz

Have you ever had a mountain top experience? Maybe it was a big life changing event or perhaps it was an impactful moment on a mission trip or service that left you excited and energized. Maybe you had a literal journey up the mountain and as you sat on the top taking everything in, you found peace and inspiration. Did you find yourself wanting to stay up there away from all of the messiness and chaos of life? What about that energy and excitement following a life changing event or a big mission trip? Did it feel like a let down to return to normal routines?

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we find that Jesus and the disciples had a life changing mountain top experience and that the disciples struggled with that very issue of not wanting to leave the mountain. Jesus, along with Peter, James, and John, climb a mountain. When they reach the top, a bright light surrounds Jesus and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appear and begin to talk with Jesus. Peter says to Jesus: "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While they are up on the mountain, the voice of God announces "This is my Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!" The disciples fall to the ground and are overcome with fear. Jesus says, "Get up and do not be afraid". When they look up, Moses and Elijah have vanished. This event is known as the Transfiguration of Christ as Christ's glory and divinity was revealed to the three disciples.

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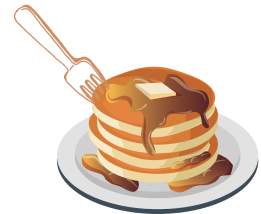
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Upcoming Events:



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner!

February 21, 2023
5 pm - Legends' Hall



Ash Wednesday Organ Recital and Worship Service

February 22, 2023
6:30 pm - Sanctuary

A Note from the Pastor

What a journey we have had since the last pastor's newsletter article! We experienced flooding from burst pipes that devastated our children's / preschool wing. I am so very thankful for volunteers, including many of our preschool staff, who quickly responded and evacuated water from the building, removed soggy and water-logged furniture, and relocated 8 preschool classrooms for over 150 children. Every class in our church has been affected by this devastating event.

We immediately put things in motion to make emergency repairs, demolish what needed to be, and prepare for reconstruction. Unfortunately, these things with insurance providers do not go as planned or as quickly as we would like. We find ourselves waiting on adjusters and others to catch up with us. I am not good with waiting. I struggle with patience. I am not fond of these in-between "liminal" spaces.

Yet, I am reminded of the final verse of the 27th Psalm, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" Did I mention that I am not good with "waiting." As I read this 14th verse of Psalm 27, I am reminded that this particular Psalm of David was born out of great adversity and fear. This Psalm speaks about evil and enemies surrounding David. There appeared no way out. The first and final verse of this Psalm speaks of the hope that David had, and we have, when we find ourselves dealing with adversities in our lives. Psalm 27 begins with this verse, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"



I find great comfort in the Psalms. I find great comfort in these verses as we find ourselves "waiting" - waiting for reconstruction to begin and end, waiting for normal to resume. While I am not good with waiting, I find comfort in knowing that God is with us. I find comfort in knowing that we will emerge from this better than ever - confident and courageous. Why? Because the most wonderful thing about Fellowship is that we are a strong family with ties that bind us together. These adversities in life do not break us. We find strength in leaning on each other and leaning on the God who loves us.

As we journey together through February, let's constantly remind ourselves of the way the 27th Psalm begins, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." It makes me want to sing... "this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..." What hope! What promise! From adversity springs forth hope, joy, and purpose. We are Fellowship! We are family!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bill Eason, Senior Pastor

Music Ministry



(Leaving the Mountain Top continued from page 1)

In the liturgical calendar, Transfiguration Sunday falls on the last Sunday before Lent, serving as a transition between the Epiphany season and Lent. There are several wonderful hymns written for this occasion including “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory,” written by Thomas Troeger in 1989, and found in our hymnal supplement, *The Faith We Sing*, as No. 2102.

This hymn may first appear as a retelling of the Transfiguration story set to music but as we dig into the text, we find a much deeper symbolism and foreshadowing in the first two verses and a task set before us in the final verse.

The first begins at the end of the Transfiguration story.

*Swiftly pass the clouds of glory
heaven’s voice, the dazzling light:
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit’s rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.*

The clouds of glory and light have passed, Moses and Elijah are gone, and now the disciples’ eyes turn towards the valley as they prepare to descend the mountain. Notice that the Lord’s eyes are already fixed on the valley. Jesus has no intent of remaining on the mountain and is focused on the work to be done in the world. He also knows the work of the world is messy, hence the “shadowed” valley, and that his work ahead of him results in his death.

Verse 2 reminds us that as Christians, we are called to go into the world and to follow Christ into those difficult places.

*Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,*

*but by following the Savior
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith’s resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.*

We are not promised an easy journey through the shadowed valley. In fact, we are told that there will be trials and tribulations but faith’s resilience and God’s providence will help us through any betrayal, pain, sickness, or loss we may experience. We are reminded of Christ’s death on the cross but the story doesn’t end there.

Finally, the third verse points to the resurrection and leaves us with a calling as well as a sense of hope and reassurance.

*Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines
and recast our life’s intentions
to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary’s hill
and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.*

I love the opening half of this verse. It begins with such a bold request asking God to transform our hearts and lives to be full of light and Glory like that of Christ. That means that we have to leave the mountain top and go into the world to do the work of Christ. That we would be the hands, the feet, and the light of Christ in a hurting world. The verse ends by reminding us that this new life in Christ is both in this world and in the world to come.

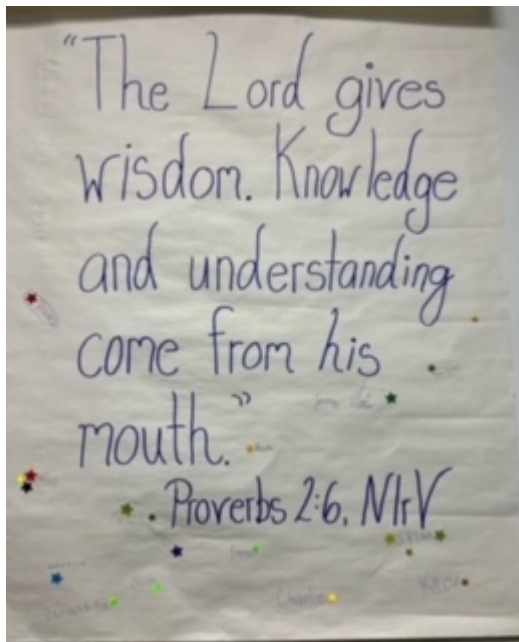
As we make our way through the month of February, celebrating the Transfiguration of Christ and then beginning the season of Lent, let us boldly ask Christ to transform our hearts, minds, and lives. Let us descend into the shadowed valley of this world during the penitential season of Lent and show a dark and broken world the light of Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions.

Children's Ministry



Sunday School Happenings

What a wonderful start to the year we have had together. Our Sunday time together has been filled with thoughtful discussion, creative projects and the always engaging storytelling of Ms. Ann. What a gift she is! This year, our K-5th graders are working hard at memorizing each month's memory verse. Once students recite the verse, they put a star sticker and their name on our verse board.



Our verse board is already shining bright from all the stars! Memory verses can be found on the "Parent Cue" sheet we send home with students after Children's Chat. We hope you can join us for Sunday School in February!

A Peek into February:

K-5th Grade

This month, our theme is "Road Rules: Ride with Respect". Respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do.

Our memory verse for February comes from Luke 6:31, "Do to others as you want them to do to you." Our lessons in February include:

- Calling of the Disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 27-32)
Include people who are left out.
- Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:43-47)
Show respect even when you don't get along.
- Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
Take time to show others they are important.
- A Roman Commander Has Faith (Matthew 8:5-13)
Remember God is most important.

Preschool

For our preschoolers, this month's memory verse is "How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18. Our February lessons include:

- Jesus and the Children (Luke 18:15-16)
Jesus loves me.
- Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
Jesus loves me and wants to spend time with me.
- The Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)
Jesus loves me and wants to help me.
- The Thankful Woman (Luke 7:36-50)
Jesus loves me no matter what.

Looking ahead to VBS

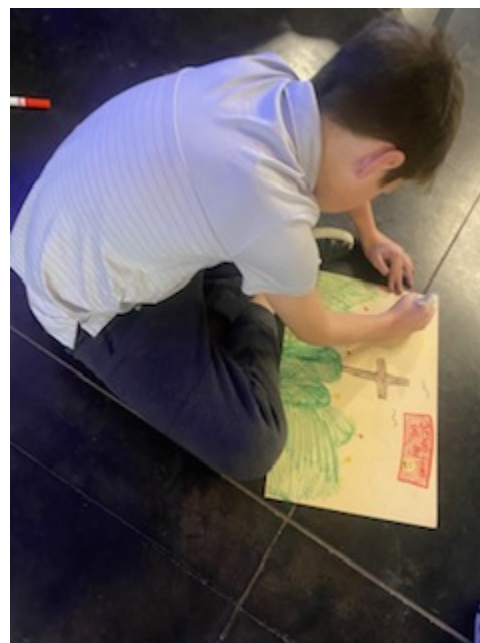
Calling all movers and shakers! Summer will be here before we know it and VBS will be held June 5-8, 2023. Our theme this year is "Ready Set Move!". Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for the fun!

Wednesday Nights



Wednesday Night activities are in full swing! Dinner starts at 5 pm in Legends Hall. After dinner, children may join Miss Betsy for Children's Bible Study. Our new Wednesday Night series is based around virtues. We are exploring what God is doing in us to change the world around us. We are exploring "Love" through devotionals, verses and creative service projects.

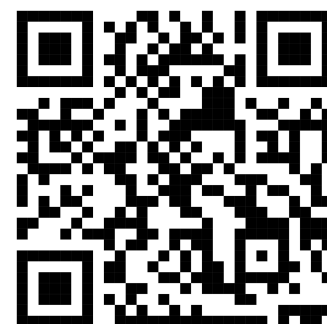
Currently, we are making Valentines cards for a local nursing home which we will deliver mid-February. After Children's Bible Study, the children's choir will rehearse from 6:15-7:00 in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Calling all Acolytes!

Acolytes are back and we cannot wait for your kiddos to join us! We are opening the acolyte position up to all 3rd through 8th graders. If your child has not been trained yet, please contact Kelly Clements. Below is the sign-up genius for the rest of the year. For more information, please email arkkids@fumctc.com

Use the QR code to sign up to be an acolyte!



Youth Ministry



FTC Youth is so very lucky to be able to worship the Lord together during our youth nights! If you are new to Fellowship United Methodist Church, and have a youth from 6th to 12th grade who like to join us in worship, games, and growing in faith! Do not hesitate to reach out to Tyler or Ginger at Tyler@fumctc.com or Ginger@fumctc.com! Additionally if you are an adult who would be interested in volunteering as a mentor on Sunday nights please feel free to reach out as well

Fellowship Friends Preschool

Preschool Registration

by Barbra Rich-Clark

Registration packets were sent home Jan. 23rd & 24th. **Current students and siblings** may turn in your completed enrollment forms **and** registration fees from Wednesday, January 25th—Friday, February 16th to secure a spot for next year. Please remember that this will be a first come, first serve process so if you desire certain days, please get your **completed** packet in ASAP. **Incomplete packets will not be accepted.** We are offering a 4 day/week option for 3, 4 and 5 year olds next year in addition to our two day per week offerings. Our 2 year old class has a 2 day a week option only.

Registration will be open to families of former students and church members on **Tuesday, February 21st** and open to the public/new students on **Wednesday, February 22nd** at 7a.m.

If you do not need our registration packet for your child, please share this information with your neighbors and friends so that their children can enjoy all of the fun that your child has had at FFP!



Transitional Kindergarten

Registration is open only to those children who are repeating four year old students and/or they are 5 before October 2 and have expressed interest and are developmentally ready for this program. Registration will take place January 25th—February 16th. This class is also a first come/first serve program, so don't delay as there has been much interest in this program.

Classes Offered

- Two year old classes are Monday/Wednesday OR Tuesday/Thursday only.
- Three year old classes are Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday, OR Monday-Thursday.
- Four year old classes are Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday, OR Monday-Thursday.
- Transitional Kindergarten is Monday-Thursday only.
- *Friday Discovery Days are available to three year olds and up.

Call the preschool office for registration packets, pricing and to schedule a tour. (817) 491-2300

Adult Ministry

New Year, New You: 2023 Women's Retreat

by Angela Newell

On Saturday, January 14th, FUMC's women joined with the women of Vista Ridge United Methodist Church to hold a women's retreat entitled New Year, New You. Almost 50 women spent the day exploring how faith impacts our values and how our values and creativity impact our mission.



In addition to hearing from Rev. Jessica Wright, the Associate Director for the Center for Missional Outreach for the North Texas Conference, the women attending had the opportunity to participate in various small group sessions, including discussions and activities led by Jaime Colatriano, Jen Morgan and Amy Miller, all members of FUMC.



The participants also had the opportunity to donate new and unused women's underwear to support the Denton County Friends of the Family women's shelter. We were excited to collect almost 300 articles of underwear, which is their greatest area of need at this time. A huge thank you to our speakers, and to all of the women who attended and donated!





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

Baby Wipes

**Diapers
(Size 5 & 6)**

Baby Food

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