

The Connection Point

June 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 6



What an amazing and fun year it has been for music ministry. The Children's Choir led us in worship several times throughout the year. The season was also filled with a Hymn festival, concerts, lessons and carols, Shrove Tuesday pancake party, and a stunning performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem by our Sanctuary Choir. It's been a busy season. We just had our final rehearsal of the season at the end of May. My sincerest thanks to our sanctuary choir for all their hard work.



In August, I started a partnership with Byron Nelson and we have been blessed with four extremely talented choral scholars: Alex Hartin, Violet Novak, Casey Miller, and Kai Diamond. Alex, Violet, and Kai are graduating and will be leaving for college soon. I am so appreciative of their hard work and I know we will all miss them. I know that they will have a bright future ahead of them. Casey is entering his senior year and I am so looking forward to continuing having him in the choir! In the fall, we will have 3 new scholars joining, so be sure to meet them!

(continued on page 3...)

Upcoming Events:



Vacation Bible School

June 5-8, 2023



Middle School Mission Trip

June 11-16, 2023

Bridgeport Youth Camp

June 26-30, 2023

High School Mission Trip

July 16-21, 2023

Youth Sunday

July 30, 2023

A Note from Pastor Bill

Many years ago, a youth from a church I served brought me a special gift that provoked smiles and laughter. It was a solar powered dancing Jesus. As the sun lights up this figurine, Jesus wiggles back and forth. It brings a smile to me as I reflect on the fun and whimsical side of Jesus. We often focus so much on the serious side of Jesus. In my office at Fellowship, this Jesus figurine sits on a shelf in a nook area that does not receive sunlight or much overhead lighting. Needless to say, this Jesus figurine has been motionless for a long time.

Recently, a power surge has devastated our technology booth in our main sanctuary. We suspect this could have been a lightning strike, but cannot prove this. Each of these necessary pieces of electronics in our sanctuary were fully surge protected, power conditioned, and protected. Yet, despite each of these precautions, somehow a power surge devastated our audio sound board, live-streaming command board, and has caused significant harm to our integrated overhead lighting system and board. Over the past few days we have been in troubleshooting mode to isolate specifically what and where repairs need to be made

In the early hours of the chaos of complete system failure in our sanctuary, I went to retrieve a flashlight from the nook area in my office. As I did so, I heard a loud ticking noise. I admit that I thought, "Oh, no! What next! I haven't heard that sound before! Is an air conditioner going out?" I looked up at that darkened shelf and there was this Jesus figurine wildly dancing away. Seriously, in a darkened area of my office, it was wiggling and dancing and has been doing so since that time.

In the days following Ascension Sunday, I am reminded of Jesus' powerful words to his beloved disciples just before he ascended into heaven, "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20). Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the chaos that we cannot see the way through and find hope in

the chaotic moment. We are reminded that Jesus joins us in the chaos of life and meets us in the messiness of humanity.

It seems that we have been hit with so many events like this, over and over again, spanning several years. This recent event will not change who we are. We will get through this because we are family at Fellowship United Methodist Church and this is what families do! We stick together and we overcome! While we find ourselves in the midst of chaos yet again, let's take a moment to smile, laugh, support one another, and perhaps allow this little wiggling figurine to promote us to join Jesus in a little humor and perhaps some dancing, remember all the while that Jesus is with us. Praise be to God!



Grace and peace,
Pastor Bill

Music Ministry

(Continued from page 1...)



Our season ended with a fabulous party hosted by our extremely talented choir accompanist, Terry Brett, and her husband David. Thank you so much Terry for your sharing of your time and talents each week and for opening up your house so we could celebrate the end of the season.



The sanctuary choir will be taking a break for the summer and will resume in the fall. If you are interested in choir or handbells, we would love to have you be a part of this wonderful community. Email me at scott@fumtc.com, and we'll get you connected!

As Psalm 100 says: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

Youth Ministry



2023 Confirmation Class!

Congratulations Confirmation class of 2023 we are so proud of you!!



Jaylee Clements (and her family)



Jillian Forster



Eden and Isaiah Dunbar (with their family)



Amy and Audrey Gwitira

Not pictured: Jaida Martinez

Children's Ministry

Summer

Summer is here and we hope our Fellowship families get time to enjoy a slower pace complete with sunshine and family time. Children's Church and K-5th grade Sunday School are taking a break for the summer months starting June 4. Activity packets will be available at the back of the sanctuary to keep little hands busy during the services. Preschool Sunday School and Nursery will continue throughout the summer months.

Thank You VBS Volunteers!

There is no better way to kick off summer than with VBS at Fellowship. We would like to thank the many volunteers who give back to the children of our community through the gift of their time and talents. For all those who decorated, prepped materials, shepherded children, and facilitated activities...WE THANK YOU!

Wednesday Nights

We are so thankful for the mother figures in our lives and made beautiful vases to celebrate them. Thanks so Gigi and Adi for teaching us how to make tissue paper flowers to add to our vases. This spring we made such an impact in our community through our acts of kindness and we can't wait to see everyone again at Wednesday night meals in the fall.



Children's Choir

What a joy it was to hear the kids sing on Mother's Day! We have had so much fun on Wednesday nights singing, playing instruments, and learning about God. We will be taking a break for the summer. The children's choir is open to 5K-5th grade and will resume again in the next school year. We hope to see many of you there!



Fellowship Friends Preschool



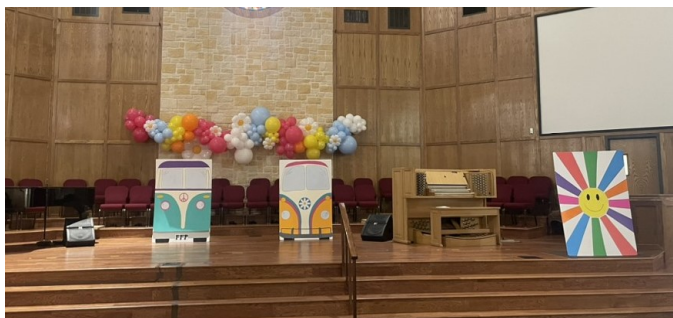
"Put a little LOVE in your Heart". Our children performed a variety of songs about loving their fellow man and spreading God's love and grace to others around them. This is a lesson that we wanted them all to learn and share the message with others as they go about their daily life. Thank you to the staff for all the hard work and dedication to make this a successful evening. A special thank you to Alison Hopps and Harry Ebbeson who were extremely helpful with making sure our musical rendition was flawless.



We hold several events this month. Pastries with parents, graduation breakfast, Spring program, water/splash day and of course our graduation ceremony where we said good-bye to 52 beautiful children from our program. They are headed off to "big kids' school". We will miss their smiling faces and laughter but know that the lessons learned here at Fellowship Friends Preschool will travel with them to their next adventure. We wish them the best of luck as they leave us, armed with a bible and, with God at their side. We hope you will join us in praying for them on their educational journey.

As with most endings, we are saddened to see several of our staff will not be rejoining us come fall. We are heartbroken at their departure but know that their love for teaching continues on at other places. We wish them good luck and a fond farewell. They will be missed deeply in our halls this coming August.

We are currently still enrolling students and hiring new staff. We have several positions open for part time teachers and assistant teachers so, pass the word along as we have started our search. Please call us or email if you have any questions as we would love to speak with you. 817/491-2300 barbara@fumctc.com



Our parents and welcomed guests enjoyed a wonderful spring program this month. The theme this year was,

Many Blessings,
Barbara Rich Clark

A note from Pastor Bob

I greet you as the newly “named” pastor emeritus for Fellowship UMC. I retired in 2010 and have helped here ever since. Thanks to Scott for reviving the church newsletter. I even said I’d write a bit, hopefully you will find it useful.

I have been teaching Disciple Bible study since 1991. Disciple is a long class and I realize people don’t necessarily want to spend the time. But before I took Disciple, I had experienced several other classes teaching the scriptures, some were fairly simple and some very complicated and detailed. Disciple is, in my opinion, balanced and allows us to explore the scripture, all of it, as we best can.

Some have accepted challenges to read the Bible straight through in a year or some other time frame. That isn’t how the Bible is written, nor is it best comprehended. So, I thought I would use this “column” to provide you some tools to use as you work with the Bible both on your journey into it and to add to your tool belt for your role as a disciple of Christ.

I have offered sermons on this topic in the past, but I think we all need to try to start on the same page. To better grapple with the scriptures, if you want to dig a bit into what you are reading, I suggest you address these five “helpers” as you read. An acronym you might use is A:B:C1:C2 (or C squared) and D.

These tools are:

- A: is for Bible Atlas, helpful for your “where” questions.
- B: is for the Bible, what version should you use... are some truer to the word than others?
- C1: is for Concordance. It is helpful for linguistic exploration to find what the words were in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, or English. The most important aspect of this tool is that it should be one that uses the translation of the Bible you have selected.



- C2: is for Commentary. This is a source which comes in handy for understanding context and other situations you will find as you enter the world of Bible Study, this is usually a tool that we need a lot.
- D: is for a Bible Dictionary. Between all these sources you might find what you need to dig a bit deeper in the scripture...as you begin to read it with a purpose.

Next time I will try to talk about Atlas’ for your consideration. If you want to jump out and get some of this (or if you think you’ve got this), I remind you that the Dead Sea Scrolls scholarship (discovered in 1946-7) has made some older books outdated, if you are shopping for any of these get something that is published after 1989, and some of the earlier versions are already dated.

If you have questions, you can call/text/email me.

Yours in Christ,

Bob

(214-533-4080...and bob@fumctc.com)



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

DRY BEANS
(1 POUND BAGS, PLEASE)

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

RAVIOLI

SPAGHETTIOS

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 (August-May)

- 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