

# The Connection Point

March 2024 - Vol. 2, No. 3



## The Journey With Christ

by Scott Scheetz

The season of Lent is one of the two penitential times in the church year, the first of which is the season of Advent. Both of these seasons are seen as a time of waiting, either for the birth of Christ, or Christ’s resurrection. However the season of Lent isn’t just a time of waiting. During this time, we are called to walk a journey with Christ as he prepares to die on the cross. We are moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit to not only look at Christ’s life during this time, but our own lives.



The season of Lent begins after Transfiguration Sunday. As I wrote about in last month’s article, this Sunday focuses on and celebrates the story of Christ’s divinity being revealed to the disciples in the most epic of mountaintop experiences. The disciples want to stay and bask in God’s glory, but Christ reminds them they cannot stay there. They have to descend down into the valley where the work must be done. Christ knows the journey He is about to embark on and that his crucifixion was soon to come. Lent begins the following Wednesday on Ash Wednesday, and we begin the journey of self-reflection on our own shortcomings and failures.



*(continued on page 3)*

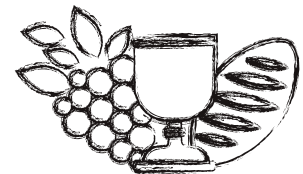
## Upcoming Events:



### Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

5:00-6:30 pm



### Holy Thursday

March 28, 2024

7:00 pm - Sanctuary



### Good Friday:

### Olivet to Calvary

By J.H. Maunder

March 29, 2024

7:00 pm - Sanctuary

### Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

7:00 am - Modern

9:00 & 11:00 am - Traditional

## A Note from Pastor Bill

Welcome to the season of Lent! Over the last couple of weeks, many church members have asked me about the season of Lent. Why do we celebrate Lent? What is it? What do we need to do? Why do we have a church season called Lent? In just a few short weeks, we will find ourselves at one of the most joyous times of the Christian year - Easter. We will join United Methodists and other Christians across the world to celebrate Easter! I can't wait!

The journey towards Easter begins with Ash Wednesday and continues through the season of Lent.

What is Lent? Lent is a season of forty days, not including Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts to the church and then became a time for penance by all Christians. You may find it help to fast from something during the season of Lent as a Lenten discipline. You may find it helpful to fast some of your precious time to take something else on, such as reading of your Bible, prayer, etc. The First Sunday of Lent describes Jesus' temptation by Satan, and the sixth Sunday (Passion / Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. So Sundays are feast days when we rest from our fasting.

I invite you to join me as we observe a season of Lent. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to walk along with Jesus as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to hear those who cry out to Jesus for deliverance, the tears of joy of those who experience Jesus' healing love, the schemes of those who would destroy him, the shouts of those yelling "crucify him," and the broken heart of Jesus as

he said from the cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."



Let's prepare our hearts and minds for a holy Lent. One of the spiritual practices that I love is to pray hymns just as we would pray the Psalms. I invite you to join me in prayer as we continue the journey of Lent and meditate upon the words of the wonderful hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" found in our hymnal as No. 269.

*Lord, who throughout these forty days,  
for us didst fast and pray.  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins  
and close by thee to stay.*

*As though with Satan didst contend,  
and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in thee to fight,  
in thee to conquer sin.*

*As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live  
by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence,  
and through thy passion tide,  
yea, evermore in life and death,  
Jesus with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so,  
this life of suffering over past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.*

What a last verse! Yes, Lord Jesus, bring us to an Easter of unending joy!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bill

# Music Ministry



*(The Journey with Christ continued from page 1)*

After Christ's Transfiguration, He begins his journey to Jerusalem, healing and teaching as he goes. He casts out demons and foretells his death and resurrection. Throughout His entire ministry, the disciples struggle with who Jesus is and what he is about. When the disciples ask who among them is the greatest, he reminds them (and us too!) that their thoughts should not be on how great they are for what they do, but that they should be humble. He confronts social norms and questions regarding the law and religion, and reminds them (and us) that he came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. Jesus confronts a rich man who has kept the law and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life? Christ tells him "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (Mark 10:21). Are we ready to set aside our own burdens, preconceived notions, baggage, pride, guilt, and follow Christ?

The season of Lent culminates with three major events in the church calendar, which fall into Holy Week. We begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday. This Sunday marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He is greeted by shouts of Hosanna and given all the praise fit for a king entering the city. How then in just a short week do those shouts of hosanna turn into shouts of crucify? How do we react to Christ when our expectations of Him do not line up with the Christ we see in the Gospels?

On the night before his trial and crucifixion, Christ shares a passover meal with his disciples. When he breaks the bread and pours the cup, he shares with the disciples that this represents his blood and body which will be given for all people. Jesus then goes to the garden to pray, and asks the disciples to stay and pray with him. How often do we fail, and we too like the disciples, fall asleep or leave our Lord alone and

deserted? Christ prays that this cup may pass from him as he knows what is about to happen. He is soon arrested.

The next day he is mocked, beaten, tried by Pilate, forced to carry his own cross, and then crucified. The King of the Jews is dead and the shouts of "Crucify Him!" still linger in the air and in people's hearts and minds. Were we there too shouting to crucify him? How in such a short time did we go from shouting hosanna to shouting crucify?

For this year's Good Friday service on March 29th at 7:00pm, our Sanctuary Choir and soloists will be performing a lesser known work called *Olivet to Calvary*. The text is written and arranged by Henry Shapcott Bunce, with the music being composed by John Henry Maunder. This beautiful piece of music will lead us through this journey that Christ takes and help us to come to grips with why their hearts, and our hearts, so quickly turn from hosanna to crucify.

The piece outlines the entirety of Holy Week, beginning with Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We hear the shouts of Hosanna from the joyous multitude in the crowd and hear their mis-understanding of who Christ is and what he will do as the crowd says "Hosanna to the Prince who comes, to free a race oppressed! To drive the Gentile from our land and make His people blest!". We see Christ weep over Jerusalem as he knows the time will come when the city will be overtaken and the temple will be destroyed. While Christ does come to free an oppressed people, it is not in the earthly manner in which they expected.

We see Christ overturn the money changer tables in the temple. We are challenged that our response should not be anger or fear, but to tell Christ: "Another temple waits Thee, Lord divine, The temple of my heart, O make it Thine!"

We see the dark and lonely garden of Olivet as Christ prepares for the last supper with his disciples and that there will be no joyous multitude there in the garden with him later that night. In the last supper, we are minded of God's compassion, unconditional love, and grace through his suffering and death. We are reminded that our response to this amazing love demonstrated for us that we should follow Christ's new commandment. *A new commandment give I unto you that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, so love ye one another.*

We journey with Christ to the garden where where we hear his prayer:

*"Thy will be done" the Savior said,  
And bowed to earth his sacred head  
The sands of life had nearly run  
"My, Father let Thy will be done,  
Thy will not Mine, be done."*

How often do we too forget to pray that God's will is done and not our own?

Christ is betrayed and forsaken by the disciples, his closest friends whom he loved, and arrested.

*O was there ever loneliness like His:  
From the drear garden of His agony,  
The sinless One was led.  
His followers all forsook their Lord and fled;  
No gentle tone, no kindly glance was there,  
but mocking faces, and harsh words of hate*

*The cruel soldiers, the unpitied crowd.  
Despised of men, rejected and forsaken!  
O was there ever loneliness like His!*

Christ is tried by Pilate where the crowds shout "Crucify Him!" As he is marched to his death carrying the cross, we hear the same music that accompanied the shouts of Hosanna during his triumphant march into Jerusalem. However, this time the music is presented in a minor key. Christ is crucified and after he breathes his final breath, the choir reminds us of the hope in the resurrection that is to come.

*Droop, Sacred Head, Upon that breast divine,  
The strife is over, The victory is Thine.*

*Hush, sounds of earth, Sink sink thou mournful sun,  
On Calvary's cross, Lo! mercy's work is done.*

*Gaze, mortal gaze, The Savior hangs for thee,  
Silent in death, Upon the accursed tree.*

*Love, holiest love, Shall earth and heaven atone,  
In fadeless day, From Christ's eternal throne.*

I invite you to come walk this journey with us on Good Friday on March 29th at 7:00pm as our Sanctuary Choir and soloists lead us in this moving and powerful time of reflection. Without Christ's death, there can be no resurrection.

Soli Deo gloria  
- Scott Scheetz



# *Olivet to Calvary*

BY JOHN HENRY MAUNDER

PRESENTED BY THE SANCTUARY  
CHOIR

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024  
7:00 PM

FEATURED SOLOISTS:

BETHEL HENOCK, SOPRANO  
JACKSON LACEFIELD, BASS  
CASEY MILLER, TENOR  
PETER STEINMETZ, BARITONE



# Children's Ministry

## Easter Eggstravaganza

Mark your calendar! The 2024 Easter Eggstravaganza will take place on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:45pm. Dinner will be a potluck at 5pm.



How YOU can help: We are collecting plastic stuffed Easter eggs in the coming weeks for the event and to make a donation of eggs to economically disadvantaged families in Dallas. To make things easy, we have bags of empty plastic eggs you can pick up at the table near the children's area between services. Take a bag home, fill the eggs and return by March 22. \*note: no chocolate or nuts please.

## A Night of Kindness SUCCESS

"A Night of Kindness" was on Tuesday Feb. 13th from 6-7pm. A Mardi Gras themed Celebration Dinner was served at 5:00 PM. Ark Kids are a very creative bunch and they painted kindness rocks to spread joy to the Trophy Club community.





### **VBS Needs YOU!**

We are so excited about VBS this year (June 3-6, 2024) and with your help it will be the best year ever. You can sign up to volunteer by emailing [betsy@fumctc](mailto:betsy@fumctc) to sign up to help.

### **Wednesday Nights @ Fellowship**

Ark Kids love getting together mid-week for dinner and fun. After the church meal at 5pm, we gather from 6pm-7pm to play outside, do crafts and build with legos. From 6:30-7pm our drama ministry team (Grades 4-5) will meet with Miss Betsy on one side of the room and Preschool-5th graders who are not on the drama ministry team can do crafts with Ms. Ann at our "Crafty Corner" of the room. Our drama ministry team is currently working on bringing "The Prodigal Son" to life and they will perform during Children's Chat soon.



### **Prayer Buddies**

On the third Sunday of every month buddies pick up their mail from the permanent bulletin board near the children's area. Make sure to drop a letter in the mail for your buddy this month!

### **Urgent Need for Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes**

In order to maintain our high safety standards at Fellowship, we need more volunteers in children's ministry. We are in desperate need of teachers and assistants for all areas of children's ministry: Nursery, preschool and K-5th. Also, occasionally our regular teachers need to be absent so if you are able to fill in please send [betsy@fumctc.com](mailto:betsy@fumctc.com) an email. All curriculum is provided and you will have the opportunity to spend time with the FABULOUS kids. All volunteers participate in our ministry safe screening program.

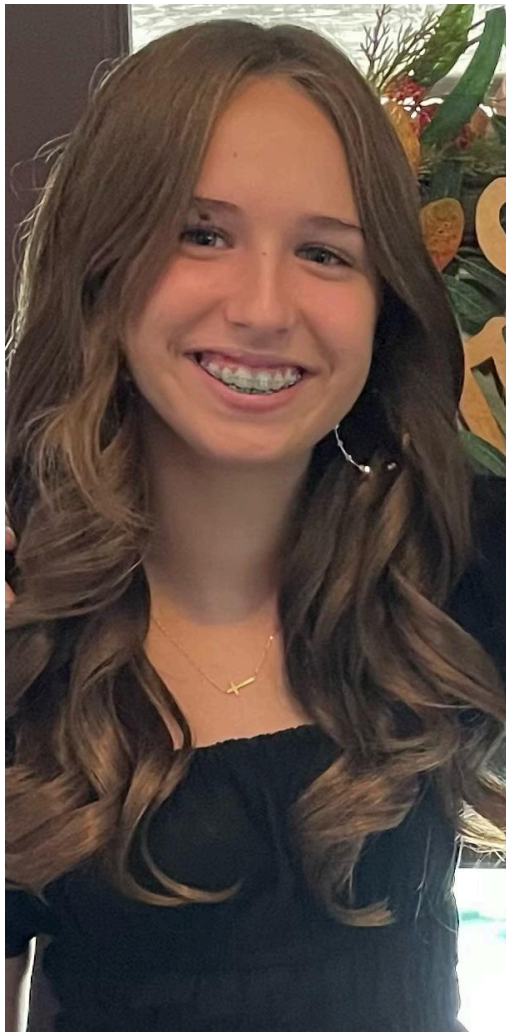
Thank you for praying about whether you can serve in this area. Email [betsy@fumctc.com](mailto:betsy@fumctc.com) for more details.

# Youth Ministry

## Monthly Spotlight

### 1. share a bit about yourself?

Lillie Grace Dennie. I'm 12 and I've been a part of youth almost year now!



### 2. What activities or roles have you been involved with in our youth group and the wider community

I've done one mission trip and I'm going to Houston on my second one this summer and I can't wait! I've led prayers, read scripture in at the church service and participated in many service projects!



### 3. How has being a part of the youth group impacted your life or faith journey?

Getting to meet new church family, having a journey with God with them, and knowing they have my back has helped me feel really supported.

### 4. What is one achievement or experience in the youth group that you are particularly proud of?

Finding my strength to read and speak in front of people. I have dyslexia, so reading doesn't come very easy sometimes, especially in front of people!

### 5. Who in our congregation or community has inspired you the most, and in what way?

My Mom, Tyler and Miss Ann Coleman. My mom because she brought me to youth and church and has taught me how God is always there for me. Tyler because he always makes us smile and feel welcome and teaches fun and interesting lessons. He also encouraged me to speak in front of crowds and now I'm not so afraid! Miss Ann because she taught me Sunday School for years and always taught me in a way I could understand.

### 6. What are your hopes for the future, both personally and for our youth group?

That we all grow up to understand our faith. That I play Division I volleyball and become a dyslexia teacher.

### 7. What advice would you give to younger members of our youth group or to someone considering joining?

That we're not only a youth group, we're a family and Sunday nights are the best because our souls and our stomachs get fed!

## Fellowship Friends Preschool

Our registration for Fall 2024 is in full swing with currently enrolled students already signed up for next year and classes are filling quickly. We are currently open to the public for registration and tours can be scheduled by emailing [barbara@fumctc.com](mailto:barbara@fumctc.com).

We are sad to announce that our Assistant Director, Ashley Cogswell, has departed. She was offered a wonderful opportunity at a brand-new childcare center in Argyle. She will be missed but we couldn't be happier for her and her family as they start this new adventure in their lives. We are currently searching for her replacement.

Our students in our Discovery Day program participated in a day of service. They had the opportunity to learn about caring for all the people in God's kingdom. Together we packed 211 snack sacks for the students in Northwest ISD, made birthday hats for a senior center, mixed dog treats for Apollo Animal Rescue and thank you cards for troops overseas. These children really had a great time with all these activities but the one they seemed to LOVE the most was drawing a garage truck with a thank you note and attaching a bottle of water to it.



These drawings and little notes were sent home with the hope that our families would set them out with their garbage and give those hard-working men and woman a refreshing break. We discussed what would happen to God's world if they stopped working to pick up our garbage. We decided we did not want that to happen. What a stinky mess that would be!

A huge thank you to Larry Hardy for all his work on clearing the path in the woods behind us. Our classes enjoyed a walk in the woods to see nature provided by God. We use this area for nature walks, hunts, picnics and other adventures.



Our tooth fairy was AMAZING! The kids talked about her for weeks after the visit. They did see her in the hallway but we assured them it was her younger sister!!! Thank you to Betsy for assisting us this year with coming in and teaching a lesson on dental health.



Our students are enjoying their morning praise time where we all meet together in Legends Hall and praise God and ask his blessing for the day. What a wonderful surprise we got on Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday when Pastor came in and spoke with us about why we receive ashes on our forehead.

What a great lesson and talking point for the students to bring home to mom and dad.

Many Blessings,  
Barbara Rich Clark

## Safety Response Team

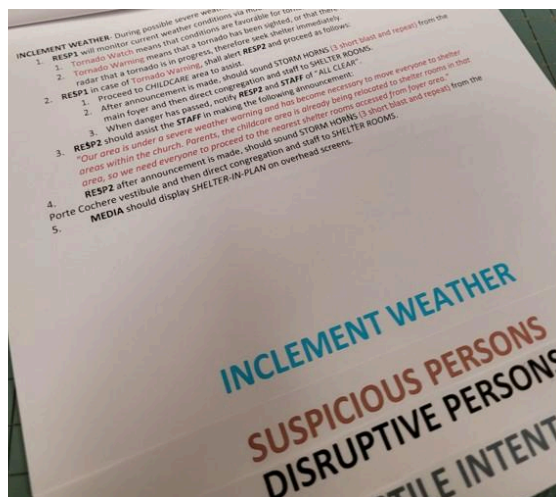
**Response Plans are Posted –  
Please Read, and Ask Questions!**

The Response Team (FUMC's Safety Team) has published our Response Plan. We will be posting copies in classrooms and other common areas.



**CONTENT:** This plan describes events that may occur at the church, and what to do in case of each. It is a general reference that will help you to focus when specific types of things happen, so you can act quickly and appropriately. We do not expect that you memorize these, but we do want you to know what this document is - and where to find one when you need it.

**FORMAT:** The plan is divided into sections. Tabs at the bottom describe each page, so you can flip to the one you need quickly and easily.



**ORIENTATION:** After Easter, we will announce a date when all Sunday School classes will meet for a short orientation session. This meeting is your opportunity to get familiar with this document and ask questions. Members of FUMC's Response Team will be there to describe the plan and the Response Team's role at the church. After the presentation, classes can head to their rooms and resume their scheduled studies.

We look forward to your questions. It is our privilege to serve you as the Response Team. We want to make sure that you are aware of the church's approach to security. Together, we can keep FUMC a safe and welcoming place to gather and worship.

## A Note from Pastor Bob

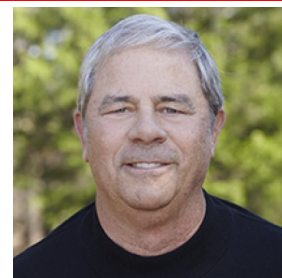
I am continuing to discuss some of the points that are raised by those thought to be Christian Nationalists. The official motto of the US is “In God We Trust”. Since the phrase is everywhere these days you might think that it has been our motto since the founders established our country in the 1780’s.

Actually, there was no official national motto until the summer of 1956. We had an unofficial motto which is the Latin phrase “E Pluribus Unum” (which means Out of Many, One). This phrase has filled the role unofficially from the beginning...it even appeared on the Great Seal of the United States adopted in 1872.

So that means that the phrase “In God We Trust” does not have its roots in the founders period. The first coin minted by the US government actually said, “Mind Your Business”! There was a proposal for “In God We Trust” submitted by a Pennsylvanian state minister to Salmon P. Chase during the Civil War. Chase liked the idea but changed the wording a bit to “God is Our Trust”, but he finally settled on “In God We Trust”. The phrase first appeared on a two-cent piece issued in 1864, then sporadically until 1955.

The move to adopt the religious statement as the country’s official motto came during the height of the Cold War. The motto’s proponents argued that an explicit reference to God would set the US apart from the Soviet Union which was officially atheistic. They also argued that “imperialistic and materialistic communism seeks to attack and destroy freedom”. So, “the United States should look for ways to strengthen the foundations of our freedom”. In God We Trust became our motto in July, 1956.

The idea that our nation is one where many (states or people) come together to be one country. It was a new idea. There were at least two flags during the American revolution that played heavily on that idea. Many



Americans suffered personal losses and sacrificed at a great price in order to have a larger picture for the establishment of their new nation. Unity really expressed their hope for their vital young nation.

In my opinion “E Pluribus Unum” is a concept we seem to have lost. Democracies have not fared well in world history. They haven’t lasted very long. Our American experiment is approaching 250 years old, longer than any other. I often wonder if our leaders would emphasize our past motto “E Pluribus Unum” then we might find ways to build bridges between our fighting factions, not walls.

And consider this, I have a thorough and complete trust in my God. We are approaching a population of 400 million people. Even if everyone is a theist, we each have our own experience, our own dealings with the Holy Other. There are somewhere near 3000 denominations, just in the Christian church. Considering our UMC fracturing in the past few months as well...why is our statement “In God We Trust” a unifying one? Doesn’t it cause people to choose a facet of the Holy Other they know while usually denying other experiences. Mostly because these new ideas don’t match their understanding of God.

And that’s why our national motto *should* reflect a unification emphasis. After all, it is an action we can take! In the meantime we can begin to see our fellow citizens as children of God, just like us! I think some hardy discussions will help us out from here on...but not fighting over whose faith is best, while denigrating our fellow citizens' experiences with the Holy Other!

YIC, Bob

## 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.

### **March 6 - Soup & Salad Potluck**

Come bring your favorite soups & salads, and share it with others!

### **March 13 - Spring Break - NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES EXCEPT SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL**

### **March 20**

Hosted by our Safety Team

### **March 27 - Finger Food & Appetizer Potluck**

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

### **April 3 - Nacho Bar**

Hosted by our Children and Youth Ministries

### **April 10 - Breakfast/Brunch Potluck**

Come bring your favorite breakfast & brunch food, and share it with others!

### **April 17 - Baked Potato Bar**

Hosted by our Church Administrative Board

### **April 24 - BBQ Potluck**

Come bring your BBQ & , and share it with others!

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## Missions Opportunities



Please contact Karen, our office administrator ([karen@fumctc.com](mailto: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](mailto:ginger@fumctc.com)

### **Desserts for the Roanoke Senior Center**

FUMC has partnered with the Roanoke Senior Center and provides desserts the 2nd & 5th 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 & 5th 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:

**GRANOLA BARS**

**CANNED CHILI**

**BOXED POTATOES**

**HAMBURGER/TUNA HELPER**

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
- 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 4:00-6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group
- 5:30-6:45 pm Adult Bible Study
- 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 pm 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 Drama Team
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal