

# The Connection Point

May 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 5



## Upcoming Events:

### Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 7th at 11:00

*Come and celebrate as we recognize our graduating seniors during the 11:00 am worship service*



### Mother's Day Sunday

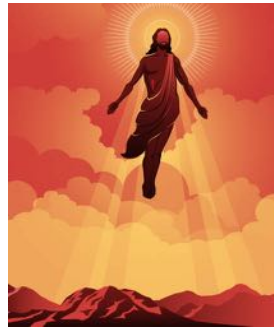
Sunday, May 14th at 11:00

*Come worship and celebrate all mothers and women as our Children's Choir leads us in worship during the 11:00 am worship service*

### Confirmation and Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 21st at 11:00

*Come join as we recognize our confirmation class during the 11:00 am worship and celebrate Christ's Ascension*



### Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 28th at 11:00

*Come join us as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday during the 11:00 am worship*



### Memorial Day Organ Concert:

#### A Celebration of Americana Organ Music

Sunday, May 28th at 4:00 pm

*Come join us as we celebrate Memorial Day with a concert of Americana organ music. This concert goes to benefit our Choral Scholar Program. An ice cream and watermelon reception will follow the concert*

## What's Inside:



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## A Note from the Pastor

This newsletter finds me at a quandary - what do I write? Easter Sunday has come and gone. As I ponder the vastness of what I could write to you, I hear the sounds of children cheering from outside. What is going on? The cheering is part of a long journey that our preschool children have undertaken and culminates today.

Many weeks ago, our preschool children and their teachers began this journey with simple caterpillars. They were so very small and fragile. Our children were tasked with raising these caterpillars to see how big they would grow. Indeed, they grew! Our children watched them inch from delicious lettuce leaf to leaf. Things seemed to go so well in the life of a caterpillar luxuriously spoiled by our preschool children. Oh, they were robust caterpillars! Then, the unexpected happened! The caterpillars crafted a cocoon and shut themselves inside. Can you imagine the disappointment of our children as the caterpillars were no longer inching along, but appearing dead and dormant. All of a sudden, the caterpillars began to emerge, but things did not seem to go as planned. There was some ooze, what appeared to be blood, dripping from the cocoons as the caterpillars were struggling for freedom. Then, as hope seemed to be lost, what emerged was no longer a caterpillar, but a beautiful butterfly.

During this process, I learned that the caterpillars don't just change into a butterfly, but emit an enzyme that causes them to totally melt and from that DNA, a new creature, a butterfly, emerges. What oozed from the cocoon was the remnant of their former being and the evidence of transformation.



This journey reminds me of the love and grace of God. God can overcome what we once were and turn us into beautiful creations that more closely mirror the love and grace of God. Sure, it is a transformative process that requires much effort, and there may be ooze that seeps out from time to time as we become the beautiful image that God helps us to be. Do not lose hope! God's grace and resurrecting power are at work within us bringing the dead and decaying parts to new and vibrant life.

It reminds me of the wonderful promise of God from John 11:25-26 as Jesus says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoseever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

At times, we become too focused on the "ooze" of life. We must trust in God's grace to bring about the beautiful creation we are intended to be. Back to our original story about our preschool children. Why were they cheering? Because today they are turning their butterflies loose! Butterflies, lots of them, were soaring into the sky, stretching their wings for the first time, enjoying their newly found freedom. What a lesson for us. It is very tempting to point to the "ooze" of our former selves. God asks us to cheer each other on as we become new creations and find freedom and love. Let's cheer for transformation!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bill

# Music Ministry

## He was here... but now He's gone?

by Scott Scheetz

May might just be one of my favorite months of the church year, and it's not just because we've made it through Easter. In May (usually, sometimes it's June), we find my 3 favorite Sundays in a row. Ascension Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and Trinity Sunday.

These three Sundays often are overshadowed by Easter and Christmas, but I find them to be just as important and sometimes even more meaningful than Easter/Christmas. Both Ascension Sunday and Pentecost Sunday celebrate an event in the lives of the disciples and the early church, and set the foundation for the church today. On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit giving birth to the church. But something happened before that.

The book of Acts begins with the Ascension of Christ, His final act on earth. Before ascending, Christ tells the disciples not to leave Jerusalem and to wait for the promise of the Father. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." What an incredible promise of hope and what a monumental task. And then right after Christ had told them this, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. The disciples stand there looking up and wondering what to do.

What would you do in that situation? It has only been 40 days since Christ was raised from the dead. There was so much turmoil, sadness, and fear when he was killed. Then surprise and joy upon his resurrection. We just got him back and now he's gone?

I find comfort in the words of the hymn "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build". This hymn was written in the early 1600's by Josua Wegelin, a Lutheran pastor in Augsburg who had to flee the city on several occasions



due to the decree of Restitution enacted by the Emperor Ferdinand III and due to the battle of Nordlingen. He eventually took refuge in Hungary where he was a pastor and a Doctor of Theology and died at the age of 36 in 1640. Wegelin's hymns are characterized by their simple yet powerful language, their focus on Christ as the center of the Christian faith, and their emphasis on the hope and comfort that believers can find in him. The hymn was translated into English by William M. Czamanske in 1941.

*On Christ's ascension I now build  
the hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.*

*Since Christ returned to claim His throne,  
Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.*

*O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve you faithfully  
In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.*

In this hymn, we are reminded that although Christ has ascended to heaven, we need not be afraid. Through Christ's death and resurrection, he has paved the way for us and we too will one day ascend to heaven. In our time on earth, let us faithfully serve and rest our heart on Him alone until that day when he calls us to heaven.

## Children's Ministry



### Egg Hunt Fun!

The weather cooperated and our annual church egg hunt was filled with snow cones, pinwheels, eggs and laughter. We are thankful to the youth who provided delicious breakfast burritos prior to the fun. We even had a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny! Thanks to everyone who contributed eggs and volunteered to make the day a success. A portion of the eggs we collected brought joy to children in Dallas who were able to experience an egg hunt for the first time.



### Wednesday Nights

As part of our study on virtues, we are exploring what God is doing in us to change the world around us. In April, we created thank you notes for someone special in our life from potato stamps. We also made beautiful Mother's Day gifts to honor our moms. ARKKIDS are making a difference in this world!

### Sunday School Happenings

#### Preschool

This month, our theme is "To the Rescue" We will be spending this month answering the question "Who made you to help?" God made me to help! That's who! After all, God is the ultimate helper, and we are all made in God's image

- Week One: Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- Week Two: The Four Friends (Mark 2:1-12)
- Week Three: Timothy and Tabitha (1 Timothy 4:12; Acts 9:36-39)
- Week Four: Rebekah Helps (Genesis 24:15-20)

**Memory Verse:** 2 Chronicles 32:8

*"WE HAVE THE LORD OUR GOD TO HELP US."*

#### Kindergarten-5th Grade

This May, our theme is "Raise Your Game". True confidence is found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, and also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much!

- Week One: Great Commission and Ascension (Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11)
- Week Two: The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
- Week Three: Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin (Acts 3:1-4:21)
- Week Four: Philip and the Man from Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-40)

**Memory Verse:** Hebrews 13:6

*"SO WE SAY WITH CONFIDENCE, 'THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT BE AFRAID.'"*

### VBS

Summer is coming and we need many more volunteers for our June 5th-8th VBS. Whether your gift is teaching, assisting, decorating, music or crafting we have a place for you. All curriculum and materials are provided. Help us make this a GREAT VBS for our kids!

To sign up to volunteer use the QR code to the right or visit <https://www.myvbs.org/arkkids>



### Children's Choir

What a joy it was to hear the kids sing on Palm Sunday! The sanctuary echoed with praises of "Hosanna!" The Children's Choir will be leading worship again on Sunday, May 14th for Mother's day with a song about family and love.



The children's choir is open to 5K-5th grade and will continue to rehearse on Wednesday nights through the end of the school year.

## 2023 Graduating Seniors!



**Maggie Chippendale**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending the University of North  
Texas in the fall



**Caden Coale**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Joining the US Army in the fall  
*Media Ministry Team*



**Benjamin Dagget**

Argyle High School '23  
Attending the University of Alabama  
in the fall



**Kai Diamond**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending Texas Christian University  
in the fall  
*Choral Scholar*



**Alex Hartin**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending Eastman School of Music  
in the fall  
*Choral Scholar*



**Madeline Hester**

University of Western Kentucky '23



**Toby Hester**  
Decatur High School '23



**Jacob Lathrop**  
Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending the University of  
Southern Alabama in the fall  
*Media Ministry Team*



**Jack Lokensgard**  
V.R. Eaton High School '23  
Attending Texas Christian University  
in the fall



**Andrew Maas**  
Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending the University of Nebraska  
in the fall



**Diana Miley**  
Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending Stephen F. Austin  
in the fall



**Austin Miller**  
Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending Penn State University in  
the fall  
*Media Ministry Team*

**Gabe Moore**

Liberty Christian School '23  
Attending Ouachita Baptist  
in the Fall

**Caroline Newell**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending the University of Texas in  
the Fall  
*Media Ministry Team*

**Violet Novak**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending Southeast Missouri State  
University in the fall  
*Choral Scholar*

**Rachel Raper**

Byron Nelson High School '23  
Attending the University of  
Oklahoma in the fall

**Susanne Scott**

V.R. Eaton High School '23

“Three of our four wonderfully talented choral scholars are seniors and will be graduating this year. We are so thankful for them sharing their gifts and talents each week. We wish them the best as they pursue future studies, careers in music, and all that lies ahead.”

- Scott Scheetz  
*Director of Worship Arts and  
Organist*

“We have had four seniors that have faithfully supported the Media Ministry for the past several years. We are extremely thankful for their dedication and attendance when called upon. We wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.”

- Harry Ebbeson  
*Director of Digital Media*



## Fellowship Friends Preschool

We started our month with a visit from the Easter bunny and hunting for eggs. Our parents donated filled eggs and our kids got the opportunity to go for a hunt around the area outside and collect them. During chapel with Ms. Chandra, we learned about what the Easter season means. We talked about God giving us his son and his sacrifice for us. Our children explored the wonder that is the miracle of Easter morning and what his love to means to the world.

We discovered with our Discovery Day classes what Newton's Laws were and how they help to explain why things work the way they do. Our next discovery day is the exploration of the Circus world and how science and math are used at the circus in their wonderful acts and stunts.

We have had a wonderful month learning about weather, recycling, insects and plants. We talked about how it is our responsibility to help save the earth with our actions. Together we learned about recycling,



reusing and reducing, and how we can make a better world for those around us and for future generations. We released our butterflies into the world that we watch grow and transform from little caterpillars into one of God's beautiful creations.

We are hiring for fall and would love to have you join our team. Call the office at 817/491-2300 or send an email to [barbara@fumctc.com](mailto:barbara@fumctc.com). Come see what we have to offer.

We look forward to May with graduation, Mother's day and special celebrations.

- Barbara Rich Clark

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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 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:

**Pasta Sauce**  
**(No Glass Jars, Please)**

**Children's Snacks**  
**(Individually Wrapped)**

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