

FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connection Point Newsletter

“COME AND SEE.”
JOHN 1:39



THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON:

Giving and Gratitude

As we embrace the month of November, let's take a moment to reflect on the spirit of the season. This time of year invites us to cultivate gratitude in our hearts and share that abundance with others. Whether through acts of kindness, volunteering our time, or simply reaching out to neighbors in need, we have the opportunity to embody the love and compassion that defines our faith. Let us remember the importance of community and the joy that comes from giving. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. As we gather for our events and celebrations this month, let's carry this spirit with us—showing appreciation for our blessings and extending a hand to those who may need it most. May our hearts be filled with gratitude and our actions reflect our faith in action.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BILL

Senior Pastor



Why is serving and feeding our community so important? After all, many in our world today have the perception that each person should just work hard and pull themselves up out of poverty. Sounds simple, right? Not so in our beloved community. I hear stories often about tragic situations that have forced local residents into poverty. A mother of three small children was abandoned by her husband who ran away with a younger women leaving this now single mom with the burden of their home and bills. A retired couple, living on a fixed income, has been financially devastated due to the cost of cancer treatments, finds it difficult to pay utilities and put food on the table. A single mom who was displaced from her home because her rent skyrocketed is now living in her car with her child. These are some of the stories we have heard recently. Do we make a difference?

Years ago, lightning struck the church and knocked the steeple off our church. The insurance deductible seemed too much to overcome. Sound familiar? The call for help was put out. As 130 snack sacks were being delivered to a local elementary school, the amazing volunteers delivering snack sacks were asked to come to a room and see what the school had done to help raise funds to put the steeple back on the church. Children, some of which were receiving snack sacks, were finding spare change in any place they could and brought that to the school to help in some small way the loving church that continues to feed them, even in the midst of their own disaster. I wonder how many meager piggy banks were emptied.

This photo is that very collection from those students. It seems like so little, yet is so very profound and in some cases was all they had. This was a gift of love and reminded me of a teaching opportunity Jesus used with his disciples, "A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." -Mark 12: 42-44. The poor widow gave out of love. These students gave out of love. The mission we have in feeding our community is an expression of our love — love for our neighbor and love for God. What we do makes a huge difference! What a blessing it is to be in ministry with you! We are Fellowship!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bill





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Betsy Modrzejewski,
Director

November promises to be a month filled with gratitude. We are thankful that Fellowship UMC is a church where children are valued. Last month, we celebrated the life of our beloved Ms. Ann. She modeled kindness and taught us so much. During The Clubhouse in October, kids made lanterns and this month we will welcome the changing of the seasons by going on a Lantern Walk. **Children's Choir rehearsals are underway, November 6th and 13th, 6:15-6:45pm with a performance scheduled on December 1st at the 11 am worship service.** We also have a wonderful opportunity this month to give back to our church family by serving Wednesday night dinner.

On Sunday mornings, our theme is "Special Delivery" and we'll be exploring the connection between generosity and God's character. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we'll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.



THIS MONTH
AT
THE CLUBHOUSE
WEDNESDAYS 6-7PM

November 6:
Lantern Walk

November 13:
Ark Kids and Youth Serve Dinner
Dinner 5-6pm and Clean Up 6-7pm

November 20:
Thanksgiving Feast
(Churchwide Potluck)

November 27:
Holiday-No meeting



"EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM GOD" JAMES 1:17

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tyler Sweatt, Director

Thank You for Making Our Chili Cook-Off and Trunk-or-Treat a Hit!

We want to give a huge thanks to everyone who came out to support our youth ministry at this year's Chili Cook-Off and Trunk or Treat! From the delicious pots of chili to the creative trunks, it was a fun night filled with great food, laughter, and community. Congratulations to our **Chili Cook-Off Champion, Steve Collins**—your recipe won over our taste buds!



● ● ● Sunday Night Conversations with Our Youth ● ● ●

On Sunday evenings, we've been having some real, heartfelt conversations with our youth about self-image and the challenges they face every day. We know how tough it can be to see ourselves clearly amid all the voices and pressures around us. Our focus has been on finding our true identity in Christ and seeing ourselves the way God sees us.

We've leaned into the wisdom of **1 Samuel 16:7**, which reminds us, *"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* Together, we're learning that our value isn't defined by others' standards but by God's love for us.



Our youth retreat is just around the corner, happening January 18-20. It's going to be a special time for connecting, growing, and discovering what it means to follow Jesus. Stay tuned for more details, and please keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for this retreat.

MUSIC MINISTRY



**Jason Chavarria,
Director**

The busy fall season is upon us, and our music ministry is actively preparing to enrich our worship experience and celebrate the joy of the season through beautiful music.

Our talented Handbell Choir will perform during worship once a month, adding a special touch to our services. We're also excited to introduce our newly-formed Children's Choir, which will sing at the 11 AM worship service on Sunday, December 1, the first Sunday of Advent!

Additionally, **be sure to mark your calendars for our Christmas musical presentation, "And the Word Became Flesh," on Sunday, December 15, at the 11 AM Worship Service.** This enchanting cantata, performed by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, tells the story of Jesus' birth—from Old Testament prophecies to the arrival of the magi. You won't want to miss this beautiful experience!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BOB TURK

Associate Pastor



In October, 1991, I was a lay person who had enrolled in Disciple Bible Study to begin the fall. Well, our pastor was moved "out of sequence" about six weeks into the class. There were almost 30 people as this was the first time it was offered at our church.

The Pastor knew me pretty well, had recognized I was a "Bible Nerd", then called me to tell me he was moving and that he thought I could teach the class. I gave it a try and found that I enjoyed it as the teacher has to stay ahead of their pupils. I had had an unique opportunity in my military career to be assigned to the United Nations as a military observer of the peace accords in the Middle East, headquartered in Jerusalem.

I had been back for some years but I was enthralled with reading about how the scripture came to us, especially after the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the late 1940's. I had been taking the Biblical Archeology Review since my return to the US in 1976.

When I began teaching Disciple there weren't too many translations. So choosing a personal copy for study was limited to maybe 6-8 versions. Now there are hundreds of translations. I will close by saying if you are searching for new Bible do not buy any Bible published before 1991, because you will not get the later studies for footnotes, etc.

In our time, when we are arguing about so many topics and their sources, it would seem we would want the best and latest information we can get. I will continue discussing translation and purchase issues as we go forward these coming months. God bless and keep you until then.

MEDIA MINISTRY

Harry Ebbeson, Digital Media Director



JUST WHAT IS MEDIA MINISTRY?

Hello all, this is Harry Ebbeson, and I am the Digital Media Director for Fellowship UMC. I have been here since 2018, and you have probably seen me working in the media booth over the years.

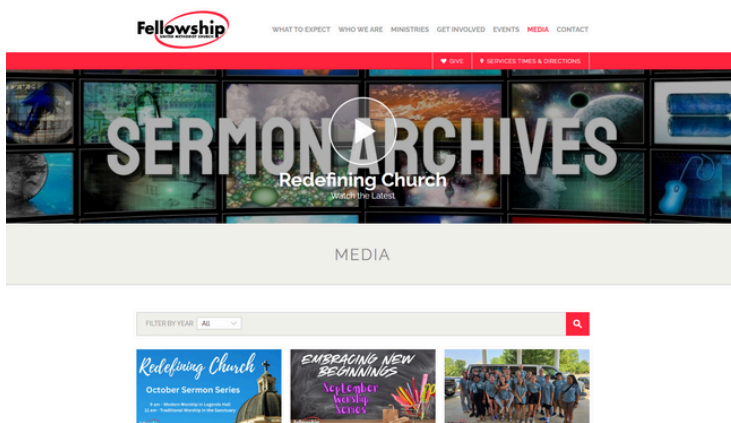
You may ask, what in the world is a Digital Media Director? To put it succinctly, I am responsible for ensuring that all the audio/visual (A/V) equipment works during both worship services. I also oversee the broadcasting of these services in real time on YouTube and the recording of them, with links posted to our website so that anyone can watch the services later. In addition to these primary duties, I provide A/V support for Fellowship Friends Preschool and its larger programs, such as Christmas and the End of School Year celebrations. I also offer A/V services for other church events, including weddings, memorials/funerals, concerts, and similar happenings. Along with Pastor Bill, Aaron Carnahan, and Stoney Gwtira of the Digital Technology Team, I help oversee the maintenance of A/V equipment and other computer resources.

I have a diverse team of volunteers who regularly assist with camera control, slide projection, and audio management. I strive to engage the youth of our church as meaningful members of the A/V team. This is done in conjunction with Tyler Sweatt, our Director of Youth Ministries, as a way of involving youth in all aspects of the worship experience. If you look near the media booth in either service (Sanctuary or Legends Hall), you will likely see some of our youth working the media stations.

In upcoming newsletter articles, I will highlight members of the team and provide insight into how our media ministry is instrumental in reaching out to the community and the broader world. The unofficial motto of the Media Ministry is "Getting the Word Out!"

In closing, be sure to tell your friends and acquaintances to **check us out on our website, FUMCTC.com, under the Media tab.**

Regards,
Harry E.



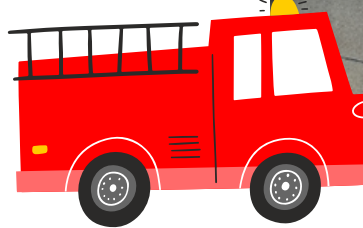


FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS PRESCHOOL

Barbara Rich Clark, Director

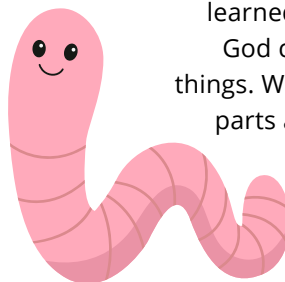


October was fire prevention month. Our students got the opportunity to meet our local firefighters and learn about their jobs. Trophy Club fire department allowed our students to see what they looked like in their full fire gear so that our students are less likely to be scared of them. We toured the fire truck and the ambulance, took pictures and waved goodbye to our heroes.



We had 2 discovery days this month. During our first discovery day we learned about erosion. We discovered that worms and other tiny species live in dirt. We took a walk in the woods, played with worms, and watched dirt explode. On our second discovery day, our children

learned about fish. We talked about how God created the water and all the living things. We dissected a fish, labeled its body parts and went ice fishing. Our students even got to take home a pet fish.



Some of our favorite things we did this month were opening a pumpkin and seeing what was inside. Going on a pumpkin hunt in the woods and decorating pumpkins. We closed our month with our storybook character parade and Mother Goose visit.



NOVEMBER EVENTS



TOGETHER IN THANKFULNESS

Join Us for Our All Saints Service

On Sunday, November 3rd, at 11 AM, we invite you to our special All Saints service. This meaningful tradition honors the lives of those who have gone before us, celebrating their faith and contributions to our community. Together, we'll remember and give thanks for our loved ones, reflecting on the promise of eternal life in Christ. Come and be part of this heartfelt gathering as we cherish the memories of those who have touched our lives.

The Great Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 9th, from 12 PM to 4 PM** for a delightful day of fun at our Fall Festival, in partnership with the city of Trophy Club and community sponsors. Enjoy a charming old-fashioned pumpkin patch, navigate a hay maze, take a ride on the train, and visit the petting zoo. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon filled with laughter, community, and the joy of the season.

You're invited to our Christmas Market

Join us on **Sunday, November 10th, from 8 AM to 1 PM** in the narthex for a special Christmas market hosted by Creative Christian Women (CCW). This is the perfect opportunity to find unique, handmade gifts for your loved ones and get a head start on your holiday shopping!

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM-Modern Worship, Legends Hall
- 11:00 AM-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10: 00 AM-Sunday School
- 10:30 AM-Chancel Choir
- 4:00 PM-Handbell Choir Rehersal
- 4:00 PM-FTC Youth
- 5:30 PM-Bible with Bob, Room 108 & 109

MONDAY

- 10:00 AM-Creative Christian Women, Room 110

TUESDAY

- 7:00 AM-Men's Bible Study, Dove Creek Cafe
- 8:30 AM- Men's Bible Study, Breakfast Club 51

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00 PM-Family Fellowship Dinner, Legends Hall
- 5:00 PM-The Hangout (youth)
- 6:00 PM-Bible Study with Pastor Bill, The Gospel of Matthew, Room 110
- 6:00 PM-The Clubhouse (children)
- 6:15PM-Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00PM-Chancel Choir Rehearsal



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join Us for Snack Sack Packing Day



Thank you to everyone who made our first packing day a success! Your hard work and dedication helped us prepare over 500 snack sacks for our local schools. Let's keep the momentum going as we gear up for **our next packing day on Sunday, November 3rd, immediately following the 11 AM service in Legends Hall.** Together, we can continue to make a difference in our community! If you'd like to support this initiative financially, you can do so by check or through an online donation—just be sure to specify that your donation is for "snack sacks."

Join Our Welcoming Team: Become an Usher or Greeter

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to serve as ushers and greeters for our Sunday services! These roles are essential in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for both our members and visitors. As an usher or greeter, your commitment involves serving just one Sunday per month, arriving 15 minutes early, and attending a brief one-hour orientation session each year. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to **Ken Kolsti** at kkolsti@att.net or **Nancy Kolsti** at nkolsti@att.net.



Monthly Mission: Roanoke Food Pantry Donations



This month's shopping list includes: **peanut butter, crackers (saltines or Ritz), and cereal.**

Your generous contributions play a vital role in ensuring that families in our community have access to essential food items. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.