

The Connection Point

September 2023 - Vol. 1, No. 9



Meet The 2023-2024 Choral Scholars!

Last year I started a partnership with Byron Nelson and we were blessed with four extremely talented choral scholars. Three of the four graduated last spring and left for college last month. I am so excited that we are blessed with four choral scholars again this year thanks to your support! One may look familiar. Casey is continuing on for a second year with us, and I am so excited Belle, Bethel, and Jackson are joining us this year! If you have not had the chance to meet them yet, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself! They are truly wonderful and we are blessed to have them in our choir. Coming up in the middle of September you will have the chance to hear them sing a beautiful quartet piece in our 11:00 worship!



Bethel, Belle, Jackson, and Casey

The choral scholar program is supported by your generous donations throughout the year and at our *Music at Fellowship* concert series. For more info on our concert series and choral scholar program, **checkout our fall concert series calendar on page 6**. Our first concert is coming up soon with a fun and family-friendly Organ Duet recital on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24th at 4PM!** This recital will showcase our beautiful 4-manual organ and will be animal-themed to highlight the beautiful mural in our newly redone children’s wing! And the concert isn’t just for children – adults will have fun too! You don’t want to miss it!

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Upcoming Events:

National Day of Service

September 11, 2023

6:00 pm @ 2509 Trophy Club

Dr, Trophy Club

Organ Duet Concert

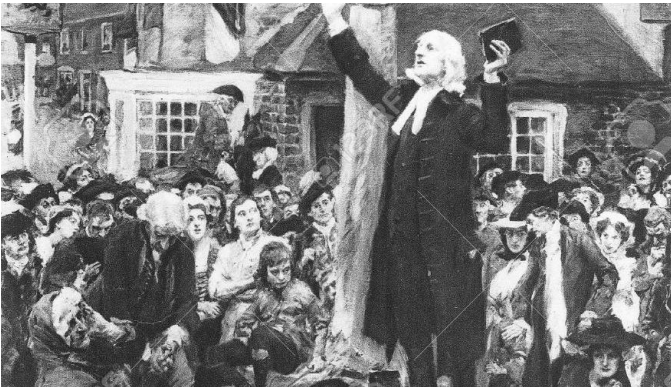
Sunday, Sep. 24, 2023

4pm in the Sanctuary

A Note from Pastor Bill

Fall programming has resumed here at Fellowship United Methodist Church and I am so encouraged by the excitement, energy, and love of this amazing church family. We are off to a great new school year, for all of us as well as for our children. What a blessing!

Recently, I offered a class, What Is A Methodist? As I have been reflecting on this class, a thought keeps rattling around in my brain. It is a very Methodist thought, steeped in our Methodist tradition, which draws its roots from John and Charles Wesley. What are we really about?



A group of people came to Rev. John Wesley, an Anglican minister, and were deeply concerned about their salvation. Rev. Wesley appointed a day in which they could all come together and work on their faith. What became of this was the foundation of class meetings, roots of our "Methodism." Rev. Wesley gave 3 simple rules to guide these persons. These 3 general rules became the backbone of a new religious expression, one that would eventually be called "Methodist." These 3 general rules guide us today. Here are the 3 general rules that Wesley gave to us, a people called Methodist.



1. DO NO HARM. In other words, we should actively avoid evil of every kind. Some examples of the sin that pervades our lives according to Wesley were: taking the Lord's name in vane, holding slaves, drunkenness, profaning the Lord's Day (Sabbath), fighting, quarreling, theft, spreading gossip about another, or doing anything that doesn't glorify God, etc. Rev. Wesley had many other examples, but we get the idea.
2. DO ALL THE GOOD WE CAN DO. We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and those in prison, doing good to all persons including those of "the household of faith or groaning to be." Who is this? Basically, it's like Jesus' answer to the question, "who is my neighbor?" Everyone! We Methodists should constantly and intentionally look to do all the good we can do in every way we can.
3. ATTEND UPON THE ORDINANCES OF GOD. Wow, quite wordy for Rev. Wesley. What does this mean? STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD. We stay in love with God by attending worship services, Holy Communion, constant prayer, studying scripture, and by fasting or abstinence. In other words, we look for ways in which we can connect with God's presence in profound and tremendous ways that shape our lives and lead us onward to a more perfect image of God's love and grace.

At each executive clergy session where the ordained — Elders and Deacons, come together to examine the candidates for ordination, the presiding Bishop asks the historic questions handed down from John Wesley that each candidate must answer in front of all the ordained. Two of these questions come to mind. 1.) Do you know the General Rules of Our Church? And 2.) Will you keep them? I remember vividly as our Bishop asked me these historic questions in front of a few hundred ordained clergy members. Of course I answered, “YES!” Then the Bishop turned to me and said, “Can you name a General Rule?” Luckily, I knew all three. I have seen a Bishop ask this additional question often. Why? Because, these General Rules have guided us Methodists from the very beginning of Methodism. However, and it breaks my heart to acknowledge this, but many faithful Methodists aren’t even aware there are 3 General Rules that guide Methodists.

In a world where hatred, prejudice, and anger have become so commonplace, it is helpful for us all to remember and be guided by these historic 3 General Rules:

1. DO NO HARM
2. DO ALL THE GOOD WE CAN DO
3. STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bill

Music Ministry

How to Sing?

by Scott Scheetz

In last month's article, I discussed music in worship and focused on the organ's role in supporting congregational song. This month, I'll be digging deeper into congregational song and how we sing. Don't worry, this won't be a technical description of how the sound is produced, nor will we be looking at the accuracy of notes and pitches. Just simply, how we should engage in song as we worship.

I really do love the Wesleys. I'm sure at some point you have heard Bill and I talk about John and Charles Wesley. If you haven't, the short version is, they are essentially the founders of the Methodist Church. John was a pastor and his brother Charles was a very prolific hymn writer who wrote over 8,900 hymns!

In 1761, John published a collection of 133 hymns in a book entitled *Select hymns with tunes annexed: designed chiefly for the use of the people called Methodists*. At the end of this collection, John included "Directions for Singing". Although there are only 7 brief instructions, we can see just how important music in worship was to John, and how important music in worship should be for us as well. These directions were so significant, they are still included in our hymnal today and can be found on page vii of the preface. These directions are at times humorous, odd, and insightful. Some apply more specifically to the collection that they were written for, however all are still very applicable today, over 250 years later.

"Directions for Singing" from
John Wesley's *Select Hymns*, 1791

That this part of Divine Worship may be the more acceptable to God, as well as the more profitable to yourself and others, be careful to observe the following directions.



I. Learn these Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

The first rule may seem strange, but when put in the context of the original hymnal, it begins to make sense. This was the first collection of hymns and tunes specifically chosen for the new Methodist Church and for all churches practicing it. These carefully chosen hymns were establishing and reinforcing the Methodist doctrine. John wanted to be sure that people understood the Methodist doctrine before incorporating other elements.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

This one is fairly amusing. John is essentially saying, sing the right notes and if you sing a wrong one, fix it!

III. Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

My second favorite of the directions. Everyone is called to sing and make a joyful noise to the Lord, and we find this throughout scripture.

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

I am sure we can all relate to the first half of number four. We all have those mornings (even on Sundays), where we are physically or emotionally tired. Sometimes it's both. We are called to join in praise

and song as we worship and by joining together we gain strength and energy as one voice.

The second half of that one is both funny and a bit odd and I have to remind myself that it was written in the 1700s. The “Songs of Satan” as John Wesley puts it, is simply secular music, and secular music isn’t always a bad thing. I’m sure we all have that favorite song that we sing loudly in the shower or sing along to in our cars when it plays on the radio. I will fully admit that if Taylor Swift’s *Shake It Off* starts playing, I’m going to be singing along and grinning the entire time. Wesley is simply inviting us to have at least that much joy and energy, if not more when we sing our praise to God.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

No matter what music ensemble I’m leading, I always remind them that the most important part of making music together is listening. It’s the same as when people are having a spoken dialogue. Everyone’s voice is important and should be heard, as what we make together is often more fulfilling and beautiful than what we make alone.

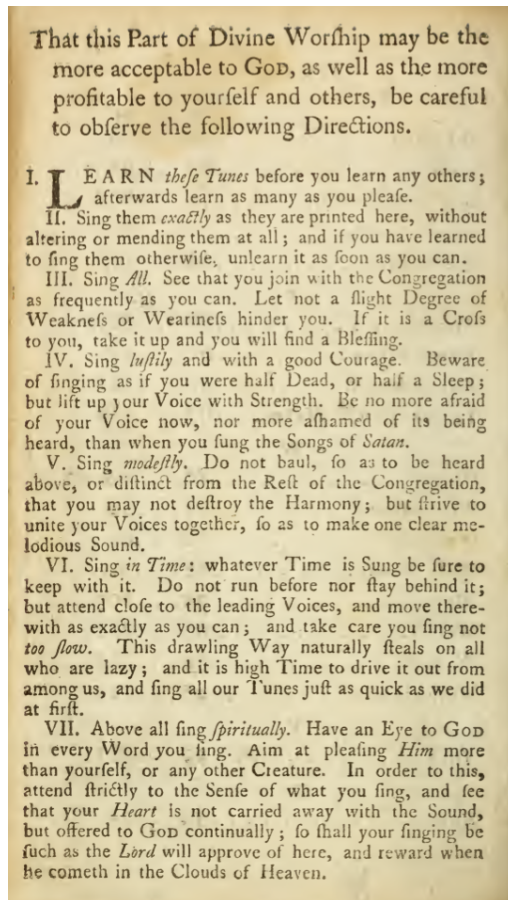
VI. Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

Again we have the reminder to listen and sing together and to sing with energy. We should never be lazy in our song and praise to God as we are called to give our first fruits (or our best) to Him!

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

Finally, my favorite of the seven rules. As the Wesleys’ often do, they save the best for the last and point us toward God in heaven. This is a motif that Charles Wesley commonly uses in his hymns. He will take us from the muck and mire of human life in the middle verses and remind us of God’s grace and salvation and the promise of life in heaven. So let us all sing loudly and joyfully each Sunday as we worship God, offering him the best that we can together as a family of God.

Soli Deo gloria



Music at Fellowship

A concert series for the community



This concert series is free to the public and made possible by your generosity and the hard work of our talented musicians. The goal of this concert series is to elevate the arts scene in our area, provide community outreach, and provide funding for our choral scholar program through your generous donations.

Our Choral Scholar program with Byron Nelson High School is for students who are interested in vocal or choral music as a career. Students gain experience, musical development, and performance practice while strengthening and anchoring the adult choir.

I am excited to announce that in addition to featuring our own Sanctuary Choir, this season's concert series will be featuring several local Dallas-Fort Worth musicians including DFW Brass and the Dallas Recorder Society!

Sunday, September 24th at 4:00pm

Scott & Katie Scheetz, Organ Duet

This fun and family-friendly organ duet recital will showcase our beautiful 4-manual organ and will be animal-themed to highlight the beautiful mural in our newly redone children's wing!

Sunday, October 29th at 4:00pm

The Dallas Recorder Society

Did you know that recorders can be more than just plastic instruments that elementary school students learn? Come hear some world class musicians perform beautiful music and bring your children too! They will be so excited to hear and see instruments that they have played or will be learning soon!

Sunday, December 10th at 4:00pm

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Come and hear our wonderfully talented Sanctuary Choir lead us in a service of music and scripture that tells the story of the birth of Christ. This is a meaningful, exciting, beautiful way to prepare for the joy of Christmas!

Youth Ministry

Hello everyone!

This past Sunday, our youth group kicked off the new season. We delved into Hebrews 11:1-6, discussing the essence of faith. Together, we pondered the moments that affirm God's presence and also acknowledged our natural doubts.



It's reassuring to know our group is a place where questions are welcomed. We were also treated to captivating images, showcasing the beauty of God's creations, like the intricate design of a snowflake.



And yes, we didn't miss out on the fun part - lots of lively games! Thank you to all who joined. Looking forward to our journey together this year.



Blessings,
Tyler and Ginger

Children's Ministry



This fall, we are launching an exciting NEW programming option for children on Wednesday nights: Theatre. Read on for the answer to: why theatre at Fellowship?

Theatre is a Bridge

By Betsy Modrzejewski, MA

Over twenty years ago, I decided to pursue a masters degree in a field that I knew would not be lucrative or secure: Youth Theatre. I pursued it because every part of me believed that theatre is a bridge.

Theatre is a school for learning how to co-exist, communicate and FEEL. To learn from mistakes. To experience the emotions of another person for a few minutes so that we know that OUR story is not the ONLY story.

In my first job as Education Director of a youth theatre, my boss would tell the staff: "We don't just make good actors. We make good people." He knew that even more than producing high quality shows (which we did) was producing questioning, creative, empathetic, collaborative, hard-working people.

My first role in high school was in a production of "The Sound of Music". I wanted to be Liesl, but I was cast as "Nun in the 3rd row". Looking back, I am thankful that my dreams of belting "16 going on 17" did not come to fruition because it was in the back row that I learned humility. I learned about the power of ensemble and community.

For thirteen summers, I directed the Summer Theatre Workshop at Keller UMC. Each May, students from the Keller area auditioned to participate in a three-week theatre workshop. The workshop culminated in a large-scale musical that benefitted Methodist Children's Home in Waco. Approximately seventy 2nd through 12th grade students were involved and it was the highlight of the year for many families.

I can assure you that on every opening night, something DID go wrong. But in the wrong...all the right things happened: Lines were dropped but young actors supported each other to cover mistakes and kids with single stories came together to create a unified one. All of this happened because of the truth that I knew years ago: theatre is a bridge.

Wednesday Nights

Dramatic Adventures

5:30-6:15pm

Kinder-5th Grade

Put your imagination in motion! In this fun-filled class, we will create characters and environments through creative play, drama games, improvisation exercises, puppetry and colorful props. Each class is designed to cultivate creativity, confidence, communication and teamwork skills in kids.

Drama Ministry Team

6:15-7pm

4th-6th Grade

Calling all young actors! The BRAND NEW Drama Ministry team will gather weekly to use theatre techniques to bring the Bible to life. Using drama games, improvisation, tableaux and roleplaying, young actors will explore biblical content in a fresh, interactive way. The Drama Ministry Team will perform during Children's Chat on Sunday mornings and participate in other arts outreach opportunities.

Children's Choir

6:15-7pm

K-5th Grade

We are so blessed to have a wonderful children's choir at Fellowship. We rehearse every Wednesday night during the school year from 6:15 to 7pm in the sanctuary, and learn about God through music. Our

children's choir leads and uplifts our 11:00 worship every 5-6 weeks with their joyful music. **Mark your calendars! Our first Sunday leading singing in the 11:00 am worship will be Sunday, September 17th!** Email scott@fumctc.com to sign up or get more information.

Fellowship Moms Connect and Prayer Buddies

Prayer Buddies

The purpose of the Prayer Buddy Ministry is to intentionally cultivate intergenerational relationships within Fellowship UMC. Through the program, Kinder-5th graders are matched with adults from the congregation and they become prayer buddies. These

intergenerational relationships provide kids with “grandparents” who encourage them to flourish in faith and life beginning with prayer. Email betsy@fumctc.com to sign up to be an adult prayer buddy or to sign your child up.

Fellowship Mom’s Connect!

Calling all moms of Preschool-5th graders! The ALL NEW Fellowship Moms Connect group has some fun events planned this year. We will connect over coffee and through social events such as Freezer Meal Madness, a Favorite Things Party and a night of painting. We hope you will join us for the fun!

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.

September 6th - Tex Mex Potluck

Come bring your favorite Tex Mex dish and share it with others!

September 13th - Mashed Potato Bar

Hosted by the Creative Christian Women

September 20th - Italian food Potluck

Come bring your favorite Italian dish and share it with others!

September 27th

Hosted by our local Boy Scout troops

October 4th - BBQ Potluck

Come bring your favorite BBQ or side dish and share it with others!

October 11th

Hosted by Children’s and Youth Ministries

October 18th - Soup and Salad Potluck

Come bring your favorite soups and salads and share them with others!

October 25th - Chili Cook Off and Trunk-or-Treat!

Come bring your best chili to be judged by those there and then join in some fall fun as we have a trunk-or-treat around our campus! There will be 1st and 2nd place prizes for the best chili!

A Note from Pastor Bob

I have written the last two months about tools for Biblical scholarship. We have discussed Bible Atlases and buying a Bible. I used an acronym of **ABCCD**, and we have covered the first two.

The first “C” refers to a Concordance. Please remember I am talking about tools to use in Bible studies. Some of you may have a concordance included in your Bible. That will almost always be enough for your purposes. But if you want to go deeper and buy a concordance to help you further in your studies, I offer these somewhat brief tips.

Be certain that the concordance you are purchasing is for your particular translation. However, you might do as I do and use the rather exhaustive older versions that use the King James (KJV) scripture, then refer to my Bible with this awareness of what a term or interpretation might be. Thus, you look at the word in question in your bible and then refer to the KJV concordance for the information.

What does a Concordance do? I have two, a Young’s (1878) and a NRSV (1991). I reemphasize that the most current scholarship will be reflected with material from @1990 on due to the release of the scholarship about the Dead Sea Scrolls. Bigger Concordances (separate from those that may be in your Bible) will have a couple main sections and will have other articles or sections that will interest you. My Young’s KJV Concordance begins with a short but interesting list of Bible Idioms...then there are almost 1100 pages of material. You will enter with whatever has piqued your interest, for example mine starts with Aaron. You will find his name in Hebrews 5:4. You might wonder why Moses’ brother is here, but you’ll find 2 other places where he is mentioned. Or maybe you will be reading and find a word like “abide”. So you look at the word and see it is used some 21 times in the scripture and every time it is used there is a reference for you to see where else it is.



Following those pages is a section I use the most...the index-lexicon. There is a Lexicon for both the Old Testament and the New Testament. You are reading in English, but there are some fascinating “rabbit holes” to explore with a word you find in your reading. The language used may be remarkable...Aramaic versus an expected Greek word being used. There is listed the number of times your word is used in the English translation. Paul’s letters are interesting because there may be a word he uses only in that particular verse but it is used in another manner (the same root word) somewhere else. This type of exploration is good for us Bible nerds who are wandering around in our rabbit hole!

After the lexicon section(s) are some shorter lists of things like proper names or other things a person can explore. I have been referring to my KJV Concordance. I also use Dr. Bruce M. Metzger’s “Exhaustive Concordance” that uses the NRSV. You might remember Dr. Metzger provided a great class on Revelation called “Breaking the Code” which has been used extensively in the UMC.

I looked on Amazon for Concordances. There were four pages of offerings displayed. I reiterate...buy one YOU can use, usually tied to your Bible’s translation. There are different concordances for the NIV as well. But most of us still have a KJV bible around so you can use the older concordances for your study, no matter what version your Bible may be...just find the word to look for, then use your KJV to center you in for study. Good luck!

Next month may be the conclusion to this strand of my writing. But I thought I could cover two points in today’s writing. So next month may be the other “C” which stands for Bible Commentary. The “D” is for a Bible Dictionary. Yours In Christ, Bob

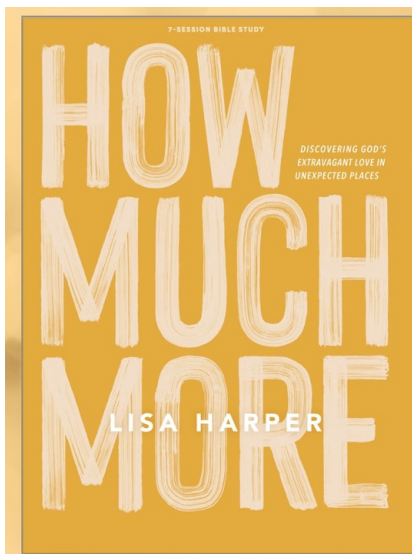
Adult Ministry

Maybe your head knows that God is always good, but your heart's not so sure. Or perhaps while reading Scripture, you've wondered if our Creator Redeemer went through a personality change—from strictly enforcing the rules in the Old Testament to loving the outcast in the New.

In this 7-session Bible study, you'll discover divine love in the often overlooked and misunderstood passages. And you'll be delighted

to find that Jehovah of the Old Testament is the same redemptive and compassionate God we see through Jesus Christ in the New Testament. God has always been and will always be for us!


Join Angela Newell for a new women's Bible study beginning on September 24th, 5 - 6:30 pm, in room 110



Women's Bible Study
Beginning September 24th

LED BY
ANGELA NEWELL

SUNDAYS
5 - 6:30 PM
ROOM 110



Missions Opportunities

Please contact Karen, our office administrator (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

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:

INSTANT MASHED POTATOES

JAM & JELLY

SPAGHETTIOS

RAVIOLI

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
- 4:00-6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group
- 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)

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 Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15-7:00 pm Children's Drama Team
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal