



May 2023

TOWER TOPICS



At the end of this month the Sanctuary & Bell Choirs will go on summer hiatus, but we want to thank them for all their wonderful music throughout the year. It's hard to overstate how valuable these volunteers are to the worship experience of our church. Thank you for your dedication and musical expertise. We especially thank you for the extra work that goes into Christmas,

Easter and other special occasions of music. We will miss you during the summer months but hope you will have a well-earned rest & come back eager to make more music in the Fall.

The Wesley Children's Choir will be ending their choir year with a musical, presented during the 10:45 worship service on May 21st. The title is **Tell Me The Truth** and features all of our youngest singers. The action takes place on the set of a game show in 1970. Macee Buell, our only 5th grader, is the host of the show; Pastor Scott is the announcer; Drew Adkins, Norah Gerlach, & Gwyneth Yoost are the contestants; and Serinna Long is the show's director. The younger children are the **"Psychedelic Singers"**. So, be sure you don't miss this fun Sunday when the children will be presenting the message.

Also on May 21st, everyone is invited to a \$5 a plate lunch immediately after church to celebrate our children's program & recognize our high school graduates. Susan Nickels, our church hostess is going to cook up a wonderful picnic-style lunch of chicken and all the mouth-watering fixins. **RSVPs will be available in the bulletin-please fill them out so we can have an accurate count for food.**

What a happy time it will be to celebrate all of our children, graduates, and families.



Calling Current and New Volunteers

Background checks will be given to anyone who volunteers around the children and youth. That means even if you do something like, registration where we are not teaching or escorting the children to classrooms. This helps keep our children and youth safe. If you haven't received a paper to fill out please see Schauna Chambers as soon as possible.

Safe Sanctuary

Along with the background checks, everyone who volunteers needs to have safe sanctuary training. We will provide these two times in the spring and two times in the fall. If you choose to miss the training, before you volunteer you will have to do the training on your own time. The spring training dates are May 7th at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and Wednesday May 10th at 5:30pm in the Panel Room. If you cannot make these dates, please let Schauna know as soon as possible.



Graduates

Do you know someone graduating from High School or College from our church? We would like to honor them at the lunch after service on May 21st.

Please let us know their name, school (where they are graduating from or school they plan to attend), and if they have any plans after graduation. Let the office know by May 7th.

Not Quite Home...from Pastor Scott

It is quite obvious by the readings from the Third week of Easter in the Revised Common Lectionary that the word about Jesus' Resurrection was spreading fast. The Gospel reading for that day is the story found in Luke 24:13-35 about the journey of Cleopas and an unnamed disciple travelling to Emmaus from Jerusalem following the death of Jesus on the Roman cross and the "strange events" reported by women to the other followers.

When we read John's account of the Easter morning, Mary starts out the whole Resurrection story telling by saying, "I have seen the Lord." Possibly due to different reports and influenced greatly by the treatment of women during the day, Luke reports that "several women went to the tomb and found it empty. Stranger still they said they saw a vision of angels that told them that Jesus was not there." It would not be hard to argue that John's gospel actually cleaned up the "washed" version of Luke since it was most likely written later, but we will never know things like that. We can only learn from the differences that differences existed in the days of their writing.

What Luke really lets us know is that the word is spreading fast, even though it is being received with a lot of skepticism. Some think this skepticism – "they were prevented from recognizing Jesus" – was the result of some supernatural influence on the disciples. Others, like me, think that the disappointment the disciples were feeling over *their* lost dreams and *their* lost hopes prevented them from seeing the resurrected Jesus. They had placed their hopes in the political revival of Israel and the fulfillment of Israel's mission to be a "light to all nations."

In our world today it is so easy to place our hopes on political solutions to the seeming problems that we face. Democrats and Republicans alike want to take the message found in the Bible and make it fit their policies or aims. Christians have allowed this type of Christian Nationalism to take place without much push

back, because, well, it makes at least some of us seem to be on the side of power.

But having our hopes in anything other than the works and deeds that point to a prophet of God in Jesus, will have us looking the wrong way and Jesus could just as easily walk up to us today and we would not recognize him. We must place all our hopes in Jesus. We must look to the Cross as a symbol of what "power" can do to those who wish to upend the status quo and we must see the Resurrection as the power of God breaking forth in the world in new ways, at all times, to bring about days when that Kingdom of Jesus will be formed.

We must do this because Jesus has done something so incredibly different on the Cross and with the Resurrection

(One other difference I would note is that Jesus went out into the street and joined these unbelieving disciples on both their journey and their conversation. Think about what obstacles we might be accidentally putting up to people hearing and seeing Jesus in their midst?)

Years ago, when I was in a production of Godspell, I had a line from the philosopher Buckminster Fuller. I was 15 and had no idea who he was, so I did some study on him. Great inventor. Better motivator. Recently I ran into another quote from Fuller that perfectly describes what Jesus started with the Resurrection. I hope that as you read these words in light of what Jesus' hopes are for the Kingdom that they words will speak the Good News in a new way for you:

*"You never change things by fighting the existing reality.
To change something, build a new model that makes the existing
model obsolete."*
Buckminster Fuller

Youth 2023

Youth 2023 will be meeting May 3rd at 5:30 in the panel room. This is to get up to date on where we stand with the trip and to talk about our last fundraiser.



Vacation Bible School

You can pre register your kids for VBS on the church website. VBS will be Sunday June 4th and Monday evening June 5th.

Volunteers are needed!

We need your help with Vacation Bible School. We are looking for helpers to take kids from station to station, Bible Story helpers, decorating, clean up and more! If you can't physical volunteer and you would like to help gather supplies for rotations that is also an option. If you would like to help with anything please see our board in the fellowship hall or talk to Schauna Chambers 304-634-9684. All volunteers will need a background check and safe sanctuary training. (See front page for more information)

Mark Your Calendars

Summer Camp is coming up and make sure you don't miss out on the fun!

Katrina Lee is doing Day Camp (Younger Elementary) July 10th -15th

Alexa Hensley is doing older Elementary camp July 10th -15th

Schauna Chambers is doing Middle & High School camp July 5th -9th

Mission Moments

Dorcas Circle met April 11 and enjoyed a visit from the brand-new director of Faith in Action, Jennifer Plyburn. She brought with her lots of ideas for volunteering and fund-raising. Faith in Action provides neighborly services for our community from transportation to doctor's appointments and grocery stores to handy man projects. In addition, there is a need for callers, card senders, to news-letter helpers, fund raisers and grant writers. Wait until you see their new Marshal jigsaw puzzle which is available for sale.

At the May 9 meeting, Dr. Jenny Yoost will be speaking about the great need for sanitary hygiene care. Folks are urged to donate new packages of pads and tampons for this program. Bring them to the counter by the panel room

COME: The Celebration of Mission Event will have an ingathering at the Nine Rivers District Conference at Winfield UMC on Sunday, May 7 from 3-5. There is still time for us to fill the Red Barrel to overflowing with layette items for Heart and Hand, Philippi and Upshur Parish House, Buckhannon.

SPRING FLOWER SALE

GERANIUMS- \$1.25

Red, White, limited Salmon, limited Laven-
der

PURPLE WAVE PETUNIAS -\$2.00

HANGING BASKETS- \$16.00

Proceeds support missions of United
Methodist Women
(United Women in Faith)

Deadline Sunday, April 30th

Pick-up will be May 6 from 10-12 at the back
of the church.

UMCOR

Many areas of the South and Midwest
have experienced disaster in the form
of tornadoes and severe storms. The
disaster relief arm of our denomination
is working among those who are suf-
fering to offer peace and hope. If you
would like to make a donation to this
work, please mark your check or
envelope with UMCOR 2023
STORMS



Mark your calendars! Our
next Men's breakfast will be
May 20th. Program to be
announced. Fellowship
begins at 8:00 and breakfast
begins at 8:30.

MAY



5/2	Shirley Kincade
5/3	Marlene Sheets
5/5	C.R. Neighborgall IV Courtney Ashley
5/8	Kil Choi Matt Birkhimer
5/9	Christopher Gooding
5/10	Sandee Folsom
5/13	Sheri Duncan
5/14	Alyse Lewis Alex Hill
5/16	Nancy Campbell Tess Anderson
5/17	Nancie Perry Peggy Brown Craig Sergeant Hilary Brownstead
5/18	Erik Legg
5/19	Rosie Bright Alex Naegele
5/21	Vance Bunn Wendy Bacon Ella Kinsey
5/24	Keir Adkins Coleman
5/23	Sally Duncan Avett Bannon
5/27	Ted Johnson Karianne Fischer Harrison Massie
5/28	J.D. Maue
5/29	Rob Archer Benjamin Skaggs

Easter Flowers

On Easter Sunday the sanctuary was filled with beautiful daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths that were surrounded by full ferns. Thank you to all of those that ordered flowers this year and for those that put special dedications in the Easter bulletin. If you did not get a copy of the bulletin and want one, please let Hillary know by calling the office.

A special thank you goes out to Margaret and Vern Reichenbecher, Brenda Harlow, and Hillary Herold for their help in arranging the flowers.



Wesley Children's Choir Presents

*Tell Me
the Truth*

Sunday, May 21

10:45 am

Directed by
Debbie Bradley

CELEBRATING
OUR
MEMBERS

**Welcome to our new
members!**

- Jean Hardiman and her daughters, Celeste and Chelsea
- Eddie and Jane Phipps
- Peter and Glenna McClain

Births

Congratulations to Molly Stapleton, daughter of Lillian Sergent on the birth of Phoenix Allen Stapleton on April 13, 2023.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Dinner: Hamburgers Finance Meeting 6:00 Youth2023 Meeting 5:30	4	5	6
7 Safe Sanctuary Training 12:30 (Fellowship Hall) COME Winfield UMC 3:00-5:00	8 Cridlin Meeting 3:00	9 Dorcas Circle 1:00	10 Dinner: Tacos Trustee Meeting 6:00 Safe Sanctuary Training 5:30 (Panel Room)	11	12	13 District Meeting 10-Noon
14	15	16	17 Last Wednesday Night Activities Dinner: Spaghetti SPRC Meeting 6:00	18	19 Tower Topics Due (Double Issue)	20 Mens Breakfast 8:00
21 Wesley Choir Musical 10:45 Dinner to follow	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

Upcoming Events

June:
4-5th Vacation Bible School
8-11th Annual Conference
13th Dorcas Circle

Regular committee meetings will
continue through the Summer

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Senior Pastor,
Scott Sears

Associate Pastor
Heather Barker

Director of Christian Education
Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline May 22, 2023
June and July is a double issue!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are sick or homebound...

Myra Creek, Susann Meurer, Mark Cornell, Chris and Mike Chiles, Sally Richards-Bartram, Sandee Folsom, Bob Palmer, Billie Wood (sister of Jane Ferguson), Lisa Cooke, Judy Davis, Dawn Aikin, Leona Davis, GinnyLee Hastings, Claire McClure, Jane McColgan, Dan Smith, Jean White, Tracy Jones, JD Maue, Nancy Palmer, Beth McVey, Anne Weeks, Carolyn Waggoner, Jack Patrick