

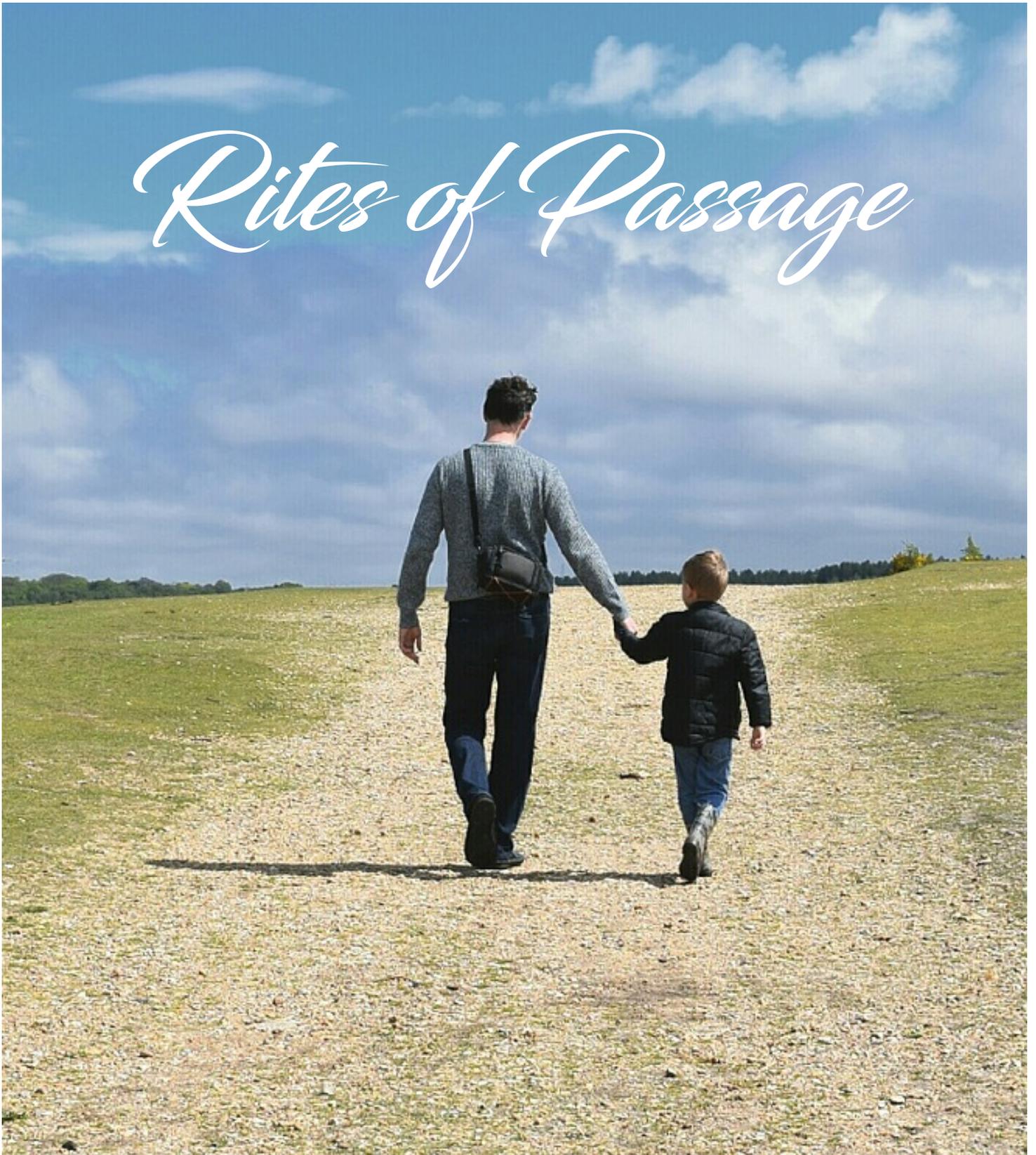
ROBINSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2017

# THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

## *Rites of Passage*



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

During the month of April, I have led four funeral and graveside services, and officiated a wedding. Each of those events marks a time of passage in our lives. This past month, seven Webelos bridged over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts in Troop 901, marking a passage in their journey. We confirmed ten young people, three of them being baptized. This month, we have a group of 2nd graders, 5th graders, and 8th graders that will move to new school buildings. Several in our congregation will graduate from high school and make the passage to work, college, or trade school.

We move through rites of passage all the time. And while those that I've mentioned are more "major" rites of passage, many others are happening that are smaller, and yet still meaningful. Children and youth will be out of school for the summer, and there will be a change in their routines. Some of our ministries take a hiatus for the summer (Kids' Club, youth breakfast and Bible study, choir and handbells, to name a few); some morph into a different kind of ministry (like the NOW Program's summer lunches); others continue on indefinitely. Each of these are different kinds of passages for our lives.

How do we maneuver along these different paths, and what might we do to make those rites of passage easier? How does our faith figure into those types of transitions? In this newsletter, you'll read about Grant Oxford (who is completing an internship with me this school quarter), and how he is navigating the passage from high school to college. You'll also read about some of those ministry transitions, and how you can help make those transitions positive and life-giving experiences for all involved. Most of all, it will help you put your faith into action. Just remember, no matter where you are on your life path, God continues to walk beside you.

I will see you in worship!

Grace and peace,

**PASTOR JAY**

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# TRANSITIONS

By Grant Oxford

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As many of you know, I will be making the transition to University of Evansville in August, more specifically, August 19th, but I'm not keeping track or anything. As I prepare to make this transition, it is a time of great excitement in my life, but I am taking an anxious approach to it all. Compared to Robinson, Evansville, IN, is much larger both residentially and commercially. However, I have no doubts that I will be able to navigate myself safely and comfortably around the area. Not only will I be moving to a new area, which is something I have never done before, but I will also be living with a randomized roommate. I am anxious about this because not only have I never met the guy, but we will be sharing a living space for the year. This could turn out in one of two ways: good or bad. However, through various life events, I know that I should always try to make the best out of every situation.

Also, with my transition, I will be moving away from a congregation that I have been a part of for essentially my entire life. Although I know I should not be, I am slightly nervous about making a place for myself in a new church. God always provides for our needs, and I know He will guide me to the right place, but the situation as a whole is slightly nerve wracking. As many of you see me playing the drums for worship, that is a space in my life that I will look to fill. At church, playing the drums is much more than just a hobby for me. Every Sunday, I connect with people I might not normally connect with because of compliments they have given me. When the drums were first introduced, I thought that compliments would be a thing that would begin to die out. However, I was way wrong. If

something is not said to me personally, something is said to my parents. Through these compliments, my heart is made full, and I get much more out of it than just a compliment.

As I make this transition, church will still very much be on the front burner in my life. As I think about all FUMC has given me, it is simply too much to list. My spiritual life has grown drastically, I have made many friendships and connections that I would not have normally made, and I have numerous role models that are a part of the congregation. Come August, as I start the process for finding a new congregation to temporarily become a part of, I will look for many of the same aspects I see in FUMC. With visits to other churches, I have begun to realize something that many of us here at FUMC take for granted. We are much more than just a congregation; I can truly feel a much deeper, personal, and spiritual connection at FUMC. Although I may never find it elsewhere, I will actively search for that feeling, and connection elsewhere. Also, as I make this transition, I will remember, "With God, all things are possible."



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# SUMMER PASSAGES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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## **Youth Ministry**

With the days of school waning, our middle school and high school youth are invited to Ron and Becky Veenstra's home at Lake Walton on Sunday, May 7, beginning at 4:00 pm for fishing, boating, swimming and a cookout. Please sign up at the welcome center if you would like to attend. Our last day for middle school/high school breakfast and Bible study is May 17 (6:30 am). We would like to invite all parents, as well as 5th graders and their parents, to come on May 10 for breakfast and Bible study, so that you can experience part of our youth ministry.

## **Children's Ministry**

Our last Kids' Club is Wednesday, May 17. Children should have received forms for our trip to SkyZone and Cici's Pizza in the mail, and those need to be returned by May 3 to the church office. If you did not receive the forms, please e-mail Kirbie in the church office at [fumcrob@frontier.com](mailto:fumcrob@frontier.com).

## **Vacation Bible School**

We're learning with super heros this summer for VBS! Preschool through 5th grades will gather at Robinson City Park May 31, June 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 9:00 - 11:00 am! Preregistration is encouraged by picking up a form at the welcome center, or by registering on our website, [www.robinsonfumc.org](http://www.robinsonfumc.org). We are in need of people to help out with VBS, so please sign up at the welcome center to help for 1, 2 or even 5 weeks!



### **Youth Mission Trip**

Our youth will be heading off to the Quad Cities for their mission trip June 25-July 1. You have two opportunities to support this formative experience. First, you can attend the 2nd Wednesday dinner on May 10, when the youth will have a taco night fundraiser (please sign up at the welcome center). Second, the youth will be selling stock for the mission trip during the month of May. Please consider making a stock purchase (\$25), which will gain you entrance into a stockholders' meeting on August 6, where you can hear about the youths' trip.

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## OTHER PASSAGES

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### **Youth Ministry**

As we head into May, our Disciple III classes will be finishing their studies. We encourage you to look forward to Disciple IV in the fall.

Under the Tree of Life looks at Old Testament writings (Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms Proverbs, etc.), the Gospel of John, letters of John and Jude, and Revelation. This 32-week course will be offered on Tuesday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm, and on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am. This may be our most enjoyable Bible study yet, and you won't want to miss it! Sign-ups will be available at the welcome center soon!

### **Sunday Night Worship**

There's no passage or change in Sunday Night Worship, but we know that as people begin summer journeys, with vacations, weekends away, and endless sports opportunities, there are often conflicts with Sunday morning worship. If you find yourself in that predicament, consider coming to our Sunday evening service, which is held at 6:00 pm in the chapel. Childcare is available for those that need it.

### **Holy Land Trip**

There has been some interest expressed in having a group from First UMC go on a tour of the Holy Land. Have you ever thought about making that journey? See the places of the Bible; walk where Jesus walked. Imagine how that might deepen your faith! A trip may be planned for the fall of 2018 or spring of 2019, but we would like to get a rough idea of how many people might go. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jay.



## NOW Program

Our weekend feeding ministry will be wrapping up in the next few weeks as school comes to a close. However, the NOW Program always makes a shift to providing lunches in the parks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit <https://signup.com/client/invitation/6775657374/1858841/false#!1858841/false/false>, where you can sign up to serve multiple days. Not a computer user? Contact Kirbie in the church office (544-8016), and she will make sure that you can get signed up.

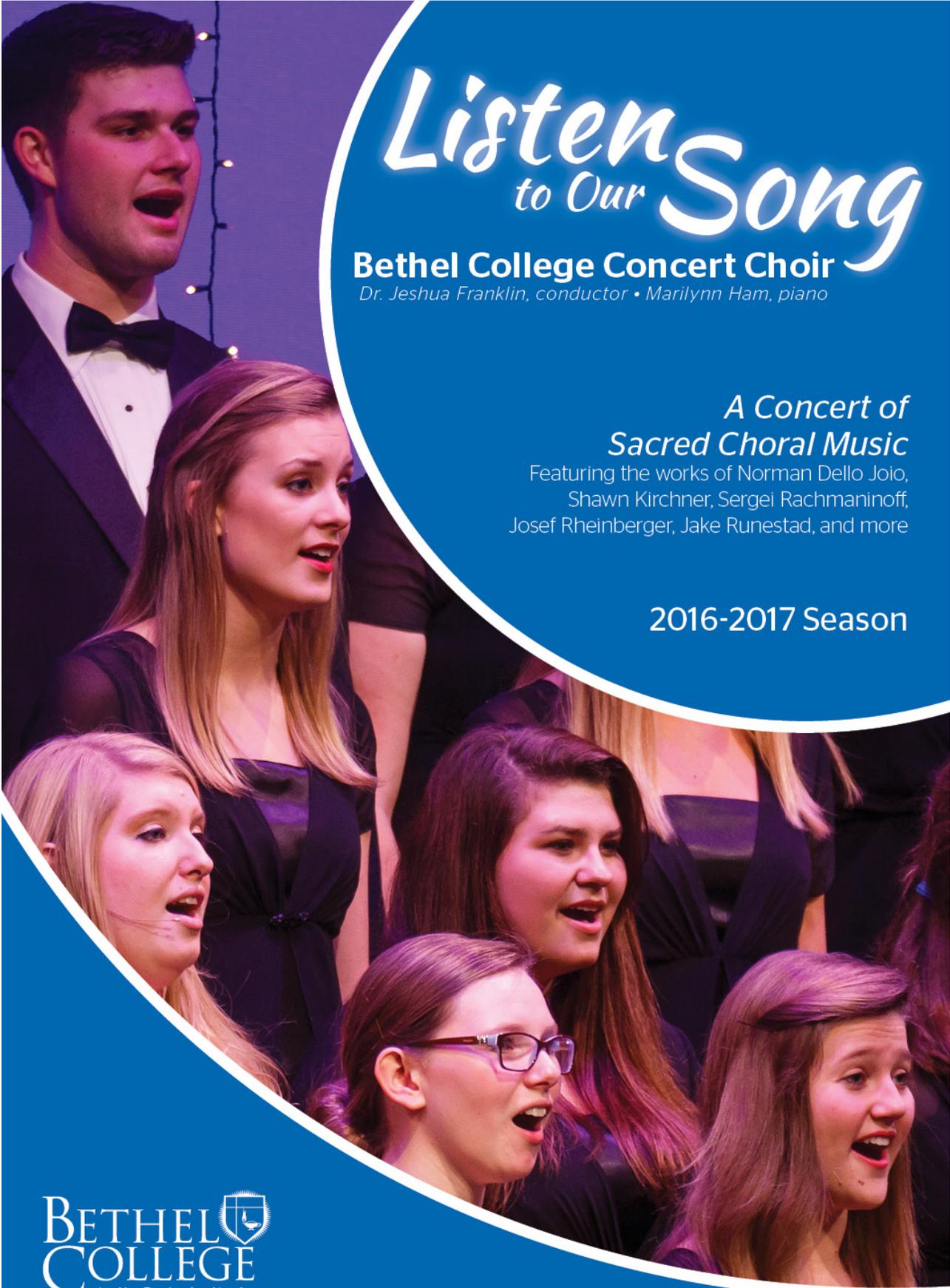


## Just One

With school winding down, we know that we're gearing up for our next Kids' Shopping Day. Can you help us get prepared for those days by picking up a 24-count package of Crayola crayons during the month of May? Your donations are so helpful and greatly appreciated.

Drop





# Listen to Our Song

**Bethel College Concert Choir**

*Dr. Jeshua Franklin, conductor • Marilyn Ham, piano*

## *A Concert of Sacred Choral Music*

Featuring the works of Norman Dello Joio,  
Shawn Kirchner, Sergei Rachmaninoff,  
Josef Rheinberger, Jake Runestad, and more

2016-2017 Season

**BETHEL**  
COLLEGE  
INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
1001 BETHEL CIRCLE  
MISHAWAKA, IN 46545

574.8077575

[BethelCollege.edu/Music](http://BethelCollege.edu/Music)

**Date:**

**Wednesday,  
May 3, 2017**

**Location:**

**Robinson First United  
Methodist Church**

**Time:**

**7:00 pm**

Bethel College Department of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/2 Gary Oxford Jr, Mary Truitt,  
Henry Treadway
- 5/4 Patience Regennitter
- 5/5 Melissa Newbold
- 5/6 Cohlson Fearday
- 5/7 Valerie Vermilya
- 5/10 Lillian Bertram, Garrett Graham,  
Susan Sills, Chance Harmon
- 5/11 Ann Pfeiffer, Victoria McDonald
- 5/12 John Schmidlin
- 5/13 Margaret Conner, Daniel Vermilya
- 5/14 Avery DeDoming, Gerald Gordy,  
Jay Steinman, Deanna Watson
- 5/15 Ron Veenstra
- 5/17 Jeannie Bibby, Gary Null,  
Ben McDonald
- 5/19 Amy DeDoming, Juanita Fox
- 5/23 Mary Correll, Sue Roales
- 5/25 Tim Thompson
- 5/26 Keith Carter, Madelyn Storckman,  
Lynn McCord
- 5/27 Shannon Goebel
- 5/29 David Foote
- 5/30 John Gifford, Kwyn Goebel

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/6 John & Martha Markello
- 5/20 Dennis & Susan Inboden
- 5/21 Mike & Pam Bell
- 5/29 Garrett & Brenda Graham,  
Jerry & Lori Crozier
- 5/31 Fred & Tancy Finkbiner,  
Ernie & Sue Roales,  
Shannon & Kurtis Goebel

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Marilyn Musgrave; Michael Brady; Elaine Siler; Gary Albin; Donna Reed; Mike Richards; Charley Clark; Patty Steele; Jackson Barry; Mike Richards; Marty Attaway; Cathy Thomas; The women in the Crawford County jail; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Richard Youngs; Susan Polgar; Shirley Allison; Jay Holtzhouser; Janna Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Kaye Parrott Weger; Bob Laswell; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Kate Dale; Shirley Treadway; Chance & Brantley Moore & family; Hannah Dean; Madelyn Storckman; Bev Turkal; Maris Rogers; Bob Berty; family of Jan Kelly; Neema Mutayoba; Duke Thompson; Educators and students; our children's ministry; youth and their parents; Mary Kay Jurcin

# MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple III	3 <b>6:30 am</b> Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>7:00 pm</b> Bethel College Choir at FUMC	4 <b>9:30 am</b> Disciple III <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Handbell rehearsal <b>6:00 pm</b> Community Choir Rehearsal for Word Prayer Service <b>7:00 pm</b> World Prayer Day Service at Crawford County House of Prayer <b>7:00 pm</b> PraiseFest Meeting	5	6
7 <b>8:00 am</b> Handbell Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>4:00 pm</b> Youth Lake Party at Veenstra's <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	8	9 <b>4:00 pm</b> Youth Prepare Food <b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple III	10 <b>6:30 am</b> Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study <b>3:00 pm</b> Kids' Club <b>5:30 pm</b> Youth host Second Wednesday Dinner	11 <b>9:30 am</b> Disciple III <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	12	13
14 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>2:30 pm</b> Health Heritage Service <b>6:00 pm</b> Baccalaureate <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	15	16 <b>4:30 pm</b> NOW Bagging <b>6:00 pm</b> Disciple III	17 <b>6:30 am</b> Youth Breakfast/ Bible Study <b>2:30 pm</b> Kids' Club Skyzone Trip	18 <b>9:30 am</b> Disciple III <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail Ministry	19	20 <b>7:00 pm</b> Grant Oxford's Graduation Party at Oxford's Home
21 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School <b>6:00 pm</b> Evening Worship	22	23	24 <b>6:00 pm</b> SPRC Meeting	25	26	27
28 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:00 am</b> Sunday School	29	30 <b>10:45 am</b> NOW Lunch at Parks	31 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS <b>10:45 am</b> NOW Lunch at Parks <b>6:00 pm</b> All Committee Meetings <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting			

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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[antje2959@hotmail.com](mailto:antje2959@hotmail.com)

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

[doubleg@mediacombb.net](mailto:doubleg@mediacombb.net)

Custodian: Harold Guyer

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller