

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

April & May 2024



Let's take Pictures!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

What a blessing it is to have a growing church! Over the past several years, our church has seen lots of changes. We have seen our youth grow and we have welcomed new members to our congregation.

To continue to grow as a

welcoming church and to help us get to know one another better, we are organizing a pictorial directory. Starting this May, David Kleinot will be leading our church in collecting, organizing and taking family and individual photos of our congregation. If you have a family photo you'd like to share, please send it to Renate at office@wyomingumc.com who will work with David to make sure the photos are in the correct format. If you do not have a family photo, we will soon be organizing open times at the church where David will be available to take your family or individual photo. We look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces.



Members of the four ASL classes sponsored by Wyoming UMC will present a

hymn in American Sign Language at the 9AM Worship service on April 14 in commemoration of National ASL Day: April 15th

In 1960, William Stokoe, a scholar and hearing professor at Gallaudet University, published a dissertation that

proved ASL is a genuine language with a unique syntax and grammar and changed the course of the history of sign language. The perception of ASL changed from that of a broken or simplified version of English to that of a complex and thriving natural language as functional and powerful as any found in the oral languages of the world. The instruction of ASL as a "foreign language" has become popular and ASL's appeal has only grown. Currently, students can take ASL to meet their high school or college requirements of two years of foreign language study. The ASL in use today is a result of 195 years of Deaf families and students passing down from one generation to next the language that has become the third most used language in the United States.

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Saturday
May 11
9 to 2

Beaucoup Vendors (60 - sixty!!, actually) with Beautiful Handcrafted items! Lunch Foods, Snacks and Beverages sold at the kitchen window! Delicious Pastries on the Bake Table!

We would much appreciate your contributions to the Bake Table - Please bring in your goodies by 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 11.

FREE NARCAN TRAINING

There will be a brief training between services on **Sunday, April 7 in the Family Life Center**. All are encouraged to attend this 30-40 minute session. Those who come will receive Narcan to have with them. **Just drop in. You could save a life with this!**

Bulletin Board



CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION

You are invited to the Dover DE Women's Connection Program and Breakfast Buffet on **Tuesday, April 9** from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover * \$20 inclusive (cash or check)

Program: **Anita Smith**, Kent County Master Gardener

Guest Speaker: **Michelle Kim** "A Journey Toward Joy"

Guitar Music by: **Greg Ellingsworth**

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free child care are strongly encouraged by April 5 * RSVP to Donna ☎ (530) 921-8936 or Diane ☎ (302) 697-6020

Get certified! **First Aid & AED training** graciously provided by Dr. Douglas Ditty on **Monday, April 15** at **7PM** in the FLC.

Love offering to Wyoming Church, \$5.00 (or higher) recommended & welcome!



"Seussical Jr" is fun for the whole family! WUMC's own Ashlynn, Noah, Austyn, Wyatt, Jane, and Wesley are very excited to portray the characters from the familiar Dr. Seuss fables. Performances will take place at the Schwartz Center for the Arts on Saturday, April 27th at 7 pm and Sunday, April 28th at 2 pm. \$10 per ticket. Come see this fun show!!



Join the group tour to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA on Friday, **May 17** (3PM show). Get your tickets (\$89 adults, \$43 children <12)



very soon... The show is almost sold out.
Renate
(302) 399-3898
office@wyomingumc.com



The box is back! Wyoming Church is a **drop-off point for your used glasses** which will be distributed to people with vision problems who cannot afford the cost of glasses. In the church's vending area by the north wing doors.



We are excited to announce that the **Acolyte Program** is starting again! Looking for students in grades 2 through 8 to assist in both the 9AM & 11AM services. If your child is interested in being an acolyte, please email our new coordinator, **Amy Kellen** at kellenamy@gmail.com. An interest meeting will be forthcoming - check the weekly announcements!

MINISTRY TEAMS

The most current copy of the **OFFICIARY**, the document listing all church teams and their leaders and members, is available on the church website www.wyomingumc.com - **NEW HERE? - 2024 Church Teams**

From the Pastors' Desk

*It is
Finished*
John 19:30

I have my own pre-Easter tradition every year. Around Lenten week 5, I dig a hoodie out of my closet, put it on, and wear it for about 14 days straight. It's a delicious shade of mulberry with cream drawstrings and oh so soft fleecy fabric (at this point you're either picturing Pastor Rick wearing the most ridiculous outfit, or you have realized who the actual author is). Now fashion aside, the real reason for my loose Lenten hygiene (hey - 3 kids - I can't promise I wash it once in those 14 days) is for the one word printed on it: *tetelestai*.

It's my favorite word.

Hear these words from the Gospel of John: "Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'"²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (19:28-30) *Tetelestai* is the Greek word for "It is finished."

If I may ask ... what, exactly, is finished? The crucifixion? The mind-obliterating agony? The crippling anxiety? The humiliation and torture? The suffering? Jesus' earthly ministry? The journey of one's human life? What did Jesus mean? "What" is finished?

In my younger years, I heard those words annually, and I always heard them in the context of the story being written. Jesus says these words and dies - *of course* He means it is a statement of fact. This is the final breath of His earthly life. It is over. It is finished. In the most poignant of moments we often reach for the

simplest of words (think: "help me." "Thank you." "I love you.")

That was my reasoning; but the question still stands ... what is finished? *Tetelestai* comes from the root verb *teleo* which means "to bring to an end, to complete, to accomplish." It conveys initiative and purpose. Instead of a mere "I finished dinner," *teleo* means the successful end to a course of action. It means that one accomplished what one set out to do.

This is where I begin to fall in love with the word; this is where I get chills and tears as the language breaks past our cultural barriers of time and space. We are quickly leaving behind a mortal man's last words on his life and instead we are beginning to hear the revelation of the cosmic. But the revelation is not fully in the root verb - the punch is in the Greek tense. *Tetelestai* is in the perfect tense. The force of the perfect tense describes an event that has been completed in the past, it has results in the existing present time, and it *carries into the future*. The past tense looks back at an event and says, "this happened." The perfect tense says, "this happened, this still is in effect today, and this has abiding results into the future." Moreover - notice that explanation again - the perfect tense means the action happened in the past! When Jesus says "it is finished" He cannot be referring to the crucifixion, or His suffering, or His dying, because these are in the present. His "it" is referring to something that happened in the past!

What is finished??

If the crucifixion is the end of the story, then let us look at the beginning. "In the beginning" when God created humanity, humanity made the decision to choose self, power, ego, and control over God. The relational perfection between God and His creation was severed; sin gave birth to death; and humanity was cast out of God's presence. What was eternal peace became tortured, finite existence. What was happiness turned into suffering; what was a future became a hopeless void. How do you live life without God? As far as humanity knew - this was the last word.

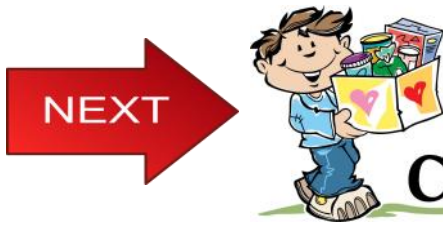


Pastor Lindsay Wessell
with Elias, Hope and Samuel

Yet as humanity walked away from the One they had willfully and hurtfully rejected - God decided that that would not be the end of the story. He determined that He would bring His lost and forsaken children back to Him. He vowed to conquer the consequences of sin. He pronounced that death itself would die. The moment that God resolved to launch His great redemptive mission to seek and save the lost - *it was finished*. God's grace and love was established, decided, and completed before Adam and Eve even crossed over the threshold of the garden. It is possible that God's love and grace was completed from the moment He animated dust; does a parent vow to protect, love, and defend an unborn child? As Jesus spoke His final word *tetelestai* He was affirming that God's redemptive plan had existed from the dawn of time and victory had *always* been His.

The ancient Greeks boasted of being able to say much in little. "To give a sea of matter in a drop of language" was regarded as the perfection of oratory. What they sought is here found. "It is finished" is but one word in the original, yet in that word is wrapped up the gospel of God. In that word is contained the basis for faith; in that word is discovered the sum of all joy; in that word is held the truth of salvation. It began not with a cross but with a Creator; with a Father whose love is unrivaled and unknown.

Continued on the back cover.



Saturdays, April 13 & May 11

from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Food Collection

Food and other items will be collected for Kent Interfaith, a cooperative effort among churches in the Dover area.

Bring your donations to the front door portico of Wyoming Church where we will take it directly from your vehicle. **Monetary donations to purchase meats and other perishable items will be gladly accepted. Please make all checks payable to WUMC with Food Bank on the memo line and your giving number please if you have one!**

Most Needed: canned beans (black, kidney, navy, refried)
- dried beans - dry rice - cereal - quick oats - peanut butter & jelly - canned vegetables - assorted pasta & sauce - mac'n cheese boxes - soup - hamburger helper - manwich - chef boyardee canned pasta - boxed milk - flour - butter/margarine - oil - salt & pepper - sugar

Consider Extras like:

coffee (can or Keurig), tea, baby food (distant future date), toilet paper & paper towels

In the name of so many individuals and families who can eat and maintain their basic standard of living because of YOUR generous donations - THANK YOU!!

Help serve...

FREE
Community
Lunch

All are welcome
to come!



Once a month, Wyoming Church volunteers work with folks at Wesley UMC downtown Dover to serve a **FREE Lunch** to the local community.

On **April 20 & May 18, from 10AM to 2PM**, 5 people from Wyoming Church will work with 2 people from Wesley Church to set up, serve and tear down a lunch meal at Wesley UMC downtown Dover. The actual meal is served between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

You can serve in one capacity or two or all three! And if you're not able to volunteer on site, you can still help by providing a dessert (store-bought or homemade) and/or a case of bottled water. We prepare for serving 50 guests.

Sign up in the narthex or contact Janet @ (302) 757-2998, email jkb0022@aol.com.

Thank you, ladies (and gentlemen) of the NCF Nurses Christian Fellowship, who took charge of the March 'shift', serving lunch at Wesley Church for WUMC on Saturday, March 16.

Left to right:

Kim Reed, Lisa McCalister, Evelyn Crump, Lana Gordineer, and Loretta Walls.

Not pictured:

Wayne Gordineer and Riley McCalister.



Water is one of the most precious commodities on earth and it is essential for sustaining life for humans, animals and plant growth. We cannot live without it, yet many are forced to rely on contaminated water to survive, risking illness and even death every time they take a drink. Did you know that dirty or unsafe drinking water kills more children than war, malaria, HIV/AIDS and traffic accidents combined? Did you know that water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population?

LIFETIME WELLS INTERNATIONAL has a mission to improve the quality of life for communities by providing access to safe drinking water. They envision a world where death and disease from unsafe drinking water is eliminated, and communities are lifted out of extreme poverty through the power of clean water. It costs just \$3,500.00 to build a well for a village. Think of how just one well can change the life for so many! No more spending hours each day to find water and then to collect and carry it back to the village. No more young girls missing school because they have to collect water, no more suffering from waterborne illnesses!

Please come together with family and friends along with Whatcoat Church and Wesley Church (Dover) for our annual

5K WALK FOR WATER Saturday May 11, 2024

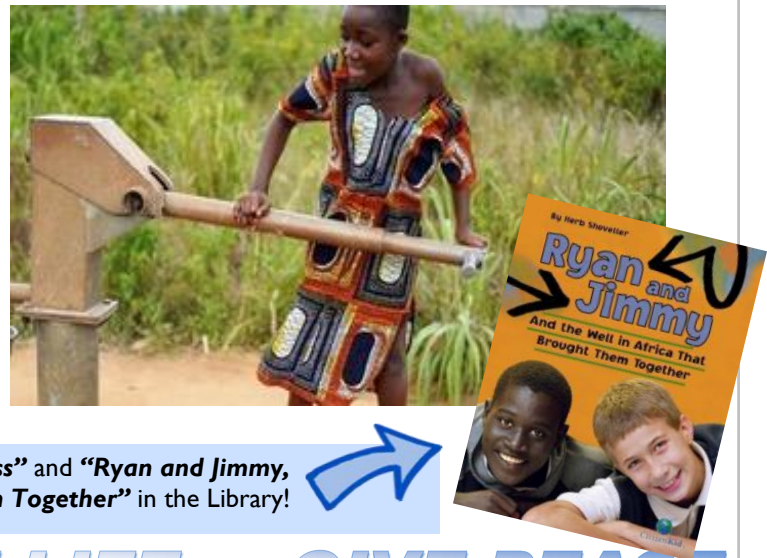
Registration 8:30 am - Walk starts at 9:00 am

The walk will start and end at Whatcoat Church in Camden - rain or shine. There will be refreshments available at the half-way point of the walk. Maps will be available. Donations toward the walk will be accepted at the registration table. Please come and support our walkers!

But... if you cannot walk, please consider making a donation to help us drill a well so that a village can have clean safe drinking water. Each and every one of us has the power to make a difference because every last man, woman and child deserves the chance to have clean drinking water. Please send in your donation and write 'water walk' in the memo line of your check.

Or - use this link to donate and register for the walk:

<https://www.classy.org/event/2024-kent-county-water-walk/e570378>



Children... Check out the books *"The Water Princess"* and *"Ryan and Jimmy, and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together"* in the Library!



GIVE WATER ... GIVE LIFE ... GIVE PEACE

Oh for the Good Times!

Instead of **Re**-miniscing on the many past Men's and Ladies' Retreats, wouldn't you love to **Re**-coup your life's balance, **Re**-fresh your soul, **Re**-vive your faith ... **RE-TREAT** again? The Adult Retreat Center at Pecometh on Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore is open for us at a time of our choosing - maybe in the spring of 2025?

Past retreat leaders will be open for an informational meeting, yet to be scheduled.



Contact the church office if you're interested... let's look at **Re-vitalizing the RETREATs!**

www.pecometh.org

Recycle Plastic for Benches



We are very close to getting our next Trex bench! Keep those plastic bags, envelopes, and bubble wrap coming! Remember, **NO bottles or hard plastic.** Thank you for donating towards the bench and keeping all that plastic out of the landfills.

Knitting to Nurture sends a **Big Thank you!** to all you knitters and crocheters in our congregation as you've kept those needles busy creating loads of beautiful squares for our current project Knit-A-Square!

We will ship the squares very soon, please bring your creations in before May 1st.



Musical News... or - where you can hear Wyoming Church choir members sing, other than Sunday morning.

The *Kent Chamber Choir*, Central Delaware's premier small vocal ensemble, will hold its **Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m. on April 19th at the Presbyterian Church of Dover.** Ticket prices: \$15 adult & \$5 student. Hope to see many Wyoming Church folks there!



The concert will include religious and secular works such as:

- *Alleluia* by Elaine Hagenberg
- *Regina Coeli* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- *O schöne Nacht* by Georg Friedrich Daumer
- *Lullaby* by Daniel Elder from *Three Nocturnes*

The *Delaware Choral Society*

will present

"A Tapestry of American Composers"

at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21st at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts in Dover.

Get your tickets at the special group rate of \$15/each in the Wyoming Church office.



The residents of Dover Place enjoyed our WUMC

Puppets of Praise

performance on March 2nd.

If you're interested in 'trying your hands' as a puppeteer, please speak to Jack Freidel or contact him at jfreidel@yahoo.com.

We practice Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 in the Family Life Center. The new season starting up on May 30th. Puppeteers should be 10 years or older.

Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT February, 2024

Ken Banaszak, Finance Team Chair

	2024 Offering	2024 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 86,291.15	
Facilities and Other	\$ 7,691.29	
Totals	\$ 93,982.44	\$ 90,721.19
Net Operating	3,261.25	



simply the right way to fundraise.

Raise Right gift card sale dates for Spring:

Orders collected on April 21 & April 28 with delivery on May 5th just in time for spring events like Mother's Day, College Graduations, High School Graduations, Father's Day, and summer vacations. Look for order forms at the Welcome Desk at the beginning of April!

And remember - you can always order online or directly from the user-friendly app! Check it out at **raiseright.com**.

Please email linda.lyon@aol.com with any questions.



gift cards.

raising FUNdraising FUN



Help us Raise FUNds? Spring is a great time to clean out those jewelry boxes and drawers. Silver and gold can bring BIG money to our church. Please consider donating your unwanted jewelry! Email Linda linda.lyon@aol.com with questions.

THANKS!



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Good Bye to Storm

David Van Kavelaar

After church on March 3, we went home and I changed into more comfortable attire, loaded up the dog in the FJ Cruiser, and returned to the north side of the church for some play time with Storm. He seemed to be slightly coughing and did not run around as usual. But we walked around awhile and, detecting he seemed tired, decided to take him home. I told BJ things didn't seem right with Storm. Later, a first; he would not eat his dinner. He seemed sluggish. At 9 PM, he was standing next to BJ in the family room, ears drooping, eyes down cast, and his stomach region was expanding and contracting rapidly. I immediately took him to the animal emergency hospital on Route 10 where the vet said, after a preliminary exam, that he was gravely concerned. After an x-ray was taken, the doctor explained what the results entailed. Storm had an enlarged heart that was surrounded by water; he was dying from congestive heart failure. He gently said that, if Storm was his dog, he'd euthanize him now because a natural ending of the congestive heart failure process is gut wrenching and only prolongs the agony for this wonderful dog. Ten hours after the church service earlier in the day, Storm was put to sleep. I had the vet's assistant shave some of Storm's hair and clip some of his nails for me to take home. Returning home, I felt numb. I had gone through a cruel amputation of sorts, instantly severed from a great friend.

I've been with BJ for close to forty-six years. Never in this time frame have I experienced a more debilitating and crushing experience. I became physically sick, emotionally drained, and could barely get out of bed. I wasn't eating and, if I was able to get anything down at all, it came back up. I've never been this messed up before; could it be depression? I discounted this idea almost immediately. I may be a lot of things, but (clinically) depressed, no. I may get into a funk, but no depression.

This week, things are much better. Appetites returned with a little more bounce in my step. I was getting back in shape to revive my aggravating ways in pestering my wife. You know, underwear and socks on the floor, keeping the toilet seat up, burping at the dinner table; stuff like that. But rather than boast about my husbandly virtues, we'd like to share a few memories of our friend and guardian.

We acquired Storm from a breeder in Gettysburg back in the Fall of 2017. The photo is of my first contact with the dog who'd be my close companion for life; he's six weeks old here. We brought him home in early September so let the training begin. We've had seven Dobermans before Storm so we established a regimen (to the best we could) as to potty breaks and, more importantly, where these breaks must occur. He had a 40' x 10' concrete kennel to do his business. Storm caught on fairly quickly but he was being fed three times a day for his first six months, twice a day up to year one, and once a day thereafter. As he improved in his ability to let me know he had to go out, his ability to expand his presence in our home was granted. Before long, he had mastered all we wanted to see in grooming and in hygiene habits. At one year old, and close to one hundred pounds, he now had full access to our home. It should be noted that during the training regimen to get him acclimated to our home and family members, he was training me to be a better master. Boy, I loved that dog.

Storm had a striking profile. A muscular frame with a deep chest that tapered off to a thin waist line, a docked tail, and cropped ears gave the immediate impression that, man; there's a dog! Now I know how another doggie owner sees his pet as the bestest dog in the world; I get it. I felt the same way about Stormy. I would walk him across the front property line; back and forth, but never on to Franklin Street. The reasoning here is to let passers-by know

that the house at 9 Franklin had a formidable hundred-pound package of muscle and teeth living there. Luckily, we've never had problems. I received so many compliments on my dog when I walked him in town; from neighbors to passing motorists. All that training was worth it. I was so proud of him.

Early on, barking came into play. Someone who was walking by, at the door, or making too much noise would incite a barking response. We decided not to discourage this but insisted he be quiet after a minute or so.

BJ has a lot of activities and responsibilities with groups of folks outside the home. Storm was our only four-legged family member, so it was he and I having all this free time to bond. And bond we did. I fed him, bathed him (boy, did he love his spa day!), cleaned his ears and teeth, administered his meds, scrubbed the outside kennel, cleaned his water pails and feed dish, took him to the vet, took him for walks, took him for rides where ever I went and took him to our church every day to play fetch and rope tug in the south field. Oh, did he love church and he and I were there every day it didn't rain.

There is a lady on our church kitchen team who is extremely afraid of dogs, probably as a result of a past unpleasant occurrence. I pleaded with her to meet Storm who basically is just a big love puppy. I couldn't convince her to face her demons. When we sent out the announcement of Storm's passing, the common response was that he was an extremely loving and well-adjusted Doberman.

One of Storm's funniest moments occurred like this. Where BJ sits and reads in the living room, she has this little foot stool that the dog has seemed to claim. He backs up to it, scooches his butt up onto it, and with his front paws firmly on the floor, stares straight ahead. Well, one evening, there he was as always but his eyelids were growing heavy. BJ frantically waved at me and pointed at Storm. His head was sagging in half inch increments, eyes were closing... closing... and then his front legs gave way resulting in a loud "thump" as his whole body vacated the lofty perch and crashed to the floor. He was shocked, hilarious.

Man's best friend? After coming back from a yummy Mexican meal, I went to the bathroom wondering what kind of burrito I had eaten for dinner. There are warning labels pertinent to certain bathroom functions; something to do with bio-hazard or nuclear waste; something like that. You get the picture. But, oh no, into the bathroom prances Storm, lays down on the bathroom rug, crosses his paws, and stares up at me in adoration as if I was the best thing since the Milk Bone. Are you kidding me, dog?

But Stormy is gone now and we are wrestling with notions of getting another Dobie, a boxer, or a rescue dog. The Doberman is a high maintenance dog requiring, actually demanding, a lot of its master's time. They play rough. I'm into my upper seventies now and I must realistically assess our ability to repeat the whole training regimen again. My heart is with Dobies, BJ's family had a boxer when she was a teen, son Jeff had a boxer, and my heart goes out to rescue dogs that have been abused or neglected. I cannot watch those ASPCA commercials; they evoke some non-Christian sentiment from me toward the abusers. We'll make a decision on a new family dog later in the Spring.

On Saturday, March 16, Bette and I drove up to the church and walked up to the nearest oak tree in the southern field. I had some hairs and nails from Storm and spread them to the wind and just knew that he would have really appreciated some of his remains had been brought to the site where he and daddy played for hours on end. He really liked his church family, at least those who stopped by to say hi when we played there, and know his spirit will be happy to run and play while being serenaded by the carillon.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. Good bye.



Library news

April & May



At the Fanny Marvel Church Library, check out a book, audio book or DVD and return it when you're done. Take home (and keep!) a puzzle and/or some magazines and/or any item on display outside the library door!

APRIL & MAY Features:

Books around Mothers' Day.

Check out the **NEW ADDITIONS** shelf, there's always some - well, new additions (smile0).

Our librarian, Betty Brown, is always open to ideas & suggestions to make the library more interesting!

A Big THANK YOU to everyone...

... who has contributed books, puzzles & magazines to the library. It helps to keep the flow going & creating new material for everyone.

... who has been using/browsing the library. The library is for everyone's enjoyment and you will soon find that there's something there for everyone!

April's & May's ~~Adult~~ Fellowship Dinners

...will Soon Be Here!



After a hiatus in March, the forthcoming months of April and May will see the reappearance of the popular growing Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinners. These themed dinners, open to all of the adult members in your family, are held the last Wednesday of most months in the Family Life Center and are organized and hosted by the Sexton Kitchen Team.

April's event occurs on the 24th and May's activity is slated for the 29th. All potluck dinners begin when the doors open at 5 PM for seating of your choice. The actual dinners begin at 5:30 PM and, along with a short program, usually conclude by 7 PM.

The **theme for April's** Covered Dish Dinner is '**Easters Remembered**' with the **Entree selected as Ham**, while the **theme for May** will be '**Memorial Day**' with an appropriate entree to be announced in April. Each entree will be prepared by the Chef's of the Sexton Kitchen Team to match the theme of that particular month. Bring a covered dish of your choice to share plus your own plates and tableware. A Love Offering will be taken to help supplant the cost of the entree.

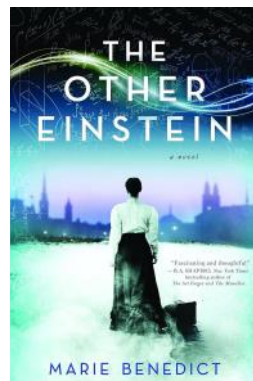
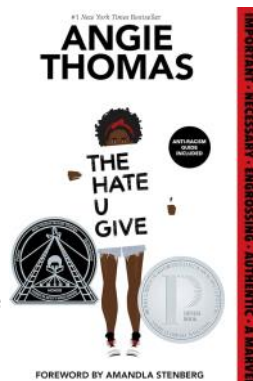
Each of the programs will include a brief inspirational time, a time to respond to the theme if one so desires, a time to contemplate trivia that only you might know and most importantly great food and even greater fellowship. **Look for the Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex at least three weeks prior to each event.**

Should you have any questions or comments, please see Carol Abbott or contact her at ceabbott123@gmail.com

Avid readers... check out the **WUMC Book Discussion Club!**

We meet **every fourth Wednesday at 7PM.**

Read "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas, the book chosen for April (available in the library, too) and join us on **April 24** for the discussion.



Read "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict, the book chosen for May (available in the library, too) and join us on **May 22** for the discussion.

Call **Kim Reed** with any questions.

☎ (302) 670-1832.

Reflections

Reflections

Staying Close

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

I can only speak for myself, but it seems to me a rarity that a movie ever rises above the novel that inspired it. In fact, I can't recall one example. And now that I think about it, it seems all too common that the movie falls quite a bit short in comparison. But I do remember one occasion when the movie and the book were equally good... in my humble opinion! I am referring to the Hemingway novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. I was fairly young when I watched the movie, starring an aging Spencer Tracy, but I recall being mesmerized by the story. It was years later that I read the novel, and of course while there are always differences between the two, not to mention the passing of many years, I thought both the written story and the adaptation for the big screen were both extremely well done. Hemingway has few peers when it comes to telling a tale about fishing.

It was in thinking of fishing that I began to reminisce about how long ago it had been since I reeled in my last big (actually pretty small) catch. Like a breadcrumb trail, this in turn led me to do some online research into fishing gear that is currently in use, and in particular, hooks and lures. My conclusion... either there have been many incredible and unique advances in the world of fishing, or what I used growing up was pretty basic stuff. Maybe a little bit of both. The hooks viewed online were not totally unusual to me, with their varied sizes and shapes. But the lures

Danny Cooper
Coordinator/Counselor
@ Daybreak
Counseling Services

are what caught my attention. And it wasn't the sheer variety available, for there was an incredible assortment, but the distinctive names they were given, such as... *Bonehead Stump Bug*, or the *Mister Twister Double Tail Grub*, or my personal favorite, *Mr. Crappie Shoo Shiner*. There were hundreds of such lures to choose from, each equipped with a sharp, hard to see hook. Even for us novices, we know how it works... the lure draws the fish in, and if the fisherman, or fisherwoman, attentively does their job, a little nibble from the fish might be just enough to set the hook, and voila, we're having fish for supper!

In Matthew's Gospel reading above, if we use our imagination, we can see that Satan was much like a fisherman with our Lord while Jesus was set apart from God in the desert for forty days, throwing out lures that the evil one hoped would be too enticing to pass up; hoping to set his hook into the soon to be savior of the world. As we know from the story, it was as the forty days were coming to a close that Satan made his move, when Jesus was at his weakest. In the scriptures, this section of text is titled, *The Temptation of Jesus*, and this is indeed Satan's specialty. And while the evil one was unsuccessful in derailing our Lord from his appointed mission, that hasn't discouraged him from continuing his fishing expeditions with you and me.

There is much we can learn from this account in the gospels, but for the sake of simplicity, let's focus in on just three specific points. For starters, Satan is an expert at zeroing in on human weakness. Not to overuse the metaphor, but the picture of a shark sensing blood in the water comes to mind. And while the evil one has keen awareness of our weaknesses as we make our way in this life, the vital question for us today is whether we have such awareness about ourselves. To walk through this life unaware of one's weaknesses is not unlike the actions of a drunk driver. While all drivers are vulnerable to crash their car, it is the drunk driver who chooses to increase the

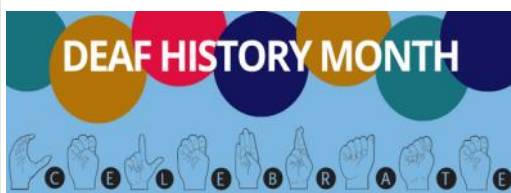
risk, all the while telling themselves that they are not in danger. It is this type of ignorance of self, or denial of reality, that makes a person such an easy mark for the evil one. On the other hand, it is our recognition of our weaknesses that keeps us humbly aware of our precarious steps along life's path. It was the Apostle Paul who proclaimed to the Corinthians, **"For when I am weak, then I am strong"**.

It is when we are honest with ourselves, and with God, about our human frailty, that the Spirit is permitted access to actually strengthen us in our times of weakness...hence I am made strong in Him when I am not strong in myself. In a picture, the weak area of me is infused with the Spirit and made strong. Conversely, if my weaknesses are avoided and denied, the Spirit is not given access, because God doesn't just storm in when not invited, and my weakness is feasted upon by the evil one. That sounds terrible, and looks horrible to imagine, but it is the truth. Whether we fall prey to our weaknesses through the lure of temptation is ultimately up to you and me.

Secondly, when we read the gospel account above, it is not merely the fact that Jesus was victorious over Satan, it was how he was victorious. Jesus' weapon was the Word. With every precise cast of the line, Satan dangled an attractive lure in easy reach of the weakened Jesus. And to protect himself, to give himself the strength to combat and resist the tempter, Jesus quoted the razor-sharp, unbreakable Word of God. Again, Paul's words come to mind, **"For when I am weak, then I am strong."** Our strength, in times of need, when we are vulnerable and weary, is the constancy of God's word. Many of us don't do this, but if we were to take the time to be truly honest with ourselves, we could see pretty clearly where we are most vulnerable as it relates to temptation. We are all vulnerable... let's begin with that truth. And if we can be honest with ourselves, we can then turn to the Word and remind ourselves of God's truth, God's protection, and God's power.

Continued on Page 14.





March 13 – April 15

National Deaf History & Heritage Month is celebrated from 3/13 thru 4/15 to commemorate the achievements of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. The time frame is spread across March and April in recognition of three turning points in Deaf education history dating back to the early 1800s.:

On April 15, 1817, America's first public school for the Deaf was opened. The establishment of the American School for the Deaf was the beginning of a long proud tradition of schools for the Deaf in this country, which continues to this day. Prior to this date, children who were Deaf or hard of hearing were kept at home and rarely educated. With the founding of this, the first of many Schools for the Deaf, children were given access to a language, a community, and a culture. Preservation of these schools is of paramount importance to the community.

On April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University, the world's first institution dedicated to advanced education for the Deaf and hard of hearing, was officially founded. Gallaudet University is a central icon within the community, representing the only university in the world that is solely for Deaf and hard of hearing students. The university was certified under the direction of President Abraham Lincoln, a staunch supporter of the Deaf community and education.

On March 13, 1988, Gallaudet hired its first Deaf president in response to its students' Deaf President Now movement. March 13 represents the day that the Deaf community seized its fate during the Gallaudet University "Deaf President Now" movement. The college board of directors selected a new president for the college who was hearing, had no experience in Deaf education, and did not know American Sign Language (ASL). Students and staff walked out of classes and off the job in protest. When Gallaudet selected its first Deaf President, I. King Jordan, Deaf citizens declared that never again would they not be allowed to lead themselves.

April is Holy Humor Month



Can't we all use a chuckle now and then?
Even God has a sense of humor!

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short on time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had 12 opossoms. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. –

From "A Book Report on the Entire Bible: Through the Eyes of a Child."

A kindergarten teacher was walking around, observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she stood beside one girl working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two of them as close together as possible. -George Burns



Spring DINGO & Dessert a Sweet Success!

Everyone attending our Spring DINGO & Dessert event on **Sunday, March 10th** had a great afternoon. The sweets and healthy snacks were delicious, and the competition was fierce. The winningest table was Jack and Betsy Friedel's; people seated at that table won four of the five games played! It was nice to see both new and familiar faces. Special shout-out to Carol Abbott who always makes sure the food side of any event is perfect!

Our next DINGO & Dessert event will be during Deaf Awareness Month, on Sunday, September 22nd.

The Sexton Kitchen Team \$1,000.00 Academic



The members of the Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to announce that they will be prepared to fund up to **TWO** \$1,000.00 College Scholarships for the 2024 - 2025 Academic Year. Those members of the forthcoming area High School 2024 graduating classes that are active members of the Wyoming United Methodist Church are invited to consider requesting a scholarship application.

Scholarship Application Packets are available from Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Dates & Deadlines:

Sunday, June 16, 2024: All Scholarship Application Packets are due to Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Sunday, June 30, 2024: All Applicants who applied will be notified in writing of their selection status by Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Sunday, July 7, 2024: The Academic Scholarship Recipient(s) to be announced by the Pastors at both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services.

Request for application packets as well as questions can be directed to Terry at terryhiggins38@outlook.com or (302) 363-5823.

Blood Drive... Can We be Saviors?

We all know who the Savior is. Jesus Christ offers salvation to all. The salvation He offers is through His grace, forgiveness, and sacrifice. "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8&9 NIV



Can we also become "saviors"? Is a lifeguard who pulls a child from a rip tide a savior? What about a fireman who rescues someone from a house fire? A police officer who stops an assault? An EMT who aids car accident victims? A helicopter pilot on a "flight for life"? A surgeon who transplants a kidney or liver? Scientific researchers who invent and refine new technologies such as MRI's and CAT scans? Chemists and pharmacologists who develop and improve vaccines and medicines? A soldier carrying a wounded comrade to safety? The US Coast Guard rescuing the crew of a sinking ship? Adoptive and foster parents welcoming an abused child into their homes?

And - what about **people who donate blood to the Blood Bank of Delmarva?** Their donations are used to restore life to persons in various situations including accidents, illnesses, surgeries, and childbirth. They are saviors, too!

Please consider joining the blood donor community in saving others on Tuesday, **April 30th at our church, Wyoming UMC.** The BBD Bloodmobile will be parked near the narthex **from 8 AM to 1 PM.** Appointments are necessary and available in 15-minute intervals. To register, scan the QR code or use the online sign up via: <https://donatebbd.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/9876>

Since our drive is on a Tuesday, we hope and pray that many available and eligible retirees and community members will fill the time slots.

Those who cannot participate through blood donation may still support the BBD by writing a check made out to Wyoming UMC with "Outreach Team" on the memo line. All proceeds will go to the Blood Bank of Delmarva.



**Donating
Blood
Saves
Lives!**

VBS Needs - Drinks for Camp Firelight!

The Kitchen Team is in need of cans of dry yellow lemonade mix such as Country Time Lemonade. We will be making 10 or more gallons every day all week long to keep our VBS participants, teachers and helpers hydrated. Many thanks to all who can help with this project.



LAST CALL

April 27 is Pecometh Day! Visit between 11AM and 3PM to see Pecometh for the first time and hear about our Summer Camp program - or come back to camp to revisit familiar sights. *Take a turn on our zipline! Enjoy some fun face-painting! Make some tasty s'mores over the campfire! Experience a day of camp fun! This event has fun for the whole family.*

Learn More:
<https://www.pecometh.org/pecometh-day>

to Register for **Camp Pecometh** and receive a **WUMC Campership!**

Email the invoice showing the \$50 paid deposit to bfreidell@yahoo.com by May 1st to be eligible for the campership.

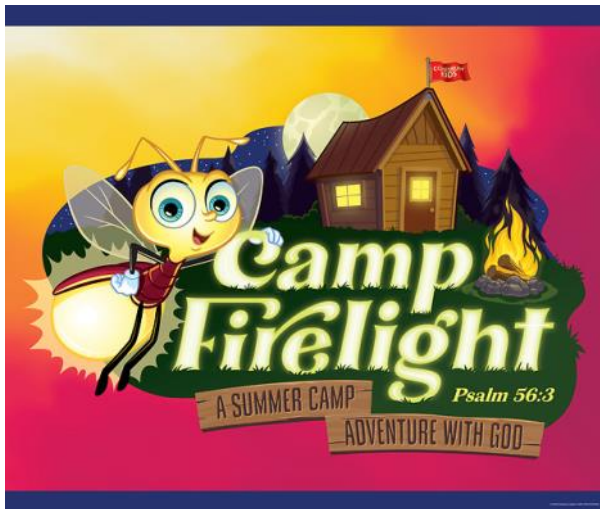
Check out Pecometh's website www.pecometh.org for more information on summer camps available for grades K through 11.



Would you like to help send a camper to **Camp Pecometh?**

Camp costs are going up and you can help by adding to our Campership fund by donating financially. Be sure to mark Camp Pecometh Campership on your donation. A BIG Thank You to our Kitchen Team who have generously donated \$3000 this year for camperships.

Any questions, contact Betsy at bfreidell@yahoo.com.



VBS 2024: Camp Firelight

We are looking forward to an exciting Vacation Bible School this year -

June 17th- 21st

at **Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God**, where "Campers" will learn how to trust in God whenever they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work. Any adults or youth (7th grade and up) who are interested in helping staff VBS should contact Michelle Harris at cnmharris@gmail.com.

Summer Camp!

Enroll by visiting delmarva.soccershots.com



Soccer Shots - an engaging children's soccer program with a focus on character development - is partnering with Wyoming Church for a six-week season of soccer! And we'll be offering a Free Fun Day so you can try Soccer Shots before enrolling!

Wednesday, April 3rd
Wyoming Church

216 Wyoming Mill Rd, Dover

Soccer Shots®

2-3yr olds @ 5:00pm

3.5-5.5yr olds @ 5:30pm

Season: April 10th - May 15th, Wednesday evenings.
 Questions? Contact Josh Outlar at joutlar@soccershots.com or 302.760.9079



- 4/02** Irene Gillette, Buddy Sammons
04/03 Ross Lancaster, Allison Maahs, Evelyn Maahs
04/04 Gary Green, Cort Massey, Alicia Sumpter, Doris Taylor
04/05 Kathy Deckard, Reileigh Gray
04/06 Rachel Edwards, Jim Klecan
04/07 Marty Downing
04/09 Josh Turner
04/10 Colby Lyon
04/11 Derek Leister
04/13 Bonnie Luke
04/14 Lois Murray
04/15 Michael Davis, Margaret Jones, Doni Purdy
04/17 Joyce Ann Green
04/18 Michelle Thompson
04/19 Susan Cook
04/20 Justin Anthony, Lauren Forbes
04/23 Michael Lumia, Colleen Papen
04/25 Tim Lyon, Barbara Roscoe
04/26 Roger Kelsey, Jim Papen, Valerie Riggins
04/27 Mary Dawn Ditty, Amy Kellen
04/28 Jacob Williams
04/30 Patricia Lawson
05/01 Karly (Jones) Siegfried
05/02 Juliet Klecan
05/04 Eric Jones, Kate Krieger, Judi Leczner
05/05 Emily Dejesus, Sherry Kijowski, Janet Meyer
05/07 Jane Brooks
05/08 Michelle Sell, Frank Sutton
05/10 Collin Ditty, Jeff Jones
05/13 Evelyn Greenwood
05/14 Aaron Dejesus
05/15 Kade Seip, Doris Wilt
05/18 Pat Sweeney, Beth Wessell
05/20 Andrea Pierce
05/21 Kevin Lighter, Dan Rigby
05/22 Debbie Killen
05/23 Melanie Dejesus, Lillian Petro
05/24 Lynne Singleton, Mandy Stant, Everly Thompson
05/26 Matt Gordineer, Wini Walton
05/28 Reba Ostner
05/29 Nancy Sammons
05/31 Tabitha Denemoustier, Loretta Walls
06/01 Jack Luke, Okemah Strickland
06/03 Isabel Marlow
06/05 Peggy Ciminera, Tamryn Coleman, Madelynn Harris, Michael Sell, Amy Spampinato

~ Our People ~

~ Deaths ~



Holly Nicole Holderbaum

the daughter of
Linda Holderbaum
passed away
on February 25, 2024.

FOREVER IN OUR
hearts 

Jean Banaszak

the mother of Ken Banaszak passed away on March 21, 2024.

“Staying Close” Continued from Page 10.

In a manner of speaking, we can take these special promises and encouragements from the Word and weave them into the “sweater” that we wear in this life, especially in times of needed warmth (help). If Jesus confronted the evil one with the power and strength of the ever present Word, so can we. *As far as the East is from the West...* nothing can separate us from our loving God, unless we choose to walk the roads of life without Him.

Lastly, Jesus, in Matthew’s account, exemplifies what trust truly looks like as it relates to God. No matter how hard Satan tried to lure Jesus into accepting what he was offering, Jesus remained steadfast in his belief and trust in the Father’s protection and care; knowing that the Father would not abandon him, but in fact take care of him in his time of need. As the closing verse describes, “*Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*” Jesus had to do his part... he had to fight and resist the tempter’s enticements, but God was ready to supply what Jesus needed. Jesus did his job in the situation

and God did His. This is the perfect display of what a relationship with God looks like for you and me. And here is the good news as we reflect on this... we don’t need to be Jesus to defeat the enemy’s attempts to tempt us, but merely utilize what the Lord did when he was assailed... turn to the rock solid Word of God. When we do our part, which is not only caring for ourselves, but trusting in our Father to provide, we are then “attended” to as only God can. Remember - God can only provide for us in this way if we first do our job, which is to stand up to the lure of temptation with the unbending power of the Word.

The invitation in this article is to **live our lives in honesty, knowing fully where our weaknesses lie, and to wear the Word, so to protect us when the lures come our way to pull us off the path.** This can be challenging work, but when we love ourselves enough to stand strong in the Word, we also allow God to nurture and care for us in a way that goes beyond our human limitations. We can trust God to do His part. And in spite of our weaknesses, let’s love ourselves enough to do our part, too.

WHEN I AM WEAK,
THEN I AM STRONG



Forthcoming Upgrades To The Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program.

A continuing review of the traffic flow patterns and associated internal and external signage as it relates to the Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program is currently underway. There is a dual goal of creating a more welcoming environment while retaining an upgraded, immediate awareness of parishioner and visitor presence. At the same time we are simplifying and minimally integrating our AV phone unit into our current S3 camera system so as to increase our Monitor response time.

We are approaching the 'half way' completion of our current January through June Monitor, Usher, Greeter, Steward S3 Calendar. We are most appreciative of those dedicated folks that serve as volunteers in the S3 Program. Beginning the month of May all will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve once a month as a Monitor, Usher, Greeter or Steward during the July through December schedule.

Should you feel led to learn how your talents and graces could be used in the S3 Program, please contact Terry (info at the bottom of the page).

Spring And Turf/Lawn Care May Be Early This Year!

I am certain that you have noticed at least one of several signs of a very early Spring here on the DelMarVa Peninsula these last three weeks. Signs such as early Daffodils, Red Maple Tree Blossoms, Peach Tree Flowers, and Forsythia all point to the



indication of an earlier than normal Spring Season. In fact, I would not be surprised to see at least the turf portion of our Church grounds being mowed prior to the celebration of Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please enjoy all of our forthcoming seasonal changes and all of the very detailed professional grounds, turf and lawn care that we receive at Wyoming Church.

Early Spring In The Memorial Garden.

The Lariope over wintering plants that adorn the central portion of the Memorial Garden are beginning to exhibit the first signs of new growth --- thanks in great part to our early Spring season. Several Memorial Garden Bricks are currently in the various stages of pre-order, site selection, cremains consideration and/or placement.

In recent years a series of eight new American flags have been periodically replaced three to four times per annum to honor those who have served our nation with honor. The most recent group placement occurred in the month of March this year via the courtesy of an anonymous donor.

The placement of a Memorial Garden Brick is an excellent way to honor the memory of a loved one or that of a person who has had a most positive effect on your life. The very simple protocol begins with the acquisition of a application form that can be found on the Memorial Garden Model in the Narthex.



Everybody's Invited!

Mark your calendar now for the

Saturday, April the 27th

Prayer Breakfast in the Party

Room at Tre Sorelle Dolce. The doors open at 7:30 AM at which time you will be warmly greeted and welcomed into an inspiring time of good food and great fellowship.

The theme for April's Prayer Breakfast is "**Bring Your Prayer Requests For God's Responses**" so that we can begin to seek the individual and/or collective power of prayer.

We will place our Breakfast order with Mike And Mel's Restaurant --- across the street in Wyoming --- where it will be returned to us warm and accurately prepared for our enjoyment.

Please also mark your calendar for our **May Prayer Breakfast — on the 25th**. Same time and procedure as listed above for April's breakfast.

Terry Higgins will be responsible for leading us in our meeting in **April**, with Jack Freidel serving as our leader in the **May 25th** Meeting.

Those of you who know Jack know that his presentations are always Scripture based, well constructed and very effective.



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-697-8400 Fax: 302-697-8470

E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com

www.WyomingUMC.com



Church Office Hours :

Monday-Thursday 9AM - 3PM

call & text for appointments:

☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate



To: You!

**Our Pastors are available
by appointment.**

Call or text

☎ (302) 423-3911

Pastor Lindsay

☎ (302) 423-4237

Pastor Rick

Deadline for The Wyoming Messenger is the 17th of the previous month.

**The 12 most recent issues of The Wyoming Messenger are available
on www.wyomingumc.com - NEWSLETTERS.**

There, you can also find the Delaware District Newsletter (printed by-weekly).



DON'T MISS MAY 19TH!

The Sunday School classes will be holding their annual Bake Sale (sponsored by the 4th/5th grade class) in between services on Sunday, May 19th!

This year, we decided to choose a local non-profit to raise money for. Our kids were able to suggest organizations they knew of and voted on which organization they wanted to raise money for. They chose the local non-profit "Buckets of Love". Buckets of Love was started by two sisters in our area, Reagan and Payton Garnsey. As their website states they "Bring smiles to children and giving back to our community, one bucket at a time". Please check out their website at



www.bucketsoflove.us and

plan to come to church hungry for some delicious treats on May 19!

*It is
Finished
John 19:30*

Continued from Page 3.

What is finished? You, the reader, what is finished for you? Scores of millennia ago God resolved to step out of a garden to bring you home. He descended into time to secure you. 2,000 years ago He hung on a cross to save you; to redeem you from the ramifications of sin and death. *Tetelestai* means the effects reverberate into the future – salvation rings out as strongly today as the day when hell shook and stones rolled away. You, the reader, what is finished for you?

Tetelestai – love can now prevail over hate; forgiveness is more powerful than vengeance; hurt can be healed; peace is possible. *Tetelestai* – sin can be conquered; shame can be released; captivities can be broken; oppression can end. *Tetelestai* – light illuminates darkness; strength is found in weakness; humility and meekness lead; losing one's life will find Life. *Tetelestai* – hope reigns.

Tetelestai - one word, that once spoken, issues a power and truth that can never be taken away. This is the Word of God, for the people of God, thanks be to God, amen.

May the Lord
bless you & protect you.
May the Lord
smile on you
& be gracious to you.
May the Lord
show you his favor
& give you his peace.
- Numbers 6:24-26
BibleVersesImages.com

Memory Verse
April & May