

MAY 2024

# THE SPIRIT CONNECTION



## A Note from Pastor Sara: Looking for Signs of New Life!

I hope that you have noticed the beautiful transformations taking place all around our church campus. **God's best life is breaking forth all around our lives!**

Certainly, it is the Lord's doing in every way! **God has continued to gift our church with fruitfulness.** I'm so grateful for those that give of their time and talents to bring spring to our flower beds, declutter our church campus & closets, plan for summer ministry, feed children in our neighborhood, volunteer with the CEC, attend a discipleship class, support Blue Sunday, and give of themselves and resources to allow flourishing together!

Spring blooms forth in the front flower bed with irises, hydrangeas, roses, and beauty all around! So too have we had the bright blue pinwheels grace our lawn as we proudly supported partnerships with community agencies working with abused children. (Additionally, our missions ministry continues to support Seis Puentes, Haven's Loft, Canvas Community, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, Indian Hills Elementary, and the Gardner Food Pantry). Plus, our youth group hosted the Central District Youth "IMPRINT" weekend that assisted our feeding ministries, congregational care

ministries, and literacy ministries with veterans, children, and unsheltered adults.

**This has all happened since Easter Sunday as we have many alleluias to share!** We have also reached our pre-pandemic attendance trends while also continuing vibrant growing membership, campus and facility updates, and growth in missions and outreach.

**The preparations are underway too, for the months ahead!**

Summer is coming, with it bringing all the incredible summertime ministries of the Pentecost Party & Potluck; Youth Mission Trip; Memorial Weekend Flags; Vacation Bible School; and more fun in ministry that fills these pages and our calendar.

**I'm so grateful to be your pastor and to be the pastor with this congregation that bears witness to God's grace as our ministry is about flourishing in God's love which makes life possible.**

God's best,  
Pastor Sara Bayles Charlton

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PASTOR SARA'S NOTE

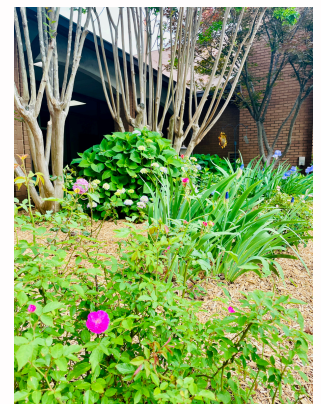
CHURCH NEWS/APRIL IN PHOTOS

YOUTH & KIDS & MISSIONS

CHURCH FINANCIALS & CAMPUS UPDATES

CEC NEWS

MAY CALENDAR



# Church News:

## Save the Date: C.E.C. Sunday

May 5, 2024

Children's  
Church



**CEC Sunday is May 5.** We will take a moment in both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services to celebrate the teachers and staff that have made the choice to work with the young children at the CEC. A meal for the CEC Staff families will be held following the 11 a.m. service in honor of Teacher's Appreciation Week and CEC Sunday!

\*Also on Sunday, the UW Faith Unit Meeting Luncheon will take place directly after the service in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday is May 19. We will have ONE worship service in the Sanctuary, followed by a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Potluck meal assignments:

A-G: Side Dish

H-O: Salads

P-Z: Desserts

*(church will provide chicken tenders)*

Bring a friend or two and let's join together on this wonderful occasion!

May 19, 2024

## Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday

10:30 a.m. One Worship Service (Sanctuary)



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH NLRFUMC Spring 2024



We are continuing with our Wednesday night activities at NLRFUMC.

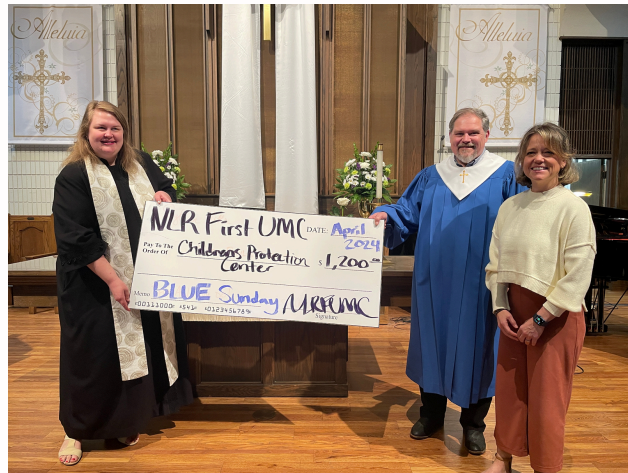
On May 1, the meal will be "Brinner" or breakfast for dinner. Then, on May 8, the meal will be baked spaghetti and green beans. Be sure to follow our communications either by email or Facebook for future meal information.

## Volunteer Highlight:

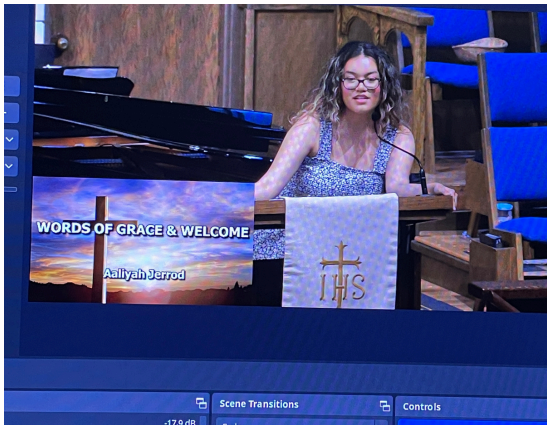
We are hosting many community events and would love to have welcoming and helpful greeters to assist these guests as they arrive on campus. If you want to help, contact David Martin: [dmartin@nlrfumc.org](mailto:dmartin@nlrfumc.org)



# April in Photos:



# April in Photos:



# First Kids & NLRFUMC Youth News:



**FIRST KIDS ON THE 1ST!**  
**MAY 5TH**  **5:15 P.M.**

Meet at the church at 5:15 p.m.  
for a Ham/turkey Sliders, chips & fruit.  
Caravan to  
Joyland Skate Park from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
**\*MUST RSVP!!**  
\$10 per family to skate  
mhairston@nlrfumc.org

First Kids on the First is May 5th. Parents and Guardians, please bring your kiddo to the church at 5:15 p.m., we will have a meal, and then head to Joyland. It is important that each child have one parent or guardian with them during this event.



**MOVE!**   
ACTIVE GAMES FOR ACTIVE FAITH

**JOIN OUR FIRST KIDS SPRING SERIES...**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS:**  
May 5: Jonah Flees from God  
May 12: The Great Commission  
May 19: Philip and the Ethiopian  
May 26: Saul's Conversion

North Little Rock  
First United Methodist Church

Megan Hairston continues the Sunday School Spring series with "Move!" Each lesson has a fun activity that helps the lessons "stick" with the children. Sunday School class begins at 10 a.m. in the upstairs Children's Department each Sunday.



**NLRFUMC YOUTH MISSION TRIP**  
**GALVESTON, TX / JUNE 9 -15, 2024**  
**\$150**  
**\*Deadline to register is May 8!**

**June 9-15, 2024**

Deadline to register is: **WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**

COST \$150

This payment can be made in one lump sum. However, we can work out a payment plan for families to be able to pay in installments. We also provide scholarships, and youth bucks can be applied to this fee. If you have a youth interested in going on this mission trip, contact Rev. Kathy Butler:  
kbutler@nlrfumc.org

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.NLRFUMC.ORG**



**ASSEMBLY 2024**

**Assembly Registration Deadline: May 22**

**When is Assembly?**

July 22-26, 2024

Assembly will be held on the campus of Hendrix College in Conway. We will all be sleeping on campus in the residential halls and eating our meals in the award winning Hendrix Cafeteria.

**What is Assembly?**

It's a week-long youth journey filled with incredible worship, amazing people, and the most awesome God ever! At Assembly, we believe in the power of small groups. These gatherings are where real connections are made, where friendships deepen, and where we grow together in our faith journey.

# Missions:



The Missions Team of NLRFUMC will provide and serve lunch to the teachers of Indian Hills Elementary School on May 7, in honor of Teacher's Appreciation Week.

If anyone would like to help serve you are more than welcome! We plan to meet at the church at 10:15 on the 7th and walk over to the school.

For more information contact Rita Newman, Missions Chair: [rnweman1010@comcast.net](mailto:rnweman1010@comcast.net)



## Missions Team FYI's:

*\*The next Missions Team meeting has been rescheduled to June 2nd due to Memorial Day.*

## Would you be interested in an Adult Mission Trip?

If so, the team is considering a trip to UMCOR Sager-Brown in the Spring of 2025 in Baldwin, Louisiana. \$400/week provides meals and lodging. Activities could include building, landscaping, packing health kits, etc. If you are interested please let Jo Roberts or Pastor Brent know!

[bhigdem@nlrfumc.org](mailto:bhigdem@nlrfumc.org)  
[jotut@hotmail.com](mailto:jotut@hotmail.com)

# Financials and Campus Updates:

## Church Financial Report for Q1

Revenue through Mar. 31: \$209,771

Expenses through Mar. 31: \$216,636

Difference of \$ 6,835

We appreciate your continued support of the ministries of our church!

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!**

Your communion rail donations for the **Seis Puentes** Organization totaled:  
\$231.00

Your **Blue Sunday Pinwheel** donations for Child Abuse Prevention Month totaled:  
\$1649.54

**THANK YOU, NLRFUMC!**



## Columbarium Update:

You may have noticed that the roses are missing from our rose garden. We are preparing for the start of construction on our columbarium's foundation. The niches should arrive this summer with completion expected in the fall.

If you are Interested in purchasing a niche for you and your loved ones ashes. We are now able to set up payment plans to those interested. Contact David Martin for more information.

# CEC: Children's Enrichment Center

## Teacher Appreciation Week

May 6, 2024 - May 10, 2024

### **Family Involvement**

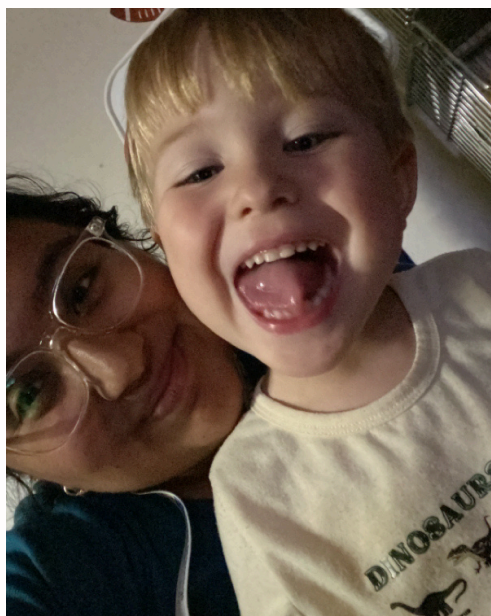
**Monday** - Bring something Salty and Sweet because having teachers like ours is a real treat!

**Tuesday** - Bring a flower or two to the office for a bouquet for each teacher!

**Wednesday** - Send your child to school with a handmade card for their teacher.

**Thursday** - Bring a \$10 gift card to the office so that we can add them to gift baskets for all teachers, floaters, and subs!

**Friday** - Dress up day in your teacher's favorite color.



## Muffins in the Morning May 13

Celebrating the people in our children's lives. Stop in the gym on Monday, May 13 from 7am-8am. Enjoy a muffin and juice / coffee with you child.



## **Some really cool kids will be graduating on May 16!**

Pre K Graduation May 16th from 6pm-7pm.

Ceremony in the Sanctuary & a reception to follow in the gym.

All are welcome to attend!

The CEC will be closed for Professional Development Day on May 24 and is closed for Memorial Day (May 27).



# May Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>MAY</b> <b>2024</b>			1 Weekly Repeated Events	2 1 p.m. Fellowship Class Social 5:30 CEC PTO	3 Women's Retreat to Mount Eagle Begins	4 Women's Retreat
5 CEC Sunday Weekly Repeated Sunday Events 12:00 noon CEC Staff Family Meal 12:00 noon UWFaith Luncheon 5:15 p.m. First Kids, First Sunday Event	6 Teacher Appreciation Week 10:30 a.m. CEC Chapel Time	7 Weekly Repeated Events 12 noon United Methodism 101 Hybrid Class	8 Weekly Repeated Events 10:00 a.m. PEO Meeting	9 Weekly Repeated Events 7:30 Indian Hills Community Club Meeting	10 Weekly Repeated Events	11 Weekly Repeated Events
12 Mother's Day Weekly Repeated Sunday Events	13 Weekly Repeated Events 6:30 p.m. Blue Star Mothers of AR Meeting (Parlor)	14 Weekly Repeated Events 11:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Meeting	15 Weekly Repeated Events	16 Weekly Repeated Events 6:00 p.m. CEC Graduation Ceremony (Sanctuary)	17 Weekly Repeated Events	18 Weekly Repeated Events
19 Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday 10:30 a.m. One Worship Service (Sanctuary) Potluck to follow service 1:30 Admin Committee Meeting 4 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting	20 8:30 IHE Run Through 10 a.m. Jo Cruse Circle 1:30 p.m. Nell Dyer Circle 4:00 p.m. Missions Serve at Canvas Community	21 Weekly Repeated Events 9 a.m. IHE Kinder Graduation Ceremony (Sanctuary)	22 Weekly Repeated Events 8:30 a.m. IHE Run Through	23 Weekly Repeated Events 9 a.m. IHE 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony 7 p.m. IH Community Club Meeting	24 Weekly Repeated Events CEC Closed for Professional Dev.	25 Weekly Repeated Events
26 Weekly Repeated Events	27 Memorial Day Church office and CEC Closed	28 4 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. UWF Leadership Meeting	29 No Wed. Night activities 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 Weekly Repeated Events	31	June 1

## WEEKLY REPEATED EVENTS:

**Mondays** - 10:30 a.m. CEC Chapel Time

**Tuesdays** - 6:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. Body and Soul Workout

**Wednesdays** - 4:30 p.m. Bible Study & JuBELLation Practice

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal

6:15 p.m. Holy Communion

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Youth and First Kids Meet, Bible Study

**Thursdays** - 5 p.m. Body and Soul

**Sundays** - 9 a.m. Waypoint Worship

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

1:30 Ukulele Practice

5:30 p.m. Youth and Confirmation