

The Messenger

We are believers in Christ who gather to
PRAISE God, GROW and SERVE.

May 2019



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen
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cell: 1-815-922-9161

"Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

- John 20:6-9 (N.I.V.)

This is a story about a real life person defeating death, not cheating death, but defeating it. A real life person who sacrificed their own life so we may have the same opportunity to conquer death. There are many speculations about what exactly happens to us after our earthly death. This column is not about my prediction of the life to come, except to say that it is good. Better than my best day here, and that's the place I want to spend eternity.

Our logical brains often have a difficult time grasping the illogical, in this case the dead rising to new life. As I have mentioned before I love a good scary movie. I have seen my fair share of dead people coming back to life to do some rather nasty things. I know the difference between cheap fantasy, which these movies are, and reality, which Holy Scriptures are.

The disciples, those people who were closest to Jesus, had a hard time grasping the Lord's death and resurrection. The Gospel of John tells us that the disciples still did not understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead. That's because we do not fully understand God. We don't think like the almighty creator of heaven and earth.

God knew what the plan was, the plan to reconcile a corrupt and sinful world meant watching his child, Jesus, die on the cross. The plan was not over then, that was Friday but Sunday was coming! On Sunday God's plan was fulfilled as Mary and the Disciples came and found an empty tomb. The dead has come back to life.

Jesus has come back from death and says to us we can have the same opportunity, if we would believe. Why does God make believing such a difficult thing for us to comprehend? Anything less wouldn't require an all knowing, all seeing, all loving creator, redeemer and perfecter. God created the world and everything in it which includes you. God then redeemed you when all seemed lost through the death of Jesus on the cross. Then God goes one step further and makes us perfect in the heavenly realm (Again, whatever that looks like, I just know its good).

PLEASE SEE 'PASTOR' ON PAGE 9

Centenary UMC

Church Staff

Pastor.....Mel Nielsen
*Coordinator of Outreach
and Growth*.....Kevin Hinkle
Office Administrator.....Karen Dirksmeyer
Office Manager.....Destiny Slater
Music Director.....Terri Benz
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Rachel Hinkle
Parish Visitor.....Jane Lair
Custodian.....Patty Adcock
Nursery Attendant.....Kayleigh Dirden
Nursery Attendant.....Chloe McDannald

Centenary's Missionaries

Mark & Rebecca Smallwood - Teachers at Red Bird
Mission School in Kentucky

Church Information

331 E. State St., P.O. Box 124

Jacksonville, IL 62651

Phone: 217-245-8417

Email: office@jaxcentenary.org

Website: www.jaxcentenary.org

LaMoine District: www.lamoinedistrict.org

Illinois Great Rivers Conference Website: www.igr.org

In Sympathy

Bonnie Meado.....	March 15, 2019
Kay Fairfield.....	March 29, 2019
Marge Meyer.....	April 9, 2019
George Allen.....	April 10, 2019
Vae Rose Fultz.....	April 19, 2019

Sunday Morning Schedule

Traditional Worship Service.....	8:15 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages).....	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour.....	between services
Contemporary Worship Service.....	10:45 a.m.

Special Worship Services

Holy Communion.....	Sun., May 5
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Special Offerings

Native American Ministries Sunday.....	Sun., May 5
Golden Cross Sunday.....	Sun., May 19
Pennies for Hunger.....	Sun., May 26

Fellowship Opportunities

FHS Breakfast.....	Sun., May 5
Fellowship Hour.....	Every Sunday between services
Tuesday Morning Fellowship.....	Every Tue., 6-9 a.m. at SafeCo. Bakery

Mission Opportunities

Donate Blood.....	Mon. May 6 & 13 at Passavant Hospital, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
MMDC Work Day.....	Mon., Apr. 20, 8 a.m.
AlAnon Meeting....	every Wed., 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Leadership Opportunities

Holy Spokes Cluster.....	Wed., May 1, 1:30 p.m.
Education.....	Wed., May 1, 6 p.m.
Stewardship.....	Wed., May 8, 4 p.m.
Finance.....	Wed., May 15, 5:30 p.m.
Worship.....	Mon., May 20, 6 p.m.
Ad Council.....	Wed., May 22, 6 p.m.

Children's Ministries

Sunday School.....	Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
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Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study.....	Every Tues., 9:30 a.m. @ Barbara Wooldridge's Home
Monday Night Bible Study.....	Every Mon., 6:00 p.m. ends May 6, will resume in September

Music Practices

Chancel Choir.....	Mondays 7 p.m., Sanctuary
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Communications

Mini-Messenger Deadline.....	Wednesdays at Noon
Messenger Deadline.....	Fri., May 17
Messenger Folding Party.....	Fri., May 24

United Methodist Women

UMW Business Meeting.....	Thurs., May 2, 6:30 p.m.
Mother/Daughter Banquet.....	Mon., May 13, 6:30 p.m.
FHS Circle.....	Wed., May 8, 6:30 p.m.
Hope Circle.....	Thurs., May 9, 6:30 p.m.
Ruth Circle.....	Wed., May 15, 1:30
Spirit Circle.....	TBD

FUSION -Youth Ministries

Fusion.....	Sun., May 12, 1-3 pm, Brooklyn @ Brooklyn Youth Center
Fusion.....	Sun., May 26, 1-3 pm, Brooklyn @ Brooklyn Youth Center

Fox Trust

Centenary's Fox Trust Committee meets twice a year to designate how the interest money received from the Florence Fox Trust will be distributed. There is an application form available from the church office to request a donation. The applications are due back to the office by Monday, June 3.

Money from the trust cannot be used by Centenary for our budget or buildings, given to political causes, or spent outside the U.S. Centenary members aware of special needs in our community are encouraged tell local agencies to apply for a grant.

Tornado Tubs

The Midwest has recently been affected by both tornadoes and floods. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is collecting items for Tornado Tubs and Cleaning Kits.

The Mission Committee decided to collect cotton or leather work gloves because they are needed for both types of kits and are so important to have in the event of a disaster. Bring donations to the Narthex during May. Cash donations are also welcome. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with "work gloves" in the memo line.

Volunteer mowers needed

Spring is here and the grass is growing quickly. Volunteers are needed to mow the lawn around the church. The task usually takes about half an hour.

A mower is available at the church (or you can bring your own), Volunteers usually mow towards the end of the week. Contact the office if you have questions. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Sunday Morning Helpers

Liturgists

8:15

May 5 - Pat Manker
May 12 - Barbara Wooldridge
May 19 - Barb Ginder
May 26 - Bev Rhine

Greeters

8:15

May 5 - Helen Baldwin
May 12 - Dale and Jean Shafer
May 19 - Shelby Pennell
May 26 - Donna Tolbert

10:45

All dates - Diana Phillips

Communion Stewards

8:15 - May 5

Helen Baldwin/Cyndi Claussen - Sec. 1
Gary Hayes/Brenda Lane - Sec. 2
Bill and Johanna Betters - Sec. 3
Gerry and Bonnie Robinson - Sec. 4

10:45 - May 5

Pastor Mel and Marilyn Kimmons
Chuck Fairfield/TBD

Small Talk

8:15 & 10:45 - Pastor Mel

Fellowship Hour Host/Hostess

May 5 - No Donuts (FHS Breakfast)
May 12 - Men's Group
May 19 - Men's Group
May 26 - Men's Group

Nursery Volunteers

10:45

May 5 - Mary Tomlin
May 12 - Rachael Borgman
May 19 - Cyndi Claussen
May 26 - Peggy Jordan

Upcoming Worship Schedule

*The following is a tentative schedule for
May 2019 worship.*

(Readings & message may change without notice.)

May 5

3rd Sunday in Easter
Altar Color - White
"The Show Me State - part 2"
OT: None
NT: Acts 9:1-6
Gospel: John 21:1-19

May 12

4th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)
Altar Color - White
"You are no longer your own"
OT: None
NT: Acts 9:36-43
Gospel: John 10:22-30

May 19

5th Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
"Giving up or giving away"
OT: None
NT: Acts 11:1-18
Gospel: John 13:31-35

May 26

6th Sunday of Easter (Memorial Sunday)
Altar Color - White
"Pastor Gone on Vacation"
OT: TBD
NT: TBD
Gospel: TBD

June 2

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Altar Color - White
"To what empire do we belong"
OT: None
NT: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel: John 17:20-26

Annual UMW Salad Luncheon, Bake Sale and Bazaar held

Our UMW Salad Luncheon was a success thanks to everyone who volunteered their time, donated salads, baked yummy treats, or contributed to the bazaar. 199 tickets were collected at the door. That doesn't include all the meals served to members of our church family.

INCOME as of Thursday, April 18.

Salad Luncheon - \$1,841

Bazaar - \$537.25

Bake Sale - \$123.50

Total Receipts - \$2501.75

EXPENSES: \$345.79

PROFIT: \$2,155.96.

Let me know if you have any outstanding bills, ticket money or donations.

Martha Vaché, UMW Treasurer



Photos by Martha Vaché

Starting from top left: Some of the 200 people who turned out for a relaxing day at the Annual United Methodist Women's Salad Luncheon; A buffet line that featured many delicious salads; the Boy Scouts who helped set up the tables in the Fellowship Hall; Some of the items sold at the bazaar.



FUSION leads Easter Sunrise Service at Centenary

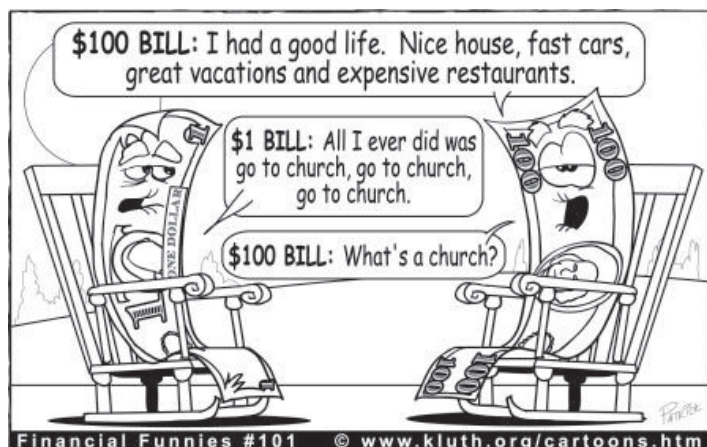
The FUSION Youth Group did a great job leading the Easter Sunrise Service at Jacksonville Centenary on Sun., April 21. ___ youth got up early to lead the drama "On the Road" and present a devotion. The morning service was followed by a delicious breakfast served by the Centenary men's group.



Photo by Pastor Mel

After learning the importance of Easter, a group of mourners gather at the cross to watch Jesus give up His spirit.

A lighthearted look at finances from your Stewardship Committee



Food Center report

We served 95 families for food orders, a total of 186 people at a cost of \$9,321.06. We served 430 families for extra bakery, a total of 1,083 people at a cost of \$13,885.24. The churches contributed \$1,060.00 in money and \$899.75 in food donations. The food drive donations were 23.3 lbs., \$629.25, and a check for \$100.00. Thanks to all who made a donation.

Cheryl TerHark
Food Center Representative

May Birthdays

- 2.....Matthew Prosser
- 4.....Bonnie Waltrip
- 6.....Lori Chamberlain
- 7.....Kathy Hilligoss
Isaiah Adcock
- 9.....Carolyn Gotschall
- 11.....Levi Adcock
- 12.....Catherine Pritchett
- 13.....Lori Stewart
- 16.....Thomas Chumley
Jennifer Plunk
- 17.....Blake Batty
- 18.....Shelby Pennell
Leslie Sparrow
Elizabeth Leitze
- 20.....Karen Houston
- 22.....Joseph Cummings
James Quigg
- 26.....Destiny Slater
- 28.....Monica Schriber
- 29.....Barb Crouse
Chad Flynn
- 30.....Dale Shafer
Wanda Irlam

May Anniversaries

- 1.....Doug & Karmen Birdsell
- 6.....Bob & Mary Dalton
- 19.....Weldon & Debbie Earp
- 21.....Steve & Lori Stewart
- 23.....Gary and Louise Hayes
- 24.....Chad & Rachel Flynn
- 29.....Jake & Melissa Kindred

Thank You

We are truly blessed to have our Centenary family lifting us up when we needed help. Thank you for your love, visits, prayers, phone calls, and cards that gave us strength to cope with the many challenges Marge faced. Like many of my critical patients, she was a “TOB” or Tough Old Bird. Shortly before she died, she told me, “I think I’m the President of the TOB’s.
I love you so much.
Walter Meyer

Graduates

Contact the church office with information about your graduates including school, parent’s names, future plans, etc. We will publish a list of graduates in a future Messenger.

United Methodist Summer Camps

Camping can be a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and inspirations. Camp Guides are available in the church office, from Kevin Hinkle, or the IGRC conference website: <http://www.igrc.org>. Centenary will help pay the cost of camp for our young people. Contact the church office for details.

Lenten offering

It’s not too late to turn in your Lenten offering. This special offering will go toward supporting Mark and Rebecca Smallwood, teachers at Red Bird School and the IGRC Our Conference Our Kids Campaign. Make checks out to “Centenary UMC” and designate “Lenten Offering” in the memo line.

K.I.C.K.S. Updates

Acolyte schedule

- May 5 - Andrew Cooley
- May 12 - Jack Borgman
- May 19 - Matthew Hinkle
- May 26 - Noah Borgman

Teaching schedule

Preschool/Toddler Classroom

- | Date | Teacher/Assistant |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| May 5 | Diana Phillips/Help Needed |
| May 12 | Rusti Cummings/Monica Schriber |
| May 19 | Teacher Needed/Cindy Claussen |
| May 26 | Teacher Needed/Brenda Lane |

Elementary Classroom

- | Date | Teacher/Assistant |
|--------|---|
| May 5 | Rachael Borgman/LuAnne Woodrum |
| May 12 | Rachael Borgman/Peggy Jordan |
| May 19 | Catherine Pritchett/Ashley Westenberger |
| May 26 | Angi Freitag/Amy Stidham |



Photos by Pastor mel

From top left: Hudson and Avery Woodrum are shown visiting the Easter Bunny, Some of the hundreds of eggs 'hidden' in the sanctuary and the kids and their families enjoying filling the bags with Easter goodies.

Easter Egg hunt moved inside

A rare April snowstorm moved the Easter activities inside on Sunday, April 14. The Easter Egg Hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny were moved inside where warmer temperatures greeted dozens of families. Hundreds of Easter Eggs were 'found' and taken home.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone that donated to and helped with the Community Easter Egg Hunt! It was greatly appreciated! Your generosity and willingness to help was overwhelming. It is a joy to be a part of a church family that is so loving and caring especially for our children.

In spite of the weather we had a great time. The children enjoyed searching for Easter eggs in the sanctuary and the Easter Bunny was a big hit! We hosted around 70 children and many more adults. A majority of those attending were not members of Centenary UMC. Around a dozen families that attended signed up for Vacation Bible School! We couldn't have done this without all of your help and generosity.

Blessings, The Education Committee

UMW Reading Program book reviews

An In visible Thread by Laura L. Schroff and Alex Tresniowski is the true story of an 11 year old panhandler, a busy sales executive and an unlikely meeting. The two end up meeting nearly every week for years and built an unexpected friendship that has spanned almost three decades. The book is a 2014 Social Action choice and is in large print.

Make a Difference: Following Your Passion and Finding Your Place to Serve by James A. Harnish is a 2019 book choice in the Education for Mission category. All of us see things every day that are not right in our world. As followers of Christ, we long to connect our passions and gifts with the great needs all around us. The author helps United Methodist answer the questions "How can I become a part of God's healing work in this world?" and "How can I find my place to serve and make a difference?" Harnish draws upon biblical wisdom and the stories of real people who have found their place to serve. The book is inspiring and a practical guide to help every disciple find a place to serve and participate in making God's kingdom a reality in this life.

UMW May Challenge

Use re-usable dishes, glasses, cups rather than plastic or even paper. At restaurants, ask for ceramic mugs whenever possible. Recycling of plastic and paper is good, but not using them in the first place is better!
Terri Benz

FHS planning Famous Breakfast

The "Famous" FHS Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 between services. This special fundraiser will benefit the "Take It To The Streets" summer lunch program. Come join us for great food and fellowship to support the children of our community!

UMW Business Meeting

The United Methodist Women will have a planning meeting on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. All UMW members are welcome.

Take It To The Streets

Did you know that there are children in Jacksonville who are hungry? Grace UMC along with help from the Jacksonville community sponsors a program called "Take it to the Streets" that provides Free Sack Lunches for Kids during the summer.

Last summer 350 volunteers provided 16,000 lunches at several locations every weekday. You can help by donating food, money, and/or time.

Beginning on June 9 volunteers are needed to prepare the lunches in the basement of Grace UMC at 5:30 p.m. MTWT and at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Volunteers are also needed to deliver the meals. Centenary's contact person: Pat Manker

Take It to the Streets is having a fundraiser on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 11:00 am at the Ferris Wheel in Community park.

Donations are welcome. Make checks to "Centenary UMC" with "Lunches for Kid's in the memo.

MMDC workday planned

Our next workday at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Chatham will be on Monday, May 20. Contact Martha Vaché or Kevin Hinkle for more details.



*New Members
always welcome*

May UMW meetings

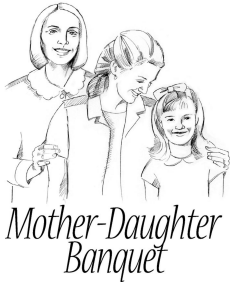
For Heaven Sake Circle: Wed. May 8, 6:00 pm
Hostess: Mary Tomlin

Ruth Circle: Wed. May 15 at 1:30 pm, church parlor
Hostess: Shirley Gish

Hope Circle: Wed., May 9, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Set-up/decorate - Mother Daughter Banquet;
followed by meeting in the parlor
Hostess: Glenda Eldridge
Devotions: Pat Baptist

Spirit Circle: TBA

Mother Daughter Banquet



Advance ticket purchase is required for our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be entertained by Jamie Headen and David Hayes. They play guitars and banjos and do country and gospel music.

Hamilton's will provide a delicious meal of chicken and noodles, baked ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, sautéed vegetables, toss salad, assorted dressings, and rolls. UMW circle members bring desserts.

Advance ticket purchase is required. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or in the church office. The deadline to purchase tickets is Tuesday, May 7. Adults - \$10.00; Children (age 6 to 12) - \$5.00; Pre-school children - free.

Program: FHS Circle Food: Spirit Circle

Set-up and Decorations: Hope Circle

The UMW will provide a meal for the men in our Centenary family who are willing to help that evening with serving and clean-up.

Centenary's UMW Awards

At the LaMoine River District UMW Spring Meeting at Hull UMC, our Centenary UMW received three certificates for 2018.

- Love Unit: for the many ways that Centenary UMW participated in missions as reflected on goal sheet.
- Rainbow Unit: for increasing our giving to missions and giving in all 5 channels of giving (pledge, special mission recognition pin, gift to mission, gift in memory, and thank offering).
- Cunningham Spirit Servant Award: for our support of Cunningham Children's Home.

Cardinal Singer thank you's

Thank you to everyone who attended the concert presented by the Cardinal Singers from Red Bird Christian School in the mountains of Kentucky. A special thanks to all who helped in any way especially those who hosted the students and their chaperones.

Salvation Army FLEA-ESTA

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary's annual FLEA-ESTA will be on May 17 and 18 in the Merchants Building at the north side of the Morgan County Fair Grounds next to the grandstand. The sale will be open on Friday, May 17 from 8 am to 4 pm and on Saturday May 18 from 8:00 am to noon.

Donations of used but still useful furniture and other items are wanted. (No clothing, shoes, or electronics.) Drop of donations between 9 am and 4 pm on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday the week of the sale. Call 243-3532 to schedule a time for pickup on Tuesday or Wednesday.

PASTOR

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

It all starts with coming to know Jesus as a person first. For those of you who don't know much about Jesus, I would like to come and walk with me on the journey to Heaven.

My prayer is that you accept this invitation to come and learn more about grace, forgiveness, never ending love and eternal peaceful existence. The disciples of Jesus who came to that tomb needed to be with Him for a while before they could come to accept the meaning of His life and death.

Jesus invites all people to walk alongside as the journey of life and death continues. As a Christian and pastor I have found a way to live with joy in my heart everyday. That doesn't mean I don't have sad days, it means I can have inner joy and peace despite how the world attempts to dictate how I should feel. This joy is a small taste of what eternal peace will be like. I cannot conquer the storms of life alone, I need a partner, a real "living" savior to buffer the battering wind and waves, to sustain me. Knowing my savior is with me through all things brings inner peace and joy to my heart and soul.

What size was the joy those three people experienced that morning upon seeing "no body" in the tomb. The joy in knowing that nothing in this world can separate us from the love of our Lord and Savior, not even death. When Jesus conquered His own death He conquered it for me and you and everyone, if we would accept this illogical story as absolute truth.

Pastor Mel

**Centenary United Methodist
Memorial/Honorarium Gift Form**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

For the following special occasion:

- ___ *Birthday* ___ *Mother's Day*
- ___ *Anniversary* ___ *Father's Day*
- ___ *Wedding* ___ *Veteran's Day*
- ___ *Christmas* ___ *Other* _____

Please use this gift of \$ _____ for:

- ___ Centenary - General Fund
- ___ Centenary - Building and Grounds Upkeep
- ___ Centenary - Missions
- ___ Designated Projects (*See back side.*)

Make checks payable to: Centenary UMC

Date of donation: _____ Check # _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Please send a gift card to the following honoree:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Put in newsletter ___ Do NOT put in newsletter ___

CENTENARY	GIFT GIVEN TO	AMOUNT
	Bell Tower/Steeple Fund	
	Children's Activities	
	Elevator Upkeep Fund	
	FUSION/Youth Fund	
	Music Fund	
	Pavilion Fund	
	Organ Reservoirs Fund	
JACKSONVILLE		
	A Cup of Cold Water (Local Emergency needs)	
	H.E.L.P.S. Ministry Outreach	
	JACIL	
	Jacksonville Area Food Center	
	Jacksonville Salvation Army	
	Jubilee Habitat for Humanity	
	New Directions Warming/Cooling Center	
MIDWEST		
	Baby Fold, The (Normal)	
	Chaddock (Quincy)	
	Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana)	
	Lessie Bates Neighborhood House (E.St. Louis)	
	Midwest Mission Distribution Center (Chatham)	
	Red Bird Mission (Kentucky)	
	Volunteers in Mission	
INTERNATIONAL		
	Church World Service/CROP	
	Heifer Project	
	UMCOR (United Methodist Com. on Relief)	
MISSIONARIES		
	Mark & Rebecca Smallwood/Red Bird School	
OTHER		
	Name: _____	

Centenary United Methodist Church
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May 2019



VBS will ROAR this Summer

ROAR! Centenary's 2019 VBS will be held Monday June 10th - Thursday June 13th from 5:45pm - 7:45pm for children ages 2 years old - 5th grade.

At ROAR, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Kids are in for a week full of fun, superb music, and a wild setting that come together to celebrate God's goodness!

Get involved by volunteering as a Station Leader, Group Leader, assistant, decorating, and much more! Come share your gifts and abilities! Contact Rachael Borgman at <mailto:rborgman@frontier.com> or 217-473-3794

Volunteer meeting

Anyone interested in volunteering for VBS?! You are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 in the Parlor. Come join the fun! Contact Rachael Borgman with any questions.

Appreciate your prayers!

VBS organizers would appreciate your prayers. They are very excited about the curriculum, music, and plans that have been made so far! Please pray for all who will be a part of this event.