

May 2010

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theParentLink

Children's Ministry Edition

Live As Forgiven and Forgiving People

God created us perfect, in his image. But after sin entered the world, we needed a Savior. The good news of Easter is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose again. Because of his victory, we can have the free gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

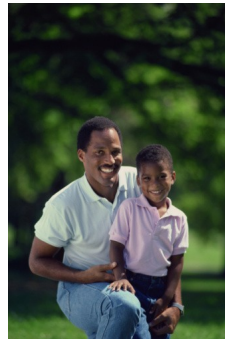
As forgiven people, God tells us to extend forgiveness to others who wrong us. That can be tougher than it sounds, especially when an offender doesn't seem repentant. But God will work on our hearts and give us a desire to forgive when we ask him for help.

Here are some insights about forgiveness from God and for others:

Children first learn what forgiveness is by experiencing it firsthand. As kids experience the feeling of being forgiven, they can begin to forgive those around them. Eventually compassion will compel them to forgive as Christ calls them to—whether or not the people who hurt them are sorry.

Forgiveness is more than just saying "I'm sorry." Forgiveness costs us something, just as it cost Christ dearly on the cross. When we forgive someone, we resist our urge to retaliate, to get even, to make someone pay for their mistakes. We become vulnerable as we allow that person back into our lives. And that's a big part of loving others.

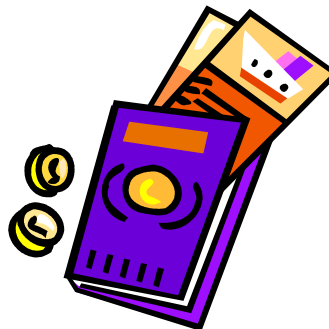
As you help children understand forgiveness, let them know that they can fully experience Jesus' gift of forgiveness when they obey his command to forgive.



Your Ticket to Adventure

Step out of your comfort zone and be adventurous! Sign up to teach Summer Sunday School, and help us give our school year teachers a break. All lessons and supplies are provided.

Please sign up and help make a difference in a child's life! Contact Liz Edwards at liz@argyleumc.org if you are interested.



The countdown has begun
Registration for this year's VBS, Galactic Blast, started April 25. Registration is open to church families through Sunday, May 16. After May 16, registration will be available online and open to the community. Visit the AUMC conference room Sunday mornings to sign up!

VBS Helpers Needed

Will you prayerfully consider how you can help with VBS this year? We are still looking for people to fill some very special VBS jobs. Sign-up flyers are available at the welcome center and in the children's wing, or you can contact Lauren Anders at lauren@argyleumc.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

VBS Week

June 21-25, 9am-12

Planning Meetings:

June 7, 7pm

Trainings:

June 10, 7pm

(or) June 13, 12:30pm

OpenTheBook

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Matthew 6:14-15

God promises to forgive and forget our sins, but he also commands us to do the same thing for people who hurt us.

Teachable Moments

1. **Practice Sincere Apologies**—Learning to apologize takes practice. Help children learn to say they're sorry through nonverbal means (drawing a picture, giving a hug, etc.). During family prayers, practice saying, "I'm sorry." Admit to Jesus that we make mistakes and are sorry; then ask for forgiveness together.



2. **Find Healing**—Read aloud Psalm 32:1-7. Discuss what caused David's heart to be sick and how he got rid of it. Talk about times you've felt bad after doing something wrong. Say: "When we confess our sins and tell God we're sorry, he forgives us and makes our hearts well."

3. **Be an Example**—When you do something wrong, let children see you apologize. Be specific about what you're apologizing for, and ask for forgiveness.



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

Explore the good, gracious news of God's forgiveness by asking your children these questions:

1. Why do we do wrong things—and why do we not do good things we know we should do?
2. How does sin make you feel inside? What would it feel like if no one offered to take away all those sins?
3. Why do you think Jesus wants to forgive us? What do we have to do to get that forgiveness from him?
4. Why is it often hard to forgive others? How do you feel when you tell someone else that you forgive them?

Family Experience: Freely Forgiven

Dive further into the topic of forgiveness by using these easy but powerful activities from Group's Hands-On Bible.

Goodbye Sins!—Say: "Think of a sin, or wrong thing, you've done." Then let each family member use a highlighter to write on a coffee filter a sin that he or she has committed. (Assist young children.) Say: "Now confess that sin to God and ask him to forgive you." Put a few drops of lemon juice on the writing, and watch as your "sin" disappears. Read aloud 1 John 1:8-9. Say: "The lemon juice made the writing disappear. When we tell God we're sorry for our sins, he forgives us. He makes our sins completely disappear from his sight! We may still have to deal with the consequences of our sins, but when God forgives a sin, it's gone." Close in prayer, thanking God for his amazing gift of total forgiveness.

Forgiveness Spelled Out—Write the word *forgive* down the left side of a chalkboard (or down a piece of paper). Share with one another how it feels to be forgiven. Then write one of those feelings next to each letter; for example, Fresh, Optimistic, Relieved, Grateful, Invigorating, and so on. Put the chalkboard in a place where everyone can see it during the coming week. Use it as a reminder to thank God often for his gift of forgiveness. Throughout the week, add to the list as you think of other words that remind you how forgiveness feels.





Swing Time: Stop the Clock on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Michael Hope, an 11 year old at Argyle Intermediate School, and Corbin Fanning, a kindergartner at Hilltop Elementary, are facing different stages of Duchenne, but their families share a common hope that a cure for the disease will be found.

"Lives are stolen by this disease every day," Michael's mom, Tricia Hope, said. "People need to be educated about this disease so that more money can be given to research. Without research, there will be no cure. Without a cure, Duchenne will continue to rob young boys of their lives."

Duchenne, a degenerative disease that results in progressive muscle weakness and loss of strength, eventually leads to serious medical problems with the heart and lungs. Duchenne is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in early childhood.

"Our whole world was totally changed," Corbin's mom, Amy Fanning, said.

"Our dreams for him completely changed. It is still hard to swallow right now because his symptoms are so mild, but as he progresses so will the disease. This diagnosis means we have to adapt to the changes as they happen and focus on living each day to the fullest. We're just trying to soak up every minute with him."

It's a feeling the Hope family can relate to.

"I was devastated," Michael's father, David Hope said. "I couldn't believe the lack of research and trials for Duchenne. I was upset."

Duchenne research currently costs \$85 per minute. The staggering price tag makes fundraising critical for families whose sons have been diagnosed with the disease.

"These are real kids with real hopes and dreams," Mrs. Hope said. "Our boys' lives are 100% dependent on the doctors and scientists involved in research. If people better understand what Duchenne is and how it impacts families, they will understand that research is imperative."

Both families hope for an outpouring of support through the Swing Time event. The Hopes said the time has come for people to be aware about this disease, what it means for their son, and how to help.

"People will be rewarded by the fact that they helped this generation of boys, and those to come, fight Duchenne," David said.

For the Fannings, every dollar raised for research means more time for their son, and others fighting the disease.

"We will find treatment and a cure for all children with DMD," Chris said. "It will just take money, and time."

Would you like to be a Swing Time sponsor? Sponsorships are offered at 4 levels, starting as low as \$85. For more information, contact Lauren@ArgyleUMC.org.

Sunday, May 23

6:30-8:30 pm

AUMC Sanctuary

featuring the

AHS Jazz Band

3 Course Dinner

Live Auction

Silent Auction

Raffle

Kids Activities

Dance Demonstration

Buy Tickets Now!

\$25 Adult

\$20 Seniors & Students

\$60 Family

www.ArgyleUMC.org



**Concert and
Ice Cream
Social
May 2
5pm**

Hello friends! I hope you are well! May will be a glorious month for KM2! Our first event will be singing in the Sunday, May 2nd "Sing Alleluia" concert at the church at 5:00 p.m. which will be followed by an ice cream social. Our final time to sing in worship this semester will be at the May 23rd, 11:15 service, where we will be singing a song for Pentecost. Our final rehearsal of the semester will be Wednesday, May 26th and we will have a pizza party to celebrate a great year! God bless you and thank you so much for allowing your children the opportunity to be a part of this vibrant and growing ministry!

Grace and peace,

Joe



The Methodist Church offers several great, affordable summer camps for kids completing grades 3-5. The camps are at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center. Visit the camp website, www.bridgeportcamp.com, for dates, prices and more information.

May Sunday School Rotation Schedule

	K	1 st and 2nd	3 rd	4th
May 2	Computer	Drama	Story	Movie
May 9	Movie	Cooking	Drama	Computer
May 16	Cooking	Movie	Computer	Drama
May 23	Drama	Computer	Movie	Cooking
May 30	Computer	Drama	Cooking	Movie

Teachers: Older 2's and 3's Rm. 103, Kelly Perritt, Kelly Hawkins & Carly Hawk. Pre-K, Rm 104, Cyne Hindman & Jennifer West. Rotation shepherds: Kindergarten, Kristy Johnston; 1st grade, Dona & Bill Perkins; 2nd grade, Jo Ellen Bergstrom; 3rd grade, Kathy Wright & Tammra Allison; 4th grade, Tracey Portz & Chris Funck. Movie: Darren & Stacie Schnabel, David & Jennifer Bullock, Steve & Shannan Christo, Roger & Sue Santone; Computer, Steve & Mary Betzhold, George & Kelly Dunham, Drama, Harold & Dana Ratcliff, Jeff Bergstrom; Story, Mark Robison, Sandy & Kevin Gilster. Cooking, Jennifer Lillis & Cheryl Lavelle; Zone 56, Portable 6, Tom & Pam Keenan, Julie Sheridan, portable 6.

ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION POSSIBLE® MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS



Calling all MPK Agents!!

Meeting and Celebration May 5

6-7 pm, Portable #3

Congratulations! You have helped us with our first year of Mission Possible Kids at Argyle United Methodist Church! And what a great year it was!!

We will be spending our meeting time reviewing our incredible first year, celebrating our accomplishments, and planning for next year.

This is a very special Celebration!

Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality



Come join us as we discover how we can help our children grow spiritually into the persons God calls them to be.

Presented by Liz Edwards
Director of Children's Ministries

Wednesday, May 12

9:15 - 10:30 am

and

Sunday May 16, 2010

10 - 11 am

AUMC Portable #3

"It always amazes me to think that even the tiniest acorn holds everything in it needed to develop into the grandest oak tree. However, the acorn will never become all that it was created to become if it lands on some cold, concrete sidewalk where it is crushed under someone's boot. It must be planted in the kind of soil which will provide the nutrients essential to its becoming."

Killian Noe, *Finding Our Way Home*

Get in the ZONE

Zone 56 students to help with Swing Time May 23, and celebrate with a pool party May 26



We've had a great 2nd year of Zone 56! Our kids did an awesome job assisting in worship on April 25. On Sunday, May 23, we will be helping serve the dinner at the Swing Time Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Benefit. We want to be part of making a cure possible for Michael & Corbin & everyone else who suffers from this disease! On Wednesday, May 26 the White family is hosting our last event for the school year - a pool party for all Zone 56ers and their families. Bring a dish for this potluck picnic!

This month in Sunday School...



"Feed My Sheep, Peter"

The New Church

Throughout the story of Peter we can see the depth of Jesus' grace and forgiveness. Not only does Jesus forgive Peter for denying Him three times, Jesus uses Peter as the rock to establish the church.

The month of May we will be studying Peter and how Peter answered Jesus' call to feed His sheep.

God can use us all to do amazing things!

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.



What's Playing at the Movies

Movie: *Oceans* (April 22, Earth Day)

Genre: True-life adventure

Rating: G (some nature-related suspense and peril)

Cast: Nature

Synopsis: In a follow-up to *Earth*, DisneyNature offers a look below the seas, which cover three-fourths of our planet. The directors dive deep into life-sustaining waters, using new technology to offer stunning up-close views of nature, animals, and vanishing wonders.

Discussion Questions: What amazes you most about God's creation? What would you say to people who insist that no Creator was involved in making it? Read aloud Genesis 2:15. What responsibilities do we have to care for our planet? How is caring for our environment an act of love toward God and other people?



What Music Is Releasing

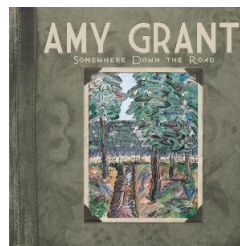
Artist: Amy Grant

Album: *Somewhere Down the Road*

Artist Info: Grant, who's been singing for more than 30 years, has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. She's known for storytelling songs that explore life's joys and struggles.

Summary: Grant's 19th album contains six brand-new songs and some older favorites. "Better Than a Hallelujah" is already being played extensively on Christian radio. "Overnight," which features Grant's 18-year-old daughter Sarah, reminds listeners that answers to some prayers take time: "If it all just happened overnight, you would never learn to believe in what you cannot see."

Discussion Questions: For you, what's the hardest thing about waiting? Would you want God to instantly answer your every request? Why or why not? Read aloud Romans 8:25 and Hebrews 11:1. What are some things you've learned from having to wait? How do waiting and hoping affect your faith?



What's happening right now that may affect your children and family:

- As part of the new health-care legislation, fast-food chains will be required to list menu calorie counts. Anti-obesity advocates hope this will spur chains to offer healthier options.
- The new buzz word "hyperlocalization" describes people looking for communities to belong to, as well as marketers connecting to families at home.

Quick Stats

- Short breaks can help with problem behavior. In a study of 11,000 third-graders, children given a 15-minute break to play and chat had better behavior ratings.

(Albert Einstein College of Medicine)



- More than half (51%) of moms say they listen to their kids more than their parents did. And 82% of kids say they give input about their mom's clothing.

(JustKid)

What Games Are Out

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Cheer We Go</i>	Players try to work their way up to Star Cheerleader, completing increasingly complex routines and dances.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Echoshift</i>	Amid minimalist graphics, players solve more than 30 different types of puzzles and obstacles within time limits.	E; PSP
<i>Battle vs. Chess</i>	The timeless board game of chess is updated with 3D characters and visuals. Contains cartoon combat scenes.	Rating Pending; Xbox 360, Wii, Nintendo DS

RATINGS: EC=Early Childhood, E=Everyone (ages 6+),E10+(ages 10+),T=Teen(13+)

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SS 10:00 AM No CC— Communion Sunday VBS Reg. in con- ference room. Music Ministry Concert and Ice Cream Social 5pm			MP Kids 6:00—7:00 PM KM2 5:00—5:45 PM Zone 56 6:30—8:00 PM			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SS 10:00 AM CC 11:15 AM Jane and Kelly Ramsey VBS Reg. in conference room.			KM2 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6 Spirituality Workshop 9:15 am			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
SS 10:00 AM Spirituality Workshop 10:00 am CC 11:15 AM Bryan and Michelle Langley	VBS Registration now available online		KM2 5:00—5:45 PM Portable #2 Zone 56 6:30—8:00 PM Portable #6			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
SS 10:00 AM CC 11:15 AM Ray and Michelle Long Swing Time 6:30	-		KM2 5:00—5:45 PM Pizza Party Zone 56 6:30 Pool Party			
30	31					
SS 10:00 AM CC 11:15 AM Haden and Jill Etheridge						

SS= Sunday School

CC= Children's Church: Children's Ministry after the children's sermon for children 4 years to 2nd grade

KM2: Music ministry for 1st thru 4th graders

Zone 56: Ministry for 5th and 6th graders