



MAY Tartan Talk

May is here!

Easter was brimming with the wonders of new life, butterflies, Alleluia's, flowers, and **children!** Thanks be to God for Jesus' Resurrection and a church family with which to celebrate and rejoice! In light of new life and the blessing it is to have your children in our midst, I give thanks to God and share these prayers with you today...

[A prayer for the new babies that have been born recently in our church family:](#)

Gracious God, bless the beautiful babies born in our midst at First(Scots)! Gift these precious babies in such a way that they know and experience your love through their parents and their church family. Loving God, allow these special hearts to be loving and giving, their hands to be busy exploring your wonderful world as they learn and grow, their eyes to take in the beauty of the world you created, their ears to be filled with the sweet sounds of things that are good and true and lovely, and may their mouths speak and sing with rejoicing and laughter. Lord, with your grace, may their feet walk on the good paths you lay before them, their minds be filled with good and healthy thoughts and your hedge of protection surround them all the days of their lives. And we ask Lord, that you would gift these precious babies' families with support, encouragement, and friendship that helps them know we share the joys they experience and the struggles they bear. For these precious babies, new life, and the life yet to come, we give you thanks.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

[And a prayer for children as they near the end of school:](#)

Lord, as we near the end of the school year, we give you thanks! We thank you for the teaching and learning that has taken place throughout our community, both in and out of the classroom; for the talents and gifts that haven been shared and the challenges that have been faced; for the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have healed; and for the

respect and care that has been given. We give you thanks, O God, for the friendships that have begun and for those that have grown; for the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles; for the hope that has lifted our hearts of the dark days and for the love that has kept us going. We give you thanks, Lord, for the special communities and schools that we are a part of and ask that you would bless our children as they prepare for year-end tests, transitions from one grade to the next, and attend closing ceremonies and programs. We ask that your Spirit will inspire all of our children and that you will impart your wisdom to them as you grant them confidence and calmness in their everyday lives. And- bless our families, Lord, as they begin to take vacations, travel, and live into the summer months ahead. Bless them with safety and gladness and memories to cherish for years to come. Graciously pour your love on these precious children and their families that they may have a summer filled with opportunities to grow in their faith, draw near to you, and be refreshed by you! We pray all this in the bold name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace!

Prayerfully,
Suzy



HELP YOUR FAMILY GROW IN FAITH...

This month we continue to explore a new way for your family grow in faith. This month... **share a story with one another!** Before there was pen and paper, printing presses and books, people told **stories**. When family members **share stories** with one another it provides a way of engaging and relationship building that our culture can rob

us of if we are not careful. There are a hundred (and a hundred more) ways to connect these days, but far too often they involve isolating devices (phones, computers, earbuds, etc.). **Sharing stories** with your family members, church friends, and friends is a wonderful way to **share your faith**. When your children hear you **tell a story** of something that happened at work or at the grocery store while you were checking out, it gives them a picture of who you are, how you relate to the world around you, and how your faith shapes your actions and reactions. How do you solve problems at work? How do you deal with a situation in public? How did you respond when you hear of a friend who is sick? These scenarios and our reactions to them make up our **everyday stories**. When others hear them they can see our faith in action. Your children see and hear evidence of your **faith story** by listening to and watching you. Involve your children in **sharing their stories** and see and hear their faithful responses and actions emerge.

Consider these talking points to get a conversation started:

Where did you see God today?

Tell me about a time when you knew God was with you

What made you smile today and how was God involved?

What was your high point of the day? What was your low point of the day?

(Asking these two questions offers you a great way to pray together at the end of the day as it gives you specific ways to pray over them including the best part and the toughest part of your child's/ren's day.)

Have you heard of the Daily Examen? It is a way of intentionally and prayerfully reflecting on the events of your day in order to find God's presence and discern God's direction. This prayerful practice was originally created by St. Ignatius Loyola. In a brief explanation it involves asking, "Where did you see God today?" According to St. Ignatius, the Examen Prayer should be done twice a day- at noon and at the end of the day. You can use this practice to help you and your family sharing the story of how your or your child's/children's day unfolded. In doing so, it provides a great opportunity to see God at work, learn more about each other, and build upon relationships. **Have fun storytelling!** To learn more about the Examen Prayer and St. Ignatius visit ignatianspirituality.com .

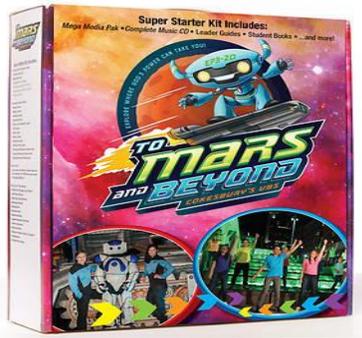
THIS IS THE LAST MONTH FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

But it's never too late to start coming for a few weeks! Children and adults are always welcome. If you haven't found your way to a Sunday School class yet... come and see! The list of all our classes are on the website. **The last class for children (and**

most) adult classes is MAY 19th. The adult class, Wired Word, meets throughout the summer.

Please call me if you have any questions about our current class offerings. And- if you have an idea for an adult class for the fall, please let me or the **Christian Education Committee** know! **We'd love to hear from you.**

VBS!



Get ready... SAVE THE DATE! Tell your friends and neighbors!

VBS dates are June 17th-21st We are excited for the summer and what this year's VBS will bring for the children and families of First(Scots) and beyond! If you are interested in volunteering please check with Dorothy Thaxton, our VBS Volunteer Coordinator or Ashley Layton who is assisting Dorothy! [Click here to register](#)

The Bible stories for this summer will include:

TRUST: Daniel Trusts God;

BOLDNESS: Queen Esther Takes a Stand;

KINDNESS: The Good Samaritan;

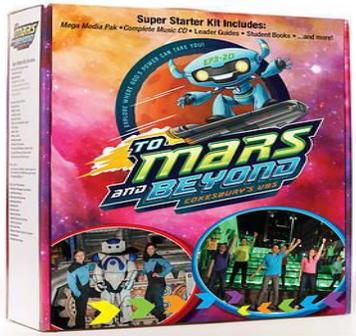
THANKFULNESS: Jesus Heals 10 Lepers;

HOPE: Jesus Comforts Friends on Road to Emmaus

This summer's VBS theme is ...

To Mars and BEYOND: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!

Get creative...



VBS Decor Needed

Summer is nearing and that means that Vacation Bible School is just around the corner and this year's theme is: To Mars and Beyond! In June, we will be supercharging the Massie Building with all kinds of outer space decor! As in years past, we would love to offer you the opportunity to help us with our decorations. You and your family can craft small spaceships using everyday items like paper plates and bowls, toilet paper or paper towel rolls, cherry tomato containers or plastic cups. Or, if you prefer to think big, grab a child sized plastic swimming pool, some spray paint and plastic cups, plates and bowls to make an amazing ceiling sized UFO or use some large cardboard boxes to make a space shuttle. Perhaps you would like to help fill our sky with planets. If so, giant plastic playground balls with dollar store hula hoops or paper lanterns with rings added could be fun! Or maybe you like buttons and gears and would like to fashion a control panel for our outer space adventures. See below the attached page for inspirational ideas and photos, but there are no rules here. Use your imaginations and have fun with this...the sky is the limit on what you can make! Please drop your creations off in Molly Wier Hall anytime before Wednesday, June 12.



[Darkness to Light Training...](#)
[\(Program to prevent child sexual abuse\)](#)

Last Sunday our Nursery Staff completed their training in Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children. (Yes, even during their week of exams. Pizza helped! ☺)
In February, I completed a training workshop to become an Authorized Facilitator for Darkness to Light. I will be offering and facilitating training sessions in the coming months to ensure that all who volunteer and work with our children will have the knowledge and information necessary to keep our children safe. For more information on this program please visit D2L.org .



The Easter Egg Hunt went well with our friends at Second Presbyterian Church! **Thank you** to everyone who came out to hunt and to those who brought in candy to stuff the eggs.



... starting **SUNDAY, MAY 26th** - we will be going

to **ONE SERVICE of WORSHIP** for the summer! Worship will begin at **10am.**

Nursery will be provided all summer long!

Grace and Peace,

Suzy