

## ***Our Vision:***

**To make God's love visible in Franklin County by being a positive Christian presence.**



MAY 2024

### **A FEW THOUGHTS FROM JESSICA**

*I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.—Philippians 4:13*

As a mom, the two most important people on this earth to me, that I am most proud of, are my sons. I know this is typical of most parents, so it shouldn't come as a shocker. They both get good grades. They are both involved in our church. They both have great manners, even though they don't *always* use them. I'm typically proud of them every day. But then one of them will do something from time to time that makes me even prouder. For these purposes, I will focus on my 11-year old.

My son grew up in the church. He attends regularly. When he was old enough, he participated in VBS and Children's Church. At the appropriate age, he became an acolyte and is now a junior deacon. He also attends Henry Fork Center programming, so he receives a lot of Christian Education. When he was 9, he officially joined our church and was baptized. Those things make me proud. But it's when his Christian life enters his every-day life that I really swell with pride.

I have mentioned in the past that my boys are baseball players. Baseball is alive and well in our house. Every. Single. Day. Of the. Year! We were recently at a game my son was playing in. Each player was using eye black to write something on their cheeks. Most of them were writing their jersey number or "Go Team" or the like. My son asked to have "4" on his right cheek and "13" on his left. I knew immediately what it was, but a parent who was nearby asked my son about it. Without missing a beat, he quoted Philippians 4:13 to her, his favorite Bible verse. Later, she approached me to commend his actions and let me know how impressed she was that a child his age felt comfortable enough to share his faith like that, especially with other children close by. I have been proud of his actions on the ballfield before, but never more so than that moment.



I tell this because I sometimes get flustered and overwhelmed. I have to remind myself to listen to my son's favorite verse and know that God is with me. It humbles me that the faith of a child can teach us so much and bring us back to focus. I challenge us all to remember the faith of a child and feel encouraged by God's presence, even when we feel otherwise discouraged. Because Yes!, Christ strengthens us and we can do all things through Him!

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- 1) Assist with small repairs on campus
- 2) Birthday party goodies each month. Cupcakes/treats for 40 students and staff.
- 3) Lead a special craft or activity with students.
- 4) Host a fundraiser to assist with financial needs or parking lot paving project.
- 5) Sponsor a child for the summer program.

#### **LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP?**

We have felt the pull of the economy on our budget. Times are tough for everyone, but if you are looking for a way to help Henry Fork Center, please consider making us part of your monthly giving donations. If every church/unit helps, we can come closer to meeting our budget for 2024. We appreciate each and every one of you!

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please email [henryforkcenter@gmail.com](mailto:henryforkcenter@gmail.com) or call the office at 540-483-2819. Please provide your first and last name and the email address you would like your newsletter sent to.

*Find out more about the ministries of the Henry Fork Service Center at [www.henryforkcenter.org](http://www.henryforkcenter.org), [henryforkcenter@gmail.com](mailto:henryforkcenter@gmail.com), or 540-483-2819. We look forward to hearing from you!*

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Our Mission is to share God's love with the children, youth and adults in Franklin County by nurturing and transforming the mind, body, and spirit.

### Program News

Fall program is drawing to a close and summer program is just around the corner. This spring, students focused on the healings, teachings, and other miracles of Jesus. Our summer theme is "Destined for Big Things." We will look at individuals who did something significant as children and later continued to do big things as adults. Examples include Joseph, Moses, David, and, of course, Jesus. We are excited to share the stories, participate in academic and art enrichment, and go hiking and swimming. An exciting summer is just ahead!

There are so many wonderful activities each summer, but funding presents its own challenges. Even after parent fees, it costs approximately \$421 per child to participate in the summer program. Good News! You can help! Individuals, churches, and group units within the church can help meet budget by sponsoring, or partially sponsoring, a child for the summer program. The funds help cover the cost of overhead, supplies for activities and meals, transportation costs, and outings. Your support will bring opportunities to the families of participants who otherwise may not have the resources for these adventures. Don't hesitate to contact our office for more information.

We have been blessed by volunteers, supplies, and funds. We cannot thank you enough for all you do to help us bring God's love to this community. We are so very lucky to have each of you standing with us as we minister to the children. Blessings to you all!



### Items we can use:

Postage stamps  
Mailing labels  
Envelopes  
Copy paper  
Paper towels  
Trash bags (13, 30,  
39 gallon)  
Cleaning supplies  
(all purpose or  
floor cleaner)  
White cardstock  
or cover stock  
Disposable gloves  
for cleaning  
8- or 9-oz. paper  
cups  
Plastic forks and  
spoons  
Paper bowls



Pictures: 1st page top—Students used chalk and a template to make a cross void craft for Easter and they turned out beautiful. Bottom—Students enjoyed making and eating an empty tomb food craft. 2nd page above—Students created handprint palm leaves and held a palm parade to celebrate Palm Sunday. Left—Students wrapped staff "mummies" during a relay for the Lazarus story. Right—We all thank you for your wonderful support for our programs!