

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Caterpillar/Butterfly Instructions



- Your caterpillar is in a small cup that contains enough food for it to eat during the larval stage of its development. You do not need to open the container while it is still moving. Just watch it grow!! (There will be little balls of waste in the cup. Don't worry about this.) The cup needs to be at room temperature and NOT in direct sunlight. Your caterpillar will eat and grow for approximately 7-10 days.
- When your caterpillar climbs up to the top of the cup and hangs upside down, it will begin to spin silky threads around the cup and also its chrysalis will begin to form. Be VERY gentle with the cup at this point! It is best just to leave it alone and not move it much. The chrysalis may shake some during this time. This is normal.
- Three (3) days after it forms its chrysalis, remove the lid from the plastic cup and attach it to the top of your butterfly enclosure using the two Velcro dots provided. Put one Velcro dot on the outside of the top of your cup and one on the inside of your butterfly enclosure. (These can be purchased at WalMart, Target, or at Amazon or insectlore.com or make your own out of a large glass jar with cheesecloth or mesh secured over the top.) Here's an idea of what you're looking for:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Backyard-Safari-0T2456004-Butterfly-Habitat/dp/B003E46ER2/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1520209025&sr=8-2&keywords=butterfly+enclosure](https://www.amazon.com/Backyard-Safari-0T2456004-Butterfly-Habitat/dp/B003E46ER2/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1520209025&sr=8-2&keywords=butterfly+enclosure) Use a Qtip to remove any silk strands and frass from the lid and surrounding the chrysalis. \*\* If your chrysalis falls off the lid, gently remove the frass surrounding it and place it on a paper towel at the bottom of your butterfly enclosure near the mesh wall.
- In another 7-10 days, the butterfly will emerge from its chrysalis. It will sit on the side of the house and let its wings dry. During this process, some red meconium will be expelled. Don't worry – this is pigment, not blood, and is perfectly normal. When its wings are dry, the butterfly will practice flying around in its house. Offer your butterfly sugar water drops on flowers and/or oranges and watermelon slices to drink up the juice daily. Keep the butterfly enclosure out of direct sunlight or drafts, Place a paper towel underneath the butterfly enclosure.
- We will release them at the end of the 8:45 and the 11:00 am worship services on **Easter Sunday, April 20, weather permitting**. If you can't attend that morning, release your butterflies in your yard when it is at least 55 degrees or warmer outside. Open the butterfly enclosure carefully. Butterflies may land on the ground for a bit before taking flight.
- More info about Painted Lady butterflies can be found at: [Painted Lady Caterpillars to Butterflies: The Butterfly Lifecycle - Owlcation - Education](#)