

It is my pleasure to share this letter as my main article for September. I am moved by its author and proud of the church family the author speaks of. I've shared it publically but wanted a wider audience to be aware. Enjoy!

Pastor Brian

Dear FUMC Family,

I want to take a few minutes to thank all of you for your love and support. You have been with us for many years, always loving, always helping, always praying and caring. We deeply appreciate each and every one of you.

I have a little story to tell you. (Yeah, I know we old folks do tell a lot of stories, but please indulge me.)

As we prepared for Hobert's discharge from the hospital last month, several staff members were understandably concerned. A group of them gathered in Hobert's room to work with us in planning the next steps. It had become obvious there was no facility that could meet his rehabilitation needs, provide the level of infection control he requires soon after surgery, and meet the requirements of insurance approval. The only option left was to come home with support from home health professionals.

"Will you be able to take care of his daily needs?" they asked.

"I can help him with personal needs," I answered, "and my women's group at church will bring us meals for a while. I won't even have to cook much."

"Can you get him into the house by yourself?"

"We have a lift to the front door that was built by a church group a couple of years ago. If it turns out that he is too tired to use the walker to get to it, we have a backup plan. The church has loaned us a wheelchair and two friends from our Bible Study class are going to meet us to help get him into the house."

"Wow!" one of them exclaimed. "You must have some good church! May I ask what church you attend?" I replied, "It's the First United Methodist Church of Elkins. We do a lot of work for others, and help each other." I then told them of my wonderful sisters in Circle One and the other ladies of the church. I told them how we cater wedding receptions for other's children, provide family meals for funerals, and support each other with prayers, cards, and phone calls during times of both celebration and challenge.

"Oh," answered one of the younger ladies in the room, "I wish I could find a church like that!"

"You find a church where you feel welcome, and you help it become a church like that," I told her.

"Belonging to a group of people who truly care for each other and for those outside their own circle is very valuable in so many ways."

I knew I could depend on my church family. We help each other. That's just who we are. You did not disappoint me. We came home to a wheelchair, wonderful friends to help us into the house, several hearty and delicious meals, help cleaning parts of the house I had not been able to get finished, a wall full of cards, money that we used to pay for new medications we had to have delivered from the

pharmacy, prayers from all, and a very warm welcome when we finally made it back to church. One church family who live near us even watered the flowers on our front porch so we would be greeted by beauty as we returned. We are indeed family. We are a church family and we are God's family. Thanks so much to all of you.

I know there is no way to repay the kindness and care so many of you have given us over the years. In our latest "new normal" I find it is necessary for me to be with Hobert almost constantly. There are several health issues that seem to be contributing to his increasing tendency to fall. However, I am able and extremely willing to serve in ways that I can work primarily from home. Feel free to call on me to bake cookies, cook meals, or to do what I can. Please keep me in the loop. God bless you all.

With love in Christ,

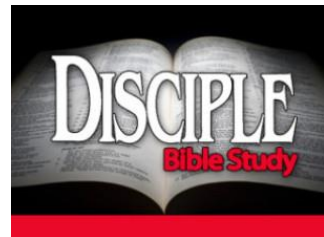
Jane Corley



SUMMER BREAK IS OVER!
BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 18!
JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
AT 10:00 AM IN THE PARLOR

DISCIPLE CLASSES COMING SOON...

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study (32 weeks) will begin Thursday, September 12 from 6 pm – 8 pm in the Parlor. The Study Manual is \$39.99. If interested, please contact Greg Johnson at 815-955-5536.



Disciple II Adult Bible Study will begin Sunday, September 22 at 4 pm. Disciple II: Into the Word Into the World (32 weeks) is the second study in the four-phase Disciple program. It is for those who are graduates of Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study. The Study Manual is \$39.99. All are welcome who have taken Disciple I (does not matter where or when taken). If you have an interest, please contact Shelley Hyre 304-704-7039 or email shyre@drhyre.com.

Director of Christian Education Kary McAtee

BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH

Our Back to School Splash was held on Sunday, August 18th and sixty-five were in attendance. This year we partnered with Cub Scout Pack 88 as they get ready for a new year of scouting! We started out the afternoon with swimming at the Elkins/Randolph County YMCA, then we headed to the Family Life Center at FUMC for pizza and ice cream, and finally the Cub Scout leaders guided the group in singing songs, knot tying, STEM activities, and a mock campsite with camping safety tips. We had a great time, and hope to partner with the scouts and other community groups in the future!



PROGRAM UPDATES

Cokesbury's Deep Blue Connects: Loving God, Loving Neighbor is a comprehensive Bible study for children. The study incorporates Bible stories, service learning, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience.

In Sunday School and Children's Church we will discover what the Bible has to teach us about being a person of faith in a community where not everyone acts or thinks the same way. Our kids will hear, and see, bible stories that teach us how to be true to our faith, while sharing God's love with people who might be different than us.

September Bible Verse: "The community of believers was one in heart and mind." Acts 4:32

September 1st – We are One: We are One Body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

September 8th – The Woman at the Well: Communities Accept. (John 4:1-42)

September 15th – Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus: Welcoming Others. (Mark 10:46-52)

September 22nd – Zacchaeus: Communities Forgive. (Luke 19:1-10)

September 29th – A Boy's Lunch: Children Contribute. (John 6:1-15)

LOOKING FORWARD

Church Family Movie Night will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 5:00 in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome to this free event and all food and drinks will be provided by the church. Be sure to mark your calendar and keep an eye out for the movie choice in the church bulletin and on the church Facebook page!!



Any children or youth who are interested in participating in the Advent Program please contact Kary McAtee at (304) 636-0660.

MUSIC NOTES



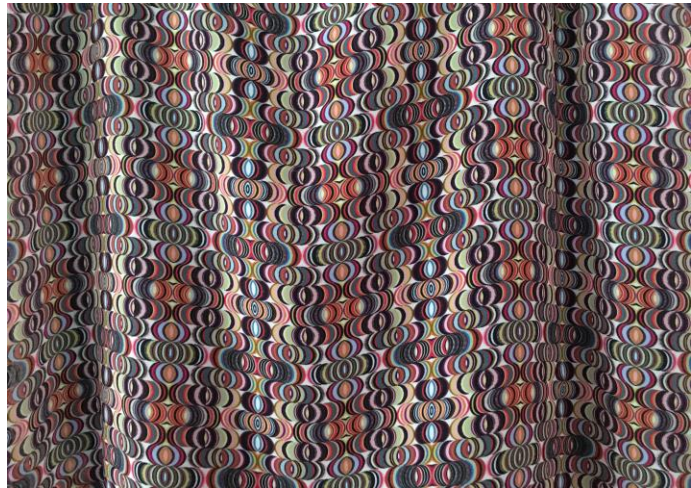
Gale Poe

School is back in session, the leaves are turning on the trees, the grass is less green than in the spring. Autumn is here for sure.

It has been a good summer for music at the church. If you see any of the following people, offer a thank you to them for sharing their gifts with us: Linda Wagner, Heart of Worship Praise Band, Judy Riffie, Bill Riffie, the VBS children directed by Susan Seders, Chris MacVean, Craig Merriam, Jim Ritter, Andy Montgomery, Denise Kramer, Jenny Pippin, Vicki Fisher, Barry Band, Thea Kerns, Paula Doerr, Hollie Pritt, Cindy Stemple, Nick Patella.

After a lot of years, this is my final writing to you in this setting. Susan Seders and Scott Green have been hired to continue the music leadership at First United Methodist Church. I am grateful beyond language (and I consider myself pretty proficient with words!), and blessed beyond any measure to have been in this time and place with the folks in music ministry - not just in my directing years, but also with Tim Channel and Jack Basil.

Last month, I shared a picture in the newsletter of a bunch of crescent moon shapes, presented again, on the left. It is interesting in its detail, both in color and shape. The photo on the right is the same detail, but zoomed out to see pattern. This is actually the pattern of a blouse I bought this summer. I didn't see the pattern on the right - I did however see the detail, and the detail is why I liked it so much. I was some startled when I got it home, and saw the design in a different way. (That reminds me of seeing through a glass darkly, and then, face to face.)



Perspective is something I have thought a lot about in the past several months. In August's communion service, I played as usual, and watched folks come to receive the elements. I have watched you for 34 years; I have watched your children grow, grandchildren arrive. I have seen gray hair *just like mine* appear. I have watched you navigate profound sorrow, grave illness, difficult situations, and I have watched you kneel at the altar (many times shedding tears) to pray. We are all aware of folks who have "gone on to glory" (a southern phrase I like a lot). The altar is the first place we should think of to go, to invoke God's presence, but sometimes we find ourselves there only when we have used up all of our human strength and we need God's spirit, pouring into us from a divine pitcher.

The zooming out for perspective is a gift, just like zooming in. I think we are all initially wired one way or the other - but best of all is when we see the big picture. Hopefully we zoom in to do the detail to help us find holy perspective. (Music is like that.) God knows both perspectives. We are all grateful for that watchfulness from Him. ~ I am grateful for you, and I am deeply grateful for the Music Ministry folks (they know full out what that means).

May the Lord bless you and keep you...and give you peace. Amen.



The United Methodist Men are preparing for the Forest Festival Band stop during the Mountain State Forest Festival. They are donating water for area bands participating in the parade.

Save the date. The Christmas Advent Dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Men will be held on Sunday, December 1st. The men invite the congregation to an evening of good food and fellowship.

United Methodist Women

First United Methodist Women, Elkins, Plan for Community Wide Event

United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church, Elkins, are extending an invitation to women throughout the community to attend a day-long retreat on Saturday September 21 from 9am to 2pm at the church's location on 315 Kerens Avenue. This year's theme is "Food for Thought".

The day will begin with light breakfast provided by the women of FUMC. At the noon hour a catered lunch from Dwayne Propst of "Puttin' on the Ritz" of Franklin will be served.

Special music will be provided by Susan Seders and the "Heart of Worship", a lively contemporary Christian music group that includes both vocal and instrumental music. Traditional hymns will be interspersed throughout the program.

Inspiration speakers throughout the day included Betty Linger, Jean Snedegar, Becky Ashburn, Kate Reed and Valerie Warner.

Betty Linger will speak to the theme "Food for Thought" and will include the addition of "Season Everything with Love". Betty grew up in Becky's Creek, WV, a member of the Valley Chapel Methodist Church. Today she is a member of the First United Methodist Church, Elkins. She has spent many years working with youth through 4-H and other organizations. She is an active member of FUMW. She has traveled to over one hundred countries and has been blessed to see God's love at work throughout the world.

Jean Snedegar's presentation is titled "Manna in the Morning". Jean grew up in Elkins but left the area to work for The Navigator's, a Christian group, in London, England, and, while there, was employed by the BBC. This was the beginning of her 35 year career in broadcasting. Jean was active in leadership roles in her local Church of English Parish. Upon returning to Elkins, Jean has created segments for WV Broadcasting and is currently an elder at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Becky Ashburn serves as a preacher, teacher and writer of Christian literature. She attends and serves the Helvetia, Mill Creek and Tygarts Valley Presbyterian churches. She maintains her membership at Grace Episcopal Church, Elkins. Her natural dramatic flair brings the Bible to life for all her audiences. It is a pleasure to have her to return to this event for the third year. Becky's message is "Thou Preparest a Table Before Me".

Kate Reed and Valerie Warner are natives of Elkins who are both Kripalu Certified Level 2 Outdoor Guides for their business, Wonder and Grow: A Mindful Nature Experience which will, also, serve as the title of their session. Their mission is to ignite a sense of wonder and grow scientific understanding and connection with the world through curiosity-driven exploration and mindfulness practices for both children and adults.

Registration forms have been delivered to many local churches but can also be secured from the office of First United Methodist Church which is open from 9-3 on Monday through Thursday and from 9-noon on Fridays. The form can be returned to the church by hand or mailed so they will be received no later than Thursday, August 29th. A \$12.00 registration fee needs to accompany each registration.

If mailed, please address to First United Methodist Women, 315 Kerens Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241. Checks should be made out likewise. Donations of diapers in sizes 1,2 or 3 will be gratefully accepted from those in attendance as a mission project for WIC to be distributed to local families of infants and toddlers.

For further information please call 304-636-7223.



Presenters for "Food for Thought" day-long retreat include (left to right): Betty Linger, Jean Snedegar and Becky Ashburn.



Additional presenters Kate Reed and Valerie Warner from Wonder and Grow: A Mindful Experience.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR OUR FRIEND GALE

It was the pleasure of the First United Methodist Women to host the retirement reception for Gale Poe following the 11 am service on Sunday, August 25. The serving table reflected Gale's dedication to the musical program of our church with a center runner flowing with musical notes and a piano keyboard, a framed piece of sheet music of *Amazing Grace*, a miniature replica of a Baby Grand piano, and a large cake iced in white and decorated with a black icing staff and musical notes. Colorful hues of early fall were utilized on the serving and gift/card table with backgrounds of green and splashes of orange and yellow. A large number of the congregation was in attendance to express appreciation to Gale for the many years she provided us weekly high moments of sweet-sounding reflections of God's spirit in our midst. We know that Gale brought so much to all of us through her musical leadership. We also benefited from her Christian witness and the loving support she gave to so many during her many years here at FUMC.

Pictured are scenes from the event which include: Gale at the serving table; Cindy Stemple making a presentation of a quilt from her music family; Gale sharing thoughts and memories with those in attendance.



All good wishes to Gale in her future endeavors.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to those that have made cash donations or donated items for shoeboxes. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate there are donation envelopes on the OCC Display in the lobby. Place envelopes in the Collection Plate on Sunday.

Early donations help us to purchase shoe box items at significant savings while items are on sale.

Items most needed: Pens, colored pencils, large erasers, crayons, glue sticks, small scissors, dolls, stuffed animals, small cars/trucks, toothbrushes, combs.

We will pack 200 shoeboxes on Tuesday evening, August 27th. Volunteers can meet at the OCC Room in the basement of the church.

For more information or to donate contact Bob Cowgill 304-636-6367.

Backpack Food Program

School has started and we will meet to pack backpacks on Thursday evenings on the stage in the Family Life Center at 6:30 pm. We are presently collecting and food items to include: granola bars, individual packets of oatmeal, canned ravioli, fruit cups, veggie cups, snack cracker packs, and pudding cups. Please drop off your items in the bin marked "BACKPACK PROGRAM" by the church office or you may make a donation and earmark your check "Backpack Program". This is an ongoing school project. Monetary, school supplies and food donations are always appreciated. Thank you for your continued support to help the children in Randolph County.



TYRAND'S PARTNERS IN MISSION

SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR TYRAND'S THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BASKETS:

Sept. 29 – green beans; Oct. 6 – corn; Oct. 13 – peas;
Oct. 20 – applesauce; Oct. 27 – pork -n- beans; Nov. 3 – canned potatoes;
Nov. 10 – canned fruit; Nov. 17 – cookies; Nov. 24 – hand soap

Donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets need to be in before

November 15th and donations for the Christmas Baskets need to be in before December 2nd.

Collection containers will be placed in the vestibule and by the church office.

**Charge Conference (Highland Parish) will be held on Sunday,
September 22, 2018 at 3:00 pm
in the Family Life Center.**



EXCITING NEWS! First United Methodist Church is starting a PIONEER CLUB!!!!

Each week this Christ-centered program integrates spiritual and personal development to help children Kindergarten through 5th Grade to build healthy relationships with caring Christian adults, peers and, most importantly, Christ. And most of all, Pioneer Clubs is FUN!

Christ has placed on our hearts to spread his word and to be his hands and feet. We are called to “LOVE AND TO FEED THE CHILDREN”. To not only feed a meal to fill their tummy but to feed the word. Christ is leading individuals and collectively the church to begin a midweek, community outreach, elementary children’s ministry.

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. – Mark 10:13-16 (NIV)

If you feel Christ is calling you to serve but you are not sure how there are many opportunities with PIONEER. Whether your gifts are to serve in the kitchen, tutoring homework, teach a bible lesson or do you enjoy crafts, games or music there is a place to serve? We are inviting loving adults to be “mentors” once a week read to a child or have a child read to them. Sit and enjoy a meal, talk with the children and most important pray for them throughout the week. If you have an interest in volunteering contact Shelley Hyre 304-704-7039 or shyre@drhyre.com.

FAMILY NIGHT is Thursday, September 26th to introduce the Pioneer program. We are sending invitations to children who participated in VBS and attend the church. This program is not limited to FUMC. If you would like an invitation sent to a child, please complete information below and send to the church or place in offering plate Sunday.

Please print:

Child Name _____

Parent Name (s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact person name and phone number in case we cannot read or have a question



September Mission Minute

God is blessing our church and mission outreaches throughout our church and community. We, the thirteen-fifteen of us, are not just the mission committee/team but, every Sunday School class, every children's outreach, every women's and men's group, every song that is sung, rung, or played. We are ALL missions. So it's with great excitement that the pulse of our church is beating just a little louder, just a little stronger, just a little faster. Things are happening and people's lives are changing. Not just those we meet and minister to, but our lives are changing for the better. Thank you Jesus for all your blessings!

The Lighthouse Community Recovery Home is a residential home for men who are being reintroduced into society whether from prison or substance abuse recovery. First United Methodist Church has partnered with the founders, Stuart and Sue Strong. We are helping by transporting men to and from their employment, painting, providing supplies, etc. Jenny Pippin built a beautiful 4 foot lighthouse which is displayed on the stage at church which will have tags with supplies needed. People can then take a tag, buy the needed supply, and return the item(s) to the church for distribution to The Lighthouse.

We held our second community walk August 15 with twelve people in attendance. It was a very hot evening and not many people were out. We did get a chance to speak to about 5-7 people, and we left all of our bags where it was obvious that people were staying. A big thank you to Herk Kessler for donating the bottles of water. We will be having our next community dinner/walk Friday, September 20 at 6 pm in the church parking lot. We will provide dinner to those that come along, as well as, walk from the church and hand out bags to those we meet.

We are working on a 2020 mission trip. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more to come.

Our next Mission Committee meeting will be held Sunday September 8, 2019 at 12:15 pm in the parlor. All are welcome!!!

With excitement in my veins and God's love in my heart... Kim Urban

Divorce Care

Starting Thursday-September 12th and running through December 12th

7:00-8:30pm

With a special session on

November 14th "Surviving the Holidays"

Divorce care is a support group open to anyone at any stage of divorce or separation. Facilitators are Liz and Chris MacVean 304-614-3799.



COLLEGE STUDENTS... with the 2019 Fall Semester underway, please contact the church office with your new mailing address, 304-636-0660. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Donald Cotgreave	9	Sarah Mattingly	16	Ross Ware	24	Cindy Corder
1	David Pingley	10	David Shields	17	Bob Conway	24	Ali Darden
1	Luanna Moore	10	Anna Downs	17	Mitchum Martsiller	24	Jean Skidmore
1	Laura Martin	11	Bob Darden	18	Kelly Stocks	26	Karen Tomblyn
1	Angela Robey	11	Pat Nestor	18	Linda Harris	26	Kelly Shuppe
1	Ashely Robey	11	Ben Backus	18	Brad Reger	26	Marc Wamsley
2	Heather Marstiller	11	Eric Merriam	18	Zach Hyre	26	Hillary Stemple
3	Theresa McClure	11	Vince Nucilli	18	Sean Wilfong	26	Lara Barkley
3	Harry Kramer	12	Mary Durham	19	Jenny Gear	26	Heather Carowick
3	Chris Stout	12	LuAnn McDowell	19	Jessica Putzulu	27	Judy Mongold
3	Danielle Mace	12	Bruce Kenney	19	Jory Karthikeyan	27	Cody Judy
4	Willard Herron	12	Anthony Jones	19	Katie Hinkle	27	Rylee Gard
4	Luanna McClelland	13	David Sneed	20	Herman Conrad	28	Beth Phillips
4	Sam Urban	13	Donnie Johnson	20	Zona Simmons	28	Henry Kennedy
4	Kaitlyn Richardson	13	Matt White	20	Judy Jack	29	Janet Godwin
5	Kathy Vance	13	Morgan Hanna	20	Lisa Preusch	30	Ryan Urban
5	Casey Wallace	14	Barbara Darden	20	LaDonna Rosencrance		
5	Liz MacVean	14	Ellen Kessler	21	Steve Yardley		
5	Bonnie Milnes	14	Margaret Hoyle	21	Kevin McClure		
5	Michael Marechek	15	Audrey Antolini	21	Vince Trimboli		
7	Scott Criss	16	Jeri Hatch	21	Athan Doerr		
7	Ethan Wilson	16	NJ Patella	22	Patty Goodwin		
9	Tom Oldham	16	Lauren Spears	24	Tim Amos		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Andy & Rachel Montgomery	18	Howard & Pamela Straley	25	Byron & Sarah Sayres
2	Joe & Kelly Shuppe	19	Ken & Elsie Bucher	29	Jim & Lynn Ritter
4	Wayne & Sheila Gregoire	20	David & Megan Stottlmyer		
9	Matthew & Lorrie Downs	23	Clifton & Carole Hyre		
10	Nick & Ann Marie Patella	23	Franklin & Laura Santmyer		
11	Allen & Debby Judy	23	Kevin & Michelle McKinner		



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of

Becky Kirkpatrick upon the death of her father, Buddy Rowan and Cheryl Riggelman upon the death of their aunt, Carolyn Gola upon the death of her sister.

IT'S A GIRL!! CONGRATULATIONS...to Nick and Ann Marie Patella upon the birth of their daughter, Neva Jane Patella, granddaughter of Chris and Diana Patella and Larry and Linda Lamb, great-granddaughter of Rev. Basil Hensley and the late Janis Hensley.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
315 KERENS AVENUE
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

The Circuit Rider
September 2019

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FIRST U.M. CHURCH
ELKINS, WV
PERMIT NO. 14

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM – 3 PM / Friday 8:30 AM – 12-noon PH: 304-636-0660

Pastor: Brian Seders (304-636-0406 Home)
blseders@gmail.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Rhonda Elmer
rhonda@fumcelkinswv.com

Director of Church School of Ministries: Kary McAtee
kary@fumcelkinswv.com

Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Susan Seders

Organist/Handbell Choir Director: Scott Green

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian: Angela Kisner

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

