

I've been trying to spend more time doing some reading as of late. I really enjoy reading. Finding the time to do it is the challenge. Most of the reading that I do these days is online or with eBooks. I came across this article via Google News and thought I would share it with you. It echos a particular point from my March 17th sermon.

Each person on this earth who is created in the image and likeness of God, possesses unique gifts that are to be used to further the Kingdom of God. The danger for all of us is to rely too heavily on our own worth or abilities rather than a dependence on and gratitude to God for those gifts. For instance, St. Philip Neri knew that a beautiful sermon and the gift of Homiletics could come with pride and an over-dependence on one's own insight or intellectual capacity. In order to save [a particular priest with a great pulpit presence from pride], St. Philip taught him that his gifts in writing and delivering sermons rested with God [to that end Philip instructed him to preach the same sermon over and over again to his church.] It is amusing to think of this priest giving the same Homily "six times in a row", as the parishioners looked on in confusion, or even perhaps, boredom. Whether we are able to write, sing, build, paint, sculpt, deliver speeches, study, or do any other manner of things, we must remember that God has given us those gifts in His service and not our own. Pride in our own abilities often blinds us to the mission God has given us and can impede our journey to sainthood (From "St. Philip Neri: The Humorous Side of Humility" by Constance T. Hull, The Catholic Exchange {except for the material included in the brackets []}).

Catherine, writing from a Catholic perspective, did a very good job covering spiritual gifts. Her words spoke to me, and perhaps they speak to each of us as we continue to build the kingdom of God together through the "team" approach to ministry at First United Methodist Church.

The Apostle Paul wrote about spiritual gifts in Romans 12, Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians 12. He concludes by sharing in I Corinthians 14:12: "Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." I would encourage you to read these passages, seek the gifts of the spirit, and strive to build up one another as you exercise your gift in humility. Amen!

Pastor Brian



PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

April 14, 2019

8:30AM And 11:00AM

Randolph County Ministerial Association

Holy Week services will be held at

Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church

Monday, April 15th – Friday, April 19th at 12:00 Noon.

A luncheon will follow each day hosted by the Church Women United.

A \$4.00 donation is suggested for your meal or give what you are able. All contributions go toward supporting local community agencies and organizations.



**Maundy Thursday Service will be held at
First United Methodist Church, Elkins
on April 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

**Easter Services will be held on Sunday, April 21st
at First United Methodist Church, Elkins
at 8:30 am Contemporary Service
and 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service**



Dear Families and Friends,

We need YOU to make our directory complete! To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we welcome you to be a part of our upcoming new directory.

A new directory:

- Preserves this special time in the life of our church
- Becomes a lasting record of our current membership
- Helps us connect faces with names

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary directory and an 8x10 portrait. You can sign up for photography at our church after services beginning April 7th.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATES

Wednesday - Friday	5/15 – 5/17	2-9
Saturday	5/18	10-5

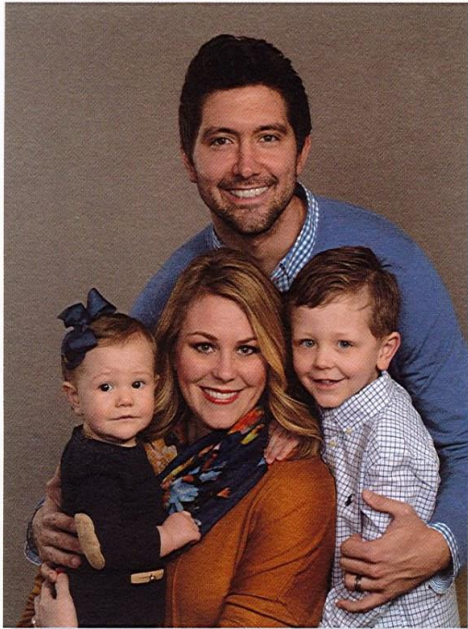
For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with NO sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. Lifetouch's portrait price lists are available at the sign-up table for those who would like them prior to photography.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory. I am encouraging 100% participation!

Your Pastor,

Brian

P.S. Your photography session will take about an hour, during which time you will check-in, be photographed and view your portraits.



Be a part of our new family directory program. Our goal is to include everyone!



We are partnering with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our families.

Create treasured keepsakes

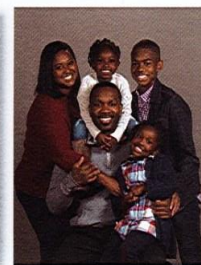
More information will be coming soon about scheduling your photography session

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location. In your one-hour session you will:

- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your photographs
- Be able to purchase photography gifts

You are invited to
**Capture memories
for a lifetime**



Each family will receive a
**complimentary 8x10
photograph & directory**
for participating



Exclusive products for your
cherished memories

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee

ST. PATRICK'S DAY & CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Picture Left: Some of our Children's Church kids pose for a picture.

Picture Right: Families and friends enjoy dinner and Candy Land at Game night.



PROGRAM UPDATES

This month in Sunday School and Children's Church, we will be hearing stories that often are told during the Lent and Easter seasons. The Bible verse for April is John 20:18 – "I have seen the Lord!" Practice asking one another each evening, "Where did you see God today?"



April 7th – Peter Pretends: Families make mistakes. (Matthew 26:69-75)

April 14th – PALM SUNDAY – Jesus Enters Jerusalem: Families celebrate Jesus. (Matthew 21:1-11)

April 21st – EASTER SUNDAY – Jesus Lives: Families celebrate Jesus. (John 20:1-18)

April 28th – Feed My Sheep: Families listen to Jesus and take care of one another. (John 21:1-19)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY & RECEPTION

Join us on Sunday, April 28th during the 11:00 worship service as we celebrate our 2019 Confirmation Class!

Following the receiving of our newest church members, the United Methodist Women will be hosting a light reception in the Family Life Center for the entire congregation to attend and congratulate our students!



SPECIAL NEEDS EASTER EGG HUNT

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt organized specifically for children grades K-5 with disabilities on Saturday, April 13th from 1:00 to 2:00 for grades K-2 and from 3:00 to 4:00 for grades 3-5 in the Family Life Center. For more information or questions regarding this event, please contact Kary McAtee at 304-636-0660 or kary@fumcelkinswv.com

The committee is asking for specific PRE-PACKAGED INDIVIDUAL SERVING snack items to be donated for this very special event:

Juice Boxes or Pouches, Miniature Bottles of Water, Pre-made Pudding Cups, Pre-made Jell-O Cups, Individual Bags of Gold Fish Crackers, Individual Bags of Animal Crackers, Individual Bags of Pretzels, Pre-packaged Individual Rice Crispy Treats, Individual Bags of Fruit Snack Gummies, and Applesauce cups.

Large bags of tootsie rolls, bubble gum, and other candy to fill Easter Eggs with.

We are also looking for items to borrow and decorate with including pots, planters and artificial flowers.

We ask that all donations be brought to the church office by Wednesday, April 10th and monetary donations for this event must be marked "Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt".

We appreciate your support of this new ministry opportunity!



AFTER PROM PARTY LOCK-IN

On Saturday, May 4th our church will once again be hosting an After Prom Party Lock-In for Elkins High School Students! We are in the midst of working with the school and local businesses and organizations to make this event safe and successful. Monetary donations are always appreciated and will be used to purchase door prizes, rent games, and provide food. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile program!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Cokesbury's – "To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!"

**Science – Crafts – Bible Stories – Singing –
Dancing – and More!**

Sunday, July 21st – Thursday, July 25th

Dinner at 5:30 & Program from 6:00 to 8:00

**All Children who have completed Pre-K through
Fifth Grade are welcome!**

An adult class and mission team will also be offered this year!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER
TO HELP WITH VBS 2019, PLEASE CONTACT KARY MCATEE!**



MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe

Wonderful things are going on in the Music Ministry.

ConwayRingers rang in worship two Sundays in March, and we are looking to Palm Sunday, and the celebratory music of Easter. April is ConwayRingers' anniversary month - in 2005, we reorganized and began those rehearsals with twelve people. Fifteen folks currently are involved.

The Chancel Choir is also rehearsing music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Anthems will involve soloists, and a narrator. The first hymn is a raise-the-roof arrangement of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"; it is part of the tradition of the past several years. The Chancel Choir will also sing during the Maundy Thursday service.

The new sound/video components are on track for installation in April. I am proud to announce that the Music Ministries contributed the full amount of the quote for installing acoustic panels in the sanctuary and overflow - just over 7000.00. These monies have come from the designated offerings over the past several years, both from our congregation, and from folks who have connections with our music ministry in various ways. When these monies have come to us, they have been given in anonymity; it has never been possible to thank anyone personally. We remain ever grateful for the ways that you encourage, and it is our prayer that we are good, faithful, responsible stewards of your generosity to us.

Finally, I am planning my retirement from the music responsibilities, on September 1, 2019. I began playing full-time in 1985. When I was in high school, I played in the summer months for Carrie Virginia Lantz so that she could have some time off. However, the real beginning of my musical involvement at this church began in 1958 in Anna Calain's piano recitals. I was four years old.

There is a history of musical excellence here at First Church Elkins. My hope, always, is that we have never ever lost sight of the reason why that is true. We musical folks always seek ways to offer our gifts back to God, the Supreme Giver. Music has the mysterious ability to reach into the heights of joy or the depths of grief, when words alone fall short. Without exception, each person who rings and sings has a personal relationship to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The element of faith is always intertwined with music and *that* is the excellence that is present.

I am grateful for my working time in this congregation. I am grateful most of all for the folks who have stepped into music ministry with full commitment. We are close...closer even than family sometimes. We have remained faithful always to: "What's said in the rehearsal room stays in the rehearsal room." It is our way of honoring concerns by holding them close to our hearts, in thought and prayer.

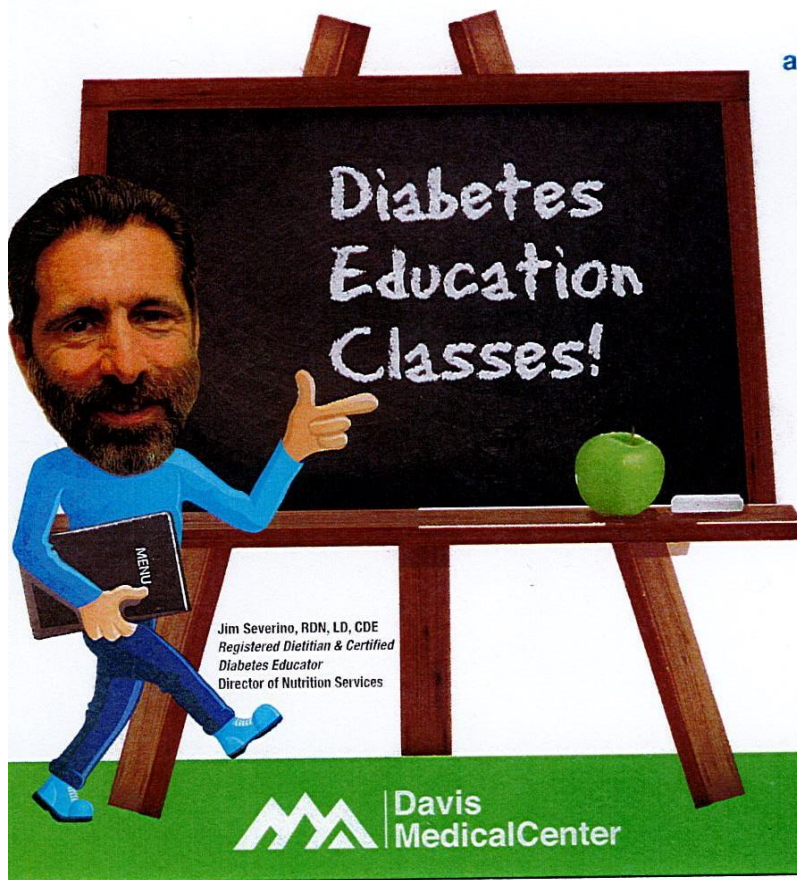
The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has begun the process of determining the next steps in music ministry leadership. I am honored to have been in this time and place with these ringers and singers. And you.

Over the years, two of my dear friends have encouraged me, and all of us, with these words:

Keep the faith.

March on.

Blessings to you from the Music Ministry.



Davis Medical Center will be offering a series of comprehensive diabetes education classes beginning on April 9th at the First United Methodist Church of Elkins. This is a series of classes that will continue on April 23 and April 30th. All classes will begin at 10:00 and last around 2 hours.

Participants with diabetes and family members will learn skills to take control of their condition with topics that include:

- What is diabetes
- Nutrition management and cooking
- Physical activity
- Medication management
- Monitoring
- Problem Solving
- Preventing chronic complication

This program is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, PEIA, and most other insurance carriers.

Please call 304.637.3477 for more information or to enroll.



The United Methodist Men would like to thank everyone for attending and supporting their annual Pancake Feed. A special thank you to all of the men who worked hard to make this event successful.

Save the date!! The United Methodist Men will host a church picnic on Sunday, June 2, at the Elkins City Park. Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship, BBQ Chicken, and other great food.



United Methodist Women

NEWS FROM THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Serving to be in Service

Our women always seem to be preparing food and willingly serving others. The past and near future does not change that impression. In February the women hosted a reception following the concert performed by our "Heart of Worship" Praise Band. We were pleased to be a part of that inspirational evening. Below are pictures of our newly elected president, Donna Trulik, serving punch while Mary Ann Gay, Pat Nestor and Lena Umbright enjoy refreshments and visit following the concert.



Cakes and Pies! Cakes and Pies!

A large thank you goes to all our members who contributed cakes and pies to the Kairos ministry. It is always appreciated by their leaders who introduce families to a life with Christ. A cart full of desserts left FUMC to assist with this ministry.



Bazaar and Country Store

Remember the dates of April 4 for our luncheon and the 4th and 5th (half day) for our Country Store. Again this is a wonderful opportunity for community fellowship and the proceeds allow us to help so many missions. See you soon and invite your friends and neighbors as well!



A Change in Circle 5's Ministry at FUMC

The following is a letter from members of Circle 5: *Circle 5 has decided to disband and encourages its members to join other circles in support of our church and its mission.*

Circle 5 has a long and distinguished history of Christian fellowship and service to our church, but our members have reached an age where we believe we would be more effective sharing our experience with other circles.

We are proud of the many women who have been members through the years and of our devotion to Christ's teachings. We would like to thank the church for allowing us to be a special part of the United Methodist Women's organization.

Other circles will be proud and honored to welcome these women into their groups. Their service has extended over many years to FUMC. We have all been blessed by this group.

Future Dates to Remember

Sunday, April 28 FUMC Women will provide a reception after the 11 am service for the new confirmation class. Everyone is invited.

Friday, May 3 Church Women United will meet at noon at FUMC. FUMC Women will be hostesses.

Sunday, June 16 Father's Day. FUMC Women will provide breakfast. Everyone welcome!!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S mission quilt tickets are now available. A donation of \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets may be received from any circle ladies or in the church office. The beautiful quilt is displayed in front of the church office. Drawing will be held the day of the Spring Bazaar.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The women of First United Methodist Church will offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors. If you are interested, applications are available in the church office. Completed forms are due by May 15th.





First United Methodist Church

Women's Spring Bazaar

315 Kerens Avenue

Downtown Elkins



Thursday, April 4th

Luncheon 10:30 - 1:00

Luncheon Menu

Pulled Pork Sandwiches	\$2.00 each
Hot Dogs...Pepperoni Rolls	\$1.00 each
Baked Beans	\$1.00 each
Cole Slaw	\$1.00 each
Pasta Salad	\$1.00 each
Pies or Fruit Salad	\$1.00 each

Complimentary Drinks

Country Store and Baked Goods

Country Store Hours:

Thursday April 4th 9:00-3:00

Friday April 5th 9:00-12:00

APRIL BIRTHDAYS		14	Pam Douglas-Isner	30	Dana Carpenter
		15	Lois Kessler	30	Kelly Lang
1	Cindy Huffman	15	Austen Westfall	30	Cortney Crosston
1	Dylan Basil	16	Denise Kramer		
2	Catherine Wenzell	16	Mike Jones	APRIL ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Lisa Stalnaker	16	Hunter Poe	4	Chuck & Pam Keller
2	Madison Basil	17	James Davis	5	Mike & Vicki Fisher
2	Walt King	17	Jason Reed	6	Don & Carrie Wetsch
3	George Cook	17	Ingrid Heinke	11	Lloyd & Sharon Teter
3	Alex Tomblyn	17	Megan Sponaule	16	Casey & Denise Wallace
4	Lorrayne Corley	18	Sean Conklin	23	Phil & Karen Tomblyn
4	Bill Hartman	19	Mark Tomblyn	25	P.J. & Terry Harmon
4	Janet Stalnaker	19	Eli Higgins	26	Robert & Cathy Jones
4	Shannon Straley	21	Laura Ferguson	28	Jim & Patty McCloud
4	Emily Conrad	21	Vic Simmons		
5	Andy Montgomery	21	Leia Herron		
5	Scott Harris	21	Josie Biller		
6	Mary Jo McClure	22	Clifton Hyre		
6	Dave Davis	22	Heather Barkley		
6	Kendra Schwartzmiller	22	Kayla Harris		
6	Erin Quint	23	Jim Sayres Jr.		
6	Josh Lambert	23	Jan Lang		
8	Nora Benavides	25	Dick Hamrick		
8	Patty McCloud	25	Stephanie White		
8	Leon Mallow	25	Jonathon Compton		
9	Tabitha Richardson	25	Nate Marstiller		
9	Rebecca Earl	25	Sadie Marstiller		
10	Sandi Golden	26	Clair Carowick Sr.		
10	Jerry Jerow	26	Barbara Mergenthaler		
10	Markia Hepler	26	Craig Hyre		
10	Garrett Stalnaker	26	Todd Cotgreave		
11	Dick Marstiller	26	David Davis		
11	Jamie Mergenthaler	27	Ashley Sitton		
11	Braxton Kenney	28	Trisha Kelly		
12	Ruth Schoonover	29	Lee Connolly		
12	Jon Basil	29	Jim Teter		
12	Ann Urban	29	Ellen Spears		
12	Ava Barger	29	Doris Wirth		
13	Robert Oldaker	29	Robbie Morris Jr.		
14	Bronwen Hamilton	29	Tristan Croson		
14	Bill Patterson	30	William Umbright		



TULIPS will be placed in the Sanctuary this year on Easter Sunday, April 21, in memory or in honor of loved ones.

To order a potted tulip, please fill in the form below and return with payment of \$26.75 (which includes the tax per tulip) to the church office by Tuesday, April 2. Please make checks out to Tammy's Floral (*Please do not call Tammy's to order tulips for the church. Thanks!*) Donors will pick up their tulips after the service.

PRESENTED BY:

IN MEMORY OF (deceased):

IN HONOR OF (living):

NUMBER OF POTTED TULIPS ORDERED:

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER \$_____

TOTAL PAID \$_____

Additional Ways to Honor/Remember

Loved Ones: You may also choose to honor or remember your loved ones this Easter by making a special gift to the CHURCH BUDGET. Complete the form below and return it with your check (you may place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office; First UMC, 315 Kerens Ave. Elkins, WV 26241) by Sunday, April 14

2019 SPECIAL EASTER GIFT TO CHURCH BUDGET

In memory of (deceased):

In honor of (living):

Given By:

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

The Circuit Rider
April 2019

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

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 Kramer
kary@fumcelkinswv.com

Interim Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian: Angela Kisner

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

