

John Ortberg is a Christian author, speaker and senior pastor of the Menlo Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, CA. In his book The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People, we find this convicting statement:

"Love and hurry are fundamentally incompatible. Love always takes time, and time is the one thing hurried people don't have" (p. 87).

On the very next page, we find an added layer:

It is because it kills love that hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life. Hurry lies behind much of the anger and frustration of modern life. Hurry prevents us from receiving love from the Father or giving it to His children. That's why Jesus never hurried. If we are to follow Jesus, we must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives-because, by definition, we can't move faster than the one we are following (88).

Oooh, that last line is a doozy: "we can't move faster than the one we are following," because, if we do, we are no longer following!

I agree with Ortberg; from what I gather from the gospels, Jesus was never in a hurry. He always took time to relate to people and their situations. He took breaks to recharge, but he gave his time and lent his compassion moment after moment, day after day. He saw the bigger picture of what his Father was wanting to accomplish. He realized that his own exercise of selfless compassion complimented the Father's will. And he knew that taking his time was absolutely necessary to continue his role.

I've shared this before in one of my sermons. Noted preacher and hymn writer Philip Brooks, known for his great patience, was spotted by one of his friends feverishly pacing his floor. His friend asked him what was wrong. Philip replied, "The trouble is that I'm in a hurry, but God isn't!" (Excerpted From a sermon by Gordon Curley, Beware of Detours, 11/18/2010).

Like Brooks, we are often in a hurry. Our schedules, our wants, and our needs as well as family and work pressures, not to mention the bombardment of information in this information age, has us constantly on the run or almost always distracted. What is one to do?

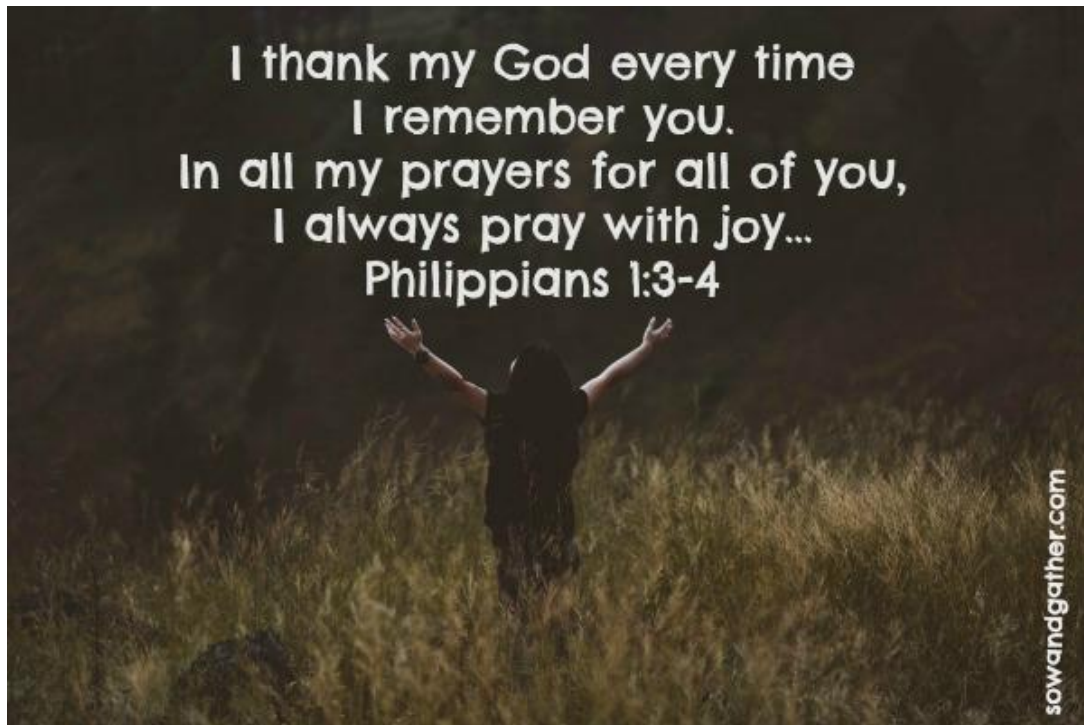
The easy answer is: slow down. The more probable and harder answer is: "But I don't have time." Well, all of us have the same amount of time in a day – 24 hours. One wise person once told me, "Make your own schedule, or someone else will make it for you." We may simply need to literally schedule some down time – a moment for quiet and listening – in order to minimize hurry. The reward is the rekindling of our relationship with the Master of Time. Think about this as we enter a new year. A few more moments slowing down for spiritual nurture or recharging can make a big difference in 2020! Getting in touch more regularly with the supreme lover of our soul will help us to slow down enough to share that love!

Yours in His time,

Brian

We want to thank each person in this church who has showered us with many prayers and gifts throughout the year. You all have blessed our family abundantly and we thank you for being such a great example of God's love.

Pastor Brian and Susan



**BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 8!
JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
AT 10:00 AM IN THE PARLOR**



Please welcome our new members:

Jimmy and Silvia Hammond, Susan Seders
and Richard and Betsy Smith.

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee

CHILDREN'S ADVENT MUSICAL AND CHILDREN'S CANTATA CHOIR



PROGRAM UPDATES



Sunday School & Children's Church will continue learning to love God & neighbors.

January Theme – Jesus Leads the Community

January Memory Verse – “So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.” Mark 6:12

January 5th – Jesus is Baptized (Mark 1:9-11)

January 12th – Jesus Brings Good News (Luke 4:14-30)

January 19th – Jesus Calls Levi (Luke 5:27-32)

January 26th – Jesus Sends the Disciples (Mark 6:7-13)

LOOKING FORWARD

A Confirmation Class interest meeting for students and parents will be held at 12:15 on Sunday, January 12th in the Parlor. The class is expected to start at the beginning of February and will last around 9 weeks. Any adults willing to be mentors, provide snacks, or assist with lessons and activities can contact Kary.



A meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:00 in the Parlor for all members of the Christian Education Committee and anyone else who may be involved with or interested in hearing about our Children and Youth Programs at FUMC Elkins. Reminder calls will be placed prior to the meeting, and in the event of inclement weather phone calls will be placed regarding the status of the meeting.

Kids of all ages are invited to meet us at the bottom of D&E Hill on Sunday, January 26th at 3:00 for sled riding and hot chocolate! We do ask that you bring your own sled, and all children MUST be accompanied by an adult to participate in this event. We hope to see you there!

****IMPORTANT: IN THE EVENT THAT THERE IS NO SNOW THAT SUNDAY, WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 3:00 TO JUMP IN THE BOUNCE HOUSE AND PLAY GAMES.****





“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))

As I reflected on the word “new”, I could not help but first think back to September when we began a new journey together in the music ministry here at Elkins First UMC. What a journey of blessing it has been thus far. We have shared new and old songs, joys and concerns, laughter and sorrow, and the list goes on and on. But the one constant thing in this journey has been Christ. I began our journey together by saying that God cannot work through us without first working in us.

I love 2 Corinthians 5:17 because it reminds me that no matter if it is January 1st or any other day of the year, we can begin a new journey if we simply put Christ first in every area of our lives. By doing this we begin to exchange our old life for a new one.

Now we all like new things and we get so excited when we get new things. But just imagine how excited God gets when He sees a new believer who has realized his/her need for a new life changed by the only One who truly knows the heart and the need. Or, how excited He gets when our eyes are opened to recognize the things in our lives that need to change and be renewed in our daily lives. After all, we are on a journey of faith and I get excited when I remember Isaiah 43:19 that says, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

God begins His Word with the story of Him creating a new world and He ends it with His plans to make a new heaven and a new earth. Our heavenly Father wants to make all things new in the lives of His children. He desires to teach us new truths about Himself, provide new opportunities for ministering to others and to take us to higher levels of worship through a new life in Christ.

I am looking forward to a new year of worship with you all,

Susan

P.S. I could not go without praising God for each music group in our church. We have an unbelievable amount of people who willing give of their talents to the spreading of God's word through music. Each week 9 people lead worship at our Contemporary Service and 22 dedicated individuals grace us with their voices at our Traditional Service. We have also added several new members to our beloved "Conway Ringers" who continue to bring beautiful music to our services. In addition, 20 children gave up many hours to practice for an amazing performance of "It All Happened In The Country". And I am so happy about the 65 men, women and children who gave countless hours to our "Christ Was Born To Save" Cantata. God is using you all in amazing ways and it is a blessing to our church!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you!

Working together First United Methodist Church collected 1,162 gift filled shoeboxes that have been processed at the Charlotte, NC Processing Center and are on their way to needy children in several countries. Whether you made donations of money, items for the shoeboxes, or participated in preparing and packing shoeboxes you have helped to make a positive impact on children all over the world.



The Elkins volunteer team collected 13,039 shoeboxes and other Drop Off Centers in West Virginia processed over 118,000 and as always, West Virginia is one of the leading states in the number of shoeboxes collected.

Internationally, it is projected that there will be over 12 million children who will receive a gift filled shoebox and a message of God's love.

This is a year round project and you can be a part of the world's largest Children's Christmas Project of it's kind. Phone 304-636-6367 to see how you can participate.

PIONEER CLUB

Happy New Year! 2020 the Pioneer Club Ministry will continue to focus on feeding the children physically and spiritually.

Thank you for the financial support by taking a specific age group bible tag off the Bible Tree! What greater gift than giving the word of God to our children and teens. The Pioneer club gave 21 wrapped bibles to the children at our Christmas gathering on December 19th, WOW! This included teens and preschool children who come with their siblings. Please continue to pray for the ministry, for the children and for the volunteers who spend time in service each week.



All children Kindergarten – 5th grade are welcome to join us in fellowship and fun. We meet every Thursday at 4:30pm to help with homework or to help children who may want to read out loud. At 5:00pm a yummy meal is served and from 5:30 – 6:30pm is club time. Each week we begin with pledges, prayers and praises, spend time learning about the bible with skits, songs, lessons and end the evening with crafts and games. We are excited to be taking the leap of faith to invite children from our community to join us through our local Air1 Christian Radio Station.

God Loves you and so do I,
Shelley

Mission Minute

I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. 2020 brings a new year and a new vision. We had an amazing Community Dinner Friday, December 13. The Family Life Center was beautifully decorated with Christmas decorations. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and dessert filled everyone's bellies. We fed about 35 people in need and 25+ volunteers. Christmas gifts for adults and kids were graciously donated by Valerie and Norman Bright in memory of Valerie's mother, Gloria Roy. Coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and warm clothes were available for those to take as needed. It was a great evening of eating and visiting. Our next community dinner will be Friday, January 17, 2020 if you would like to come out and help or just to visit with those who make their way to our refuge, please do.

Our church continues to support the Lighthouse Community Recovery Home. Thank you for all you do to support our mission projects throughout our community.

Looking forward to 2020,
Kim Urban



The First United Methodist Men hosted their annual Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 1st. A ham dinner was served to a large crowd. The men wish to thank Susan Seders and Kary McAtee for a wonderful musical performance by the children of our church. The congregation was blessed with a great evening of entertainment, food, and fellowship.

United Methodist Women

News From the First United Methodist Women

End of Year Summary

It was another busy year for the First United Methodist Woman who hosted numerous receptions; provide layettes, car seats and baby basket for Davis Medical Center; fed the Operation Christmas Child box packers; carried out 2 major bazaars and gave assistance for many individual requests. Non-members of our circles may not realize the number of missions we support yearly with the funds we raise from our bazaars that include lunch, Country Store, mission quilt and basket tickets, bake sales and crafts. Our very capable treasurer, Carolyn Channell, has itemized each expenditure to share with our church family. The total amount is impressive. See the report as follows:

First United Methodist Church – United Methodist Women 2019 Monetary Donations/Gifts

Appalachian Wounded Warriors – Donation	150.00
Child Car Seats – Donation to Local Hospital	195.92
Church Women United – Donation	100.00
Doctors Without Border – Donation	200.00
Elkins/Randolph Homeless Shelter – Donation	400.00

First United Methodist Church – Donation- After Prom Party	200.00
First United Methodist Church – Donation – Angel Tree	250.00
First United Methodist Church - Gifts/Awards to High School Seniors	528.43
First United Methodist Church – Donation – Backpack Program	1,200.00
First United Methodist Church – Donations - Bible School	365.65
First United Methodist Church – Donation - GLOW Party	100.00
First United Methodist Church – Donation – Kitchen Floor Mats	265.21
First United Methodist Church - Donation - Special Gifts	2,050.00
First United Methodist Church – Donation - UMCOR	500.00
Heifer Project International – Donation	200.00
Helping Hand Clearing House – Donation	400.00
Layette Items – Donation - Gift Baskets to the Local Hospital	245.38
Mountain Hospice – Donation	400.00
Operation Christmas Child – Lunch Donation for Box Packers	175.00
Smile Train – Donation	100.00
Tyrand Cooperative Ministries – Donation	400.00
Women’s Aid in Crisis – Donation	300.00
Women at Risk International – Donation	200.00
World Vision Appalachian – Donation	200.00
World Vision International – Donation	420.00
Total Donations	\$ 9,545.59

Appreciation for Special Leadership

For the last 4 years we have be blessed with capable leadership. Mary Durham provided us with 3 consecutive years in the position as president while Donna Trulik stepped up to lead us for the 4th year. We were so fortunate to have these ladies' gifts of time and talent. Thank you so much Mary and Donna.

Celebration of Christmas with Our Circle Friends

Circles 1, 2 and 4 each had gatherings to celebrate this special time of year. Pictures include a look at these times of fellowship and a Christmas Baby Basket ready to be delivered to DMC by Circle 1 (held by Sara Hinkle).



Next Meeting Date:

The Executive board meets, again, on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 1 PM in the church parlor.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US IN OUR MINISTRIES FOR 2020.



2020 Offertory Envelopes are now available on the table outside the office. Please stop by and pick yours up! If you don't find your name and would like to have weekly envelopes, please write down your name and address on the form on the table and I will have them available the following week. Julie Civiello

Tyrand Cooperative Ministries and Highland Parish hosted a Make and Take Craft Event at the Tyrand Bunkhouse in Mill Creek on Saturday, December 14th for the children and young people in the area. Participating from our church were Beverly Armentrout, Kary McAtee and Diana Patella. A Christmas ornament was made and taken home by each child in attendance.



SCOUT NEWS

YOU ARE INVITED...

TO: Scouts' Cake Auction
WHEN: Monday, January 13, 2020
WHERE: Scout Hall at FUMC
TIME: 6 pm



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS							
2	Pat LaFayette	11	Marylou Raikes	18	Beverly Skinner	28	Carolyn Channell
2	Greg Coberly	11	Linda Robey	18	Matthew Downs	28	David McDowell
2	Ashley Boley	11	Sarah Ware	18	Leah Armstrong	28	Terra Oldham
3	Arch Thompson	12	Loyal Canfield	19	Barbara Carroll	28	Alexander White
3	Gale Poe	12	Amie Wamsley	19	Dave Simmons	28	Madalyn Hickman
4	Don Judy	12	Jeffrey Parsons	19	Debra Herron	29	Tommie Bodkins
5	Norma Stalnaker	13	Sue Lewis	19	Megan Higgins	29	Liam Benavides
5	Denise Wallace	14	Cindy Stemple	19	Heidi Jeffries	29	Lacey Wood
5	Toby Myers	14	Terry Mallow	19	Jeff Menendez	30	Garry Shiflett
6	Margaret Beckwith	15	Don McCaskie	20	Billy McCauley	30	T.L. Jack II
6	Mary Smith	15	Charles Conaway II	21	Bryan Corder	30	Molly Quint
6	Chris Croson	15	Deena Fox	21	Elizabeth Antolini	31	Linda Wyatt
6	Scott Collett	15	Allison Jack	21	Becky McDowell		
6	Joel Casto	16	Doreen Hall	22	Connor Montgomery		
7	Debbie Welshonce	16	Barb Hanna	23	Holly Conrad		
7	Shelley Hyre	16	Mary Rowan	25	Evette LaFayette		
7	Reese Croson	16	Marty Martin Jr	25	Ryan Jones		
9	Greg Perkins	17	Vicki Fisher	25	Sarah Lipscomb		
9	Angela Nelan	17	Brian Shields	26	Dave Hanna		
9	Michaela Mace	17	Chris Shields	26	Sharon Hinchman		
10	Calvin Bennett	17	Thea Kerns	26	Jeanne Hanna		
10	Allen Conrad	18	Sharon Sutton	26	Curtis Conrad		

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
15	Ken & Jamie McBride
28	David & Connie Pingley

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of

Natalie Jean Barb, James "Jim" Stalnaker and Hazel R. Wood.



Congratulations... to Ross and Sarah Ware upon the birth of their second son,
Lennox Rawling Ware, (December 17, 2019),
brother of Leo Ware and grandson of Jeff and Donna Trulik

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

The Circuit Rider

January 2020

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 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

