

## Refreshed – De-stressed – Refocused

These words describe my renewal leave to a “T.” The time flew by, but it was time well spent. Susan painted half of the inside of our farmhouse, and I updated our landscaping around the house. We also did a number of odd jobs inside and outside to improve and upgrade our home. And we traveled a bit – seeing the kids and grandkids, touring Blennerhassett Island, watching Little League in Moorefield (stayed a couple of days in Petersburg and walked through the Fort Mulligan’s earth works, a civil war sight), and going to Amish Country in Ohio. The picture below is from the Burger King in Berlin, OH. What caught my eye was the bird nest in the “O!”



The sight brought to mind the following scripture:

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? (Matthew 6:26-27).

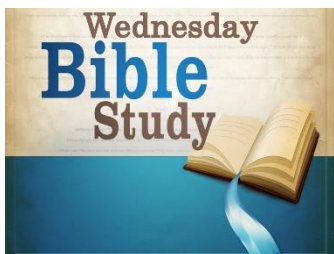
My renewal leave was one wonderful reminder that God is in control and that God has my best interest in mind (and yours, too!). He leads. We must follow. And that includes spending time with Him, searching His ways, and allowing Him to fill and to renew us. One of the best experiences, beyond what I have already shared, is that I was able to be in a different church service each Sunday during my leave. Susan and I enjoyed being ministered to, rather than ministering. It was so great worshipping together and receiving together. Regular worship decreases stress and worry. I had forgotten that. I need to find a way to continue that - even when I am back in the pulpit.

Thank you, church, for supporting Susan and me in this time away. It has meant so much to us. Each of you took an active part in our rest and refreshment, through your support in serving, in your prayers, and by your approval. God bless you!

Now, we are back in the saddle, so to speak. As we build God’s kingdom among us together, remember, God has us in His hands, and, we have each other!

Yours in Christ,

**Brian**



## Come Join Us!!

Bible Study will restart with Pastor Brian on Wednesday, September 13, at 10 am in the Parlor. Please bring a covered dish for a picnic.

## FALL LAY ACADEMY

**Saturday, September 30th, LIFE UMC, Fairmont  
8 AM - 4:30 PM**

**LEADERSHIP 101** (registration deadline Sept. 8) **Taught by Rev. Pam Todd**  
**(Basic Lay Servant Class)** Focuses on the primary aspects of lay servant ministry: leading, caring, communicating, and resources available.  
Text: Lay Servant Ministries, Participant's Book by Sandy Ziegler Jackson and Brian Jackson.

***Books available from the MonValley District office.***

**DYNAMITE PRAYER** **\*\*registration deadline is Sept. 1\*\*** **Taught by Rev. Cindy Boggs**  
**(Advanced Prayer class)** Especially for those who want to learn more about breakthrough prayer and how it will impact you and your church. "Dynamite Prayer is a daily prayer guide that will show you how to begin a practice of 'breakthrough prayer,' a way of praying where we ask God to open new doors and reveal new possibilities fueled by the Spirit's power. *Homework begins Sept. 1st* for this 28-day adventure.

***Books available from the Mon Valley District Office.***

**RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC** (registration deadline is Sept. 8)  
**Taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Ball. (Advanced "other" course)** Discusses the long history of opioids in our culture, how and why the brain responds to opioids like it does, our Wesleyan heritage of caring for those affected by substance use disorder, and ways our churches can truly become the Body of Christ in our communities.  
Text: ***There is no text for this class, but there will be hands-on assignments to complete.***

Register [here](#) or print a [form](#) and return to the district office by the class deadline.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact our MonValley District Lay Servant Coordinator,

Mary Bane, at 304-692-0003 or [crazymcb1@gmail.com](mailto:crazymcb1@gmail.com)

Jesus said, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve”*

Mark 10:45



Introducing a new outreach  
ministry that  
**EVERYONE**  
can participate in. We are calling  
it **SOAR** –  
Serving Others All a Round

**SOAR** week September 17, 2023 – September 23, 2023

How can you participate?

By **calling, visiting or sending a card** to a WE CARE member:

**Elkins, WV 26241**

Fletcher, Leigh  
220 Buffalo St., Apt. 7

Crowley, Wilma  
116 Wilton Ave.  
304-636-2661

Galford, Nellie  
110 Southview Dr.  
304-636-1692

Green, Debbie  
20 Grace Circle

Hinkle, Bob and Sara  
125 Mountain Splendor Lane  
304-636-4680

Hitchcock, Kathy  
111 White Oak Lane  
304-636-7236

Peacock, Mary  
600 Wilson St.

Phillips, Mike  
109 White Oak Lane  
304-636-7038

Plant, Joan  
103 White Oak Lane  
304-636-7152

Bennett, Margaret  
1725 S. Davis Ave.  
304-636-3954

Hensley, Basil (Rev.)  
1304 Chenoweth Creek Rd.  
304-637-5119

McCloud, Jim and Patty  
523 Ebberman Creek  
304-591-6343

Poe, Neil  
110 Ferndale Dr.

Sheets, Sue  
194 Evans Run Road  
304-636-6723

Wilmoth, Ralph  
PO Box 972  
304-636-0733

**Out of Town**

Cooper, Maxine  
801 Peyton Way, #7, S Charleston, WV 25309

Godwin, Lauren  
132 S. Mineral St., Keyser, WV 26726

Jacobs, Van  
109 Braddock Road, Smithfield, PA 15478

Jordan, Bev  
PO Box D8, Harman, WV 26270

Schoonover, Jim & Patricia  
39 Cherry Fork Road, Montrose, WV 26283

Simmons, Zona  
1 Heritage Dr., Apt. 321,  
Morgantown, WV 26505

Michael Welshonce  
60 Corinth Dr  
Manquin, VA 23106

Edward Lothes  
2509 Croadaile Farm Parkway, #4  
Durham, NC 27705

**ELKINS MANOR – 100 Tallman Ave., Elkins 26241**

Brown, Jerome – Apt. 317

Davis, Martha - Apt. 413 (No visits, please.  
Mail cards only)

Weese, Mabel – Apt. 310

**ERCC – 2533 Beverly Pike, Elkins 26241**

Wamsley, Evelyn Jean – 225

Walden, Betty - 122

**NELLA'S – 399 Ferguson Rd, Elkins 26241**

Phares, Mabel – 116

**LAVENDER FIELDS – 150 Water St., P.O. Box 446 Beverly 26253**

Hepler, Ruth

Kenney, Pat (Bruce's Mother)

**MOUNTAIN MEMORIES (FORMERLY KNOWN AS COLONIAL PLACE) – 301 Wilson Lane, Elkins 26241**

Johnkoski, Phoebe – 204A

McLaughlin, Pam – 304A

Raikes, Mary Lou – L509

Rice, Carolyn – L503

Seders, Pat - 605

Schoonover, Tom – L505

White, Zan – W107

Wood, Rosalea - 501

**WE CARE MINISTRY TEAM**

**DONATE POSTAGE** – Donations may be left with Rhonda in the church office. The WE CARE TEAM regularly sends cards to the homebound and those recovering from illness. Postage will go a long way towards keeping this vital Ministry active.

**DONATE PAPER** – Cards are printed in the church office for MINISTRY TEAM use. Hammermill, 32LB Paper, 8 1/2x11, white paper. Look for the brightly colored parrot!



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)**

**September donation items:** Crayons, playdough, and large rubber bands. Donations may be placed in labeled bins located near the church office.

You could also choose to make a monetary donation with a check made payable to FUMC with OCC written on memo line.

### **BACKPACK MINISTRIES**

**\*\*Over 8,100 bags were packed this school year!!\*\***

We will resume packing in September for the next school year of 2023-2024. Please check with the church office for the specific date.

You may **donate items** to include in backpacks:

- Peanut butter – **16oz jars only**
- Pudding cups
- Peanut butter crackers
- Oatmeal Packets
- Granola bars
- Fruit bars

The above items may be left in the storage bins outside the church office.



### **LUNCH WITH NEIGHBORS**



Volunteer to **serve meals** on:

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday** – in the FLC  
Volunteers should **arrive no later than 12:15pm**. Meals are served from 12:30-1:30pm each day.

You may also **volunteer to bake desserts** for Lunch with Neighbors. Cookies work well as desserts because they are easy to pack in "Take Out Meals". Please pack cookies in Ziplock bags to stay fresh.

You may also choose to **donate** from the following basic needs list:

- Toilet paper (FREQUENTLY REQUESTED)
- Feminine hygiene items
- Razors
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes

Lunch, (**Common Ground**), on **Saturday** at **Woodford UMC**. **Volunteers should arrive no later than 10:45 am**. Lunch is served at 11:00 am.

### **TYRAND COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES**

One of our Conference Mission Project Assignments is supporting Tyrand located in Mill Creek. Tyrand operates a Thrift Store Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. **Volunteer to work in the Thrift Store**. For more information Call: 304-335-2788

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

**Volunteer to deliver meals:** Call 304-636-4919 for more information.

### **UNITED WAY**

Call 304-636-0516 for more information.

### **BLESSING BOXES**

Donate food items to fill the Blessing Box located in the church courtyard and the various other locations around town.

### **FOOD PANTRIES**

- Donate food items to Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church Pantry  
304-636-2788 for more information
- Donate food items to Catholic Charities  
1513 Harrison Ave. Suite C-10  
(Located in Tygart Valley Mall)  
304-636-4875 for more information.

## **CAN YOU VOLUNTEER SOME TIME...**

As most of you know, Ryan was diagnosed in January 2020 with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). With each passing day, I see a decline, one of which is loneliness. I work Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, so I'm able to be with him Mondays and Fridays. Tuesdays and Thursdays he does well because I take him to Lunch with Neighbors to volunteer. Wednesdays he is alone. Also, with the pandemic now endemic, my meetings are in person. What I'm asking is if anyone might be interested in spending some time with Ryan. If you would like more information, please call or text me at 304-704-5939. Thank you! Kim Urban

## Children and Youth Ministry

Hello from the Children and Teen Department! Summer seemed to fly by at lightning speed, but that is alright because I am looking forward to all the upcoming school year has for the youth of our church! To wrap up the summer, kids and teens alike were invited for a backyard cookout and game celebration. What fun we had just getting to hang out again! I have truly missed those who I haven't seen in a few months and look forward to seeing them more regularly in months to come. In other news, Encounter starts back September 12 from 6 -7 pm. This program is for grades 6-12. Also, as the cooler air sets in in the evenings, I cannot help but think about our biggest event of the year, the annual Fall Festival! We will need quite a few volunteers to make the event as successful as it always has been in the past. I am of course confident we will have enough, because every year and every time I ask for help from you for the kids, this church steps up! So, a hug "Thank You" in advance! You guys are awesome!

That's all for now!

-Natasha Evans

Youth Minister



**IT'S BACK!**

# **ENCOUNTER**

**"WHERE FAITH GROWS"**

**Bring a friend!**

**SEP. 12**

**6-7PM**

**For Teens  
Grades 6-12**





# Fall Festival

## Volunteers Needed

**October 28th 4-6pm**

- **Trunk or Treat Workers**
- **Game Station Worker**
- **Help with Hay Ride**
  - **Food worker**
  - **Special Talents**  
(facepainter, balloon animals etc.)

**Contact Natasha to Volunteer**  
**304-704-6937**



## 2023 September Newsletter

### Music Ministries



*"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."*

Psalm 51:12

Restoration in the Bible is synonymous with healing, repairing, and returning, and is mentioned more than 130 times throughout the Old and New Testaments. I read once that restoration could be defined by four words: **replace, renew, revive, return.**

Brian and I started our time away by simply replacing our environment with a new environment at our farm. While we did a lot of physical work there, the true work began on our weary hearts, seeking for God to **replace** them with new ones (Ezekiel 36:26). As the days turned into weeks, we prayed for God to **renew** our minds (Romans 12:2) along our journey. And as the weeks turned to months, we began to see God **revive** our souls (Romans 6:4). We now **return** to you to do the work and the will of our loving Savior. (Romans 5:10).

My prayer for this new Liturgical Year is to see all those in our church realize that ministry happens when we all come together to use the gifts that God has graciously given to us. So, consider being a part of the music ministry in our church. All it takes is a willing heart. I would urge you to not let the devil steal the joy that can come from serving.

### Music Opportunities

Hand Bells – Monday at 5pm

Chancel Choir – Monday at 6pm

Praise Band

Play a musical instrument or Sing a Solo, Duet, Trio, Quartet

Sing with a group at the Nursing Home

Participate in the Cantata or a Musical



I would like to personally thank the following people for continuing the music ministry for Sunday worship while I was away. What a blessing you were for our congregation!

Those who played the piano:

Casey Casto  
Keri Cochran  
Donna Jones  
Linda Patterson  
Linda Wagner

Those who sang and played an instrument:

Sam Cochran  
Sara Cochran  
Clark & Natasha Evans  
Elliott Evans  
Vicki Fisher  
Lisa Godwin  
Kayla Harris  
Seth Maynard  
Nick Patella  
Jenny Pippin  
Linda Wagner

"Heart of Worship" Praise Band

Allen Conrad  
Syl Fretwell  
Kathy Howser  
Donna Jones  
Seth Maynard  
Patrick McKay  
Linda Patterson  
Kim Urban

*Susan*



## Mission Team Update

Through six months of 2023, Lunch with Neighbors has gathered 75 times serving a total of 8,442 meals! In addition, we have had six monthly brunches where a total of 775 meals were served. We fell just 48 meals shy of serving 10,000 total meals in just six months!

Our volunteer staff are hardworking, committed, and humble servants. They are a joy to be around and a blessing to me and Diana.

Looking ahead, the Neighbors of food insecure number among us continues to grow. Over these six months, we have averaged 113 meals/lunch. The past four months, the average was 120 - during May and June and the July average spiked up to 162 meals for each lunch! So far in August, the average is 159 meals for each lunch!

I predict our feeding ministry will serve around 21,000 meals in 2023. We thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to be led by God's calling upon us to serve our neighbors as ourselves.

Greg Johnson  
Director of Ministries

---

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD FIVE ALIVE DRIVE

Pray for the children receiving boxes and the thousands of volunteers that make it all happen.

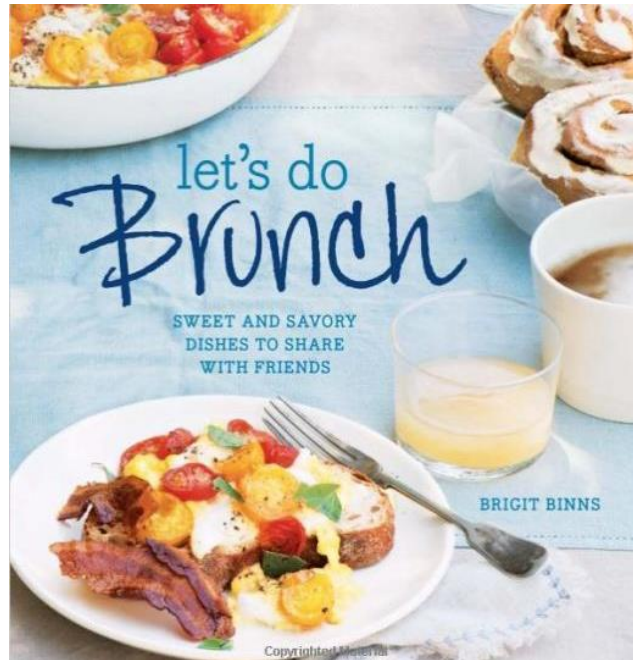
### FIVE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

1. Monetary donations (Make check out to First United Methodist Church and designate for OCC.)
2. Donate needed items.
3. Pack a shoebox (Limited number of shoeboxes will be provided or decorate and fill your own box.)
4. Make a change with your change in prescription bottles provided.
5. Join the fun at our annual packing party in early November. Refreshments will be provided.



For more information: 304-636-6367

email [rcowgill@suddenlink.net](mailto:rcowgill@suddenlink.net)



**Basic Needs Ministry Community Brunch  
Sunday, September 20, 2023  
Serving at 10:30 am  
in the Family Life Center**

**A free will offering will be taken upon entry to the Family Life Center. Donations from the following basic needs items are encouraged:**

**Toilet Paper  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes**

**Deodorant – Men's and Women's  
Shampoo**

# **PIONEER CLUB MINISTRIES**



## **Pioneer Kids**

We are in discussion to begin Pioneer Kids Ministry again in October after the Forest Festival. Children are invited to join for a meal, fun activities, and teaching the Bible. This Christ centered weekly program integrates spiritual and personal development for children. It will be held weekly on Thursdays from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. Please keep a look out for more information in the very near future.

Even though we have not officially met for two years we continue to support the kids. We filled and handed out 12 bags of school supplies for our Pioneer Kids. Thank you for all who made school supply donations for our kids!

## **Pioneer Teens**

Pioneer Teens and their families enjoyed a wonderful “picnic, well a wonderful safe evening in the FLC as it stormed outside. Holy Smoke BBQ supplied the meal, John Calkins gave a great lesson about David. We handed out backpacks filled with school supplies. Thank you to all who donated school supplies donations.

There is no school on the first Monday in September due to the Labor Day holiday, therefore the next meeting for Pioneer Teens will be Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm in the youth room at the church. Teens 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for a meal, fun activities/life skills and teaching the Bible on the first Monday of each month.

The Pioneer Ministries (kids and Teens) are designed to build healthy relationships with caring Christian adults, peers and most importantly Christ. If you know a child/youth that would like to be a part of the Pioneer Club please invite them to join us!

If you are being called to serve in the Pioneer Club ministry, please contact Shelley Hyre by calling the church office 304-636-0660, email [shyre@drhyre.com](mailto:shyre@drhyre.com) or call/text 304-704-7039.



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith

Have August Picnic

Twenty-one United Women in Faith attended a picnic at Glendale Park on Wednesday, August 9. Fellowship and a delicious potluck meal was shared by all in attendance. Those present were as follows: Barbie Rosencrance, Katie Kerns, Kit Phillips, Lorraine Corley, Betty Linger, Faye Cowgill, Sophia Boyes, Mary Skinner, Penny Friddle, Kathy Hitchcock, Carolyn Gola, Mary Rowan, Shannon Bennett Campbell, Marie Williamson, Catherine Poe, Jerri Snyder, Judy Vandenburg, Carol Pizzino, Sharon Hinchman, Karen Wilmoth, and Carolyn Channell.





# SCARECROW

# FESTIVAL

**AUG. 26**

**PICK-UP MATERIALS**  
**DANN BUILDING**  
ACROSS FROM SEWING CENTER  
**1:00-4:00PM**

**SEPT. 8**

**DROP-OFF SCARECROWS**  
**DANN BUILDING**  
ACROSS FROM SEWING CENTER  
**4:00-6:30PM**

**SEPT. 30**

**TEAR DOWN**  
**REMOVE BEFORE 9:00AM**  
**IF KEEPING**

**SCARECROWS WILL BE PLACED  
DOWNTOWN SEPT. 9-SEPT. 30**

Materials will not be reserved.

Must be picked up during listed times.

If you intend on keeping your scarecrow it must be removed from the street prior to 9AM Saturday, Sept 30.



**ELKINS  
BUILDERS  
SUPPLY**



**SENECA  
MALL**



QUESTIONS? CALL 304-636-0415



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

*to the families of*

Walter Thomas "Tom" Cooper, Joyce Hawse,  
Delores Sibley (Sharon McQuain's sister-in-law), and Allen Conrad.

Charge Conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. Forms have been handed out or mailed out to individuals/chairpersons. Please fill out the forms and return to the church office by the deadline; Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Thank you.



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

**The Circuit Rider**  
**September 2023**

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 / PH: 304-636-0660

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

Assoc. Pastor:

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

Council On Ministries Director: Greg Johnson

Youth Minister: Natasha Zirkle

Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Susan Seders

Pianist/Handbell/Choir Director: Susan Seders

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian: Donna Abbott

Nursery Supervisor: Tammy Casto

