



I like to take pictures. Cell phones make the task easier - the action more frequent. This picture represents our farm house front door, or, more accurately, above our front door. The house was finished in 1910, signified by the stained glass pane made for us by one of our Tyler County friends. The window represents a new beginning, a new home. Susan's great-grandparents, Frances and Rebekah Pierpoint, moved down Klondike Road to this spot, where they would be closer to Centerville (aka Alma). They actually disassembled their wagon shed and reassembled it on the property. It had a room up above it, where they lived while they built their farmhouse. The wagon shed sadly succumbed to time and gravity and fell over about 3 years ago.

Ironically, there is another sign of "home" – a home within a home – a bird's nest. A Robin couple moved in this past spring, mother laid an egg, and they raised their little birdy together. I didn't have the heart to take it down until after the family moved out. It was the perfect spot for the birds. It was high enough off the ground to keep them safe from predators, and it was tucked in enough to keep them dry and out of the wind. I will say, the birds were messy. I had to sweep up a lot of droppings below, and not just pieces of straw!

The above scene reminds me of a powerful verse:

"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

If God takes care of the birds, He will certainly take care of you! You are of immense worth to God, more than anything else in creation. You are never forgotten by Him, never out of His notice, and never ignored. God's love for you is supreme and complete, demonstrated through Christ's loving action on the cross and continued as Christ makes intercession for you at His Father's right side (Romans 8:34).

We need a loving Savior more than ever. We need his tender embrace, and we need his calming presence. Even though we have great challenges before us, we have an even greater God! These tough days we are facing in no way changes God's essence. He is still present, still loving, and offering His patience and guidance. Don't give up – trust in His eternal presence. With Him, through Him, and in Him, we will overcome!!!

Brian



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Stephen S. McDaniel
Director

October 1, 2020

Dear Church Participant:

Once again, the Mountaineer Food Bank, the Facing Hunger Foodbank, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) are asking for your help and the help of your church members to support a program that feeds many hungry West Virginians.

Members of the West Virginia Council of Churches and the DNR have united in a cooperative effort to ensure needy West Virginia families have access to high quality meat. For many West Virginia food banks, shelters, or needy families this is one of the most difficult foods to obtain. The Hunters Helping the Hungry Program does just that by providing nutritious, low fat, low cholesterol ground venison which can be prepared or used in many ways.

Hunters Helping the Hungry is a unique program involving the Wildlife Resources Section (WRS) of the DNR, hunters and generous donors, and the Mountaineer Food Bank and Facing Hunger Foodbank. These two food banks are the only West Virginia certified members of Feeding America, a national network committed to feeding the hungry.

Since its inception in 1992, Hunters Helping the Hungry has provided 1,026,593 pounds of venison, for over 1,380,840 family-style meals at a total cost of \$1,474,103.38. Processing costs are \$2.00 per pound, with the average deer producing 35.5 pounds of ground venison. The food banks are paid 45 cents per pound to cover pick-up and distribution costs. WRS manages, coordinates, and publicizes the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program. However, it is not allowed to spend license fees of food processing and distribution costs.

This is where the West Virginia Council of Churches enters the scene. WRS requires financial assistance to manage a charitable program this large. Past donors to Hunters Helping the Hungry have included hunting and angling organizations, businesses, individuals, and churches. However, as the donations of deer grow, so does the need for financial assistance.

When presented with the Hunters Helping the Hungry concept and need for assistance, the members of the West Virginia Council of Churches voted unanimously to support Hunters Helping the Hungry through the establishment of Share the Harvest Sunday.

Sunday, November 1, has been designated as the day in 2020 when each individual member of each participating church will be asked to donate one dollar, five dollars, or whatever they can afford to Hunter Helping the Hungry.


Your donation, be it large or small, whether direct or through your church, will help place a balanced, healthy meal before someone less fortunate. You can help us reach our goal of providing every possible pound of meat to needy West Virginians. Donations are tax-deductible.

Checks should be made payable to Hunters Helping the Hungry and mailed to:

Hunters Helping the Hungry
WV Division of Natural Resources
163 Wildlife Road
French Creek, WV, 26218

If you have questions about your donation to Share the Harvest Sunday or general questions regarding Hunters Helping the Hungry, please contact the DNR District III office at (304) 924-6211.

Sincerely,



Stephen S. McDaniel

SSM/PJ/jac

Enclosures: (1) brochure



THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BASKETS
for Tyrand Cooperative Ministries and the House of Carpenter

Nov. 1 – pork -n- beans; **Nov. 8** – canned potatoes; **Nov. 15** – canned fruit;
Nov. 22 – cookies; **Nov. 29**– hand soap

Donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets need to be in before November 10th and donations for the Christmas Baskets need to be in before December 2nd. Collection containers will be placed by the church office for Sunday mornings and a rolling cart will be placed outside the mahogany doors for weekly collections; Monday – Thursday 9 am – 3 pm.

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kary McAtee

VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S CHURCH

"Celebrate Wonder is a curriculum that seeks to celebrate spirituality through wonder. Children are naturally spiritual beings and everyday theologians. We want children to recognize and name this spirituality within themselves and in all the world around them.

This curriculum is based on spiritual practices, which are incorporated through play, discovery, biblical exploration, faith conversation, and relationship. Children who participate in *Celebrate Wonder* will come to know and use spiritual practices as a way to deepen their faith and to grow in their spiritual identity as children of God. These spiritual practices then become building blocks for holy moments and enrich the faith lives of each and every child."

November Faith Word – BLESSING

Memory Verse – "I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go." (Genesis 28:15)

November 5th – Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-28)

November 12th – The Birthright (Genesis 25:29-34)

November 19th – The Blessing (Genesis 27:1-45)

November 26th – Jacob's Ladder (Genesis 28:10-22)

CELEBRATE WUNDER



VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP

"The goal of *Think. Believe. Do.* is to help students become thoughtful theological thinkers. Every student – every person – is a work in progress, especially when it comes to faith. We are always learning, always discovering, always reframing what we believe and how we should live out those beliefs. This curriculum challenges students to adopt a faith that can handle questions with integrity, honesty, and excitement."



November Theme – Sin

November 5th – Sin is Real

November 12th – Sin is the Devil's Fault

November 19th – Sin is My Problem

November 26th – God Forgives Everybody

Families interested in participating in either of these online programs should contact Kary McAtee at 304-642-0518 or kary.kramer@yahoo.com for more information.

Music Ministries



“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:9-11

Brian and I have enrolled in a Master Gardener Class through WVU and every Thursday evening we have an on line class for two to three hours where we hear someone instruct us and give us information on many different topics about gardening. We have had classes on Botany, Entomology, Soils and Fertilizers, Pesticides, Landscape Design and Plant Propagation to name a few. Until I started this class, I thought I knew a fair amount about gardening since I grew up around a farm my entire life, but I am finding the information to be very enlightening and even thought provoking.

Throughout the years of growing a large garden, I loved canning some of my favorite fruits and vegetables. This often took a lot of time, but I never took my focus off the fruit and vegetables that I knew I would enjoy later.

During the time that Paul was incarcerated in Rome, he wrote the above letter of thanksgiving and prayer to the Philippians. He was in a bad situation and could have focused on the discouraging circumstance he was in, but instead he remained thankful and joyful by focusing on the fruit of his ministry. He kept his focus on Jesus because he knew what he would enjoy later would be far better than what he endured at the present time. Oh, how this applies so beautifully to our current situation today. We need more than ever to focus on the fruit and not the hardship of our circumstances.

Now one thing I have learned in our Master Gardener class is that it takes certain soil conditions and weather conditions for every seed or plant to achieve its full growth and potential. It also takes a conscious decision to nurture and care for them as well. And just like these seeds and plants, you and I need the right conditions to grow and mature into a life full of fruit. A life full of the goodness of God. A life abounding in unconditional love, never ending joy, undeniable peace, and the abiding presence of a kind, gentle and faithful Savior. And like Paul, we need to never give up or give in but make the decision to nurture our faith and keep our focus.

Have you made that decision? Are you focused on the fruit? Or do you find yourself needing a change of focus?

Turn your eyes today to focus solely on the fruit which is Jesus Christ and watch the things of this earth grow dim!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

(Pg. 349 United Methodist Hymnal)

Susan

DISCIPLE III BIBLE STUDY

Disciple 3 – Remember Who You Are – begins October 25th. If you have completed Disciple 1 and 2, you are welcome to join the class on Zoom each Sunday at 4:00pm.

There has been an interest shown to begin an Adult Sunday School class or an evening Bible Study on Zoom. The class will focus on The Fruit of the Spirits through bible study – LOVE: Building lasting relationships. JOY: How to rejoice in any situation. PEACE: Overcoming anxiety and conflict. PATIENCE: The benefits of waiting. KINDNESS: Reaching out to others. FAITHFULNESS: The foundation of true friendship. GENTLENESS: The strength of being tender. SELF-CONTROL: Mastering our passions. No date or time has been set as we determine the interest of a morning or evening Zoom class.

Pioneer Club Ministry continues each week by emailing the children the weekly lesson including prayers, songs, puzzles, coloring pages, bible lesson and Pioneer DELTA videos. If you know a child that would like to receive the lesson and videos each week please contact Shelley or leave a private message on the Pioneer Club Ministry of the First United Methodist Church, Elkins WV Facebook page.



If you are interested in knowing more about Disciple, Adult Sunday School or Bible Study on Zoom or the Pioneer Club please contact the church office or Shelley Hyre (shyre@drhyre.com).



Operation Christmas Child will be having drop off sites to collect filled shoe boxes at the following locations during the third week of November: Big Lots, Bowden Collection Center, and Tygart Valley Ministries, Beverly. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to F.U.M.C. and earmark it Operation Christmas

Child on the memo line. You may drop off your donation in the church's mail slot, place it in the offering plate at the 9:30 am in person worship service, or mail it to FUMC, 315 Kerens Avenue, Elkins, WV 26241. Please contact Bob Cowgill at 304-636-6367 for more information or to volunteer. Thank you for your support!



Please welcome our new members:

Lisa Godwin and Phillips Kolsun

THANK YOU!!....

Our heartfelt thanks to our Church family for the thoughts, prayers, cards and food during Carol's recent surgery and the deaths of Syl's brother, Robert, and cousin, Richard Fretwell. Syl & Carol Fretwell

Thank you to the congregation for your thoughts, prayers, cards, support, and visits.
Betty Roberts

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Dinah Tomblyn	9	Elizabeth King	17	Zachary Carowick	25	Darlene Marechek
1	Lori Betler	10	Ralph Wilmoth	18	Linda Wagner	25	Lisa Davis
2	Gary Crawford	10	Ashley Jones	18	Brandi Hedrick	25	Jack Calain
2	Kim Ellison	10	Nathan Haines	18	Erin Dettinger	26	Jenna Biller
3	Angela Dembowske	11	Tina Mahoney	19	Doris Jack	27	Danielle Riggins
3	Sara Ebel	11	Evelyn Robertson	19	Beverly Johnson	27	Curt Woodford
3	Nick Patella	11	Paula Heinke	19	Ashley Basil	28	David Hensley
4	Tim Conklin III	11	Tammy Westfall	19	Beverly Johnson	28	LeEllen Phares
4	Jayne Gongola	11	Casey Casto	19	Michael Antolini	28	Emily Phillips
4	Richard Tyre	11	Ali Phares	20	Lindsay Lambert	28	Brian Seders
4	Matt Keller	12	Dick Proudfoot	22	James Yorkey	29	Donna Hamrick
4	Alexis Wood	13	Randy Pugh	22	Kimberly Barnett	29	Warren Elmer
5	Lanette Young	13	Mabel Weese	22	Jack Antolini	30	Melissa Hickman
5	Mike Vance	13	Carol Fretwell	22	Matthew Voge	30	Tyler George
6	Lynn Ritter	13	David Gasserud	24	Teagan Barr	30	T.J. Jack III
6	George Corley	14	Dee Clark	24	Michael Beckwith	30	Grace Winans
6	Charlotte Reed	14	Nicholas Phillips	24	Sophia Boyles		
7	Kendra Kalar	15	Patty Gow	24	Carrie Wetsch		
7	Lanny Propst	15	Delaney Johnson	24	Madison Holland		
7	Charlie George	16	Annabelle Kennedy	24	MacKenzie Holland		
8	Debra Law	16	Frank Phares	25	Ray Menendez		
8	Dee White	16	Mike Taylor				
8	Andrew Yorkey	17	Kristen Hinchman				
9	Mike Welshonce						

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Sterl & Shirley Dean	26	Wade & Angela Spraberry
1	Matthew & Holly Conrad	28	Chris & Liz MacVean
10	Max & Barbara Morgan	29	Jeffrey & Tara Meade
14	Bob & Dottie Wamsley	30	Bill & Brenda Brown
15	James & Merllene Yorkey		

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the family of

Syl Fretwell upon the death his cousin, Richard Fretwell.



Church Family!....Thank you for the continued support of cleaning supplies. Without this vital support we would not have been able to continue to open up for church services. Thank you so much! Angie

To view Wesleyan District Newsletter please use this link:

<http://wesleyandistrictumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Newsletter.pdf>

To view WV UM Conference website please use this link:

<https://www.wvumc.org>

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Circuit Rider

November 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@icloud.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: TBA