Hi friends,

I so enjoy our community Holy Week services each year. I probably enjoy them even more when I don't have to preach – like this year – no pressure, no stress! And, as I have stated in the past, it is a time for Susan and me to sit together in the congregation, and it is time for me in particular to receive rather than give. I get recharged, and truly filled. Also, I thoroughly enjoy different denominations coming together as one and celebrating Christ. It is one of the greatest pictures of Christian unity that I get to witness!

The following is just a quick summary of each preacher's message during that special week:

Monday – Kent Price, First Christian Church

Jesus quotes the Old Testament all the time! Jesus did just that when a Pharisee asked, "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Duet. 6:5). This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18).' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Mt. 22:36-40). Someone once said that the greatest commandment is one of the first commandments in the Bible, and the 2nd greatest commandment is one of the last commandments in the Bible. These two commandments take care of everything in between.

Tuesday – Brett Rinehart, First Baptist Church

Which commandment is the most important? It is "love the Lord your God." When you focus on God, other things melt away (Mark 12:28). "Love your neighbor as yourself" – this is God working through us (Mark 12:31). Love from the Holy Spirit flows through us (Matthew 22:40, Mark 12:41). We can make a difference when living out the principles that Jesus teaches. [Thanks to Susan for her notes as I could not be present]

Wednesday – Dave Powel, Calvary Assembly of God

When we aren't in church, we are still disciples – still following -still His followers. First Thessalonians 6 tells us to rejoice always, pray, yield to the Holy Spirit, head God's word, and discern God's Word. Let's hold firm to what is good and do our best to remain blameless.

Thursday – Jeremiah Jasper, Woodford Memorial United Methodist Church

Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet? Because it was a means of grace. In doing so, Jesus displayed humility and servanthood. And he served a comeuppance to the disciples who

lacked a humble, servant-like attitude. Jesus' action was a symbol of our role in the body of Christ. Many times, over the years, I notice people who don't take communion when I serve it. In speaking with them after the service, I asked them why they didn't participate. Nine times out of ten they tell me, "Because I don't feel worthy." I tell them, "It's not about you – it's about Him!"

Friday – Jason Brandon, First Church of Christ

The cross is the victory of Christ. That victory began in the garden when Jesus prayed, "Not my will but your will be done." In today's world, there is less difference between the church and the world. Is the Holy Spirit doing anything? Today's faith is often about pleasing self instead of pleasing God, and too many churches often do not live for Jesus. Don't let your faith become a fair-weathered affection. [Thanks to Lynn Ritter for her notes as I could not be present]

Peace be with you!

Brian

The following youths were baptized on Sunday, April 21, 2024:

Sohpia Boyles, Ellie Casto, Samuel "Sam" Cochran, Sara Cochran,

The following youths completed their Confirmation Class:

Sophia Boyles, Samuel Cochran, Andrew Harris, Rachel Himes, Madelyn Lambert, and Isaac Reel.

THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Rooms for May – June 2024 is available. You may pick up your copy outside the double mahogany doors on the rolling cart Monday - Thursday, from 9 am to 3 pm or from the Usher's podium on Sundays. Thank you!

Children and Youth Ministry

Hello Church Family,

April proved to be a busy month for the children and youth departments. Attendance in Children's Church has been steadily increasing, making my heart smile, and making me ask the question... "Do we need more tables in here?" That's a good problem to have! Encounter has also been in full swing. We have seen several new teens come. My hope is this program continues to grow. Our final Encounter for the school season is May 7th. We will be starting a little early that evening to make time for an unforgettable downtown scavenger hunt and party to follow. Please make plans for your teen to be there to celebrate the near end of the school year.

On April 12th we had our first ever "Girls Night". This event was even more fun than I expected… plus we got to talk about some very important subjects! We started our evening out with tacos and a homemade clay jewelry bowl. I believe each girl enjoyed herself, I know I certainly did.

In other news, on Sunday April 14th, we were able to offer the final confirmation class for the students who started confirmation with Kary before COVID, and then had to stop. The following Sunday they confirmed their faith and commitment to the church. What a blessing!

I am personally immersed in the world of VBS. No matter how many years I run a VBS, I do not think I will ever get over the sense of extreme overwhelm that comes with the planning stage. Bible school is truly a big operation. I am so thankful for the outpouring of response to items needed for VBS. So many have stepped up and purchased supplies and I am truly thankful for that! As the event gets closer, more items will be listed on the bulletin board outside the church office. Another way to help is to simply donate to the church with your check memo line marked VBS.

What I am in dire need of now is volunteers. I need about 30 individuals for VBS to take place. Without that many, I cannot offer this free program to dozens of kids in our community. Please consider volunteering your time for this important cause. I'm not going to lie, it's a little overwhelming at times, but it's really a lot of fun! And if I were to guess, I'd say you will feel blessed by the experience. There are many roles to fill in VBS, from registration, to station leader, or helper. If you are willing to help, please call or message me today!

With Love,
Natasha Evans, Youth Director

Where Faith Grows

THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU

ENCOUNTER

SCAVENGER HUNT

AND END OF YEAR PARTY

MAY 7th 5:30-7pm

RACE DOWNTON WITH YOUR TEAM
TO GET THE SHOTS FIRST!
WHO WILL WIN?

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

HALF USED

SPRAY PAINT

JUST SITTING
AROUND AT HOME?

IF ITS A BOLD, BRIGHT OR FLUORESCENT COLOR (LIKE THE COLORS ON THIS PAGE) WE NEED IT FOR VBS!

Please donate your unneeded cans to Natasha or the church office. Questions? 304-704-6937

Safe Sanctuaries

Our participation in the "Safe Sanctuaries" program helps ensure a safe environment for your children and youth as they grow in their faith.

For those who wish to help out with the various upcoming children/youth events, please stop by the church office to fill out the background check form or fill out the copy of the form below. Please send the completed form with an $18 check payable to FUMC to Rhonda at the church office. Please mark "Confidential" on the envelope. If this payment creates a hardship, please contact the church office.

Per the West Virginia United Methodist Church guidelines, our children/youth volunteer/staff are to complete a background check through the United Methodist Conference every 4 years.

Also, there is an excellent 60-minutes training video provided by the WVUMC that our volunteer/staff must complete every 4 years. This is an excellent training progrm that will certainly be an asset to you as you work with our children/youth in any capacity for their safety and your safety. Please visit wvumc.org, click Portico, watch the 4 minute instructional video and follow the directions under Laity. Select Safe Sanctuaries tab and enroll in the Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Training. At the end there is a Certificate of Completion that you can print out or email to Rhonda for your records.

Thank you in advance for taking the two steps necessary to work or continue to work with our children/youth.

Child Protection Co-Chair Coordinators,
Sarah Martin
Denise Losh

West Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND CHECK

Event/Purpose/ Church Name:	
Who should receive the final report?	

(Please include address for reports to be sent.)

The West Virginia Annual Conference will conduce a background check for the event listed above in accordance with the conference policies as provided in the West Virginia Conference Child Protection Standards.

In order to complete your background check we need the following information. Please fill out the following and return this letter to me at Office of Connectional Ministries. All fields are required. Not answering any of these questions will delay your background check. Answer "none" where applicable.

Name (first, middle, last)					
Other Names in last five years					
Current Street Address					
City		**State**		**Zip**	
Current County of Residence					
List previous addresses over last <u>five</u> years:					
Social Security Number		**Date of Birth**			

I give the West Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, permission to conduct this background check.

Signature		**Date**	

Please return this completed form marked "Confidential" to your church child protection coordinator.

2024 May Newsletter
Music Ministries

*"Then everyone came **whose heart was stirred,***
*and **everyone whose spirit was willing,***
*and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, **as many as had a willing heart**..." Exodus 35:21-22 NKJ*

I love to watch movies and read books based on true stories. They speak to me, they teach me, they convict me, and they stir my heart. I recently read the story of a man named Nick Vujicic who was quoted saying, "If God can use a man without arms and legs to be His hands and feet, then He will certainly use any willing heart!"

I was reading in Exodus 35 and was drawn into the passage with phrases like "whoever is of a generous heart…bring these offerings" (V.5), "let every skilled and talented man among you come" (V10), "everyone came whose heart was stirred and everyone whose spirit was willing" (V. 21), "He filled them with skill to do the work" (V. 35).

God invites us everyday to bring our gifts and assist in the work of building His tabernacle, His Kingdom. And He empowers us with His Spirit, His wisdom, His understanding, His knowledge, and His presence. The Israelites walked their own path many times but finally listened to God's invitation to turn their hearts to Him. They gave out of gratitude in response to His generous love. This is the kind of giving that God wants from us.

There is a "tabernacle" for you to build and the Lord has equipped you with the talents and the abilities needed to fulfill that purpose. All it takes is a

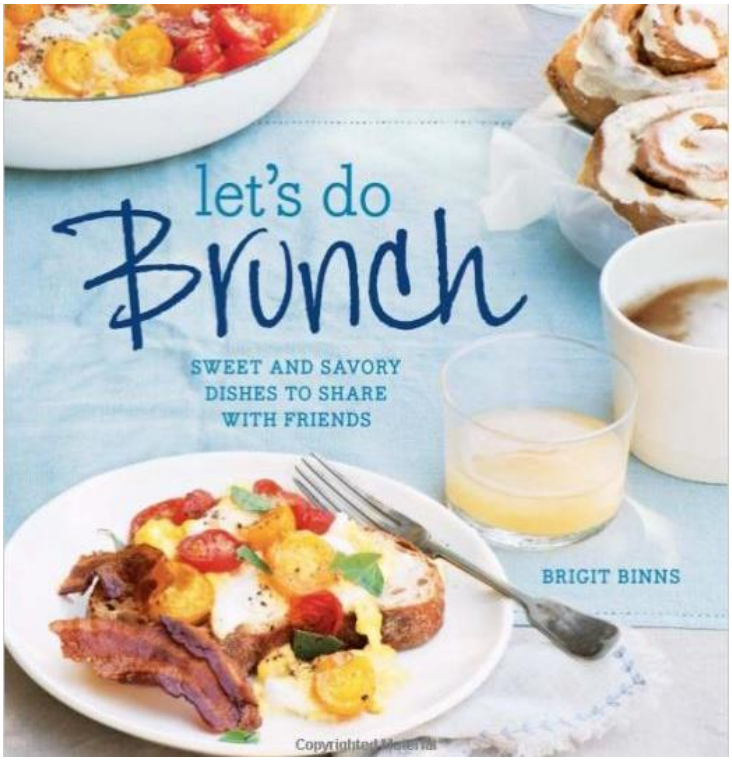
"Heart that is stirred and a spirit that is willing."

Susan

On April 14th, our "Heart of Worship" Praise Band's heart was stirred as they did a concert to benefit the Tyrand Cooperative Ministries.
We were able to raise approximately $2,000
and lots of canned goods were donated that day for their ministry.
We also joined with our Lunch with Neighbors program to provide
a community meal that followed the concert.

The Praise Team would like to thank
all those who were involved in making this event happen.
We also want to thank all who chose to come and
give of their resources to support this local ministry.

Donna Jones, Kim Urban, Kathy Howser, Sylvester Fretwell
Linda Patterson, Sam Urban, Seth Blake, Susan Seders, Seth Maynard



Basic Needs Ministry Community Brunch
First United Methodist Church
315 Kerens Avenue
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
Sunday, May 19, 2024
Serving between 10:00 am -12:30 pm
in the Family Life Center

MENU: Special-Mexican omelet; chili, cheese, green onion, eggs with cheese, potatoes, sausage, gravy, biscuits, donut French toast casserole, strawberry and pineapple salad.

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

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith had a guest speaker at their last meeting, J.J. Johnson, of the Centers Against Violence. She shared information on services they offer.

Members brought donations for their shelters and the group made a monetary donation.

The next United Women in Faith meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15.

Mark your calendar....

When: Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9
Where: West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, West Virginia

MAY BIRTHDAYS		14	Jessica Barkley	29	Anita Barb
1	Bill Johnson	16	Howard Howell	29	Steve Wamsley
1	David White	16	Tim Hoyle	29	Tammy Lawson
1	Joshua Lang	16	Ani Reger	29	Lisa Rosencrance-Biller
1	Joel Plishka	16	Lydia Wamsley	29	Jennifer Pingley
2	Amy Cherok	17	Elaine Griesel	30	Angela Spraberry
2	Anthony Nucilli	17	Rob Nestor	30	Ryan Gainer
2	Garrett Shiflett	17	Mark Biller	30	Debbie Green
2	Corey Ritter	18	Suzanne McWhorter	31	Ed Griesel
2	Joshua Davis	18	Crystal Howard	31	Jill Dailer
3	Sue Sayres	19	Melissa Purdy	31	Deborah Fincham
4	Bob Cowgill	20	Sandy Grahame	31	Peggy Jones
4	Stephen Marechek	21	Carmen Casey	31	Melissa Salvatore
4	Dustin Standridge	21	Becky Sanders	31	Chris Darden
4	Jordan Holt	21	Kelli Dyer	MAY ANNIVERSARIES	
5	Anna Chenoweth	21	Shelly Carr	1	Stephen & Darlene Marechek
5	Katy Karpik	21	Jennifer Drake	3	Eric & Melissa Hickman
6	Joy Woodford	21	Kary McAtee	3	Rob & Lisa Kerns
7	Leslie Gordon	21	Lillyanna Betler	4	Ashton & Debbie Berdine
7	Kurt Casey	22	Greg Stalnaker	4	Karl & Stephanie Ruud
8	Chip Gutmann	22	Garret Adkisson	5	Rick & Shannon Campbell
8	Marsha Channell	24	Taylor Lompert	7	Gary & Ruth Schoonover
9	Betty Linger	24	Dick McDowell	13	Marc & Annie Wamsley
9	Shelby Dettinger	24	Linda Jones	16	David & Kayla Doerr
9	Ryan Sanders	24	Danielle Stemple	18	Grover & Katie Kerns
10	Maxine Cooper	25	Sharon Teter	20	Chuck & Lisa Preusch
10	Lindsey Guinn	25	Laura Kennedy	20	Kevin & Cara Elkins
11	Pamela Smith	25	Destiny Brown	20	Mike & Christin Westfall
11	Sarah Caudy	26	Bev Jordon	22	Scott & Lori Betler
12	Mary Louise Yokum	26	Craig Corley	23	Mike & Carol Pizzino
12	Phil Tomblyn	27	Rhonda Jack	24	Ed & Elaine Grisel
12	Wayne Schwartzmiller	27	Christina Harris	25	Leon & Terry Mallow
12	Tyler Elmore	27	Emily Earle	25	Heath & Erin Quint
12	Jenny Pippin	28	Joan Plant	28	David & LuAnn McDowell
12	Danielle Adkisson	28	Buddy Rowan Jr	28	Bill & Kate Reed
13	Dylan Adkisson	28	Bob Jones	28	Ellis & Julie Conley
14	Jean Snedegar	29	Lanny Doerr	31	Don & Barbara Judy
14	Kendra Cross				

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the family of

Leigh Margaret Fletcher

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

315 KERENS AVENUE

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

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ELKINS, WV

PERMIT NO. 14

The Circuit Rider

May 2024

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM – 3 PM / PH: 304-636-0660

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

Assoc. Pastor:

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

Youth Minister: Natasha Evans

Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Susan Seders

Pianist/Handbell/Choir Director: Susan Seders

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian:

Nursery Supervisor: Crystal White

Staff Liaison: Lynn Ritter

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™