

A dear friend and mentor in the ministry once told me, "Be sure that every sermon you preach has at least one really good story, but be careful about trying to do too many stories lest you lose people in the process." From time to time, during sermon preparation, I find myself having too many stories, so I cut back and try to make sure that I don't overwhelm anyone with "too much." A few weeks ago, I literally came up with 3 separate stories for the closing of my sermon. All three were equally as good, but using all three would, in my mind, have been "too much." The one I chose not to include appears below:

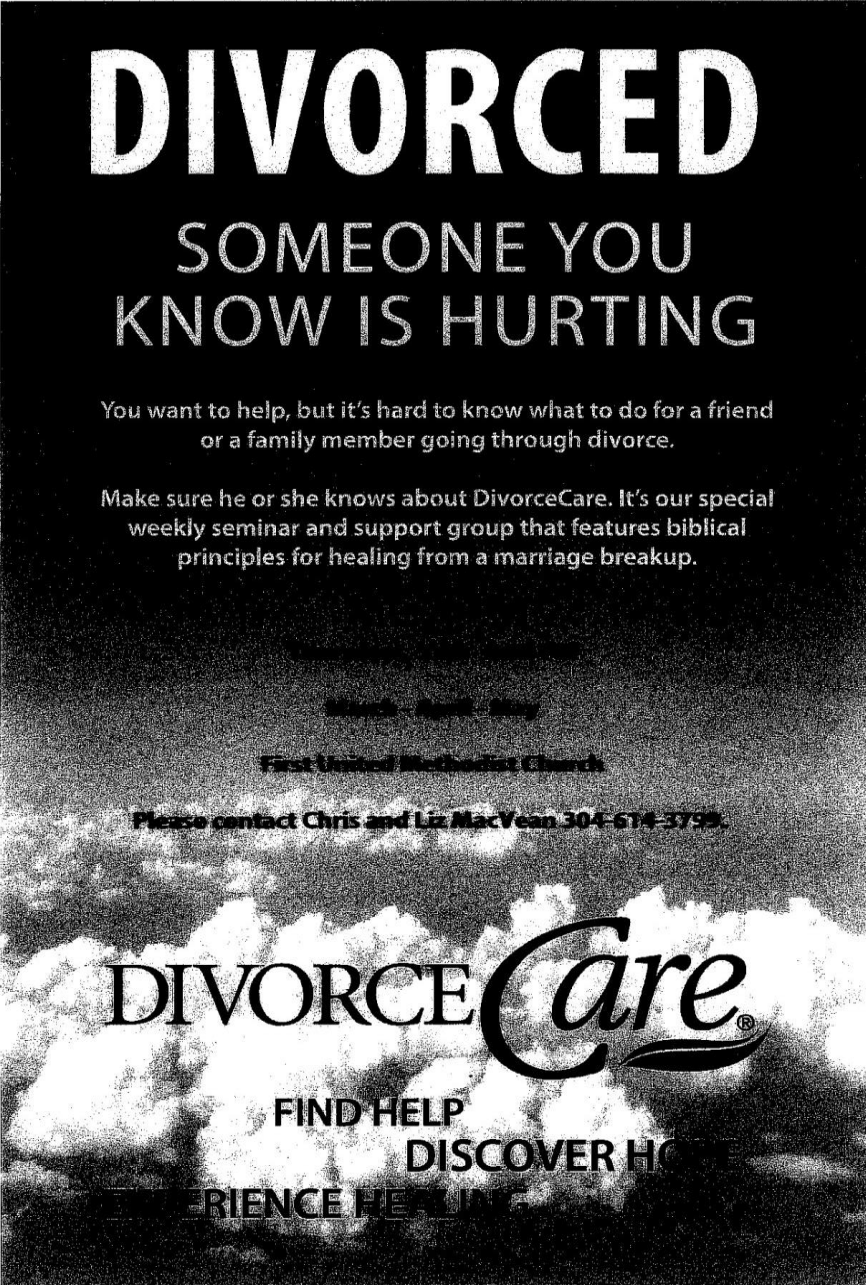
A little four-year-old African girl had been sold as a slave. She had never known what love was. Even her name, Keodi, (pronounced Key-o-dee) meant "Nobody loves me!" When she grew to be about ten years old, her body became covered with ugly sores. The natives turned her out and would have nothing to do with her. But some kind missionaries took Keodi in and cleaned her up, cared for her sores, and put clothes on her. At first she could not believe any one loved her. She went about saying, "I am only Keodi; nobody loves me." The missionaries told her that Jesus loved her, and tried to teach her what love meant. Then she looked down at her dress, clean body and bandaged sores, and said, "Is this love?" They told her that it was (taken from the Gospel Chimes).

Sometimes, maybe every time, love is best shown rather than just spoken. And the wonderful thing is, it doesn't take a missionary, or preacher, or a PhD to show it. Anyone can!

Recently I've been meditating on First Corinthians 13:4. In that verse, we read what love is and what love is not: "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud." We can **say** these things, but **are** we these things? The saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Are you a picture of love to others?

The above story is so gripping. I can't imagine any child (or any adult) being sold into slavery. Unfortunately, in this world, that kind of thing happens all too often. I can't imagine any person's name meaning, "Nobody loves me." Yet there are many today who believe that no one loves them. This world can be a very dark place. No wonder Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). May the light that you emanate be the very light of Christ's love, helping to bring hope into every circumstance!

Brian



DIVORCED

SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS HURTING

You want to help, but it's hard to know what to do for a friend
or a family member going through divorce.

Make sure he or she knows about DivorceCare. It's our special
weekly seminar and support group that features biblical
principles for healing from a marriage breakup.

Presented by
March - April - May
First United Methodist Church

Please contact Chris and Liz MacVean 304-614-3799.

DIVORCE *Care*®

FIND HELP
DISCOVER HOPE
EXPERIENCE HEALING

**Class begins on Thursday, March 7, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This class will be held on
Thursdays from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm in March, April and May.
Please contact Chris and Liz MacVean at 304-614-3799.**

HAM & BEAN DINNER

MARCH 16, 2019

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

AT

TYRAND COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

ADULTS - \$10.00

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER - \$4.00



SPONSORED BY THE HIGHLAND COOPERATIVE PARISH

FOR INFORMATION CALL: 304-335-2788

what's
cookin'?

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee



PROGRAM UPDATES

“In Sunday School and Children’s Church, we will be hearing stories called parables that Jesus told to his disciples. Parables are stories that are meant to help the listener understand something about God and people.

Our church and Christians around the world will begin the season of Lent this month. Lent is the forty days, plus Sundays, leading up to Easter Sunday. During Lent we do activities that remind us we make mistakes, but God loves us. Some people will celebrate Ash Wednesday at the beginning of the season by having a cross drawn on their forehead with ashes. Some people will fast

or give something up to help them focus on praying and being with God. How might your family observe Lent?

The Bible verse this month is Mark 1:15: “Now is the time! Here comes God’s Kingdom! Change you hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

March 3rd – The Stories of the Lost: Everyone counts. Families celebrate together when something was lost but now is found. (Luke 15:3-10)

March 10th – The Forgiving Father: Families forgive one another. Each member of the family is important. (Luke 15:11-32)

March 17th – The Two Debtors: Families love and forgive (Luke 7:41-47)

March 24th – The Last Supper: Families eat together. (Matthew 26:17-30)

March 31st – In the Garden: Families pray together. (Matthew 26:31-58)

CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us in the Family Life Center on Sunday, March 17th at 5:00 for Church Family Game Night! Bring your favorite board game and a covered dish to share! EVERYONE is welcome and prizes will be given to those who choose to wear green in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day! Our hope for this event is to create and nurture relationships between church members of ALL AGES!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The first Vacation Bible School planning meeting of 2019 will be held in the Parlor on Sunday, March 24th at 12:15. This meeting is for anyone who has helped with or would like to help with VBS!

Mark your calendars for VBS 2019: TO MARS AND BEYOND! Sunday, July 21st through Thursday, July 25th from 5:30 to 8:00 each evening for elementary age children!



LOOKING FORWARD

Planning is underway for our first Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt in April and our Annual After Prom Party in May! If you would like to contribute to either of these events please contact, Kary McAtee in the church office at 304-636-0660.



MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe

Music is taking shape for March. There are several anthems from the library that have solo leads with the Chancel Choir. New music is getting more familiar to the ear, and heart.

Ash Wednesday is March 6; the Chancel Choir will be singing in that service of imposition of ashes.

In February, Don Wetsch announced to ConwayRingers that he was going to step away from that group. He has rung with us since the reorganization in April 2005, almost 13 years. He is missed, and we of course wish him well. Don will continue to sing in the Chancel Choir. He is an encourager for me, and for many. One of his favorite email sign-off phrases continues to be, "Keep the faith." When the storms of life have raged, keeping the faith (and running the race), as he reminds, has been a good thing.

Also in February, the Heart of Worship Praise Band (formerly called Praise Team) presented a benefit concert for Tyrand.

~*~*~*

Susan Seders writes:

"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." ([Eph. 5:19](#))

Worship is acknowledging and thanking God for all He is, for what He has done, is doing and has promised to do.

It also calls us to respond with an attitude of gratitude and that is exactly what the "Heart of Worship" First UMC Praise Band embraces as they lead our church in worship each Sunday morning at 8:30.

The heart of this group was the reason for developing their name. Not only do they have a desire in their heart to serve God at church through their gift of music, but they also have a desire to use their gifts to help those in need. On February 15, 2019, our "Heart of Worship" Praise Band performed a concert to benefit The Tyrand Cooperative Ministries. It was an evening filled with the presence of our Lord.

We received lots of non-perishable donations and monetary donations in the amount of \$1,000. Rev. Pam Ritchie spoke on behalf of The Tyrand Cooperative Ministries. She shared that this time of year is always a challenging time because their resources are low with the recent holiday. But these first two months of the New Year have been especially difficult, leaving their shelves practically bare. We all know that it was no accident that this event occurred at just this time. God planted the seed in Sam Urban's heart to step out and say "Can we help them?" The rest is as the saying goes "History." But it is really God's timing.

God is good....all the time! All the time....God is good!!!

~*~*~*

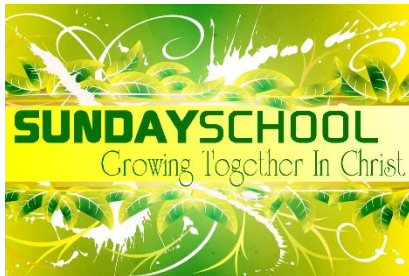
Blessings to you from the Music Ministry.



Skylar Harman, the daughter of Missy Harman, of Kerens WV has HLH, which is an immune system disorder that can cause many severe health issues. Skylar was first diagnosed with HLH at the age of 4 months and received her first treatments at 6 months. Unfortunately, 7 years later Skylar has relapsed and her HLH is back. In Skylar's case- the best course of treatment is another bone marrow transplant, which means she will be kept in the hospital for 6-8 weeks and will have to stay close

by the hospital in Pittsburgh for 3 months. Skylar was admitted on January 29th and has had chemo treatments preparing for the transplant. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. That is a long time for her to be away from home. If anyone would like to send her a card mail to:

**Skylar Harman UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Inpatient Bone Marrow Transplant Floor
9B 4401 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224**



On Sunday March 17, the Foundations Adult Sunday School Class will start a new study called "The Harmony of the Gospels". Have you ever wondered why we have four gospels? Why they are somewhat similar and somewhat different? What are we supposed to learn from each? We will look at the four side by side to discover answers to these and many other questions.

Some study materials will be provided, but the basic tool will be our Bibles. The first class (3/17) will cover background material – the political, economic, religious and cultural setting for Jesus' birth and ministry. The second (3/24) will be a general overview of the four gospels – their basic messages; who wrote them, to whom and why; and what each gospel's content is and why.

Then we will go through the gospels in as close to a chronological order of Jesus' life as they can be arranged, frequently referring back to the background material for context. The total study will be several month's long. The most benefit will be for those who can participate regularly; but each session will be self-contained, so even irregular attendance is encouraged.

The class meets at 10 am every Sunday, between the 8:30 and 11 am worship services, in the parlor. All are invited. The leader is Syl Fretwell.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the family of
Michael D. "Mike" Herron.





Mark your calendars and save the date...

U.M. MEN'S 74th ANNUAL PANCAKES & SAUSAGE FEED

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

All men are encouraged and invited to help!

Contact one of the following shift leaders or Dick Hamrick at 304-614-4662
to volunteer:

Friday evening setup: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Bob Jones, 304-636-9119/John Wilson, 304-636-6958

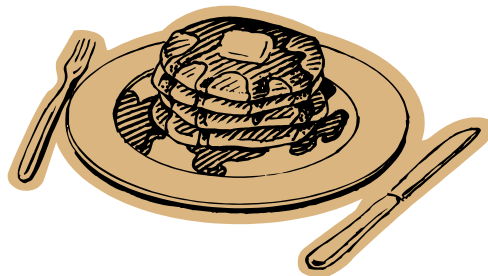
Saturday 1st Shift: 6 AM – 11 AM

Jimmy Poyner, 304-636-7593/Jeff Trulik, 304-636-7223

Saturday 2nd Shift: 10 AM – 3:00 PM

Mike Hinchman, 304-636-7139/Charlie Friddle, 304-636-6377

You may purchase tickets from the United Methodist Men or in the church office.



United Methodist Women

NEWS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Serving Up Chili for Super Bowl

Thirty quarts of delicious chili were made and sold to Super Bowl watchers or to be saved for a warm winter's meal. Thanks to all who purchased the soup with the profits continuing to aid our missions. Yes, there is work involved with these projects but there is also shared time with joy, laughter and fellowship. It is very fulfilling working together for a common cause. Thank you to the volunteers who joined together to make this, another project, a success. Just check out the smiles in the pictures below.



Shirley Heider, mother of Donna Trulik and member of the Grace United Methodist Church in Sykesville, PA, browns the meat with Carolyn Gola working in the background. (We enjoy Shirley joining right in when she comes to visit.) Jerri Snyder appears to take her job very seriously or, maybe, not. Jerri keeps us entertained during all events.



Carolyn Channell and Mary Ann Gay stirring the soup until it is just right to put in the quart jars.

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



The finished product with some of our workers posing after a morning of cooking. Shirley Heider, Catherine Poe, Donna Trulik and Penny Friddle are still smiling!

What Could be any Sweeter than a Newborn Baby?

Circle 4 had their regular meeting in February and prepared a basket for the Valentine's Day baby born at DMC. Members contributed an abundance of items of clothing, bibs, socks, diapers, wipes, soap, lotion and a handmade quilt from the church's quilting group. (This group makes a donation to each and every basket. What a special blessing!) A Valentine bear and Valentine Snoopy top off the bounty that any family should feel pleased to receive.



All baby articles are placed on a table in the Adult Sunday School class ready to be put in a red basket. Members Marie Williamson, Mary Ann Gay and Judy Vandenberg are shown in the background.

Circle 3 Introduces a Total of 5 New Members!!!

Circle 3 is pleased to welcome the following into membership: Phyllis Boyer, a recent retiree who has moved to Elkins; Carla Lambert, Assistant Principal at EHS; Melody Himes, Operations Assistant for the City of Elkins; Angela Sharp and Julie Civiello, employees of Davis Trust Company. Welcome to each of them! We are so thrilled these women have chosen to join us.

Future Dates to Remember

Mark your calendars for the following:

Thursday, April 4 Spring Bazaar

Thursday, April 4 & 5 Country Store (Start collecting your items to donate soon.)

Sunday, April 28 FUMC Women will provide a reception after the 11 am service for the new confirmation class. All church members are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

Sunday, June 16 Father's Day. FUMC women will serve breakfast. Everyone welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 1, 2019 11:30 am

Church of Christ, Elkins, WV

Please bring sandwiches and salad to share.

Sponsored by: Church Women United



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

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

MARCH BIRTHDAYS							
1	Caroline Hoyle	11	Marchia Myers	22	Ann Vandenberg		
1	Brian Hayden, Jr.	12	Harold Shepard	22	Sheila Himes		
3	Hobert Corley, Jr.	12	Patricia Felton	22	Allen Judy		
3	Mark Hepler	12	Todd Woodford	22	Lori Jones		
4	Frank Santmyer, Jr.	12	Lydia Jones	22	Tom Hanna, Jr.		
4	Joyce Healey	12	Craig Daft	22	Rob Cherok		
4	Andrew Gongola	13	Macy Canfield	23	Marg Shields		
4	Sarah Smith	13	Phyllis Harper	23	Phoebe Johnkoski		
4	Amelia Preusch	13	Aaron Casto	23	Joe Skidmore		
5	Evyonne Howell	13	Brennan Dettinger	23	Bonnie Simmons		
5	Casey Sanders	14	Betty Roberts	23	Tracy Fox		
5	Amanda Standridge	14	Jeff Welshonce	23	Mallorie Judy		
5	Jessica Jones	14	Herk Kessler III	23	Caleb Judy		
5	Taylor McKinnie	14	Robert Band	23	Georgianna Henderson		
5	Bethany Brown	14	Jennifer King	24	Jo Conway		
6	Brandi Newsome	14	Brent Merganthaler	24	Jay Mahoney		
6	Jaime Doerr	14	Drew Pingley	24	Katie Mattingly		
6	Mike Coers	14	Emma Schwartzmiller	25	Carol Daft		
6	Brooklyn Elmore	15	Rachel Davis	25	Joe Hughes		
7	Tom Williams	15	Junior Carowick, Jr.	25	Garrett Channell		
7	Junior Howell	15	Lauren Brown	25	Michael McCauley		
7	Barry Band	15	Brendan Wallace	26	Rebecca Jack		
7	Bob Smith	16	Ashton Berdine	26	Jaymie Wilfong		
7	Cathy Jones	16	Sean Phares	26	Matthew Harmon		
7	Debby Phillips	16	Christa Myers	27	Karly Wallace		
8	Bill Daft	17	Donald Jones	28	Logan Comer		
8	Sue Daft	17	David White	28	Joanne Gregory		
8	Tyler Kenney	17	Tina Jack	28	Jeff Trulik		
9	Tommy Cain, Jr.	17	Isaiah WestFall	28	Leslie Widney		
10	Mabel Phares	18	Hollis Lipscomb	29	Ellis Conley		
10	Deborah Judy	18	Lynn Ferguson	29	Dee Dee Ice		
10	Scott Betler	18	Besse Rose	29	Daniel Lipscomb		
10	Cara Elkins	19	Linda Mullenax	30	Barbara Sims		
10	Evan Elmer	19	Heidi Hawkins	30	Laura Santmyer		
11	Ann Harris	19	Erica Bender	30	Aaron Wetsch		
11	Bob Sponagle	19	Marla Woodford	31	Russell Linger		
11	Gary Skinner	20	Ashlee-Amber Lewis	31	Samantha Healey		
11	Jennifer Rosier	20	Megan Phares	MARCH ANNIVERSARIES			
11	Matthew Cooper	21	Jensen Kenney				
11	Bobby Benavides			9	Ward & Doris Wirth		
				10	Ron & Peg McCauley		
				26	Nick & Betty Jo Kostakos		
				30	Rich & Angie Kisner		



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:

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

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

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FIRST U.M. CHURCH
ELKINS, WV
PERMIT NO. 14

The Circuit Rider

March 2019

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-McAtee

kary@fumcelkinswv.com

Financial Secretary: Danielle Taylor

danielle@fumcelkinswv.com

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™