

So many windows, and not enough time to cover them all! That is kind of how I feel about the “Windows to the Soul” series. We have spent several weeks on the meaning of a number of our beautiful stain glass windows in our church. It would take another month or two to touch on each one. Rather than extend the sermon series to summer, I am going to share about some extra windows here. Let’s start with this beautiful window which appears in the overflow section of our sanctuary - to the left of Jesus with his outstretched hands. This window showcases the “Epworth League.”



Epworth is a town in England where the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was born. He was rescued from a parsonage fire there. The “League” has largely lost its meaning to us. Case Western Reserve shares the following synopsis in its “Encyclopedia of Cleveland History:”

The EPWORTH LEAGUE, which set a pattern for church youth organizations, was founded at Cleveland's Central Methodist Church on 14 and 15 May 1889. Within 10 years it claimed over 1.75 million members in 19,500 chapters internationally. Prior to 1889, as many as 5 young people's organizations existed in the Methodist Episcopal church...After discussions of a merger into a single body, 27 persons gathered at Central Methodist to form the Epworth League, adopting a modified version of the constitution of the Oxford League (one of the other 5 young people’s organization), and the motto of the Young People's Christian League, “Look Up, Lift Up” [which you

can see in the picture above]. The league, which soon spread worldwide, divided its social service into 6 departments: Spiritual Life, Social Work, Literary Work, Correspondence, Mercy and Help, and Finance. Local chapters organized Fresh Air Work (day camps for city children), literary events, lecture series, and fellowship gatherings...After denominational mergers among Methodists in the 1930s, the Epworth League became known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship; it survived in 1994 as the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (case.edu).

So, there is a little history on a lovely window. This leads me to mention the need for prayer for our young people and the great need to organize more youth groups to encourage our youth in the pursuit of the things of the Spirit. We also need to resource and assist parents in their great work of leading their children to a closer walk with God. Some are already doing a great job in this area. We praise God for you and continue to pray for our young families.

In this day of great challenge for youth and for adults, lets remember one of my favorite passages: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). The future is as bright as the promises of God!

In Him,

**Brian**

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kary McAtee



### PROGRAM UPDATES

Theme – First Christians in Community

Bible Memory Verse – “As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Peter and John (Acts 4:1-22)

May 10<sup>th</sup> – Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-17)

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Paul is Changed (Acts 9:1-19)

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Paul Escapes (Acts 9:20-25)

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

### RESOURCES

**Deep Blue Adventures App** – This app developed by Abingdon Press is a resource that accompanies the Deep Blue curriculum that we use at FUMC for Children’s Church and Sunday School. Weekly features include a parent portal explaining the focus of each lesson, animated videos of each lesson, and three different scripture based games!

**YouTube: Saddleback Kids** – This YouTube Channel has over 1,000 EXCELLENT animated videos based on Biblical stories, “Church at Home” video lessons, age-level series, and virtual worship!

**Facebook: Spring Heights** – Spring Heights is the camp and retreat center of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. The staff of Spring Heights in Spencer, WV and beyond is offering virtual camp! By liking and following their Facebook page, you will have access to virtual crafts, music, Bible exploration, and more! You can also e-mail your child’s name, age, and address to [info@springheights.org](mailto:info@springheights.org) for a fun packet!

**wwumc.org** – Select the COVID-19 tab for resources for families, youth, and young adults!

If your family is looking for resources that don’t include technology or resources related to a specific topic, please contact Kary McAtee at 304-642-0518 or [kary.kramer@yahoo.com](mailto:kary.kramer@yahoo.com)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are still planning for VBS to be held Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at our church! Normally our planning meetings would be starting now, but since that is not advised at this point Kary will be personally contacting individuals who have helped in the past to help again this year. If you would like to volunteer please contact Kary at 304-642-0518.

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We would like to honor our congregation’s 2020 high school and college graduates! Those who would like to be recognized are asked to e-mail Rhonda at [rhondaelmer1@gmail.com](mailto:rhondaelmer1@gmail.com) before Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> with the following information: where they are graduating from, with what degree (if college graduate), names of parents and grandparents, what they plan to do after graduating, and a picture if they wish to have it included in the June 2020 Newsletter.

**\*\*2020 AFTER PROM PARTY HAS BEEN CANCELLED\*\***

# Music Ministries

“God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and skies.”

Martin Luther

I love spring! What speaks to me at this time of the year is to see things that once looked dead through the winter months come to new life and bloom with such beauty. Brian and I have been taking a drive each evening and we have noticed the beautiful spring blooms on the trees and bushes.



I began to think one day as we drove that how ironic it is that Easter happens in the Spring of the calendar year? Coincidence? No, I believe this was all part of God’s plan. Easter is about new life that was planted. And just like the wonderful color palette of spring that comes because of that initial planting, Jesus came, planted the seed of His life so that we could experience the beauty of eternal life with Him.

Now everything in life starts with first planting a seed: a business, a church, a marriage, a relationship, etc. And the first step is an act of “faith”. In order to take that first step, we must go to the garden as Jesus did seeking the Lord’s presence and His divine wisdom. This makes me think about the beautiful words of the hymn “In the Garden.” Meditate on these inspiring words for a moment:

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ears  
The Son of God discloses  
And He walks with me and He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known.

Let's start planting the seeds of the Gospel, the seeds of salvation and new life. Let's sow the seeds of love, joy, righteousness and all the tasty fruits of the Spirit. As we sow them throughout our daily lives, those dull, dry landscapes will begin to blossom into something beautiful.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the honor both now and on that eternal day.”

2 Peter 3:18

*Susan*



We are continuing to accept food and monetary donations for the Backpack Program's needy children of Randolph County. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping each other safe and healthy.

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Operation Christmas Child was off to a good start prior to the Corona Virus pandemic but because there is no way to drop off shoe box items at the church we are asking you to consider making a monetary donation by making a check to FUMC, earmark it OCC in the memo line, and mail it to the Church or place the check in the mail slot at the office.



If you have items suitable to put in shoeboxes I will be glad to pick them up. Items most needed are school supplies, hygiene items and small toys. For pick up call Bob Cowgill at 304-636-6367.

Thank you for your past support and we hope you will continue to participate with Operation Christmas Child, the largest children's Christmas project in the world. The goal for our church is to reach 1,200 children. This will require a team effort and volunteers are always needed.

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Sunday, June 14th 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Wide Picnic sponsored by the United Methodist Men-FUMC Family Life Center 12:30 at the conclusion of the 11:00 service. Menu will include BBQ chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon, and drinks. This event is pending as determined by the reopening of church activities after the coronavirus pandemic.

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**Mother's Day is on Sunday,**

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**



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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**  
*to the families of*  
**Adley Casey and Dana "Danny" Kirkpatrick**



**Congratulations... to David and Kayla Doerr upon the birth of their daughter**  
**Evelyn Mae Doerr, (April 13, 2020),**  
**granddaughter of Lanny and Paula Doerr and Gary and Jessie Currence.**

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

**The Circuit Rider**

**May 2020**

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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

