

February 2019

“The Zeal to Heal”



Senior *Pastor* In his book Churches That Heal, Doug Murren shares four things that can keep a church from being a healing church. This itemized list provides a wonderful foundation for contemplating where we are and perhaps, where we wish to be.

1. Lack of Compassion: the author mentions that 2 million people die every year, but only 200,000 die having made a known personal commitment to Jesus Christ. If this statistic is accurate, it ought to shake us up - so many souls are passing into eternity without the assurance of heaven. Perhaps our hearts need to be broken over the lost! Dr. John Henry Jowett noted, “The gospel of a broken heart demands the ministry of bleeding hearts...We can never heal the needs we do not feel...We must bleed if we would be ministers of the saving blood.”
2. The “Us” versus “Them” mentality: If we ever think that we are better than someone else, we have lost the ability to truly care. Remember, at the foot of the cross, the ground is level. We must treat everyone with the love of Christ, regardless of color, class or career.
3. A Lack of Transparency: authenticity is everything! In other words, do we practice what we preach? Does church make a noticeable difference in our lives? Are we growing in Christ? Do we admit our mistakes and take steps to overcome them? The world is watching!
4. Consumer Mentality: many Christians view church only as a place where they get their needs met. This can lead to a self-serving mentality. The church exists to move people from such a mentality to a serving others mentality. Unfortunately, many churches have bought into this consumer mentality, making their competition other churches. The church must remember that its main focus is to make disciples, not satisfied consumers!



I am very pleased about the trajectory our church is on. We are, in many ways, a church that heals. And we are striving to do even better as the Holy Spirit guides us. As we continue this journey together, let's keep asking, “Are we displaying compassion?” “Have we excluded anyone?” “Is this a transparent community?” “Do we lead people from attending to serving?”

In the healing name of Christ,

Brian

February Sermon Series: Famous Couples of the Bible

- 3 – Adam and Eve: A Match Made in Heaven – Genesis 2:21-24
- 10 – Isaac and Rebekah: When Silence *Isn't* Golden – Genesis 24:61-67
- 17 – Ahab and Jezebel: Herway or the Highway – I Kings 16:29-33
- 24 – Joseph and Mary: Raising God – Matthew 1:18-25

First United Methodist Church ☩ 315 Kerens Avenue ☩ Elkins, West Virginia 26241 Church:
304-636-0660 ☩ www.fumcelkinswv.com ☩ Rev. Brian Seders, Pastor ☩ Parsonage: 304-636-0406

Join us!

For an Evening of Worship

With the

Elkins First UMC

“Heart of Worship” Praise Band

Friday February 15, 2019

6:30pm

Free will offering:

canned food or monetary donation.

To benefit

The Tyrand Co-Op Ministries

“...serve one another humbly in love” Galatians 5:13

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee

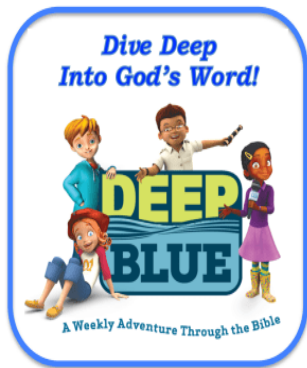
Sledding Sunday

An afternoon of sledding at D&E turned into a Bounce-House Bash in the Family Life Center, due to the lack of snow. Nineteen people attended the event and had a great time bouncing, playing games, and eating pizza together. We are so very fortunate to have a facility with a gym and our very own bounce-house!



Program Updates

In Sunday School and Children's Church, we will be learning about family wisdom and some ways that families remember God. We will hear stories of the ways families share wisdom with younger generations. How does your family remember God? How does our church family remember God?



February 3rd – Families Remember God: Families remember and share God's word. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

February 10th – Family Traditions: Daniel keeps the food laws and traditions of the Israelites. (Daniel 1:1-21)

February 17th – A Family's Faith: Timothy's mother and grandmother teach him about God. Paul teaches Timothy, too. Then Timothy teaches others about God. (Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:5-7)

February 24th – Family Proverbs: Families share wisdom. (Proverbs 10:1; 17:17)

Christian Education Committee

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:00 in the parlor for all members of the Christian Education Committee and anyone else who might be involved with or interested in hearing about our Children and Youth Programs. We will be discussing plans for an upcoming Easter event. Reminder calls will be placed prior to the meeting, and in the event of inclement weather calls will be placed regarding the status of the meeting.





February is Black History month in the United Methodist church. The Chancel Choir always looks to the spiritual as one way to celebrate the rich heritage of music that lives for us in African American composition.

New music is in the rehearsal queue for the Chancel singers. *One Day Soon, We'll See Jesus*, weaves the familiar Andre Crouch's *Soon and Very Soon* with an original melody by Mary McDonald. Another piece, *Teach Me, Lord, to Wait*, does the same weaving, using *On Eagle's Wings*, with the Stuart Hamblen tune *They That Wait Upon the Lord*, with scripture quotes from Isaiah 40).

ConwayRingers is also looking at new music for the bleak midwinter.

Anticipating Lent, *What Wondrous Love is This*, uses the technique of a wooden dowel rubbed along the rim of the bell casing, creating a humming sound, which is called a singing bell. Other tunes being read are *Celebration on "Duke Street"* (the tune name for *Jesus Shall Reign*), and *I Stand Amazed in the Presence*.

A personal word of thanks to Grace Roy who has played the 11:00 worship services for me in January. I needed the time to recuperate from bronchitis and its aftermath, that grabbed me, not once, but twice during December. Our church is so fortunate to have someone to step in *gracefully*, and manage the responsibilities. Thank you also to the Chancel Choir who continued to provide service music leadership, along with Grace's selection of the choral anthems.

A pastor friend of mine who lives in Huntington always sends his Christmas cards after Christmas, which makes sense - the season is so busy, especially for the pastor of an active congregation. Over the years his greetings have begun to arrive later and later - it was New Years for a long time, and then they began arriving just before Epiphany. This year however, his card arrived 6 days after Epiphany. Even he addresses the bleak midwinter that Christina Rossetti acknowledged in her poetry. But the first two verses set the stage for the stanzas that follow, about the Christ Child and those who sought Him out. Our Children's Choir sang a new musical setting to this poetry in December for Cantata:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you from the Music Ministry.



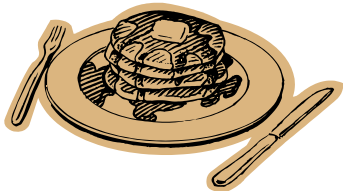
Please welcome our new members: Marshall and Kathryn Howser.

BAPTISM

Jessamyn Justine Stalnaker, daughter of Matthew and Jenna Stalnaker and granddaughter of Jeffrey and Gladys Stalnaker and Robert and Alisa Gilmore.



The United Methodist Men are beginning preparation for their 74th Annual Men's Pancake and Sausage Feed set for Saturday, March 9th. Men will be serving meals from 7:00 am through 3:00 pm. Anyone who would like to help with this project, please contact the following shift leaders or Dick Hamrick at 304-614-4662:



Friday Evening Set-Up: John Wilson and Bob Jones
Saturday First Shift: Jimmy Poyner and Jeff Trulik
Saturday Second Shift: Charlie Friddle and Mike Hinchman

Mark your calendar and save the date. Saturday, March 9th.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women's News

Welcoming New Life Into to Our Community

Circle 3 recently delivered a beautiful basket of newborn items to be given to the 2019 New Year's Baby born at Davis Medical Center. Contrara and Chad Harlen welcomed a baby girl, Casey, as the first baby born in 2019. Chad was quoted as saying *"It's really cool, they came in here and gave us a basket from the First United Methodist Church here in Elkins and they made some handmade quilts, knitted hats and stuff like that. It's really awesome."*

Pictured is one of the nurses in the OB section of Davis Memorial Medical Center accepting the New Year's Baby basket when it was delivered by Circle 3 chairpersons, Donna Hamrick and Bobbi Trimboli.



Circle 2 had already prepared and delivered a gift basket for the baby born closest to Christmas Day. Other baskets are sent for Valentine's Day and Easter by other circles. In addition, the Social Action Committee prepares layettes throughout the year to provide to parents who need newborn items when the family first prepares to exit DMC.

Newborns and families are well served by the women of FUMC. The staff there always express great appreciation for that ministry.

SERVING OLDER CHILDREN AS WELL

Hygiene kits that were assembled during our Fall Women's Retreat have been delivered to many in the community as the need arises. Most recently, 15 kits were delivered to the WV Children's home. FUMC women attend to needs of people every age in a variety of ways.

Homemade Chili for Soup--er Bowl Sunday

Just a reminder for those who ordered chili from FUMC Women that pick up dates and times are Saturday, February 2nd from 12:30-1:30pm or Sunday, February 3rd from 12 noon until 1:30pm. Any orders not picked up by 1:30pm on that Sunday will be considered a donation. This should offer a warm, delicious addition to your Super Bowl party. Thanks to all who contributed to this project!

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 28 at 1pm Executive Board Meeting in Church Parlor

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS							
1	Norman Wagner	9	Hugh Hitchcock	17	Kevin McKinnie	25	Andrew Thompson
1	Donna Simmons	9	Leo Ware	17	Morgan Johnson	25	Scott Cotreave
1	Autumn Elmore	10	Don Wetsch	17	Bill Riffiee	25	Tori Jack
1	Eddie Maurer	10	Jane Wamsley	17	Derek Wetsch	26	Ruth Hepler
1	Billy Maurer	10	Pam Keller	17	Ethan Spraberry	25	Diana Patella
1	Jerrod Poe	11	Dick Casey	18	Terri Davis	26	Ward Wirth
2	Zan White	11	Craig Merriam	18	Rick Campbell	26	Logan Stalnaker
2	Penny Friddle	11	Todd Wilfong	18	Merllene Yorkey	27	Michele Higgins
3	Margaret Bennett	11	Tommy Elmore	18	Andrew Hinchman	27	Cord Elmer
3	Angie Kisner	12	John Gainer	18	Liz Stout	28	Basil Hensley
3	Liam Gongola	12	Andrea Jones	18	Daniel Parks	28	Dominic Castillo
4	Loleta Yardley	12	Jaden Pratt	18	Aiden Gard	28	Julie George
4	Cindy Calain	13	Deborah Morgan	18	Cooper Ruud	28	Darren Lloyd
4	Mollie Lemasters	13	Matt Wilfong	19	Richard Smith	28	Katie Carowick
5	Kelly McQuain	13	Stephanie Ruud	20	Barbara Smith	29	Jennifer Band
5	Steven Seibert	13	Sheena Sayres	20	Pamela Straley	29	Kailey Wilfong
6	Vilas Stalnaker	13	Megan Phares	20	Cherie Underwood		
6	Neil Stalnaker	14	Betty Conrad	21	Thomas Singleton		
6	Mike Westfall	14	Zachary Barrickman	21	Elana Vandevander		
7	Carol Ice	14	Missy Poyner	21	Sara Cain		
7	Leslie Tompkins	14	Zachary Law	22	Tom Wamsley III		
7	Elaine Valentine	14	Dan Chenoweth	22	Jim M. Davis		
8	Mark Carowick	14	Addie Berdine	22	Sarah Sayres		
8	Jim Crowley	15	Carole Hyre	24	Dave Vandenberg		
8	Betty Moore	15	Lee Underwood	24	Tara Meade		
9	Bernice Backus	17	Alexis Armstrong	25	Carol Band		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Chris & Heather Croson
13	Herman & Betty Conrad
13	Burr & Jane Corley
15	Frank & Carolyn Gola
15	Toby & Marcia Myers
22	Jim & Cindy Stemple
28	Tom & Jeanne Hanna



Join us to celebrate Scout Sunday on
February 10 with Cub Scouts and Troop 88
at the 11:00 Worship Service.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of
Marguerite Simmons-Byrne, James F. "Jim" Wilson
and William Henry "Bill" Durst.

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

The Circuit Rider

February 2019

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@gmail.com

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Financial Secretary: Danielle Taylor

danielle@fumcelkinswv.com

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

