

Back on the first Sunday of January I preached on “Peace.” I used the following text from Numbers chapter 6: “<sup>22</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>23</sup>‘Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites.’ Say to them: <sup>24</sup>‘The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.’”

I wanted to give us a key word for the new year, and I felt God lay on my heart that we needed to focus on God’s peace. We are almost half way through the year, so this would be a good time for review.

In my message I shared that the above passage has been called “The Lord’s Prayer” of the Old Testament. There are 3 important points expressed in it: 1) It is God’s desire to bless His people (verse 22), It is God’s desire to make His presence known to His people (verse 25), and it is God’s desire to give His peace to His people (verse 26).

The word used for peace in Numbers 6:26 is the Hebrew word “Shalom.” Its meaning contains the ideas of security, wholeness, inner harmony and balance. Its use made its way into saying “hello” and “goodbye.” Shalom is just what we need for life in this busy, often chaotic world. Shalom is meant to bid us well whether we are coming or going.

As I write this article, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, is ablaze. Construction on the cathedral began in 1163 and was finished in 1345. As far as I know, at this time, there has been no loss of life (thank the Lord!), but the loss of history, and the aesthetic beauty, is tragic in its own way. An even more tragic story surfaces from 16<sup>th</sup> century England. Nicholas Ridley, an Anglican clergy and bishop of the London area, was arrested over a political disagreement. Nicholas offered support to a cousin of Edward VI, Lady Jane Grey, as his successor rather than one of the daughters of Henry VIII. When Lady Jane fell out of favor with the council and Mary was proclaimed Queen, Nicholas was sent to the Tower of London. He was tried for heresy, quickly convicted and ordered to be burnt at the stake. Such dealings are hard for us to imagine in our culture.

What struck me about this event was Nicholas’ response when his brother offered to stay with him during the night before his execution in hopes of offering him some comfort. Nicholas denied his brother’s assistance and indicated that he intended to sleep as comfortably as ever because he was filled with the peace of God. Amazing, isn’t it?

It is most unlikely that we will ever have to suffer at Nicholas’ level or to die because of a political choice or religious conviction. Praise God! But how wonderful to know that God can quiet every storm and provide us with the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7!)

So, my friends, never despair. God’s peace can survive the test of fire! May we know the Shalom of God each and every day, in our coming and in our going, until, together with our Christ, we shall meet the King of Peace in the air!

*Brian*

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Director of Christian Education  
Kary McAtee

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> our Christian Education Committee hosted our first Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs. Seventeen children and their parents gathered in the Family Life Center to listen to an Easter story, hunt for Easter eggs, decorate eggs, and eat snacks. The kids had a fantastic time, and a number of parents expressed how grateful they were that our church thought of their kids.



Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for running with this idea! They spent a great deal of time organizing, setting up, and showing kids and families exceptional hospitality. Thank you to the congregation for donating an abundant amount of money, snacks, and decorations to support this outreach ministry! We are so very blessed to be a blessing!

### **PALM SUNDAY & EASTER**

A parade of waving palm branches and shouting hosannas during the 11:00 service, lead our children into the Family Life Center for an Easter Egg Hunt before heading upstairs to Children's Church. All the kids really enjoyed this special treat! On Easter Sunday we made sand art crosses to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

### **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

Our 2019 Confirmation Class officially became members of First United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> during the 11:00 service. Thea Kerns and Grace Winans spent nine weeks growing in their faith, learning about their commitment, and discovering God's call for their lives. Confirmation is a major accomplishment for Thea and Grace, and a high and holy moment in the life of our church. It is truly an honor for these two special young ladies to be a part of our congregation.

Thank you to Thea, Grace, and their families for being loyal and faithful. Thank you to Beverly Armentrout, Ashley Jones, Katie Kerns, and Andrea Wamsley-Barr for agreeing to be mentors for Thea and Grace during this journey and beyond. Thank you to our United Methodist Women for hosting a wonderful reception after church and the United Methodist Men for purchasing personalized Bibles for Thea and Grace.



## PROGRAM UPDATES

This month in Sunday School and Children's Church, we will be hearing Bible stories about friends, and our Bible Memory Verse for the month of May is Proverbs 17:17 – "Friends love all the time, and kinsfolk are born for times of trouble."

May 5<sup>th</sup> – COMMUNION – Best Friends: David and Jonathan are best friends. They are so close that they are like brothers. (1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42)

May 12<sup>th</sup> – MOTHER'S DAY – Courageous Friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand up together for what is right. Friends are like family. (Daniel 3:1-30)

May 19<sup>th</sup> – The Four Friends: Friends and family work together and help one another. (Mark 2:1-12)

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Prayerful Friends: Families help and pray for one another. (Acts 9:36-43)



## AFTER PROM PARTY

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> our church will once again be hosting an After Prom Party Lock-In for Elkins High School Students! We are in the midst of working with the school and local businesses and organizations to make this event safe and successful. Monetary donations are always appreciated and will be used to purchase door prizes, rent games, and provide food. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile program!

## MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Following breakfast, provided by the United Methodist Men, all children and mothers are invited to stay for Mother's Day crafts and activities hosted by the Sunday School Department.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING

A meeting for anyone who is interested in volunteering during Vacation Bible School this year will be held on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the parlor.

**"To Mars and Beyond: Explore Where God's Power Can Take You!"**

**Science - Crafts - Bible Stories - Singing - Dancing - and More!**

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Dinner at 5:30 & Program from 6:00 to 8:00**

**Children who have completed Pre-K through 5th Grade are welcome!**

**An adult class and mission team will also be offered this year!**



## GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be honoring our congregation's high school and college graduates. Those who would like to be recognized are asked to contact Kary or Rhonda in the church office by Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to join us in the City Park after the 11:00 service for the Church Picnic.



## CHURCH FAMILY NATURE WALK

A nature walk is being organized for our family friendly activity during the month of May! More information will be included in the weekly bulletin and church social media sites over the next couple of weeks!

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## MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe

The Chancel Choir and ConwayRingers prepared music for Maundy Thursday and Easter in inspired fashion. Gratitude is extended ringers and singers, and also to Casey Casto, Vicki Fisher, Lydia Jones, Andy Montgomery, Grace Roy, and Linda Wagner for adding elements to the music that enhanced and completed. We were happy to have Rachel and Connor Montgomery with us as well. Exuberant and glorious would describe both the music and the musicians. Mike Hinchman, Bill Riffie, and Tim Stoneking were with us in the dress rehearsal for Easter, and we are beyond appreciative for their time and skill and consideration.

It has been an exciting time in the sanctuary as Tim Stoneking and his crew have worked on the installation of a new sound system and acoustic improvements. The Chancel Choir rehearsed in the sanctuary to begin the process of listening differently, in anticipation of changes just before Easter. Several folks have commented about how they can 'hear themselves' now. A good thing.

The annual Music Ministries dinner is scheduled for May 14 in the Family Life Center. This meal together has a long history; during Jack Basil's directing years in the 1960s, my memory recalls that after the Chancel Choir sang for the sunrise service, they walked to a restaurant in the Tygart Hotel to share breakfast (and lots of coffee!). They would return for the 11:00 worship service. This gathering has had many forms - sometimes the church would provide the funds for the meal. In recent years we have included families, and we have moved to a potluck style meal as a way to be better stewards.

Blessings to you from the Music Ministry.

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The **congregation** is invited to the annual tradition of the **Mother's Day Breakfast** on **Sunday, May 12, at 9:30 AM** in the **FLC**. The U. M. Men are planning a delicious breakfast which includes scrambled eggs, ham, fried potatoes and biscuits in honor of all women and their families. Following breakfast, all children and mothers are invited to stay for Mother's Day crafts and activities hosted by the Sunday School Department.

**34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2 @ 12:15 PM  
IN THE LARGE PAVILION AT ELKINS CITY PARK**  
Come eat the Men's famous BBQ chicken and join in fellowship with one another.  
You do not need to bring anything to the picnic.



# United Methodist Women

## NEWS FROM THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers it would be fair to say that the Spring Bazaar and Country Store were, once again, successful ventures. Food and fellowship were enjoyed; lovely gifts went home with some; baked goods went out the door; great deals were found in the basement that found their ways to new homes, and a lovely quilt was awarded and, possibly, will be displayed in a private home or become a cozy coverlet on a bed. For our organization, our numerous missions are secured for another year thanks to all that attended.

The following pictures reveal the number of people consuming a tasty lunch; senior members of our church in attendance; a joyful server; a family moment and the "deals and steals" group after a long day.



### Holy Week

Following a long tradition, the First United Women prepared and served the lunch on the Monday of Holy Week for the noon services. Members such as Donna Trulik, Trudy Carowick and Katie Kerns found themselves in the kitchen of the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church working with other women from various churches in Christian love and joy to serve the community in worship.

### Circle 3

Members of Circle 3 gathered for an after church lunch at Henry G's Cafe on March 24 to welcome their new members: Carla Lambert, Phyllis Boyer, Angela Sharp, Julie Civiello and Melody Himes. This is one of the few group gatherings this circle has but they do their share to serve our church. Welcome, ladies, we are so happy to have you.

### **Infant Car Seats**

An example of one of the unexpected missions that often arise was a recent request from Davis Medical Center for donations of car seats that can safely transport newborn infants home from the hospital. These are provided to families in need. The Executive Committee quickly arose to the occasion and began by supplying five car seats.

### **Easter Baby Basket**

Circle 1 provided an Easter Basket, this one containing all needed things for a newborn (no chocolate bunnies yet), for an Easter newborn at Davis Medical Center. Great appreciation goes to Circle 1 and all the other circles who provide these seasonal gifts for new families of our community.



### **United Women's Scholarship**

As part of another long time tradition, the women of FUMC are offering scholarships for members of our congregation who are to be 2019 high school graduates. Applications are available in the church office. Congratulations to all our graduates! **Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Future Dates to Remember:**

Friday, May 3 Church Women United will meet at FUMC at noon. FUMW women will host.

Sunday, June 16 FUMW will host a Father's Day Breakfast.

Happy Spring to our church family from FUMW!!!

it's a  
Boy

### **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Congratulations upon the birth of...**

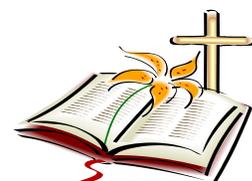
**Kavan Duval Friend, son of Tyler and Jamie Mergenthaler Friend and grandson of  
Barbara Mergenthaler.**

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 Cherok	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				
13	Danielle Adkisson	25	Laura Kennedy				
13	Dylan Adkisson	25	Destiny Brown				

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

*to the families of*

Hope Caplinger, Lindsey Kenney, Paul Mullins and Deborah Super.



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**The Circuit Rider**  
**May 2019**

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FIRST U.M. CHURCH

ELKINS, WV

PERMIT NO. 14

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Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian: Angela Kisner

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

