

Valentine was a priest, possibly a bishop, serving in the Roman Empire, who ministered to persecute Christians. He was martyred on February 14th, and buried in a Christian cemetery just north of Rome, in 269 AD. The feast of St. Valentine was first observed on February 14th in the year 496, established by Pope Gelasius I. It was during the middle-ages that the day began to take on a romantic theme, as it was believed that birds paired in mid-February.

Dr. Dale Galloway tells the story of a shy, unassuming little guy named Chad. One February before Valentine's Day, Chad came home and told his mother he wanted to make Valentine's cards for everyone in his class. Her heart sank for Chad as he told her because she watched every day as the children from Chad's class walked home from school, talking and running, and playing, but never including Chad in their fun. She chose to remain silent, though, and to help Chad with his desire to give his classmates Valentines. For nearly three weeks, Chad and his mother worked tirelessly to craft thirty-five different cards.

Valentine's Day finally arrived, and Chad excitedly loaded his hand-made Valentine's cards into his bag and bolted out the door. Mom thought it was going to be a tough day for Chad so she thought some nice warm cookies and a glass of milk would help to ease the pain of the day when he returned from school. Surely he would be disappointed, for she knew the children were unlikely to remember Chad in their Valentine's. She was hurt to think how bad this day was going to be.

That afternoon she had the cookies and milk ready when school was out. She heard children outside so she looked out the window, and sure enough, here they came laughing and playing as always. Chad was following behind all alone, as always. He was walking a little faster than usual, though. She waited for Chad to burst into tears as he made it to the door. His arms were empty, and she could hardly choke back the tears as he burst through the door.

"Mommy has some warm cookies and milk for you," she said.

But Chad hardly heard a word she said. He just walked right by her, his face aglow, and all he could say was: "Not a one...not a single one!"

Mom's heart sank. Then Chad added, "I didn't forget a one, not a single one!" (SermonCentral.com).

Chad wasn't concerned about himself. He was concerned about others. His magnificent care and love for others teaches us a valuable lesson: our own troubles seem less when we focus on the needs of others. Chad's story also reminds us that God hasn't forgotten us; Jesus said, "I have not lost one of those that you have given men" (John 18:9). We belong...we belong to Jesus!

Happy Valentine's day, and happy every day!

Brian

Director of Christian Education Kary McAtee

Last month, our Bible memory verse was Mark 6:12, "So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives." In Children's Church one Sunday as we learned more about the verse where it is in the Bible, who "they" are, and what "proclaimed" means; I asked our group of 15 children, "And, how exactly do we 'change our hearts and lives'? Without hesitation the group answered, "Jesus!" Let the confidence of our children be the inspiration to proclaim Jesus in our hearts and lives.



Pictured left are kids working together on a books of the Bible activity in Children's Church.

Pictured right are 12 children and 14 adults enjoying an afternoon of jumping in the bounce house and drinking hot chocolate, since there was no snow for sledding.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Theme: Leaders of the Community

Memory Verse: "He did what was right in the Lord's eyes." (2 Kings 22:2)

February 2nd – Deborah (Judges 4:4-16)

February 9th – David (1 Samuel 16:1-23)

February 16th – The Servant Girl (2 Kings 5:1-19)

February 23rd – Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-23:23)



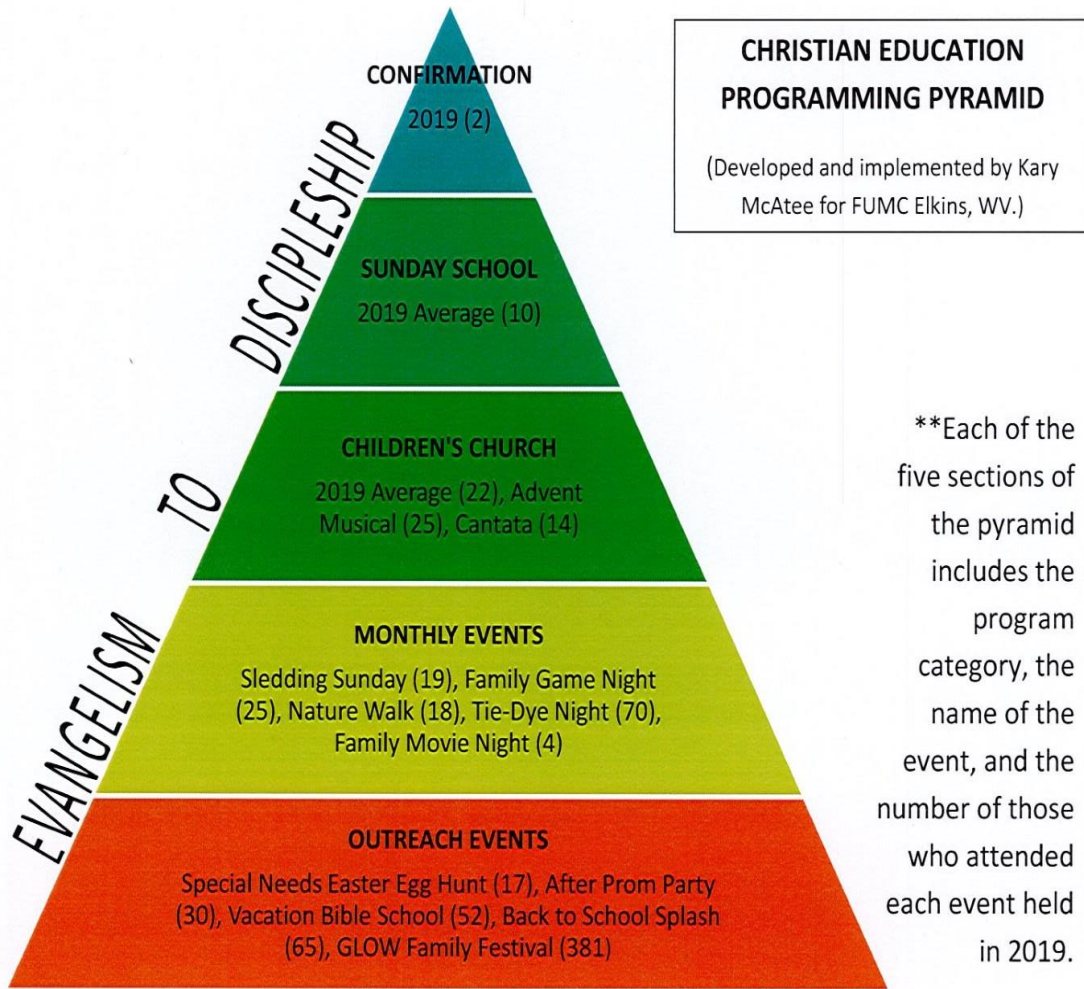
PAINTING SUNDAY

Everyone is welcome to join us at 5:00 on Sunday, February 23rd in the Family Life Center to create artwork together! All supplies for this art activity will be provided by the church, as well as, snacks and drinks. Spread the word, and check our church Facebook page for more details!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:00 in the parlor. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and organize the Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 28th in the Family Life Center. If you would like to be involved in this event, please plan to attend this meeting. Any questions may be directed to Kary McAtee.





In an effort to create more awareness of the progress of children, youth, and family programs at First United Methodist Church of Elkins, the Christian Education Programming Pyramid for 2019 is included in this month's newsletter. This model for ministry was created and implemented by Kary McAtee, Director of Christian Education, over the last three years.

The goal of the ministry model is to guide children, youth, and families from evangelism toward discipleship through outreach events, monthly events, children's church, Sunday school, and confirmation. According to *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry* by Doug Fields, "evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who don't yet have a personal relationship with him" and "discipleship describes the building up or strengthening of believers in the quest to be like Christ."

Each event or program is created with a specific function and designed to be strategically placed on the pyramid in order to fulfill the goal of this area of ministry within our church. As we move up on the pyramid, each event and program purposefully decreases in the number of attendees in order to increase in intentionality of the interactions with each other and with God.

Based on the numbers of the last three years, we are on track to continue our increase in attendance on each level of programming from bottom to top. We look forward to adapting this model in the future as our children advance from confirmation to form a youth group!

We hope that this explanation aids in a better understanding of the ministry model for Christian Education at FUMC Elkins, and any questions may be directed to Kary McAtee.

Music Ministries

February 2020



Brian has been preaching on our vision statement and using one word each week to meditate on. As a reminder, our vision statement goes like this, “At First United Methodist, we endeavor to fulfill God’s mission for us by *Welcoming all, Relating to others, Learning to Lead and Being Willing to Serve.*”

When Brian and I arrived here 2 ½ years ago, we were incredibly welcomed here. And during these years we have become very connected as we have gotten to know each of you through our worship, fellowship and service together.

What I love about our time together is that through God’s Word and the songs that we sing each Sunday, we connect all the dots that completes a beautiful picture that God has created for our lives. It is a picture of our mission and vision statements. It’s a picture of the love of God that is meant to nourish us and grow us into the likeness of Christ.

We have added color to that picture with our songs inviting the “*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*” into our midst, proclaiming that “*This Is God’s House*”, asking the question, “*Do they See Jesus In Me?*” and taking the time to “*Step Into the Water*” so that through it all “*By This they Will Know Who Jesus Is*” in our daily walk with our Lord and Savior. And “*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*” we will “*Go Light Your World*”.

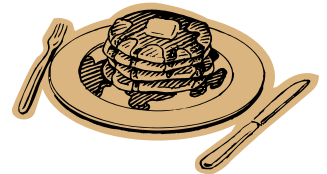
Isn’t it exciting to see God at work in our lives creating such a beautiful portrait of Him through our “Welcoming, Relating, Leading and Serving”?

Blessings through the beautiful name of *Jesus*,

Susan



The men of First United Methodist Church will host their 75th Annual Pancake and Sausage Feed on Saturday, March 14th, from 7am til 2pm. The cost of each meal is \$7.00 for adults...\$3.00 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased from the Methodist Men or at the door.



Anyone who would like to help with this event may contact the following shift leaders:

Friday Set-up	Bob Jones and John Wilson
Saturday First Shift 7:00-10:30	Jim Poyner and Jeff Trulik
Saturday Second Shift 10:30-2:00	Charlie Friddle and Mike Hinchman

Save the date: The Annual Church Picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, June 14th, in the Family Life Center. More information will follow.

United Methodist Women

News From the First United Methodist Women

2020 New Year's Baby and Family Receive Generous Gifts From Circle 3

For each special holiday a newborn born at Davis Medical Center and family receive special gifts from a Circle at FUMC. For the New Year's baby, Circle 3 provided a baby bathtub overflowing with hygiene and endearing clothing items. Handmade blankets, cap and booties were included. In addition, packages of diaper and wipes filled a large shopping bag to overflowing. The nurses always appreciate the deliveries when they arrive.

First United Women also provide layettes to David Medical Center during the rest of the year. Children's safety car seats have also been donated. Davis Medical Center appreciates our interest in their new families and we are pleased to support them as well.



Circle 1 Meets for Food and Fellowship

Even though each circle has business to conduct during their meetings, the time spent together also includes worship and fellowship which is an important aspect of our groups. Friendships develop; support systems grow; a sense of inclusion in a small church group is a special gift.

Circle 1 had their January meeting at Vintage Restaurant. Fourteen were in attendance to share 2020 with each other.



Upcoming Events

The Executive Board will be meeting to review their missions and projects for 2020. The goal will be to continue to support those printed in the December newsletter and be prepared for emergency requests as they can be accommodated. Members are happy to serve their community and the world beyond.



A new Session of Divorce Care will start **March 5th through May 28th**. The group will meet on **Thursday evening** from **7:00pm 8:30pm**. Divorce care is open to anyone who is separated, divorced or going through a divorce.

For more information contact Liz and Chris MacVean at 304-614-3799.

February's Mission Minute

"We had another wonderful Sidewalk Supper (dinner) for our homeless and needy Friday January 12, 2020. We had about 28-30 people and another 25-30 volunteers. It was awesome to see new volunteers coming to help out as well as our faithful monthly volunteers. Our next dinner will be Friday February 14 at 6 pm. Bring your Valentine and come on out and help us. It is a blessing for you to be able serve dinner, to sit down and eat with those who come and hear their stories, pray with them, hand out coats, hats, etc.

We continue our partnership with the Lighthouse Community Recovery Home. The Christmas Eve service offering amounted to almost \$1000 and was given to The Lighthouse.

The Mission Team will be providing snacks for the Elkins Mountain School staff one day the week of February 3-7. This is in appreciation for what they do for the children of WV.

If you are interested in becoming part of the mission outreach of the church please contact Kim Urban 304-704-5939 or join us Sunday February 2, 2020 at 12:15 pm in the parlor. "

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NEWS

Please donate the following items in month indicated and drop off in the OCC bin in the hall by the office. By taking advantage of sales throughout the year the items needed for our Shoebox Packing Party in November can be purchased at reduced prices.

February	Soap/Washcloths
March	Sidewalk Chalk
April	Dolls/Stuffed Animals
May	Cars/Trucks
June	Small Toys
July	Balls
August	Colored Pencils, Pencils, Pens, Crayons
September	70 sheet Notebooks Coloring books
October	Large Erasers/Pencil Sharpeners
November	Packing Party in Family Life Center

Cash donations can also be made by using the OCC envelopes that will be in the bulletin during the Christmas in July event. Contact Bob Cowgill to be involved in this year round ministry that reaches millions of children each year. Phone 304-636-6367.

The Health Ministry Team would like to encourage walking during February - American Heart Month

Walking is the ideal workout for many people. It is easy, accessible, inexpensive and injury-free. Besides helping us to lose or maintain weight, a regular walking program can help lower the risk of heart disease, high osteoporosis. Research shows that sitting longer than six hours per day increases health risks such as higher triglycerides, a larger waist and lower levels of “good” cholesterol. This is even if you exercise for the recommended hour per day.



Before you begin a walking program you should check with your personal physician to determine if your overall health will allow such an exercise program. You are ready to start once you have taken that precaution.

All you need for walking is a good, supportive pair of shoes. Walking shoes—unlike aerobics, tennis and running shoes—are made for the linear walking movement. They will have plenty of forefoot flexibility, heel cushioning and heel support. A walking shoe's lower-profile heel also helps you roll through your foot and avoid shin pain.

When you begin your walking program, do less than you think you can. Your muscles and heart need to get used to the movement. Initially aim for 30 minutes, three or four times a week. If necessary, break that time into three 10 minute walks. Even a few minutes of additional movement can make your heart healthier.

The Family Life Center (FLC) will be open at 9:00 - 11:00am Monday – Thursday for anyone who would like to walk. Please check the bulletin each week to confirm the FLC will be open and there are no scheduled activities. If there is no school the church will not be open for activities. So get out and get walking!



PIONEER CLUB MINISTRY

How wonderful the Pioneer Club Ministry is in its fifth month! The children have spent time “Searching God’s word” using the bible to learn scripture. They have learned about “What God says about Family”. We shared a Thanksgiving Meal with our Pioneer families and spent time learning about Advent. Hard to believe we will soon begin learning about Lent. Time really does go fast when you are having fun, fellowship and sharing Christ Love!

The Pioneer Club kids decorated Valentine boxes, which are on the table outside the church office. They had so much fun decorating the boxes with stickers, stamps and coloring pages. One of the boys used a stamp that was the symbol for “hashtag”, many of us know it as symbol for a numbers sign. Haha He kept saying “hashtag Pioneer” as he decorated his box, loved his enthusiasm! We invite the church to share your love by giving Valentines to the children. The club meets in the evenings and the children do not see many wonderful, loving people in the church. How special it will be when they open their boxes and see how many people are thinking about them. Valentines may be placed in the boxes until February 13th. I know the children will ask who gave them Valentines so we will have the church directory to put a face with the names.

January the children continued to learn about “What God says about family”. Leslie Elmore (Naomi) and Cindy Corder (Ruth) portrayed the special relationship between these two women. Leslie and Cindy did a wonderful performance with the children helping with the skit by showing emotions and repeating lines back to the characters.

Air1 radio will be sharing the following PSA about the Pioneer Club. If someone asks about the club be sure to let them know ALL children (not only church members) are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. *“Are you looking for a unique mid-week kids ministry? The First United Methodist Church Pioneer Club is just that! Every Thursday (there is school) Pioneer Club offers children Kindergarten - 5th grade tutoring at 4:30pm, a hot - healthy meal at 5:00pm and Club time is 5:30 – 6:30pm. Join the fellowship as volunteers engage youth in bible lessons, skits, games, and crafts that help encourage spiritual and personal development. ALL children are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. FUMC is located at 315 Kerens Avenue, Elkins. If you would like to know more, contact the church office and ask for Shelley 304-636-0660”.*

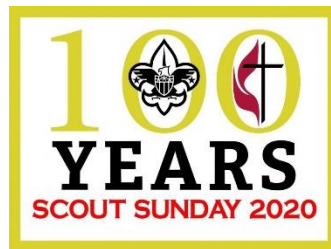
We are planning six weeks of lessons about the love and sacrifice as we study Christ journey to the cross. We will begin our Lenten journey February 27th and end on April 9th, Maundy Thursday. We are planning to have a Family Easter dinner and inviting the children and their families to join the church for Maundy Thursday services in the sanctuary. It will be so wonderful for the children to be a part of such a special service.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Norman Wagner	9	Leo ware	17	Morgan Johnson	25	Scott Cotreave
1	Donna Simmons	10	Don Wetsch	17	Bill Riffie	25	Tori Jack
1	Autumn Elmore	10	Jane Wamsley	17	Derek Wetsch	26	Ruth Hepler
1	Eddie Maurer	10	Pam Keller	17	Ethan Spraberry	26	Diana Patella
1	Billy Maurer	11	Dick Casey	18	Terri Davis	26	Ward Wirth
1	Jerrod Poe	11	Craig Merriam	18	Rick Campbell	26	Logan Stalnaker
2	Zan White	11	Todd Wilfong	18	Merllene Yorkey	27	Michele Higgins
2	Penny Friddle	11	Tommy Elmore	18	Andrew Hinchman	27	Cord Elmer
3	Margaret Bennett	12	John Gainer	18	Liz Stout	28	Basil Hensley
3	Angie Kisner	12	Andrea Jones	18	Daniel Parks	28	Dominic Castillo
3	Liam Gongola	12	Jaden Pratt	18	Aiden Gard	28	Julie George
4	Loleta Yardley	13	Deborah Morgan	18	Cooper Ruud	28	Darren Lloyd
4	Cindy Calain	13	Matt Wilfong	18	Richard Smith	28	Katie Carowick
4	Mollie Lemasters	13	Stephanie Ruud	20	Barbara Smith	29	Jennifer Band
5	Kelly McQuain	13	Sheena Sayres	20	Pamela Straley	29	Kailey Wilfong
5	Steven Seibert	13	Megan Phares	20	Cherie Underwood		
6	Vilas Stalnaker	14	Betty Conrad	21	Thomas Singleton		
6	Neil Stalnaker	14	Zachary Barrickman	21	Elana Vandevander		
6	Mike Westfall	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		
9	Hugh Hitchcock	17	Kevin McKinnie	25	Andrew Thompson		

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 9 with Cub Scouts and Troop 88
at the 11:00 Worship Service.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of
William "Bill" Currence, Tharon Jack and Delsie Rhoden.

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

The Circuit Rider
February 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@gmail.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: Jennifer Wanless

