



Susan and I were so very fortunate to be part of something very special last month. A new bridge very close to our farm was dedicated to the memory of Susan's cousin, US Navy Pilot Captain Homer "Leroy" Smith, who served his country valiantly and made the ultimate sacrifice, losing his life in the Vietnam War. Leroy was on his 183<sup>rd</sup> mission when he was shot down at Bac Giant, Vietnam, on May 20, 1967. What makes this even more difficult for his loved ones is that the paperwork for his promotion to captain was being processed, and as a result, he was due to fly back to his home base in California after his mission. He bailed out of his jet, and was seen alive and well by his wingman who circled above. He was shortly captured and executed the next day in Hanoi.

His loss was sharply felt – for he left behind his wife and 4 children. He attended Notre Dame for one year before being accepted to the Naval Academy, from which he graduated. He completed a Masters Degree at George Washington and a second Masters at the California Institute of Technology. He was a heavily decorated pilot. His home still stands right behind our house, on our property, in Alma. We think of him often – a Tyler County kid who rose in prominence and was headed on a path of further success. We find his service to his country striking, and his love for his family uncommon. We learned later that, under extreme interrogation, he refused to mention even one of his children's names or the name of his wife; he desired to protect them at all cost, not wanting to allow even a shred of propaganda to be used by his opponents.

Leroy's remains were not returned until May 29, 1974 – 7 long years for his friends and family to wonder about his fate. I have never been a soldier, nor have I ever lost someone because of combat. I've never had to wait for that phone call, or that visit, telling me what happened. I've never attended a service to enter the remains of a military hero. But, I wish to express, with all my ability, the profound sense of honor and respect due to not only our fallen heroes, but all of those who serve or have served. Thank you, on behalf of all of us, for protecting our incredible freedoms, sometimes even at the cost of life! God bless you! And God bless America!

*Brian*

**First United Methodist Church ✠ 315 Kerens Avenue ✠ Elkins, West Virginia 26241**  
**Church: 304-636-0660 ✠ [www.fumcelkinswv.com](http://www.fumcelkinswv.com) ✠ Rev. Brian Seders, Pastor ✠ Parsonage: 304-636-0406**

First United Methodist Church will once again hold a Band Stop and provide cookies and a bottle of water during the Mountain State Forest Festival Grand Feature Parade on **SATURDAY October 6, 2018 at 1:30PM. This will be done on the lawn of the parsonage. To volunteer to help serve or to donate cookies, please contact the church office. There will be no band stop during the Fireman's Parade.**

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kary McAtee

In August, our children performed a song from *Rolling River Rampage* Vacation Bible School for the 11:00 worship service. We had a visit from Martha and Mary in Children's Church, and they told us all about their visit from Jesus. Thirty-six people joined us for our Back to School Splash at the YMCA and food in the Family Life Center!



### PROGRAM UPDATES



In Sunday School and Children's Church we will be learning about Jesus' family. We will learn about Jesus' birth and about his mom and his dad. We are also going to learn about Jesus' cousin John, who baptized him, and that Jesus is God's Son. Family means more than just people from our birth family. Family can include people we love and people who love us.

We encourage you to spend time this month discussing, and even looking at pictures of, when and how each family member joined your family. What was it like when each person was born, adopted, or joined the family by marriage or friendship?

September 2 – Luke 2:1-7 "Jesus Joins His Family: Jesus was born into a family."

September 9 – Luke 2:39-52 "Jesus and His Parents: Listening and learning."

September 16 – Matthew 3:13-17 "God's Family: Jesus is God's Son."

September 23 – Matthew 4:18-22 "Jesus Creates a Family: Jesus chose the disciples to be his family."

September 30 – Matthew 19:13-15 "Jesus and the Children: Children are an important part of God's family."

### LOOKING FORWARD

#### Family Movie Night

September 23 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Snacks and drinks will be provided



**IMPORTANT:** any students sixth grade and above who would be interested in participating in a confirmation class, please contact Kary McAtee 304-642-0518

## MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe

ConwayRingers and the Chancel Choir are back into regular rehearsals. Salad Suppers began the evenings before the first rehearsals, on August 27 and 29. We always enjoy this time of food, reconnection and hearing stories of the summer. There is much food shared from garden bounty. And someone always thinks that chocolate is a salad. (No more needs to be said about that!)

The Chancel Choir will return to the 11:00 worship service on September 9.

Much appreciation is extended to the folks who sang/played in July, August, and the first Sunday of September: Barry Band, Gary Crawford, Paula Doerr, Clark Evans, Vicki Fisher, Donna Jones, Andy Montgomery, Nick Patella, Jenny Pippin, Hollie Pritt, Judy Riffie, Jim Ritter, Grace Roy, Susan Seders, Cindy Stemple, Linda Wagner.

Our church is blessed with such an extravagant abundance of people who answer the call to ministry in music. Many folks have sung in the Chancel Choir for 30-40 years. It has always been my opinion that church choirs are not volunteer in any sense. They are intentional to set aside a regular time each week, to listen and look, and count and breathe, and try something a director is certain is possible for which they think it is not.

Music and faith are intertwined in these rehearsals, so much so that they become indistinguishable.

We extend always an invitation to anyone who wants to do music with us.

Blessings to you from the Music Ministry.

## Backpack Food Program



School has started and we will meet to pack backpacks on Thursday evenings on the stage in the Family Life Center, beginning on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 pm. We are presently collecting new backpacks and food items to include: granola bars, individual packets of oatmeal, canned ravioli, fruit cups, veggie cups, snack cracker packs, and pudding cups. Please drop off your items in the bin marked "BACKPACK PROGRAM" by the church office or you may make a donation and earmark your check "Backpack Program". This is an ongoing school project. Monetary, school supplies and food donations are always appreciated. Thank you for your continued support to help the children in Randolph County.



The United Methodist Men are preparing for the Forest Festival Band stop during the Mountain State Forest Festival. They are donating water for area bands participating in the parade.

Save the date. The Christmas Advent Dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Men will be held on Sunday, December 2nd. The men invite the congregation to a evening of good food and fellowship.

# United Methodist Women

## News From the First United Methodist Women

### Vacation Bible School

FUMC Women were present to serve dinner to families and volunteers during VBS. Pictured are Betty Roberts, Judy Vandenberg and ever present helper, Dave, who willingly gave of their time on Tuesday evening. Thanks to all our members who were an integral part of the VBS staff.



### Members Visit Other Methodist Churches in Our Charge

It has been our pleasure to visit Sunday morning services of Methodist churches in our surrounding communities. The purpose was to invite our sisters in Christ to attend our day long retreat on Saturday, September 15. We hope many will opt to join us on for this day of spiritual rejuvenation and fellowship.

### September Retreat

We look forward to our day long retreat and hope for a large attendance. Much time in planning and preparation has been given to this event. It will be a joy to report next month on the day's activities.

Our best to all members of our church family as the change of season is quickly coming upon us.



## HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

Do you have an interest in serving but are not sure where or how to begin? Do you have concerns for the physical and spiritual health of the church, the community, the state? If you answered yes, the Health Ministry Team would like you to join our efforts to encourage physical and spiritual health.

The survey distributed in August was well received. Many would like to know more about chronic disease information and prevention. Once a quarter a guest speaker will be invited to present programs on health. Topics will include chronic disease, nutrition and prevention. The first program will be in late October or early November.

Beginning September 4 we will begin walking. Tuesday and Thursday mornings we meet at 8:30 am in the Family Life Center to walk for 30 minutes. At 9:00 am, we have devotion for 15 minutes; what a great way to start the day. Everyone walks at their own pace. Some enjoy the time to walk alone and listen to the Christian music playing in the FLC, others enjoy the Christian fellowship as they walk, talk and laugh.

Are you a nurse (current or retired)? Do you have a desire share your knowledge and skills for two hours a month? The Health Ministry Team will be providing free blood pressure and diabetic screenings once a month after the 11:00 am worship service. In order to provide this program we will need not only nurses but additional volunteers the day of the screenings. If you are a nurse and have an interest in volunteering please contact Diana Patella.

One of the interests on the survey was to do “fun things together”. Some mentioned bike riding, hiking and fun activities in Christian fellowship. If you have an interest in hiking, there are some beautiful, easy trails, close by Elkins. A hike, a devotion and a picnic sound like a wonderful way to spend time in Christian fellowship. Once we know who has an interest we will find a time in October to enjoy God’s beauty together. If you cannot hike but want to participate, all are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be in the church office.

I have had some people to share an interest in walking and/or running a 5K. This is not something that the average person does and especially not without training. There are wonderful 6 – 10 week programs like “God to Bod” and “Genesis 5K” that encourage people to get moving in Christian fellowship. These programs work in a group setting, to learn not only to exercise but to spend time together in God’s Word. If you are a runner and feel this may be a ministry for you, we look forward to hearing from you. If you have an interest to participate with the Health Ministry Team or you would like to participate in one of the healthy opportunities mentioned above please call or text Shelley at 304-704-7039 or email to [shyre@drhyre.com](mailto:shyre@drhyre.com).

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;<sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

God loves you and so do I,  
Shelley Hyre

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Donald Cotgreave	9	Sarah Mattingly	16	Ross Ware	24	Cindy Corder
1	David Pingley	10	David Shields	17	Bob Conway	24	Ali Darden
1	Luanna Moore	10	Anna Downs	17	Mitchum Martsiller	24	Jean Skidmore
1	Laura Martin	11	Bob Darden	18	Kelly Stocks	26	Karen Tomblyn
1	Angela Robey	11	Pat Nestor	18	Linda Harris	26	Kelly Shuppe
1	Ashely Robey	11	Ben Backus	18	Brad Reger	26	Marc Wamsley
2	Heather Marstiller	11	Eric Merriam	18	Zach Hyre	26	Hillary Stemple
3	Theresa McClure	11	Vince Nucilli	18	Sean Wilfong	26	Lara Barkley
3	Harry Kramer	12	Mary Durham	19	Jenny Gear	26	Heather Carowick
3	Chris Stout	12	LuAnn McDowell	19	Jessica Putzulu	27	Judy Mongold
3	Danielle Mace	12	Bruce Kenney	19	Jory Karthikeyan	27	Cody Judy
4	Willard Herron	12	Anthony Jones	19	Katie Hinkle	27	Rylee Gard
4	Luanna McClelland	13	David Sneed	20	Herman Conrad	28	Beth Phillips
4	Sam Urban	13	Donnie Johnson	20	Zona Simmons	28	Henry Kennedy
4	Kaitlyn Richardson	13	Matt White	20	Judy Jack	29	Janet Godwin
5	Kathy Vance	13	Morgan Hanna	20	Lisa Preusch	30	Ryan Urban
5	Casey Wallace	14	Barbara Darden	20	LaDonna Rosencrance		
5	Liz MacVean	14	Ellen Kessler	21	Steve Yardley		
5	Bonnie Milnes	14	Margaret Hoyle	21	Kevin McClure		
5	Michael Marechek	15	Audrey Antolini	21	Vince Trimboli		
7	Scott Criss	16	Jeri Hatch	21	Athan Doerr		
7	Ethan Wilson	16	NJ Patella	22	Patty Goodwin		
9	Tom Oldham	16	Lauren Spears	24	Tim Amos		

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Andy & Rachel Montgomery	11	Allen & Debby Judy	23	Franklin & Laura Santmyer
2	Joe & Kelly Shuppe	18	Howard & Pamela Straley	23	Kevin & Michelle McKinnie
4	Wayne & Sheila Gregoire	19	Ken & Elsie Bucher	25	Byron & Sarah Sayres
5	Zan & Sarah White	20	David & Megan Stottlmyer	29	Jim & Lynn Ritter
9	Matthew & Lorrie Downs	22	Chip & Stacie Friddle		
10	Nick & Ann Marie Patella	23	Clifton & Carole Hyre		



Please welcome our new member: **Mary Margaret Lantz**

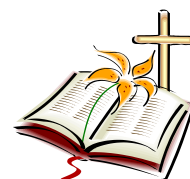
## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

*to the families of*

Glenda Fitzwater, and the Jones family upon the death of brother-in-law/uncle,  
Earl Bronson Fyor.

Sharon Teter and family upon the death of her sister, Nancy Mann.

Debbie Payne Fragale and family upon the death of her son, Austen Moore.



## Wesleyan District Committee on Lay Ministry

**Hello fellow Lay Servants! (...and, of course, Pastors and Laity of the Wesleyan District)**



It's that time of year again - time for our Fall Lay Servant Ministry Academy!

I know that there have been many changes to Lay Servant Ministries over the past few years, and you still might be uncertain as to where Lay Servants fit into the overall structure. I took a look at your class records that we have in the District office, and I see that several of you are very close to taking all of the classes you need to certify as Lay Speakers, so let's talk about what we currently need to get certified or stay in line with

the guidelines from the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Anyone who wants to be a Certified Lay Servant at any level must first take the basic Intro to Lay Ministry course. If you took this course prior to 2012, you will need to take the current course. Once you have completed the basic course and have taken one advanced course, you have earned the title "Certified Lay Servant."

For those wishing to proceed to become a Certified Lay Speaker, you must then take the Advanced Speaking/Preaching class. Once you complete this course, there are five other advanced courses that are required to become certified as a Lay Speaker – currently Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, United Methodist Heritage, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Polity, and Caring for Those Who Grieve.

After completion of these courses, you must fill out the Report of the Lay Servant to the Charge Conference (which is included in your church's charge conference paperwork each year), indicating your intended status. This will be reviewed by your pastor/SPRC and a recommendation will be made to the District, via your charge conference. Once approved at your charge conference meeting, your report will go to the Wesleyan District Committee on Lay Ministry for final sign-off.

As you are probably aware, there is one more designation that laity can pursue in Lay Servant Ministries.

The Certified Lay Minister is a relatively new tract for those interested in becoming assigned supply or filling the pulpit in a more formal way. It requires a four module course of study and appearance before the District Committee on Ministry for approval. If you are interested in learning more about this program, you can visit our website at [www.wesleyandistrictumc.org](http://www.wesleyandistrictumc.org) or contact me.

OK, back to this year's Academy! If you look at the enclosed brochure, you will see that we are offering a new advanced course on Stewardship, being taught by our District Superintendent Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan. It really looks to be a great class, and we hope that you consider taking this course as one of your elective advanced courses.

Remember that all lay servants or lay speakers need one advanced course every three years to stay certified, but you can take one more often if you choose!

I hope this helped clarify some of the requirements or questions you may have had about Lay Ministries. If you have additional questions, concerns, or comments, you can contact me or the Wesleyan District office at 304-472-1095. Together, we are all part of this worldwide connection called the United Methodist Church, and I am more than happy to take your call or answer your email with any question you may have.

Thanks again, and God bless you in your ministry! In Christ, I am

Jim Minutelli, CLM  
Director of Lay Ministry  
Wesleyan District of the WV Conference  
304-629-9398  
[minutellij@gmail.com](mailto:minutellij@gmail.com)

FUMC, Elkins congregation -

You may pick up a brochure  
from the church office.

**THE CIRCUIT RIDER**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

**The Circuit Rider**  
**September 2018**

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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 Kramer-McAtee  
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Financial Secretary: Danielle Taylor  
danielle@fumcelkinswv.com

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless