

I personally felt that Holy Week this year was extra special here in Elkins. We began with Palm Sunday services in the morning and concluded Palm Sunday evening with our Cantata. This year, Woodford Memorial United Methodist hosted the Ministerial Association noon Holy Week services. In addition, we had our Maundy Thursday service at First Church, a community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday at Glendale Park, followed by our Easter morning services. Also, I was honored to be invited to lead a Maundy Thursday service at ERCC and a Good Friday service at Mountain Memories. With a funeral on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and another funeral on Tuesday of Holy Week, it was, perhaps, the busiest Holy Week that I have ever experienced! But it was also a very blessed week for me!

At our Maundy Thursday service, I shared a recap of the noon Holy Week services. I thought I would put that in print, adding the Good Friday Holy week service as well.

MONDAY: The Reverend Jeremiah Jasper preached. He shared about the fig tree that Jesus cursed. If I were to put title to his message, it might be "What Did a Fig Tree Ever do to Jesus?" We learned that the fig tree was in season for fruit production, but it wasn't producing any fruit. The tree was not doing what it was created for! So, Jesus sped up its demise. He cursed it, causing it to wither. We, as Christians, wither spiritually when we don't produce spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.).

TUESDAY: The Reverend Jason Johnson preached. He shared that seeing Jesus means dying to all the parts of our life that blinds us from who Jesus really is. If I were to put title to his message, it might be "Dying to Live."

WEDNESDAY: The Reverend Brett Rinehart preached. He shared that the chief priests paid about \$2,100 in today's currency to Judas for his plan to betray Jesus into their hands. Mary anointed Jesus' feet, which Judas objected to, with nard that was worth about \$21,000 in today's currency. If I were to put title to his message, it might be "What is the Price of a Life?" Mary honored Jesus with her means, preparing Jesus for a burial fit for a king. Judas dishonored Jesus, selling him for 30 pieces of silver - the price for a common slave in that era.

THURSDAY: The Reverend Dina Andrews preached. She shared about Jesus washing the disciples' feet and Peter objecting to the act. He had good reason. One of the disciples should have taken care of the common hospitality of foot-washing. It was not the place of the Rabbi to do so. Peter told Jesus that he would never allow Jesus to do such a menial task. If I were to put title to her message, it might be "Never Say Never!" Jesus told Peter that if he was unwilling to receive Jesus' act of kindness, that

he (Peter) could not have any part of Jesus. Peter relented and asked Jesus to wash all of him! Jesus set a supreme example for humble service!

FRIDAY: The Reverend Julie Davis preached. She asked the question, “Where do you find yourself in the story of the crucifixion? She mentioned both thieves crucified with Christ. The thief that mocked Jesus was focused only on the present – only on his own physical plight. The other thief was focused on eternity and thus repented. That thief was more concerned about the spiritual! Interestingly, he didn’t get baptized, didn’t join a church, didn’t go on a mission trip, and didn’t put an envelope in the plate. He simply repented and believed! If I were to put title to her message, it might be “Cross Talk.” Conversations of eternal importance happen at the cross!

Perhaps this summary can assist you in continuing your resurrection journey, for we are, indeed, an Easter people! God bless!

Brian

THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Rooms for May – June 2022 are available. You may pick up your copy outside the double mahogany doors on the rolling cart Monday - Thursday, from 9 am to 3 pm or from the Usher’s podium on Sundays. Thank you!

2022 Annual Conference

The West Virginia Annual Conference 2022 session will be held Thursday, June 9-Sunday, June 12.

The theme for our session is **Building Bridges: Making Connections.**

- Thursday, June 9:
This will be a “**Day of Service**”.
Instead of arriving on-site in Buckhannon, we are encouraging every local church to engage in relationship-oriented mission and ministry in their own context.
- Friday, June 10:
Opening Worship;
business, Clergy Session, Laity Gathering
- Saturday, June 11:
Business, Memorial Service,
Retirement Recognition
- Sunday, June 12:
Service of Licensing,
Commissioning and Ordination;
Fixing of Appointments

Reflecting God's love in our communities!

June 9, 2022
Day of Service

BUILDING BRIDGES
Making Connections

2022 Annual Conference
West Virginia Area
The United Methodist Church

HANDS ON SERVICE

FAITH IN ACTION

SPIRITUAL FORMATION EXPERIENCES

For more details:
wvumc.org/2022-annual-conference

#WVUMCServe

Children and Youth Ministry

Things have been hopping in the FUMC Children's Department! On April 16th, God held back the rain and brought out the sun for a wonderful community Easter Egg hunt. The turn out was fantastic, with an estimated 150 kids! A huge thank you to everyone who helped! We had many individuals show up to hide the roughly 3,000 Easter eggs! We also had church members make cookies and suckers to hand out to the kids, and several worked hard to distribute flyers for the event. This was truly a team effort and it meant so much to these kids. I had at least a dozen kids come up to me afterwards to say thank you! These ministries do make a difference!



On another note, in Children's church we are still enjoying exploring Heroes of the Bible!



This has been an exciting series for kids to dive into the adventures found in the Word of God!

Blessing from the Children's Department!

-Natasha Zirkle

Thank You!

We want to thank our FUMC family for your prayers and concerns for our son, Michael. While he still needs your prayers, he's doing much better. He's doing dialysis at home every night and is back to work. He will meet the transplant team at MCV next month to start that process. Your prayers have comforted and sustained us throughout this time and our entire family thanks you.
Jeff and Debbie Welshonce and Family

2022 May Newsletter

Music Ministries

"God causes everything to work together for the good." Romans 8:28 NLT

Before the Lenten Season began, I invited the music teams at our church to join me in a Lenten journey using the words and stories behind many of our well-known hymns. We followed the lead of the book "Unrevealed Until It's Season" by James C. Howell. It was a very enlightening 40 days that caused us to look inward and grow in our faith.

As I reflected on these past 40 days and our Palm Sunday and Easter Services, I could not help but think about another hymn. This hymn was written by Johnson Oatman, Jr. on April 21, 1856, in New Jersey. Johnson was a fellow who felt a direct call by God to preach the gospel. But when Johnson's plan for traditional ministry did not work out, God then showed him HIS plan. You see, God recognized Johnson's commitment to sharing the Good News, but He also saw Johnson's heart for music that was instilled in him by his father. While he did not have his father's powerful voice that spoke to many, he did have the ability to write hymns that would reach people for decades. Johnson wrote 5000 hymns and one of the favorites through the years was "Count Your Blessings" written in 1897. Let me share a portion of this hymn:

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one
Count your blessings, see what God hath done
Count your blessings, name them one by one
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done

This hymn has particular meaning to me because as I began preparing music for the Easter Season, I was not sure what we could accomplish with music given the small numbers of people participating. But God heard my prayers and had a plan that would be better than anything I could have imagined. And for that, I am counting my blessings.

Palm Sunday morning services began our Holy week journey with ten members of the "Heart of Worship" Praise Band leading us in the triumphal songs of "Hosanna," "Prepare the Way," "Sing to the King," and "Tell Me the Story of Jesus."

Our second service that day, continued triumphantly with nine members of the Conway Ringers joining our Chancel Choir for an Introit called "Hosanna in the Highest." These two groups then lead the congregation in ringing and singing about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during the hymns. The Chancel Choir gave a rousing rendition of "Hosanna" and we ended the service with a beautiful flute duet by Lisa Godwin and Jenny Pippen called "All Glory Laud and Honor with Hosanna, Loud Hosanna".

Later that day, we were blessed with our church joining voices with Duff Street UMC and Stealey UMC in bringing the Easter story in Song and Drama in a Cantata called "You Thought of Us." What a blessing this union was for us all. We had 14 singers from Elkins First UMC, 11 singers from Duff Street UMC and 3 singers from Stealey UMC. Plus, we had 20 people join us by participating with the narration and drama from Elkins First UMC. We did two performances this particular weekend, one at Duff Street UMC and one at Elkins First UMC.

The music continued into our Maundy Thursday Service with the Chancel Choir singing a song called "One at Your Table" and the service then ending with a stirring flute duet by Lisa Godwin and Jenny Pippen called "Were You There."

Easter morning was truly a joyous day of resurrection. Our "Heart of Worship" Praise Band ushered in the excitement of our Risen Lord with songs of praise: "The Tomb is Empty," "My Redeemer Lives," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Because He Lives," and "Victory in Jesus."

That excitement continued in our second service with the Conway ringers who joined the Chancel Choir in an Introit called "An Easter Introit." The ringers also joined the congregation in proclaiming the Easter story through the hymns. Then, Jenny Pippen joined the Chancel Choir playing the flute in a Celtic anthem called "A Gaelic Easter Celebration" and we ended the service with a flute duet by Lisa Godwin and Jenny Pippen called "An Easter Celebration Medley" which included the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The chorus to the hymn mentioned above could not have been more appropriate as I reflected on this Easter Season. Those words say, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." So, let me name some of those blessings one by one:

First and foremost, God, who knows our every need, answers our every prayer and who gave us the ultimate gift in His Son, Jesus.

Gary Crawford, Sylvester ~~Erstwell~~, Kathy Houser, Donna Jones, Seth Maynard, Patrick McKay, Nick Patella, Linda Patterson, Susan Seders, and Kim Urban who has led our first service with tremendous dedication each week.

Keri Cochran, Sam Cochran, Cindy ~~Corder~~, Greg Godwin, Lisa Godwin, Jenny Pippen, Carol ~~Pizzino~~, Isaac Reel, Donna ~~Trulik~~, Kim Urban who have dedicated their time to Bell Ringing.

Trudy ~~Caronick~~, Lisa Godwin, Evelyn Howell, Katie Kerns, Bec Kirkpatrick, Craig Merriam, Jim Ritter, Hollie Pritt, Bob ~~Sponsugle~~, Steve Stemple, Donna ~~Trulik~~, Linda Wagner who have dedicated their time to singing in our Chancel Choir.

Donna Abbott, Ellie & Joel ~~Casto~~, Allen Conrad, Roger ~~Corder~~, Bob Cowgill, ~~Imri Barsi~~, Greg Godwin, Andrew, Christina, Kayla, Scott Harris, Joe Hughes, Bob Jones, Lydia Jones, Gage & Kinley Koch, Denise & Roger ~~Losh~~, Isaac and Noah Reel, Ryan Urban who stepped out to help us proclaim the Easter Story in our Cantata.

Lisa Godwin and Jenny Pippen who have always been willing to play the Flute and use their beautiful gift for our church.

Like the writer of "Count Your Blessings," God blended so beautifully the commitment and the passion of all these people who gave of their gifts to the spreading of His Word.

As I close, I am reminded of Psalm 40:5 that says,

"O Lord my God, You have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all Your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them."

Blessings,

Susan

The "Heart Of Worship" Praise Band



Conway Ringers and Chancel Choir



Chancel Choir



Lisa Godwin & Jenny Pippin



"You Thought Of Us" Easter Cantata

Elkins First UMC, Duff Street UMC, Stealey UMC



Alan Conrad as "Jesus"





“Lunch With Neighbors”

Three times a week the ladies of the congregation have been so generous with their time and talent in providing desserts. The lunch team is serving 100 desserts at each meal!

Please let Diana Johnson know in advance, (call or text 815-953-5236), on which days you want to share your baked items. Thank you!

Community Brunch

The May Brunch menu will be baked western omelet, biscuits and gravy, breakfast potatoes, ham and Marshall’s special parfait. There will be two servings: 10:30 am and noon.

The Brunch is open to the Community! Invite friends, family and neighbors. Free will offerings of money, canned kitchen pantry items and personal hygiene items are encouraged.

Mark your calendar for the third Sunday of each month for the Community Brunch. Brunch donations help sustain our Basic Needs Ministry.

PIONEER CLUB MINISTRY

Pioneer Club has not met since Christmas but that does not mean we are not thinking about the children. One of our volunteers made the sweetest Easter goody bags for the children. Not only did they have sweet treats inside they had an egg tag that said, "Some bunny loves you". It was wonderful to see the children and remind them they are thought about during Easter and remind them of Christ love on the cross.



Pioneer Club Ministry is an ecumenical community ministry involving volunteers from the community serving together as Jesus Followers. This opportunity to serve the children together is a true blessing to share in fellowship and Christ love. Plans are being made to begin Pioneer Club again in the fall. Elementary children will continue to meet on Thursdays. Funny thing happened when we were unable to meet during COVID, some of our children are now teenagers and we now have opportunity to begin a community teen group to meet on the first Monday of each month! We are so excited to be able to offer this opportunity to the teens.

As the ministry grows so does our need for volunteers. Whether in preparing the meal, lessons, craft, games or tutoring. We plan to continue to offer tutoring prior to the club beginning. Individuals who feel a call on their hearts to listen to a child read, read to a child, or assist with homework assignments. Volunteers do not need to be educators or to be there every week; they can spend an hour a week, or once a month or once a quarter to share in the blessing to assist a child to read. Literacy has been a vital part of the Pioneer ministry from the beginning. It is beautiful when you hear a child read a scripture during the lesson time. Please contact the church office or Craig Merrium merriamc1@gmail.com or Shelley Hyre shyre@drhyre.com, by texting or call 304-704-7039.

God is blessing us to continue to serve the community children feeding spiritually and physically together in Christ name.

Blessings,
Shelley



The United Methodist Men along with the United Methodist Women served pork tenderloin dinner in the Family Life Center on Palm Sunday, prior to the Easter Cantata. Everyone in attendance had a great time in food and fellowship.



**United
Women
in Faith**

“United Women in Faith”

April 20, 2022

General Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by President Catherine Poe. 22 ladies were present.

Devotions – Barbara Tyre provided the devotions from Mornings with Jesus and handed out bookmarks with the sun made by Betty Walden.

It was announced that the United Methodist Women began in 1869 and the United Methodist Women have a new name and logo which started in March. We will now be known as United Women in Faith.

Pastor Brian was the guest speaker. He spoke on several areas of the church.

1. Finances – We have had many changes in the past three years.

a. In 2019, apportionment was at 85%, 2021; 79.2%, 2022; 76.1% and 2023; the cut back is 50%

Reasons: Giving has declined.

b. Bishop hasn't changed in several years. 2016 was the last full General Conference

c. 2 reasons for decline are Human Sexuality Controversy and Boy Scout Controversy

Even before the pandemic many churches were closing. There may be a 20% loss next three – four years. Half or more of budget is used for utilities, upkeep, and staff salaries. Churches are being creative in order to pay bills by sharing facilities with other denominations, merging or selling properties.

2. The Conference is looking into redistricting going from 11 to 9 to 7 districts. We could be part of the Mon Valley (Fairmont or Wesleyan District).

3. There is talk of launching a new denomination: Global Methodist. We are not talking of disaffiliation.

In other news from the meeting there will not be another baby basket until July 4.

By consensus of the group, we will be meeting in the summer.

It was agreed to dispense reading of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Balances are as follows:

Regular Checking	\$9,736.85
Hi Fi	1,082.21
Certificate of Deposit	1,000.00

Penny Friddle moved and Sharon Hinchman seconded a motion to go half with the United Methodist Men in purchasing a griddle to be used on top of the stove burners. Motion passed.

Kit Phillips moved and Beverly Armentrout seconded to make memorial contributions a general policy for those United Women in Faith who have passed. The amount will be \$25.00 for each woman.

Penny Friddle reported that the Palm Sunday Dinner and Cantata was very successful. The Men and Women worked together on this event.

Next meeting will be May 11.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Hitchcock**

Easter Baby Basket



**Kathy Hitchcock delivering the Easter Baby Basket.
(Penny Friddle went along and took the picture.)**



8th Annual Emma Scott Garden Club

Plant Sale

Annuals, perennials, and houseplants from our own member gardens will be offered as well as a "garden" bazaar with unique items including baked goods! Your chance to meet our club members and learn more about gardening!

When: Saturday, May 14th
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain or Shine!!

Where: Randolph County Community Arts Center
Corner of Randolph Ave. and Park St., Elkins

Bring your Green Thumb and see ya there!

Proceeds from sales fund our many community projects...your support is appreciated!!

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of

Gene Betler, Jr., Aaron, Kalar, and Janet Shears.



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

The Circuit Rider
May 2022

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM – 3 PM / PH: 304-636-0660

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blseders@gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor: Nick Patella

Office Manager/Treasurer: Rhonda Elmer
rhonda@fumcelkinswv.com

Youth Minister: Natasha Zirkle

Financial Secretary: Julie Civiello

Music Director: Susan Seders

Pianist/Handbell/Choir Director: Susan Seders

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Custodian: Donna Abbott

Nursery Supervisor: Tammy Casto

