

I shared this story a few weeks ago in the 1st service:

It was the third Wednesday of the month, my usual day to lead a worship service at Colonial Place. I got busy doing inventory on the old sound system parts and figuring out a place to store the equipment. Rhonda received a phone call, came running into the gym, and said that Colonial Place just called and was wondering if I was coming. I looked at my watch. It was 1:33. I was already late for the 1:30 service! I was so wrapped up in what I was doing, I completely forgot about the service. I asked Rhonda to call Colonial Place back and tell them that I was on my way!

I berated myself all the way to the service: “How could I forget? Talk about irresponsible! I wouldn’t blame them if all the worship participants went back to their rooms!” By the time I parked my car and walked the main hall to the dinning room, it was about 1:42. There, seated before me, were 10 ladies, some in chairs, some in wheel chairs, patiently waiting; some were even smiling! I apologized profusely and promised to spend some extra time with them singing at the end. I launched into my sermon, told a few stories, and then indicated to the audience that we would do a mini-hymn sing. We sang and sang. You know, a bunch of oldies but goodies: Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, Blessed Assurance, I Come to the Garden, Victory in Jesus, and In The Sweet By and By (which I didn’t know well, but one that I still sang with gusto!). After we were done, I told them that sang so well that they were ready for the road! All were smiling. Finally, I prayed and bided them farewell.

It was then that something happened that rarely takes place after a service. The nursing home congregation began to clap. It wasn’t a soft clap or a short clap – but one with vim and vigor. I was taken aback!

Several thoughts: 1). When I first got the call inquiring to my whereabouts, I briefly thought about calling back and cancelling the service. Briefly! Then came the thought, “They deserve better than that.” Better judgment won out. 2). Those 10 seasoned veterans of life were sitting there, patiently waiting. They never complained about me being late. They weren’t upset. They weren’t bothered in the least bit. Their controlled and beautiful countenance was truly a testimony of maturity. 3). Their response gave credence to the adage that “good things come to those who wait.” They waited, worshiped, and celebrated. 4). Finally, those ladies made my day. They were truly grateful, and they weren’t afraid to express it. I’m not saying that the sermon was especially good or worthy of applause. I am saying that the extended time together singing spoke deeply to their hearts. Music can do things that words alone can never do!

Let’s be sure to visit our members and constituency as well as pray for all of those in nursing facilities, extended care units, hospitals and homebound. Their challenges are far from easy. May God be with them, and with us. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS PAINTING PROJECT



PROGRAM UPDATES

Cokesbury's Deep Blue Connects: Loving God, Loving Neighbor incorporates Bible stories, service learning, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience.

October Theme – Community Foundations

October Memory Verse – God said, “I will be with you.”

October 6th – Call to Freedom (Exodus 2:11-3:22; 5:2-13:9)

October 13th – The Exodus (Exodus 13:17-14:31; 15:1-21)

October 20th – Community in the Wilderness (Exodus 15:22-17:7)

October 27th – Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:1-20:21)



LOOKING FORWARD

Susan Seders and Kary McAtee are organizing a Christmas Musical again for this year's annual Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 in the Family Life Center. Rehearsals will continue through November and all children and youth are encouraged to participate! Anyone who is interested should contact Kary McAtee (304-642-0518) as soon as possible.



Downtown Elkins Trick-or-Treat will be held on Friday, October 25th from 5:00 to 6:00. Over 1,000 children and their families from the area attend this event each year. We use this event as an opportunity for outreach to the community, by handing out candy and invitations to our church's GLOW Family Festival. Please contact Kary if you would like to purchase candy, assemble invitations, or participate on the 25th of October.

Nearly 300 people attended our GLOW Family Festival last year. Penny Friddle is coordinating the food and kitchen help for the event this year. If you are able to donate food or work in the kitchen on Sunday, October 27th please contact Penny Friddle at 304-642-6389 for more details. Thank you!



Any students sixth grade and above who would be interested in a confirmation class please contact, Kary McAtee at 304-642-0518. The class is expected to start at the beginning of 2020 and will last around 10 weeks. Any adults willing to be mentors, provide snacks, or assist in lessons and activities can also contact Kary.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
315 KERENS AVENUE ELKINS, WV

G.L.O.W. FAMILY FESTIVAL

OCT 27
5PM TO 7PM

BOUNCE HOUSE, HAYRIDE,
FACE PAINTING, BALLOON
ANIMALS, CRAFTS, GAMES,
FOOD, AND PRIZES!

NO MASKS OR WEAPONS ALLOWED

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT TO ATTEND



A new journey in life is often the beginning of new and exciting adventures.

We are embarking on a new journey in the life of our music ministry here at Elkins First UMC, and it is exciting!

This new journey began September 1st with the beautiful music by our new organist, Scott Green. Scott brings a multitude of musical gifts to our church. One of those gifts will be directing the "Conway Ringers" which is our Hand Bell ministry here at the church. He is also blessing our "Heart of Worship" Praise Team by playing the bass guitar which has enhanced that ministry during our first service. In addition, his gifts are being enjoyed through our music with the Chancel Choir.

Speaking of the Chancel Choir, September 8th began a new journey in the life of this ministry. And the first month in this journey has been a beautiful start. You notice I said ministry. 1 Peter 1:18 says, "Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God." Singing in the choir is not just an opportunity for involvement in the church, but it is an extension of the pulpit, a reflection of heaven with a deep consciousness of God. I shared with the choir that in order for God to work through us, He must first work in us. We are beginning a new journey of scripture and song. My prayer is that as we connect our music to God's word, we will grow in and through the scriptures with a beautiful union of music that reaches the depths of our souls and gives God all the glory.

I have been doing this with our "Heart Of Worship" Praise Team for the last year and a half and it is amazing to see how God has worked in and through our simple act of giving God our gifts, our time and ourselves.

God has used our Praise Team not only to lead worship during the first service, but to also go beyond the walls of our church. Thus far this year we have hosted a benefit for the Tyrand Ministry, led worship at Woodford UMC, led worship for the Spring District Conference, provided music for the East View UMC Church (Clarksburg) anniversary celebration, provided music for our Women's Retreat and led worship at the Davis & Elkins Homecoming Chapel Service.

I am excited to see how God will use **ALL** our music ministries here at Elkins First UMC. A journey usually requires planning that begins with the first step. That step is not always a physical step, but a step of faith. We have taken that first step and we have done it together. And might I say we have done it in a beautiful tribute to the one and only God who can and will guide our steps along this journey.

Let us seek God's favor, blessings, and divine will on this new journey together.

Susan

Music Director, Elkins First UMC

P.S.

New beginnings are a great time to start something you've always thought about, dreamed about or desired. If that is being a part of one or more of the music ministries here at the church, please do not hesitate any longer. You may think you do not have the ability, but I have witnessed how God uses and blesses the willing of heart in amazing ways. Please think about joining us in what God is just waiting to bless.

PIONEER CLUB BEGINS OCTOBER 10, 2019



Pioneer Club invites children Kindergarten – 5th grade and their families to join us for a meal, fun activities and teaching the bible. This Christ centered weekly program integrates spiritual and personal development for children. The Pioneer Club is designed to build healthy relationships with caring christian adults, peers and most importantly Christ. If you know a child that would like to be a part of the Pioneer Club please invite them to join us beginning October 10th 5:30 – 6:30pm.

This elementary ministry has many opportunities to volunteer and serve Christ. One way is to help children do their homework and to encourage reading. We will offer tutoring and reading at 4:30pm. It is staggering how many children do not have the opportunity to read with an adult. Barbara Tyre and Craig Merrium will be leading this ministry if you are intereted in volunteering.

We are to feed the children spiritually and physically. We will provide a healthy meal each week at 5:00pm. Volunteers may help in preparing and serving the meal. This is a very important ministry as some children may come for the food but stay for the blessing. Kathy Hitchcock will be leading this ministry if you can help. Another ministry is for caring adults to join the children and enjoy a meal together. This may not seem like an important ministry but getting to know the children, asking about their day and most importantly praying for them is a very special ministry.

The Pioneer Club meets at 5:30 – 6:30pm each week on Thursday. We will begin with pledges (Christian flag, American flag and Bible), prayer requests and praises. This is an important part of our club time, allowing children to share their concerns, to ask for prayers and to share their joys. There will be a lesson with all of the children then they will go to class to continue the discussion of the lesson. We will be doing small skits from time to time during the opening lesson. Our volunters will be helping with the lesson, perform in a skit and help with each weeks activities which may be a craft, music or games.

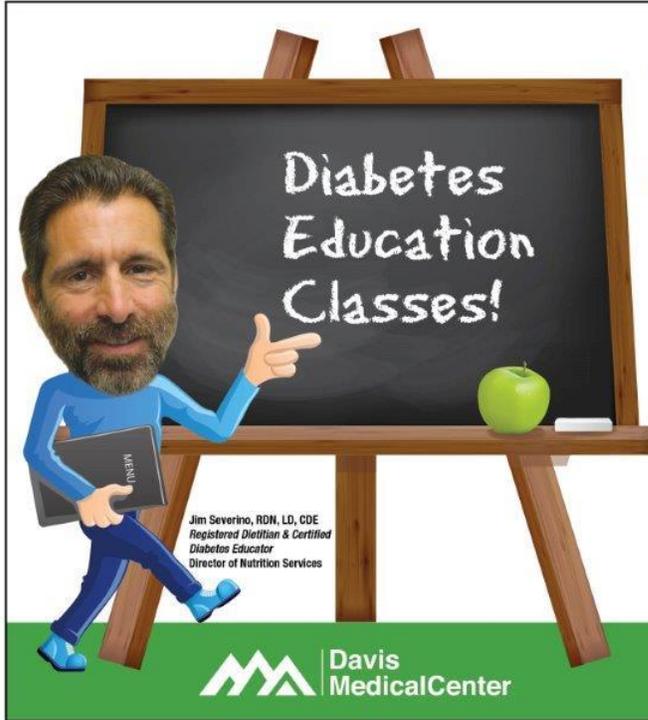
Since this is a new ministry we are in need of some basic items for crafts: children's scissors, markers and crayons. We are asking for cinnamon sticks and any fall printed or solid fabric in colors of orange, brown, green or gold colors. The Thanksgiving craft is to make cloth, toilet paper filled pumpkins. There will be a box to collect items near the church office.

We will be present at the Elkins downtown Trick or Treat night. We will join Kary (Christan Education Director) as she hands out invitations to G.L.O.W. and hand out invitations to the Pioneer Club. This will be a wonderful way to invite the children in the community to be a part of the Pioneer Club. If you feel the Pioneer Club ministry is where you are being called to serve, please contact Shelley Hyre by calling the church office 304-636-0660, email shyre@drhyre.com or call/text 304-704-7039.

Shelley

HEALTHY MINISTRY TEAM

Once again Jim Severino, RDN , LD, CDE, Director of Nutrition Services, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator will offer Diabetic Education Classes at FUMC in October. If you have an interest or questions please call Davis Medical Center at (304) 637-3343.



Davis Medical Center will be offering a series of comprehensive diabetes education classes beginning on October 17th at the First United Methodist Church of Elkins. This is a series of classes that will continue on October 24th and October 31st. All classes will begin at 10:00 and last around 2 hours.

Participants with diabetes and family members will learn skills to take control of their condition with topics that include:

- What is diabetes
- Nutrition management and cooking
- Physical activity
- Medication management
- Monitoring
- Problem Solving
- Preventing chronic complication

This program is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, PEIA, and most other insurance carriers.

Please call 304.637.3343 for more information or to enroll.

Jim Severino, RDN, LD, CDE
Registered Dietitian & Certified
Diabetes Educator
Director of Nutrition Services

Davis MedicalCenter



The United Methodist Men hand delivered bottled water to the First United Methodist Church parsonage for use during the Mountain State Forest Festival "Bands' Water and Cookie Stop". This tradition is welcomed by many band members at the end of a long parade.

The UM Men are organizing and planning the church wide Advent Dinner to be held in the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 1st. Mark your calendar for this congregational event.

United Methodist Women

News From the First United Methodist Women

2019 RETREAT: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Members of First United Methodist Women Executive Committee were pleased to welcome women from throughout our community to our third annual day-long retreat. A blend of exceptional speakers, inspiring music, great food and fellowship made the day fulfilling for one and all.

President, Donna Trulik, was our emcee who interjected humor and sincere gratitude as she introduced guest speakers and the entertainment for the day. The theme for the event was “Food for Thought”.

FUMC member and past president of FUMW, **Betty Linger**, was our first speaker who shared her experiences visiting many countries and absorbing different cultures. Betty asked us to “**Season Everything with Love**”. She encouraged us to feed our souls as well as our bodies. That feeding of our soul must be a daily activity and not a “gorging” on Sunday, alone. She asked us to help others who have no opportunity for physical or spiritual food and to plant our spiritual garden as follows:

Three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love each other

Include turnips:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

Every garden needs herbs, thus we should plant thyme:

Thyme for each other

Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

Water freely and cultivate with love.

Betty added, "What a different the world we live in would be if this simple garden could be planted in the hearts of people".

Jean Snedegar amplified Betty's presentation with her ideas regarding "Manna in the Morning". Jean reminded us about the Israelites who were freed from Egypt but seemed to be constantly complaining about their needs. God provided them manna which they were to gather and eat as instructed. Jean encouraged us to gather and "eat the word of God" to fulfill ourselves spiritually. She quoted Jeremiah 15:16: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty." She also quoted Psalm 16:5: "Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup: you make my lot secure."

Jean gave us a bird's eye view and a worm's eye view how to study the Bible in order to feed ourselves. The first involves looking at broad scripture and reading for longer periods of time doing so with joy. The second view involves slower study in small segments to allow the word to nourish our souls, change our attitude and alter our actions.

In conclusion Jean reminded us of the following:

We are loved and forgiven in Christ.
Jesus Christ is the living Word we should "eat" daily.
Devouring God's Word will give you God's eternal perspective.

The morning was rounded out with gorgeous music provided by **The Heart of Worship**. What invigorating instrumental and vocal sounds! If one payed close attention, the musical selections were drawn from the theme of "Fruits of the Spirit". Thanks to Susan Seder, director, Linda Patterson, Donna Jones, Scott Green, Gary Crawford, Syl Fretwell, Kim Urban and Sam Urban. Our prelude was played by Scott Green and Mary Durham played the piano for the hymns sung by those who were gathered.

A filling and delicious lunch was catered and served by "**Puttin' on the Ritz**"

Kate Reed and Valerie Warner of "Wonder and Grow: A Mindful Nature Experience" opened our afternoon session. The presenters explained that their organization aims to help people of all ages and exceptionalities reconnect with nature. Offering up shocking statistics about how little time human beings spend outside, their research lead them to, not only make that connection for children, but, to have it sustained by the adults in their environment through offering nature experiences to everyone. The audience was invited to select an item from nature that were provided by Kate and Valerie. Then we were to interact with the item using all senses and fashion thoughts or memories from the experience. Kate and Valerie asked us to, once again, look at nature with the "wonder of a child" because time in nature has proven to reduce stress and heighten health and wellness. Kate, a member of FUMC, stated that connection to nature helps her feel connected to her Creator and reminded us what the Bible in Genesis 1:31a says: "And God saw everything that he made, and, behold, it was very good."

Becky Ashburn's theme "Thou Preparest a Table Before Me" may have left us all scratching our heads when she did not go straight to Psalm 23. Instead she wove together the story of Xerxes or, in some Bibles, this character appears as King Ashasuerus. (Becky certainly challenged this writer to do some Bible research. Be sure to read the book of Esther to see that story.) The story tells us that this powerful king ruled over the Persian Empire which included 127 provinces. After days of drinking and merriment with the provinces leaders, this king ordered his queen, Vasti, to appear and show her great beauty. In an unbelievable move she refused and was soon after abolished. An elaborate selection process was set in place to find a new queen and, by chance, or more likely God's will, a Jewish woman was selected. Her name was Hadasah or Esther and the king was unaware of her heritage. The story unfolds in the book of Esther but the key part of this story was that Esther was able to save the lives of the Jewish people in the empire by having dinners with the King and one of his trusted subordinates, Haman the Agagite. Haman had instigated a scheme to kill all Jews in the empire. It was at the final dinner that the plot was exposed and Esther also revealed her Jewish heritage to her king. The king removed the threat, through an interesting tactical move, saving his queen and the Jewish people residing in his kingdom. Becky then brought us back to Psalm 23:5a: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Becky explained to us that our enemies could be "anything that besets you" such as human enemies, indifference, discouragement, anger, bitterness, desire for power and a whole host of things that keeps us from being part of God's kingdom.

The day ended with the Sacrament of Holy Communion served by Brian Seders, Lois Kessler and Trudy Carowick followed by the hymn "Pass It On", an appropriate message to end the day.

Our mission project for the day was to collect diapers for the local WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. Over 50 packages of diapers were delivered to the local WIC office which were received with great appreciation.

Future Dates to Remember:

Fall Bazaar on Thursday, November 7 with Country Store open on November 7 and until noon on November 8. Watch your bulletin and next newsletter for more information.



TYRAND'S PARTNERS IN MISSION

SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR TYRAND'S THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BASKET

Oct. 6 – corn; **Oct. 13** – peas; **Oct. 20** – applesauce; **Oct. 27** – pork -n- beans;

Nov. 3 – canned potatoes; **Nov. 10** – canned fruit; **Nov. 17** – cookies; **Nov. 24** – hand soap

Donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets need to be in before November 15th and donations for the Christmas Baskets need to be in before December 2nd. Collection containers will be placed in the vestibule and by the church office.

UNDIE SUNDAY – October 13, 2019

Please bring a package or two of new boxers, briefs, undies, T-shirts, Long Johns & Janes, socks and/or training pants to church on October 13th.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NEWS

Shoebox items most needed:

Crayons, Glue Sticks (No Liquid Glue), large erasers, dolls, ballpoint pens toothbrushes and combs.



Bring items to the OCC table in the Church lobby. If you would prefer to make monetary donation please use the envelope provided on table and put in the collection plate.

Reaching our church of 1,200 will take a team effort and volunteers are needed to prepare items for our Packing Party on November 10th.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Contact Bob Cowgill to join our church OCC Team. 304-636-6367



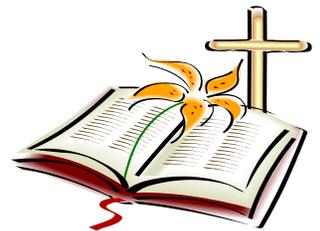
BAPTISM

Londyn Sue Gainer, daughter of Ryan and Amanda (Tomblyn) Gainer and granddaughter of Mark and Dinah Tomblyn and John and Susie Gainer.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the family of

Denise Kramer upon the death of her father, Vernon Burky.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Charles George Jr	9	Josalin Hepler	17	Gary Chapman	24	Joe Carowick
1	Barbara McQuain	9	Jennifer Lipscomb	18	Brenda Forren	24	Erin Keller
1	Jacob McQuain	10	Barbara Judy	18	Mike Johnson	24	Katie Preusch
2	Grover Kerns Jr	10	Jean Barnett	18	Joelle Kenney	25	Heather Morici
2	Deborah Lambert	10	Ronnie Kemrite	18	Linda Romine	25	Amanda Gainer
2	Patty Simmons	10	Wade Spraberry	19	Robert Klein	25	Matthew Wallace
2	Zach Kerns III	10	Emily Davis	19	Dottie Wamsley	26	Dana Wood
2	T.J. Bickerton II	10	Kyle Reed	19	Bill Snedegar	26	Sean Barnett
2	Elyse Spraberry	11	Karen Johnston	19	Kit Phillips	26	Joselynn Earl
3	Beth Beckwith	12	Sterl Dean	19	Jeremy Bodkins	27	Kurt Gainer
3	Bobbi O'Quinn	12	Jacob Westfall	20	Missy Reger	27	Andrea Barr
3	Ravyn Weirich	13	Paul Gilkerson	20	Derrick Pritt	27	Joey Mullenax
4	David Fincham	13	Chuck Keller	20	Marguerite Kennedy	27	Eric Spraberry
4	Abigail Caudy	13	Ann Wilfong	21	Syl Fretwell	28	Chris MacVean
4	Connor Gard	13	Brandon Biller	21	Julie Conley	28	Andrew Harris
5	Chris Gow	13	Brian Barrickman	21	Jeremiah Myers	28	Roger Earl Jr
5	Laurie Stocks	14	Connie Varner	22	Sue Ellen Johnson	28	Catherine Poe
6	Bill Brown	14	Nick Kostakos	22	Vickie Sandy	29	Barbara Morgan
6	Darlene Roy	14	Bobbi Trimboli	22	Chris Calain	29	Wilma Crowley
6	Malinda Jerow	14	Ryan Gasserud	23	Jimmy Poyner	29	Gary Channell
7	Hope Rierson	15	Jerri Snyder	23	Rhonda Elmer	29	Brian Shears
8	Faye Cowgill	15	Rob Kerns	24	Maria Kostakos	31	Paul Wood
8	Brad Pugh	15	Chris Sponaugle	24	Nick Barrickman		
9	Fran McLaughlin	16	Steve Sutton	24	Bill Grindle		
9	Jeffrey Healey	16	Evelyn Skinner	24	Dana Nestor		
9	Reka Rowan	16	Jennifer Cain	24	Abbey Martin		
9	Emily Sutton	16	William Valentine				

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Ryan & Jessica Merriam	12	Neil & Catherine Poe	22	Ross & Sarah Ware
2	Jeff & Andrea Barr	13	Dick & Becky McDowell	23	Bill & Bev Jordan
2	Hugh & Kathy Hitchcock	16	Rob & Amy Cherek	23	Terry & Linda Daft
6	Amon & Heather Marstiller	18	Carl & Cindy Nucilli	25	Eric & Valerie Voge
6	Hollis & Jennifer Lipscomb	19	William & Elaine Valentine	29	Aaron & Casey Casto
7	Jim & Nita Schotsch	21	Mike & Kayla Stewart		
10	Scott & Stephanie Teets	22	Gary & Bonnie Simmons		
11	Chris & Deborah Stout				

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

The Circuit Rider
October 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

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



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™