

March 2020

As I am writing this, Susan is dropping off our tax info to our accountant. Usually, we don't do so till the first of April. It is hard to think about filing when you always have to pay a tax return! Clergy are considered self-employed for social security purposes; therefore, we are in a higher tax bracket and have to pay quarterly taxes and typically a little extra at tax time. So, for me, thinking about taxes makes me think about money. Even though the economy has been doing much better these days, there are still many who still struggle to make ends meet. Perhaps a biblical perspective on money would be instructive.

Consider this verse - **Philippians 4:6-7**: Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him *for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.* ([NLT](#))

One of my friends once shared with me that she heard about a grandfather who prayed often and thanked God even before he received his request. His grandchildren have taken notice and often comment, "Why didn't we pray about this? Grandpa prays, and God comes through!"

If you need it – truly need it – God will provide.

Now, check out this verse - **Luke 11:9-10**: *So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.* ([NIV](#))

What this verse is not is a free vending machine where you press a button and get a snack. What this verse is, I believe, is a guarantee that God provides our needs. If we need, ask, and believe, some way, somehow, God provides. The request might not always be answered exactly as we wish, because God knows even better than we what we need. He engineers life for us so that we have our needs met and so that we grow. Sometimes, His operation is all about showing us what our true needs are. Jesus said as much:

That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life-whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? (**Matthew 6:25** [NLT](#)). In other words, spiritual needs trump physical needs. Yet, it is our God's joy to provide both!

One last verse - **Matthew 6:33**: *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* ([NLT](#))

Making ends meet, for so many, is not a trite subject. Nor is the plight always a quick fix or even the fix that we wanted when God moves. But God has the whole picture of our lives in mind. His intention is to grow us and to show us His great love.

Brian

Director of Christian Education
Kary McAtee

PAINTING SUNDAY



Thirty-one painters met on Sunday February 23rd in the Family Life Center for Painting Sunday! We were able to paint large slate tiles from the old roof of the church, and it was so nice to see how unique and beautiful each one turned out! Thank you to everyone who attended and to Penny Friddle, Faye Cowgill, Angela Sharp, and Carla Lambert for volunteering their time to help with this event.

PROGRAM UPDATES

As we approach Lent as followers of Jesus Christ, we will be discovering together what it means to observe Lent in community. Our Sunday School and Children's Church curriculum will guide us through Bible stories, service learning, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience. We will journey together toward Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Bible Memory Verse: "If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet." (John 13:14)

March 1st – Jesus Teaches (Matthew 5:1-9)

March 8th – Mary Anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)

March 15th – Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

March 22nd – Jesus Breaks the Bread (Mark 14:12-26)

March 29th – Jesus Prays (Matthew 26:36-46)



CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Join us in the Family Life Center on Sunday, March 22nd at 5:00 for Church Family Game Night! Bring your favorite board game and a covered dish to share! EVERYONE is welcome – even members of our church family that do not have children. Our hope for this event is to create and nurture relationships between church members of all ages!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, April 5th during the 11:00 worship service, we will be celebrating our 2020 Confirmation Class! Following the receiving of our newest church members, the United Methodist Women will be hosting a light reception in the Family Life Center for the congregation to attend and congratulate our students.



SPECIAL NEEDS EASTER EGG HUNT

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt organized specifically for children grades K-5 with disabilities on Saturday, March 28th from 1:00 to 2:00 for grades K-2 and from 3:00 to 4:00 for grades 3-5 in the Family Life Center. For more information or questions regarding this event, please contact Kary McAtee at 304-636-0660 or kary@fumcelkinswv.com

The committee is asking for PRE-PACKAGED INDIVIDUAL SERVING snack items to be donated for this very special event: miniature bottles of water, premade pudding cups, premade jell-o cups, individual bags of goldfish crackers, individual bags of animal crackers, individual bags of pretzels, prepackaged individual rice crispy treats, individual bags of fruit snack gummies, and apple sauce cups.

We appreciate your support of this unique ministry opportunity. We ask that all donations be brought to the church office by Wednesday, March 25th and monetary donations for this event must be marked "Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt"



AFTER PROM

On Saturday, April 25th our church will be hosting the 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 outreach.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

The quilt pictured was created by the children and Sunday school volunteers of First United Methodist Church in 1999. For many years, it hung in commemoration of the new fellowship and office wing of our church building. This quilt full of fond memories and historic moments is now hanging again in the entrance to the Family Life Center for all to see.

According to Jane Corley, "This is the Jesus Loves Me Quilt. The children were asked to make a square that shows how they knew Jesus loved them. We offered the opportunity to sponsor the quilt by making donations towards building the new wing. The names on the back are those who donated through the quilt project. The quilt was pieced together in Pittsburgh while Hobert was in ICU after heart transplant. There was a sweet older lady in the ICU waiting room with me that day. We laid out the squares and she helped me decide how to arrange them the way we thought they looked best. It was a great distraction for both of us waiting for our 15 minutes of time with our hubbies each 2 hours. It was finished with a lot of help from Mary Jo Lefler when we got home."

This quilt, this church, and its people have a beautiful story. As we look at each square we see the names of "our" children, who now have children of their own, adding to the beautiful future that is yet to come.



Attn. Middle School and High School:

The church needs your help! We are looking for volunteers to help ACOLYTE during the second service.



If you are interested, please contact:

Jodie Hart

Texted or phone: 304-642-5636 or jodieh@frontier.com

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

March Item of the Month is sidewalk chalk. Drop off in bin in the hallway. You can also make a cash donation using the OCC envelope on the table. Place in offering plate. Operation Christmas Child takes a year round effort and volunteers are always needed.



Congratulations... to Garrett and Kayla Shiflett upon the birth of their daughter,
Abigail Lynn Shiflett, (January 27, 2020),
granddaughter of Garry and Cheri Shiflett and Ronald and Denise Sims.

Music Ministries

What do you think the four most repeated commands in the Bible are?

It may surprise you to know that the most repeated command in the Bible is “Do not be afraid”. The other three most repeated commands in the Bible are “Praise the Lord”, “Rejoice” and “Give Thanks”. In essence, we are commanded to be happy. But, did you notice I said “most repeated” command? I don’t know about you, but it is good for me to have things repeated. Sometimes I miss it the first time or it simply speaks the second or third time around. Reading the Bible is like that. I can read a passage that I know very well, but it will seem brand new because of God’s revelation.

Recently Brian petitioned us to consider reading, speaking and memorizing a scripture every night before we close our eyes. I have written a few scriptures from the book of Psalms for you to consider based on the recent series “Windows to the Soul”. The following scriptures focus on the word “REJOICE”:

*“But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them that those who love your name may **rejoice** in you.” (Psalm 5:11)*

*“I will be glad and **rejoice** in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:2)*

*“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart.”
(Psalm 23:11)*

*“Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds — his name is the Lord — and **rejoice** before him.”
(Psalm 68:4)*

*“I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I **rejoice** in the LORD.” (Psalm 104:33-34)*

Even though Philippians is the most joyful book in the Bible, the book of Psalms also commands us to rejoice, to praise the Lord, to be thankful and to not be afraid. But did you notice, it also commands us to sing – to sing in.....to sing because.....and to sing even though...

For rejoicing **refreshes** us. It shifts our focus from our difficulties and places it on Jesus who is the only One who walks above the raging sea of life’s challenges.

It also **relieves** us. Because it substantiates our faith by shouting to our burdens, “I have faith in God who is good, and who proves His goodness over and over to me, no matter what difficulties may come my way. And, I am and will be victorious through Him.”

Now it’s no accident that the longest book in the Bible, the Psalms, is a hymn book. So when you are feeling troubled or down, turn to the Psalms and create your own tunes to the words.

Or, put on some praise music, maybe get out a hymnal, and begin to sing praises to the Lord rejoicing in all His promises.

Even the disciples sang a hymn ([Ps. 118](#)) as they went out to Gethsemane ([Matt. 26:30](#)). And Paul and Silas sang in the Philippian jail ([Acts 16:25](#)). Did you know that Jesus sang and He sings over you as it says in the book of Zephaniah:

“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17)

Blessings for your soul,

Susan

P.S. Come and join us Friday, March 20th as we join together to give of ourselves, our resources and our gifts to the Tyrand Cooperative Parish Ministry. The “Heart of Worship” Praise Team will minister through word and song beginning at 7pm. Please consider attending and bringing an offering of canned goods or money to support this much needed ministry.

Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

— [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)

March Mission Minute

The Mission Committee provided the Elkins Mountain School staff with goodie bags early February. This was given in appreciation for all their hard work with the young men of the Mountain School.

It was a snowy, cold, blustery evening for our Community Dinner Friday, February 14. We had 18 homeless/needy folks who came for dinner as well as many volunteers. Marshall Howser cooked a delicious dinner of chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert. Those who came were able to choose items of clothing that they might need for these cold nights. Our next Community Dinner will be Friday, March 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Please consider joining us in serving those less fortunate.

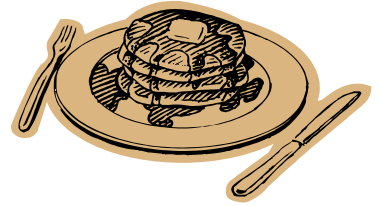
The Mission Committee will be meeting Sunday, March 8 at 12:15 pm in the parlor. This will be a bag lunch meeting. Afterwards, we will be going to the Ambassador Thrift Shop on First Street to meet with Mike House and to tour the facilities.

Blessings,

Kim Urban



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.



United Methodist Women

News From the First United Methodist Women

Loving Gifts for the 2020 Valentine's Baby

Catherine Poe, Dee Clark, Mary Ann Gay, Toni Herron, LaDonna Frost and Lois Kessler gather to assemble items for the Valentine's Day newborn at Davis Medical Center. Another example of how our circles continue to support children of all ages and their families.



Quilting Group Takes on a New Project

The ladies' quilting group have tried their busy hands creating a new project. "Fidgets" are sensory activity pieces that can calm children by interaction with different textures of fabric and items that are sewn on a quilt-like square. There are zippers, buttons, laces, spools and pockets for fidgety hands to explore along smooth and fuzzy fabric swatches. What a fun and novel idea ladies! These have been placed in special needs classrooms and are available for other sites where they can serve a purpose. The majority of the women that are part of the quilting group are also circle members. Just another way that our members find a way to serve others.



Various Plans Being Considered for the Spring 2020 Bazaar and Country Store

The Executive Board, along with a specially designated sub-committee, have been discussing ways to change the face of the Spring Bazaar and Country Store which is being planned for **May 7, 2020**.

The bazaar will be titled "FUMC Women's Spring Fling: Country Store and Grab N Go Lunch". Continue to watch for updates. Circle and congregation members will still be asked to help in a variety of ways to support our mission projects. Everyone is appreciated in the many ways they help us meet our mission obligations.



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.

PIONEER CLUB MINISTRY

Some have asked “What is the Pioneer Club Ministry”? I think it can be best described by a quote from one of the children. As I walked by a table where the children were coloring waiting for the meal to be served, a new child asked his friend (who had only been to club once) “What do they do here”? Without missing a beat his friend said, “They talk about God and do fun stuff”! WOW is that not awesome; the words God and Fun were said together!!! I think this needs to be our theme!

On February 13th the children studied John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” and they heard the story of St. Valentine. The dictionary says a Valentine is “a card sent, often anonymously, on St. Valentine's Day (February 14) to a person one loves”. To the 29 children in Pioneer it was so much more! It may have been a simple act to give a valentine, but to the children it was so much more! Some of you wrote a message, shared scripture, gave a pencil, sticker, a piece of candy or pretzels. Your act of kindness showed the children there are people thinking about them and praying for them! All 16 children enjoyed the valentine celebration (yummy cupcakes by Patty McCloud) and took a valentine box home. The children and their families appreciated your kindness!

Our Lenten journey began learning about the Disciples. The children went “fishing for men” as Jesus said to them in Matthew 4:19 “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The children caught fish with stick men and questions on them about the Disciples. It is so fun to hear the children repeat what they had just learned in the lesson! Our Lenten journey will continue through April 9th, Maundy Thursday. We will share a Family Easter dinner with the children and their families then join the Maundy Thursday services in the sanctuary. It will be wonderful for the children and their families to be a part of such a special service.

The Pioneer Club Ministry is growing! We have 16 to 20 children coming weekly. We are called to “feed the children physically and spiritually”. If you feel Christ is calling you to serve in some way or in the Pioneer ministry, we have a way to serve. Whether it is to bake a dessert, help serve the meal, help with crafts or games contact Shelley shyre@drhyre.com or call the church office 304-636-0660. We would love for you to join us to “talk about God and do fun stuff”!





OUTREACH MINISTRY

Many of you are aware, and some may not be, that each Wednesday afternoon I meet with the youth from the West Virginia Children's Home for a time of devotion, fellowship and prayer. Ideally, we meet here at the church where the youth can experience being in God's house, but often it is necessary, for various reasons, for me to meet with the kids at the Home instead.

Recently the youth helped to decorate the bulletin board, which is next to our overflow section doors, by coloring the various "Fruit of the Spirit" messages. The photo above shows the completed project, along with their autographs.

Jesus has commanded us to reach out and care for the least, the lost and the lowest. In Luke 15:7 it states, *"There will be more joy in heaven over ONE sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."*

Do you ever wonder, would we have more joy in our churches if we shared Jesus' love and concern for the lost?

Please join me in keeping these at-risk youth in your daily prayers, asking God to guide their every thought, word and deed.

Blessings,
Lynn Ritter



Congratulations... to J.C. Wallace and Karly Wallace upon the birth of their son, Callahan Hull Wallace, (February 19, 2020), grandson of Harry and Denise Kramer and Jay Wallace and Teena Wallace.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS					
1	Caroline Hoyle	11	Marcia Myers	22	Ann Vandenberg
1	Brian Hayden, Jr.	12	Harold Shepard	22	Sheila Himes
3	Hobert Corley, Jr.	12	Patricia Felton	22	Allen Judy
3	Mark Hepler	12	Todd Woodford	22	Lori Jones
4	Frank Santmyer, Jr.	12	Lydia Jones	22	Tom Hanna, Jr.
4	Joyce Healey	12	Craig Daft	22	Rob Cherok
4	Andrew Gongola	13	Macy Canfield	23	Marg Shields
4	Sarah Smith	13	Phyllis Harper	23	Phoebe Johnkoski
4	Amelia Preusch	13	Aaron Casto	23	Joe Skidmore
5	Evyonne Howell	13	Brennan Dettinger	23	Bonnie Simmons
5	Casey Sanders	14	Betty Roberts	23	Tracy Fox
5	Amanda Standridge	14	Jeff Welshonce	23	Mallorie Judy
5	Jessica Jones	14	Herk Kessler III	23	Caleb Judy
5	Taylor McKinnie	14	Robert Band	23	Georgianna Henderson
5	Bethany Brown	14	Jennifer King	24	Jo Conway
6	Brandi Newsome	14	Brent Merganthaler	24	Jay Mahoney
6	Jaime Doerr	14	Drew Pingley	24	Katie Mattingly
6	Mike Coers	14	Emma Schwartzmiller	25	Carol Daft
6	Brooklyn Elmore	15	Rachel Davis	25	Joe Hughes
7	Tom Williams	15	Junior Carowick, Jr.	25	Garrett Channell
7	Junior Howell	15	Lauren Brown	25	Michael McCauley
7	Barry Band	15	Brendan Wallace	26	Rebecca Jack
7	Bob Smith	16	Ashton Berdine	26	Jaymie Wilfong
7	Cathy Jones	16	Sean Phares	26	Matthew Harmon
7	Debby Phillips	16	Christa Myers	27	Karly Wallace
8	Bill Daft	17	Donald Jones	28	Logan Comer
8	Sue Daft	17	David White	28	Joanne Gregory
8	Tyler Kenney	17	Tina Jack	28	Jeff Trulik
9	Tommy Cain, Jr.	17	Isaiah Westfall	28	Leslie Widney
10	Mabel Phares	18	Hollis Lipscomb	29	Ellis Conley
10	Deborah Judy	18	Lynn Ferguson	29	Dee Dee Ice
10	Scott Betler	18	Besse Rose	29	Daniel Lipscomb
10	Cara Elkins	19	Linda Mullenax	30	Barbara Sims
10	Evan Elmer	19	Heidi Hawkins	30	Laura Santmyer
11	Ann Harris	19	Erica Bender	30	Aaron Wetsch
11	Bob Sponagle	19	Marla Woodford	31	Russell Linger
11	Gary Skinner	20	Ashlee-Amber Lewis	31	Samantha Healey
11	Jennifer Rosier	20	Megan Phares	MARCH ANNIVERSARIES	
11	Matthew Cooper	21	Jensen Kenney		
11	Bobby Benavides			9	Ward & Doris Wirth
				10	Ron & Peg McCauley
				26	Nick & Betty Jo Kostakos
				30	Rich & Angie Kisner



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY
to the family of
 Norma P. Moore Stalnaker

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

The Circuit Rider

March 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@icloud.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

Custodian: Angela Kisner

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™