



This picture appears as the background on my Desktop in my study at the Parsonage. It was the first picture that I took when arriving in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee, back in late September of 2019. I couldn't help but sit at my hotel window and simply gaze upon the sight. To say that I was captivated was an understatement!

Of course, Jesus' base of operation was in Capernaum, on the Northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. He walked the beaches around the lake. He called his first disciples on the shore. He even walked on the water there. Being present in the very place where, though centuries removed, Christ preached and healed and called others had a power to it that is still hard to convey to folks. Incredible!

The Holy Land is a beautiful but very troubled land. Two people groups, related but adhering to two different religions, both of whom lay ancient claims to the land, creates a world that most of us can not relate to.

Of course, the Jewish people were promised and given the Holy Land by God. It is their biblical and spiritual homeland. During times of Jewish displacement, the Palestinian people gained control and built lives for themselves. When the Jewish people returned in ever larger quantities after 1948, conflict quickly returned. The Palestinians felt pushed out, often losing homes and jobs. The Jews believing in their God-given right to the land, took back what they believed to be theirs in the first place. Two peoples laying claim to the same land erupted into much bloodshed, which of course, continues today.

What will it take to have peace there? A miracle? Perhaps. What about peace in our lives, in our day, here in our nation? We are more politically apart than ever before. Democrats and Republicans have seemed to become enemies of one another. Religiously, we are more far apart than ever – denominational walls abound, and our own denomination stands on the precipice of fracture. As a society, we are at great odds over Covid-19, opinions ranging from a conspiracy on one end to the worse virus since the plague on the other, and everything inbetween. Throw in the wide divergence over human sexuality, abortion, border-control and race relations and well, you see what I mean. We have issues! We need help!

I believe that our help is in God, who is "...able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20.). I believe that God is all-powerful, ever-present and all-knowing. God is fulfilling His plan, conceived in ages past, and being worked out today. God is working in those who are followers of His Son, wishing to use them to bring about His kingdom. Any sort of change or revival or peace initiative must begin with us. We are part of the answer.

Would you join me in praying for peace – peace in the Holy Land, peace in our culture, peace in our church and peace within ourselves? We must overcome these many differences and work together for the common good. To do so, we must give up some of our pre-conceived notions and our own turf-control and reach beyond those who think like us and look like us. We are a greater family than we realize. We need each other, and God wants to use us to accomplish His greatest tasks!

I leave you with the wonderful words of that familiar hymn, "Let There Be Peace On Earth:"

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator,
Children all are we
Let us walk with each other In
perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let
this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
(The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989, p. 431).

Peace I leave with you!

Brian

Bishop's Chalice Challenge Golf Scramble

Come play or sponsor a hole on July 19 in Hurricane!



Want to have some fun and raise funds for ministry? The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia is sponsoring a golf scramble, the Bishop's Chalice Challenge, on July 19 at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Hurricane. The tournament will raise funds for a cause chosen by Bishop Steiner Ball, the Endowment for Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Learn more at The Foundation's event web page – umfwv.org/golf. You can register to play from the website. Foursomes are encouraged to register together. Registration covers golf fees, cart, a meal, an Amazing Grace mulligan package, and entry into event competitions. If you register prior to John Wesley's birthday (June 28), the cost for a team of four people is \$300. Team registrations after June 28 re \$320 per team of four. Individuals can register for \$80. We ask that everyone register by July 12.

The Endowment for Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College was created to provide financial support to ensure that students at WVWC receive the opportunity to participate in United Methodist spiritual and religious practices, to receive pastoral guidance, and to provide connections between the College and United Methodist congregations and youth ministries. You are invited to help build the endowment for the perpetual future support of the ministry at the College.

Your participation in the Bishop's Chalice Challenge event is one way to support this effort. You can also give a gift directly to the endowment [at this link](#) (Select Other; indicate Religious and Spiritual Life in the text box), or by mailing a check to The Foundation (P.O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338)

To learn more about the golf scramble, sponsorship, the Endowment, or to learn how you can create an endowment for the ministry that is close to your heart, contact The Foundation at 304-342-2113 or email info@umfwv.org.

To view WV UM Conference website please use this link:

www.wvumc.org

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kary McAtee

After much consideration, I have decided it would be best for me to not return to work following the allotted period of maternity leave. It has been an honor to serve the children, youth, and families of our community through my work over the last five years. The support of church staff and volunteers has provided me with experiences that have lead to much growth in my professional and personal lives. I am grateful for the relationships built and opportunities given during my time of employment at First United Methodist Church.



2021 June Music Ministries Newsletter



*"As the deer pants for water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God.
Where can I find him to come and stand before him?" Psalm 42:1-2 (TLB)*

It is planting season and every year I plant flowers in our window boxes. I also buy hanging baskets for our porches. All of these require me to keep them alive by giving them daily water. As I held the watering can in my hand, I was reminded how God wants to water our lives. John 4:14-15 says, "But the water I give them becomes a perpetual spring within them, watering them forever with eternal life." I looked up that verse in my bible and continued to read down through the chapter. This chapter is about the woman at the well who met Jesus there, and finally realized who He was and what He was offering her. That day, the sustaining substance of water in her pot paled in comparison to the Living Water she received from Jesus.

But as I read through this passage, verse 28 caused me to stop and ponder. It tells us that the woman left her water pot beside the well and went back to the village to share the news with others. I began to think about that water pot and what that might symbolize. Maybe that water pot represents our dreams that have not come to pass, or all our cares and worries that have not been surrendered to God or possibly the drought that each of us might be experiencing in our lives right now. Whatever it may be, I believe it was a gesture to remind us of the things we should leave behind. The things that might be keeping us from the true Living Water. This woman left it behind because Jesus filled her with perpetual water that will never run dry. Jesus will do that for us today. John 7:38-39 reminds us "that rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes."

But we have to thirst for it just like our plants thirst for water to stay alive. Without a properly watered soul, we cannot grow into the new life that God has prepared and given to each of us. He has empowered us with understanding to know that when we are dry and thirsty, we need to tap into His Living Water. Without it, the Fruit of God's Spirit will not be cultivated in us and we will not grow. Let us use the beautiful words to the song "Fill My Cup, Lord" as our prayer today.

Like the woman at the well
I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy
And then I heard my Savior speaking
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry"

There are millions in this world
Who are craving
The pleasures, earthly things of gold
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord

Fill my cup, Lord
I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me 'til I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole (Richard Blanchard, 1953)

Susan

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 7:03 PM**

Members present in the following format: Microsoft Team members: Lorraine Corley, Mike Hinchman, Lynn Ritter, and Brian Seders. Phone Conference members: Julie Civiello, Rhonda Elmer, Shelley Hyre, Diana Johnson, Bob Jones, Grover Kerns, Katie Kerns, Angie Kisner, Harry Kramer, Chris Patella, Diana Patella, and Brian Seders.

Pastor Brian Seders presided over meeting on behalf of Craig Merriam's, Church Council Chairman, absence. He brought meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Pastor Brian Seders explained to everyone who were on the computer to touch their screen at the bottom to mute themselves and then explained when we mute except for the speaker how it eliminates the feedback and any external noise. He then explained the hand raising feature and then stated he will call on each one that he sees. Pastor Brian then explained to those on the phone to mute their phones while someone else is speaking but if someone needs to speak to please unmute by pressing *6 and press *5 to mute again.

Review/approval of minutes:

March 9, 2021 and April 13, 2021 Minutes: Pastor Brian asked everyone if they had reviewed the minutes and then asked if there were any corrections or deletions needed. No one responded. Pastor Brian then asked those in favor of accepting the minutes for March 9, 2021 and April 13, 2021 to please say aye and those who oppose to please say nay. No one opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Brian announced we need to discuss about weddings again. He asked the Council if the wedding party could unmask for the ceremony and then re-mask. He opened the floor for a discussion.

After a discussion ensued, Pastor Brian asked if the Council was ok with the wedding party not mask inside during ceremony and sign a waiver and everyone responded yes. Pastor Brian then asked if anyone opposed and no one opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Brian asked Mark Tomblyn to speak on behalf of the Trustees as their newly elected chairperson.

Trustees: Mark Tomblyn, Chairperson, present. Mark reported that the Trustees last meeting was held on April 19th and they discussed the needs of the church and the parsonage. He reported that we have a great deal of needs in the church and the parsonage right now. The church has the elevator situation which we will talk about a little later, couple stoves in the kitchen needs to be repaired, refrigerator in the kitchen that is outdated, walls crumbling in the front courtyard, shrubbery needs to be addressed, a suggestion of a new sign in front of the church, a number of other things at the church that we need to be looking into. He went on to say the parsonage is more severe and is in more of an immediate need. He reported the parsonage roof has become a greater problem; leakage in the roof, damaged to the ceilings of

the upstairs of the parsonage, electrical issues; rewiring needs to be done, garage repairs, etc., and they are still waiting on estimates on the roof and rewiring of the parsonage. Mark continue to report that the Trustees considered how to pay for all of these needs and announced that we have over \$500,000.00 in the U. M. Foundation. He also stated that the Trustees felt that this is not the time to try to do any kind of a fundraising plan/capital campaign as the church itself is trying to get back into a good financial situation in giving. Mark went on to say the Trustees recommendation at this point is that we take some money out of the foundation and look at it as if we are borrowing money from ourselves and plan in the future or the next couple of years to pay that amount of money back. He stated we are looking at about \$100,000.00 when we start adding all the needs/repairs up. He reported that he knows that Diana Patella has worked hard on the Parsonage Committee trying to get all the estimates and we have such great needs that have to be addressed immediately and we cannot continue to delay these actions. He asked on behalf of the Trustees that the Council to consider up to \$100,000.00.

After hearing discussions for and against the motion, Pastor Brian apologized for putting anyone on the spot before asking if anyone is against/opposed to the recommendation from the Trustees to take money out of the Foundation up to \$100,000.00 and then to plan a process of repayment. No one answered. He then stated since no one opposed he assumes everyone is for the recommendation but before declaring the motion passed asked if anyone would like to abstain from voting. No one abstained. Pastor Brian announced this motion passes to give permission to the Trustees to withdraw up to \$100,000.00 from the Foundation to make the necessary repairs. He thanked everyone for their discussions and asked if there was anything further from the Trustees and Mark replied no.

Pastor Brian reported he will have other committees to report but first he has a request from someone to join the meeting tonight and he will have them speak first since they have been waiting. He then asked Donna Jones if she was still present and she replied yes I am.

Donna Jones, Praise Team and Chancel Choir member, made a request from the church music department; Praise Team/Chancel Choir, that have participated in recording the music for the church services on-line and for the 9:30 am in-person service in the gymnasium feel at this time that we need to bring live music back into the church. She stated she can speak on behalf of the Praise Team that they are all fully vaccinated and the majority of the people who have been singing and recording are vaccinated. She went on to report, since the guidelines have changed, they are asking the Church Council to allow them to start singing while they wear their masks at both services but at least at the 9:30 am in-person service as soon as possible. (She reported that they wear their mask while singing during their recordings.) She stated this is their way of ministering and bringing people back into the church.

Pastor Brian reiterated Donna's request, He announced that Donna who is a church member is making a recommendation to give the Praise Team permission for live music at the 9:30 in-

person service but the Praise Team would remain masked. He went on to say that Donna made the motion with the recommendation and we need a second for a discussion. He made a point that we are not voting on it, just a discussion. He then asked for a second to continue the discussion. Mark Tomblyn seconded the motion.

After hearing discussions for and against the motion, Pastor Brian said we are ready to vote. He announced that the recommendation is to allow live music at least at the first service, possibly at the second, but primarily at the first service with masking of the band members. He asked those who in favor to say yes and he announced there were several yeses and thumbs up on the computer screen. He then asked those who oppose to say no. No one opposed. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and he then reported one abstention on the computer. Pastor Brian announced the motion carries. He went on to say that we must stress proper cleaning between all services and continue mask wearing at least for now.

Pastor Brian announced that the next thing to discuss is to set the price for the Stained Glass Window book. He stated he thought that we set it for \$10.00 preliminarily but there was a slight increase because of page and color increases. He reported that the price increase was a total charge of \$115.00 and the total cost of the books came to \$2,120.01. He stated we ordered 260 books with the church paying for 100 of those books and a very generous donation of \$1,600.00 paid for additional 160 books. He announced that the coloring book is not included at this time. He reported that the publisher still does not have the material from the photographer. He stated there was a miscommunication about that and the photographer is working on it. He went on to say that is a separate cost of \$445.00 which we will not be dealing with tonight. Although, the person who made the \$1,600.00 donation said that would be for both the books and the coloring books. He stated basically we paid the bill but in order to break even we can easily be fine at \$10.00 a book. He then told the Council he needs them to tell him what price do they want to set for the book so that he can announce it Sunday and we can begin to make those books available to our folks.

Lorrayne Corley's raised hand was recognized by Pastor Brian. Lorrayne made a motion that we charge \$15.00 for the Stained Glass Window book. Diana Patella seconded it. Pastor Brian announced that we need to have a discussion before we vote. He then asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the pricing.

After hearing discussions for and against the motion, Pastor Brian announced that we are ready to vote. He asked those who are in favor of setting the price at \$15.00 for the Stained Glass Window book not including the coloring book to say aye. Everyone said aye. He then asked those who oppose to say nay. No one said nay. He lastly asked if anyone would like to abstain and no one abstained. Pastor Brian announced motioned was carried unanimously and he will make an announcement this Sunday to make it available and he then told Lorrayne he will have the books at the tables for purchase.

Pastor Brian announced that he has to bring another possibility before the Council. He stated he has something that he would like the Council to consider from him as the Pastor. He asked

if all church committees to be allowed to be meet in the gym as long as they schedule through the office and each committee disinfect the space themselves after they meet. He stated not only do they just show up but they must schedule a portion of the gymnasium, they must clean and disinfect after each meeting. He reported a case in point, he stated the meeting tonight has been very hard to run and it has been hard from the very moment we had to do it and it is becoming cumbersome and difficult to the point that we are losing some interest as it creates a lot of anxiety and it takes up a lot of time. He stated he thinks we are at the point where we have done this so well as far as cleaning that if we schedule it and we do it right and we are only talking about Committee meetings, not every group or every person, but only Committee meetings coming back into the church on the schedule basis and would that be something that the Church Council would be willing to visit.

Pastor Brian then stated it will only take a second for a discussion but first we will need a second for the motion from the pastor. Mark Tomblyn second the motion. Pastor Brian then asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this particular motion.

After hearing discussions for and against the motion, Pastor Brian announced we are ready to vote. He then asked those who are in favor of said motion to say yes. Everyone said yes, He asked those who oppose to say no. No one replied. He asked if anyone would like to abstain. No one abstained. Pastor Brian announced that the motion carries and that we will communicate that to the Committees. He also stated since he is part of that motion and as the Parish Coordinator for 12-14 Methodist churches in this portion of the county, the District Superintendent has asked for a Parish Meeting of pastors who represent these churches and a member of the annual conference and a lay leader to come to that meeting and he has asked us to have that meeting at First Church on May 18th at 6:30 pm which is next Tuesday. Pastor Brian then asked the Council if this would fall under the previous guideline that we just approved or do we want to take this as an additional motion tonight.

Mark Tomblyn spoke up and stated it should fall under the previous motion and as long as everyone maintains social distancing and masking and everyone agreed. Pastor Brian announced that we will move ahead and give permission for the Parish Meeting and it should be a minimal amount of people and they will social distance, mask, and clean after they are done. Pastor Brian thanked everyone.

Pastor Brian reported that he brought to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee about a PPE forgivable loan through the United Methodist Credit Union to help with payroll. He stated that right now funding is not there so the Small Business Administration has put the program on hiatus until it is funded. Pastor Brian stated he wanted the Council to be aware that we were going to talk about this in finance next month to see if the church would like to apply for funding and we will definitely still have that meeting but right now it is not available. He reported that he had told some of the members that we would be looking at this so he wanted to inform everyone as a FYI. He said they are going to continue to monitor to see if

that program gets re-funded and if the Finance Committee wants to do it then we will bring it before this Council to have the discussion.

Pastor Brian reported that the last vote by email to let Robbie Morris from the Mountain State Forest Festival to advertise the Crafts and More to be located at either First United Methodist Church or the Phil Gainer Center was granted permission by an 8 to 5 vote. Pastor Brian stated that we will have to let Robbie know by no later than September 7th if the church will be available. He stated we have time but we will need to have information ahead of time that has been brought up by a number of you in the emails that you sent. 1st the number of crafters, 2nd to what extent will the Forest Festival clean, 3rd what will the number for COVID be at that point and time, 4th how will this impact Pioneer Club, Backpack Program and other church groups in the gym. Pastor Brian announced that we have time to gather the information but he wanted the Council to be aware of what the vote was in case you missed the tally and where that is. He stated he appreciated everyone for sharing their points and their ability of voting this way.

Pastor Brian gave an updated report on the elevator. He stated the elevator is working right now but we are not going to the basement. He stated it could damage the elevator. He reported that the work in the basement is not done and that Mark Phipps had to order a special part that he needs to drill another hole and as of Sunday, that part has not come in yet. He continue to report that the basement is still torn up which is why he has not contacted the Boy Scouts yet about using the Scout Hall. He stated it is unusable at the moment and when it is rectified he will send an invitation that they can come back with small groups and using all protocols in place which we talked about at the last meeting. He again stated that the invitation has not been extended because it is impossible to have any activities downstairs for a couple of reasons. He stated the torn up floor is pretty rough.

Pastor Brian asked the Council because it was asked of him today that in the second service, (11 am), Children's Sermon time if we can have children come forward during the playing of Jesus Loves Me and he wants to gather the Council's feelings of the children coming on stage if that is something that you would approve or perhaps not want to approve. He reported that he didn't give the person an answer until he spoke to the Council first. He asked if that is being too close of proximity together, can we social distance. He reported that by seeing the people that came on Sunday one or two of the six kids would have come up because he knows the family and their position on this. He announced that he is okay with inviting people but he wants the Council's thoughts.

Pastor Brian asked if there were any comments or if it was okay to extend the invitation and let the people decide for themselves.

A discussion ensued.

Pastor Brian asked if anyone else would like to speak for or against the idea. No one responded. He then said he is comfortable to instructing the children's presenter to wait

another month. He then asked for a formal declaration. He said he needs a first and second then a vote. Mark Tomblyn made the motion to wait a month and Diana Patella seconded it. Pastor Brian asked for any further discussion and no one responded. He then asked those in favor for waiting a month for the children to come forward for Children's Sermons say aye and everyone said aye. He asked those oppose to say no. No one responded. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain. No one responded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Pastor Brian announced that he has been talking about a new administrative model for our church meetings and he presented a couple models to the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee. SPPRC recommends based on Pastor Brian's recommendation of one of two models that we go to a one night a week meeting night format instead of having a multiple church committee meetings through-out each and every week. He explained his rationale on this: He reported that right now he has a potential for a 23 evening meetings that meet at least once a month that he is involved in. He went to report that 14 of those are fortunately inactive right now. He stated he has 39 potential meetings per month 15 which are inactive right now. He explained beyond the church, he has a potential of 39 meetings a month. He explained that over half of those are evenings. He reported that 22 years ago, (1999), the church averaged 427 people at our in person worship service every Sunday and in 2019 before COVID we were averaging 225 people per Sunday services which happened to end the decline that fell as far as 215 in 2016. He announced we have begun to turn that around before COVID and once the church gets to that current level of average attendance to 225 to 230, pre-COVID, a single pastor cannot keep up with the church's pastoral needs. He stated it is documented evidence. He reported what tends to happen when pastors are the primary care giver at that level and beyond they tend to burn out and then tend to ask for a move. He reported that in many cases when a pastor ask to move where a church begins to grow is after four or five years because they can't keep up. He states they ask for a different appointment and then they start the process over again, and then they burn out again and ask yet for another move. He reported that the churches get stuck in a cycle of too many pastors in too short of a time and it creates all kind of issues. Pastor Brian went on to say what he is proposing is if the church wants to grow and even want to approach those numbers of the past we may not be able to reach those numbers again because that is totally amazing but even if we want to approach 300 we cannot do it under the current one pastoral care giver doing all the pastoral care or most of it, attending meetings, planning for the future, training, then throw in district, parish, general conference and annual conference. He stated we can't have it and as much as people want him to be at their event he can't do it. He is asking the Council to consider to partner with him in order to share the pastoral care giving load amongst our parishioners which are already doing to some extent with the Shepherd's Program, in order to help him and the church to position ourselves to grow. Please see the attached information, please read over it, pray about it so that we can consider for the next meeting. He stated we are on the verge of doing something great together but it cannot happen under the current administrative model and the current administrative load on one person. He reported that he has felt that stress tremendously this last year because of the great conflict that we have had at the church based on people leaving, people being upset,

people not being able to come together, etc. He reported that it has been a terrible year and he has had to shoulder a lot of that and it has created stress that he hasn't experienced before and as much as he has loved doing the Launch Program it became very difficult to produce, edit and record daily for as long as he did. He stated he knows it was needed but he hasn't recovered from that and now that the church is beginning to open and the pastoral needs are increasing and the only way for us to grow is to consider a new administrative model combined with a new way of practicing ministry as a church rather than a single staff person or maybe two or three paid staff. He reiterated that he would like the Council to consider and he will send a three page personal report on it. He asked that everyone read it and pray about it before the next meeting.

Pastor Brian moved to Committee reports.

Pastor Brian announced that the Communications Team has not met in the last month and they will meet before the next Council meeting so he will have a report at that time.

Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Penny Friddle, Chairperson, not present. Pastor Brian reported that the Committee met but they do not have any direct decisions other than the recommendation to go to a single meeting night per week and the report he is sending will explain it.

Pioneer Club, Shelley Hyre, Chairperson, present. Shelley asked the Council if they would permit their small group of 20 or less of children to have a one or two day Vacation Bible School outside whether in the lawn, our parking lot or at the City Park.

Pastor Brian said he would take that as a motion as one of our church members and a member of our Council. He then asked for a second to have a discussion. Chris Patella seconded it.

Shelley explained that the Pioneer Club has a summer Vacation Bible School Program. She reported that they don't have to pay for anything. She said they can do something very simple. She reported that they know the need that the children need to be fed, they know the need that our community kids are really kind of lost. She would like to have the opportunity to give them a lesson, give them a meal, and a craft. She explained that they can put up a tent in the yard and if they don't want people in the yard maybe put it up in the parking lot. She stated we need to have a way for the kids to gather and remind them that Jesus loves them in this very confusing time.

After a discussion ensued, Pastor Brian then said we are ready to vote. Pastor Brian announced if we would provide space in the yard which is a good use of church space for a one or two day Pioneer Program - Vacation Bible School operating at a minimal or any expense and if you are in favor to please say aye. Everyone said aye. He asked those who oppose to say nay. No one responded. He then asked if anyone would like to abstain and no one responded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Worship Committee, Lorraine Corley, Co-Chairperson, present. Lorraine reported that we have only gone to the sanctuary this past Sunday. She reported we had a 9:30 am service and turning around and doing the 11 am service. She stated pre-COVID we only had an 8:30 am service and then the 11 am service. She explained that she stayed in the lobby this time because she didn't want to lock anyone out but while Pastor Brian was having the 9:30 am service she had people coming in and they circled the lobby and then the cleaning crew really had to rush, rush and she herself had to actually stay downstairs and cleaned the restrooms and mopped before Melody got there. She then asked if they have enough time between both services and asked if we can move the time to 9 am service and then 11 am service. She said that half hour would give them more time to clean. She reported that she had around 20 people to come after 10 to get their seat and she looks for more people to start coming and she had people tell her that they are going to give it a couple of weeks and then they are going to start coming. She explained she doesn't want to have to hold 20 people down in the lobby. Pastor Brian interjected and said he would like to address that and it is a very good point.

Pastor Brian explained that he went way over in the first service and that is something he is not going to practice very often. He then suggested that we try this two more weeks and we might decide to move back on-line. He stated his personal thought is that the 8:30 am service was too early to grow that service. He reported that the young folks aren't going to come out that early for church. He stated we may have to move the 9:30 am service back to 9:00 am or 9:15 am. But first he wants to try to tweak the first service a little better and then the next meeting we will come back and talk about it again. Pastor Brian thanked Lorraine for her hard work.

Pastor Brian asked if anyone had any questions, comments, a need or concerns with a Committee or otherwise.

Diana Patella, Parsonage Committee Co-Chair and Re-Launch Team Member, asked to speak. Pastor Brian recognized Diana. Diana asked Pastor Brian if he wanted the draping in the Family Life Center that she had done for the Re-Launch Committee for the 9:30 am in-person service left or does he want her to call the company to have them remove the drapes and Pastor Brian replied personally he would like for her to call the company and have the drapes removed. He explained that this Sunday they tried to use it as the overflow and they didn't need it. He reported that in the future he will direct the overflow people to the Blue Room now that the TV's are available and it will save us the expense of not having the drapes. He also explained that we are going to have to remove the sound system anyway from the gym because it's going to begin to be used by its owner. Pastor Brian thanked Diana for arranging the drape installation as it has served us so very well at the 9:30 am service in the gym as it did help with the acoustics immensely.

Shelley Hyre spoke up and Pastor Brian recognized Shelley. Shelley announced that the Adult Sunday School Class is currently meeting from 10 am to 10:45 am but they are moving it to 9:30 am to 10:15 am. She then asked since we are starting the fall committees and things to meet in the Family Life Center, can they begin meeting in person in the near future or by the fall and Pastor Brian replied yes, that would fall under the previous ruling this evening since it

falls under Committees, Sunday School, Small Groups, etc. He stated he doesn't feel comfortable in the Parlor for groups over 8 and Shelley agreed.

Pastor Brian then asked the Council if it sounded reasonable that the previous ruling also included Committees, Sunday School, and Small Groups and everyone agreed.

Shelley interjected and stated that right now everyone is comfortable on-line but the day is going to come and she wanted to ask.

Security Team, Chris Patella, Co-Chairperson, present. Chris stated that we were hot and heavy early on security before COVID but it all stop because of no one going to church, etc. He wanted to brief everyone that the other cameras have been installed, they have been updated, there is visual out in the parking lot, and he explained that he and Mr. Pingley and others are needing to get back together again and really take a look at the security as people start coming with such concerns as surveillance, handguns, so forth in church. He explained the bottom line is that they need to revisit the security as we start to re-enter into the church a little bit more.

Pastor Brian thanked Chris and reported that the extra cameras are working beautifully. The parking lot vantage point is excellent.

Next Meeting:	Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 pm.
Adjourn the Meeting:	Pastor Brian adjourned the meeting.
Time:	8:30 pm

MEETINGS/EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Church office will be closed Monday, May 31st – Friday, June 4th.
- 2021 WV Annual Conference will be held on June 3-6 at WV Wesleyan College
- Finance Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6 pm via Zoom or Conference Call
- Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 pm via Microsoft Teams or Conference Call

THANK YOU....

The family of Vince Johnkoski would like to thank our church family for their many messages of condolence, cards, and donations to the church in his memory. We appreciate your loving support.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS							
1	Lee Sanders	11	Tom Cain	17	Mildred Wilmoth-Sloan	23	Cheri Shiflett
1	Hoy Ferguson	11	Michael Hanna	18	Barbara Campbell	23	Liz Thomas
1	Lisa Wood	11	Cindy Nucilli	18	Amber Click	23	Dan Wetsch
2	John Conley	12	David Doerr	18	Amanda McClelland	24	John Davis
2	Brice Cupp	12	Carol Erickson	19	Holly Collett	25	Shirley Dean
2	Butch Fox, Jr	12	Shane Hinzman	19	Jane Corley	25	Carl Nucilli
2	Scott Fox	12	Karl Ruud	19	Karl Dettinger	25	Jim Spears
3	Kay Rhee	13	Chip Friddle, IV	19	Brant Hammer	26	Gary Chenoweth
4	Amanda Hayden	13	Elijah Martin	19	Trenna Robinson	26	Wayne Gregoire
5	Terry Bodkins	13	Alex Rosencrance	19	Rece Wamsley	26	Neil Poe
5	Brenda Brown	13	Kaylee Rosencrance	20	Carl Brushingham	27	Alexandra Barrickman
5	Jim Wilmoth	13	Janet Shears	20	Terry Daft	28	Trudy Carowick
6	Jamie McBride	14	Kate Barger	20	Nellie Galford	28	Courtney Gear
6	Brooke Pritt	14	Elliott Evans	20	Ryan Johnston	28	Peyton McBride
6	Brandon Simmons	14	Austin Poyner	21	Audrie Dyer	28	Bobbi Phares
7	Gavin Carr	15	Roger Corder	21	Danica Riggins	28	Jeffrey Rice
8	Ken Skinner	15	Jan Hagarty	22	Sandy Cole	28	Judy Shelton
10	James Bibey	15	Joe Martin, III	22	Cory Wagner	29	Angela Barrickman
10	Wayne Hart	15	Michelle Talkington	22	Bridgette Wilson	29	Zach Gear
10	Mary Skinner	15	Zachary Tysor	23	Brian Hayden, Sr.	29	Carolyn Gola
10	Roger Tysor	17	Dominique Heinke	23	Byron Sayres	29	Valjean McCartney
10	Ariana Zimmers	17	Rachel Montgomery	23	Gary Schoonover	30	Eric Hickman

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES		15	Mike & Sharon Hinchman	27	Clair & Trudy Carowick
2	Gary & Marsha Chenoweth	15	Ken & Joy Skinner	27	Tommy & Leslie Elmore
2	Roger & Cindy Corder	16	Brian & Autumn Elmore	27	Clyde & Valjean McCartney
3	John & Jennifer Wanless	16	Vic & Patty Simmons	27	Stephen & Carolyn Shepler
4	Charles & Tammy Lawson	18	Mike & Peggy Johnson	28	Joe & Janet Godwin
6	Bud & Ann Rexrode	19	Karl & Shelby Dettinger	30	Kurt & Katie Casey
6	Hobert & Jane Corley	19	Brad & Debby Phillips		
6	Drew & Jamie Pingley	19	Norman & Linda Wagner		
6	Steve & Lisa Wamsley	21	Jason & Elizabeth Ferguson		
8	Russ & Lorraine Corley	21	Scott & Jennifer King		
8	Jeff & Donna Trulik	21	Ed & Barbara Tyre		
9	Pat & Evette LaFayette	22	Ben & Bernice Backus		
11	David & Deborah Fincham	22	Chris & Samantha Davis		
11	Tharun & Jory Karthikeyan	22	Donald & Glenda Fitzwater		
12	Gary & Carolyn Channell	22	Herk & Ellen Kessler		
12	Ryan & Karen Johnston	23	Dan & Barbara Wetsch		
13	Charlie & Penny Friddle	26	Bob & Linda Sponaule		

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

to the families of

Hazel Lambert and Matthew McDowell

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

315 KERENS AVENUE

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

The Circuit Rider

NON-PROFIT ORG

June 2021



U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

FIRST U.M. CHURCH

ELKINS, WV

PERMIT NO. 14

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM – 3 PM / 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: TBA

