

**November
2019**

The Link

The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

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**The Church Offices will be closed Nov. 20 & 21, in celebration of Thanksgiving.
May you and yours be blessed this Thanksgiving season!**

We need your help for . . . ADVENT DECORATING!



Join us on **November 24 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary** as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We need several people to put up our big Christmas tree and help decorate the sanctuary, Linger Hall and other areas within the church.

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION TO BENEFIT THE UPSHUR COOPERATIVE PARISH HOUSE AND CROSSLINES



The Upshur Cooperative Parish house and Crosslines work to ensure that our community neighbors celebrate the holiday season with traditional, healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals. The following items are donated in individual sizes to be included in each basket:

THANKSGIVING: stuffing, pumpkin & fruit pie fillings, pie crust mix, gravy, canned green beans, canned corn, and evaporated milk.

CHRISTMAS: canned corn, canned yams, canned green beans, applesauce or other fruit, cake mix, frosting, and canned pork'n'beans.

NOVEMBER MICAH MEAL

The Loose Change Offering and the Micah Meal on November 17th will support our local veterans served by Crosslines. The funds help with needs such as insurance, car repair, utilities, etc. for the families of current military as well as veterans. Bring a generous dish on the 17th and share food and fellowship as we honor those who serve.



Celebrating Children/Youth Sabbath



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 + Church Women United - GFH 12:00pm	2 +
3 Daylight Saving + Time Ends Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	4 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Nurture – Rm. 21 7pm	5 Election Day + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	6 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	7 + UMW - GFH 7:00pm	8 +	9 +
10 + Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	11 Veterans Day + OFFICES CLOSED	12 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	13 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	14 +	15 +	16 +
17 + United Methodist Men - GFH 8:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am Micah Meal– 12N	18 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am CUBS - GFH 7:00pm Outreach – Lib. – 6pm Witness – Rm 21 – 7pm	19 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	20 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Morning Circle - Fleming Lounge 9:30am	21 +	22 +	23 +
24 + Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	25 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	26 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	27 + OFFICE CLOSED	28 Thanksgiving + Day	29 +	30



- 2 Patty McComas
- Karen Cartwright
- 3 Emmalee Mohan
- 4 Chuck Loudin
- 10 Grant Wilkerson
- 11 Linda Wellings
- 13 Rick Edwards
- 14 Sue Darnall
- 15 Lori Hagi
- 17 Ava Lantz
- Gary Frush
- 20 Jeff Godwin
- 22 John Wildman
- 23 Mary Ellen Biller
- 26 Mary Welliver

BUCKHANNON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

You are invited to attend a free concert Sunday, November 3, at 3:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College. Our organist, Dr. Dan Martin will be performing a Corelli concerto with the orchestra. Conductor and FUMC choir member Patience Brock will direct the group in several new pieces. We thank First United Methodist Church members for providing rehearsal space.

NOVEMBER USHERS

Nate Kennedy (head), Ricki Green & Marty Kelley,
Christal Taylor

NOVEMBER GREETERS

Nov. 3	Frank & Deb Harrison
Nov. 10	Jim Finegan, Candy Smith
Nov. 17	Gary Summers, Matt Leventry
Nov. 24	Gary Frush, Bill Mallory

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

The following persons sent contributions, in memory of David Cartwright, to the FUMC Improvement Fund: Shirley Catalano, Andrew & Valerie Woofter, Strawberry Festival Board of Directors, and Margaret Walls.

Margaret Walls made a contribution, in memory of Tom Darnall, to the Memorial Fund.

Margaret Miller made a contribution, in honor of Ellen Nickell's 90th birthday, to the Nickell Fund (Pastor's Discretionary).



2019 PASTOR'S REPORT

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.

I love Sunday mornings...the Lord's day my dad always called it. And I love to gather with the family of God, my family, my Church family. Some Sunday worship gatherings, we begin by calling ourselves to praise by singing, "God Is Here," number 660 in the United Methodist Hymnal. Here are the words to the first and last verses.

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe.**

I've long claimed and believe that the Church is a living, breathing organism with continual rhythms of ebb and flow. And in the music of the Church's rhythms, Jesus offers every believer grace to live and have our being as followers of the One who loves us the most. When we recognize those rhythms, we discover the pulse of the living Church and find strength for the journey that God has for us. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* Those words give me strength and peace. It assures me that we can be certain that God knows what God is doing, that we are included in God's plan and God will take care of us; God will never abandon us. In a word, that's HOPE. We know that in every ebb and flow in the life of the Church, God works for the good of the Body of Christ, for our good. My goal is to lead us to trust God, and to let love and faithfulness enable us to give our lives to God so that God's plans for the Body of Christ will bring us to that hopeful future.

I give thanks for all those who have come before us, for those who have faithfully held their place in the life of First Church. And with a still spirit, I give thanks for those of the First Church family who have joined the Church Triumphant, who now worship God on a clearer day and a brighter shore.

I give thanks for all the little ones who are in our midst, the young families, for those who have just recently joined, and for those who have long been and continue to be faithful stewards for the Lord and the First Church family.

I give thanks for the Church family leadership and for the staff who so devotedly blend their gifts and graces to assist one another in ministry. I am grateful for the Choir, the musicians, and all those who help make worship warm, meaningful, challenging, and life-affirming. I am grateful for the new group of youth who are beginning the Confirmation journey. And, I'm grateful that each Sunday, I'm able to sit on the edge of Heaven and share with the Wiggles at Wiggletime. One of the most needed and fulfilling ministries at First Church is the Circle of Prayer, the daily prayer web that assists and reminds us of the great gift of prayer. I am grateful for the United Methodist Women and Men and the ways they support mission and ministry. I am grateful for the renewed energy in doing a reset for the children in terms of Christian Education. And...the list continues. Through the ebb and flow of First Church, it is clear that God has not abandoned us, that we are a work in progress, and we have great hope that God through the grace of Jesus Christ continues to lead us to live our best lives now, to experience abundant life in Jesus Christ, and to the lift the cross of Christ in Buckhannon.

Matthew 6:33 gives us these words, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* For me, those words of Jesus are about priorities, and Jesus gives us a clear formula to set our priorities. I would that all of us would be able to really hear Jesus speak those words to us and to the Church. To the Church in a season when the Church disagrees with itself, and to us as many struggle with faithfulness to what truly matters. It's been said that as we get older, we don't regret the things that we did do, but only those things that we failed or forgot to do. How many of those wonderful, brief capsules of time we miss each day, I wonder? I believe that seeking the kingdom of God and God's righteousness will help us guard against our being deaf to the rhythms of Church. I know that God speaks to us anywhere, and most certainly, we hear the voice of God when we gather for worship, for mission, in prayer, together at table as the family of



2019 PASTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

God. I wonder how much of God's grace we experience...and how much more grace we're capable of experiencing. Setting priorities, placing God first in our lives and every motion of the church may not always be easy, but it is possible and it is paramount. Placing God first in our lives and seeking God's face are so important and vital for our spiritual journey and for the life of the Church. It's not about being a better church member. It's not about being a perfect leader. It's not about having the appearance of religiosity or holiness. But it's all about growing together in our relationship with God and staying in love with Jesus.

If each day, we seek God, no matter the ebb and flow of our lives or even the life of the Church, we are not on this journey alone. God is with us. I love those words from Isaiah 43:2 & 3: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God...your Savior;"*

In a word...**HOPE!**

I continue as the Chairperson for District Committee on Ministry. Wesleyan District is blessed with a wonderful group of women and men who very gracefully provide support, encouragement, and guidance for the District's pastors as well as nurture women and men who are taking the primary steps toward ordained ministry. I continue also to serve on the District Committees of Nominations, and Superintendency.

As I close this report, I am reminded of the words of Bishop S. Clifton Ives, my ordaining Bishop, words that have been posted for years on the bulletin board outside my study.

"Remember, we may not be the best qualified to do this, but we are the ones who are here and have the responsibility of doing it. We can't wait until the best qualified ones come along. Right now, in this place, we are the best qualified to do it."

May God's grace and strength guide us and lead us into the work that is ahead for First United Methodist Church. Joy and strength for the journey ahead,



ROCK CAVE ELEMENTARY ADOPT A CHILD



Rock Cave Elementary School is starting early this year to make sure some 40 In-need students are adopted for Christmas. If you or someone you know may be interested in supporting this Christmas adoption program at Rock Cave Elementary, please let us know. You can email Renee Warner at refwarner@gmail.com, or call the church office 304-472-9494 during office hours. The First Church family has been blessed by supporting Rock Cave in the previous years. ...another wonderful way to take the church to the community!



The First United Methodist Church **CONFIRMATION/YOUTH CLASS** will meet two times in November and once in December.

The meeting dates are:

November 3 and November 10, and December 1.

All meetings are from 7 PM to 8:15 PM in the Youth Room.

November 3 snacks are the Boyles family.

November 10 snacks are the Wilkerson family.

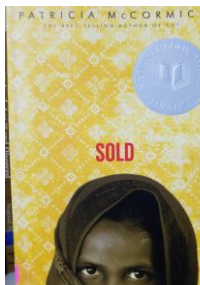
December 1 snacks are the Spencer family.

Please remember to pray for your Confirmation Youth as they journey through the milestone in their lives.



United Methodist Women

The Fall 2019 Basement Sale was a huge success! Thank you for supporting this annual fund raiser for mission projects by contributing items and giving countless hours of your time. Jo Criss, treasurer, reports we raised \$1,530. I'm sorry I wasn't available to personally help and left Jane Crutchfield to coordinate all the help for 3 long days. However, I had no doubt our close-knit fellowship of women would do what was needed. A couple men helped too. Many of you sent our family words of encouragement at that time which were greatly appreciated.



Thursday, October 3, was a great time of sharing for women who attended the unit meeting. Members reported about books they read, some of which were from the UMW Reading Program. There are suggested books each year for the reading program that cover social justice topics pertinent to women and children. We buy some from the recommended list each year and place them on a book cart located in the choir rehearsal room. The book I read, *Sold*, was about a 13-year-old girl from Nepal. She thought she was being sent to work as a housekeeper

earning money for her family, but instead found herself in India and learned her stepfather had sold her into prostitution. It is a story of unimaginable cruelty, but a triumphant spirit that rises despite her circumstances. Anyone can check out a book by signing the card and leaving the card on the cart.



All are invited to our November 7 unit meeting in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. Naomi Lynch will lead us in Christmas Craft Making. We'll be making clip-on felt Christmas tree ornaments. Evening Circle is responsible for refreshments.

Future Dates:



November 1 – Church Women United meets at FUMC, 1 pm. We are responsible for refreshments.



November 2 - Day Apart at Beverly United Methodist Church, registration 9 am, worship 10 am, lunch at noon



November 7 – Unit meeting, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall, Christmas Craft Making with Naomi Lynch



December 5 – Unit Meeting, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall,
Christmas devotional by Renee Warner



December 14 – Cookies and More beginning at
8 am, Fellowship Hall

Barbara Loftis, UMW President



COOKIES & MORE



Coming Soon!
Homemade Cookies,
Candy, Crafts
And More

Saturday,
December 14th





**In honor and respect of our Veterans,
First UMC will be closed Nov. 11 in
observance of Veterans Day.**

NOVEMBER MINISTRY TEAM DATES

- 4 Nurture Ministry Team, 7 PM, Rm. 21
- 18 Micah Outreach Ministry Team, 6 PM, Library
- Witness Ministry Team, 7 PM, Rm. 21

LOOKING AHEAD FOR DECEMBER

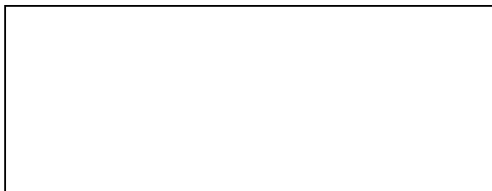
- 1 First Sunday in Advent, Communion Sunday
- 8 Children/Youth Nativity Celebration, Morning
Worship
Church Family Christmas Dinner, arrive at 5 PM,
Meal at 5:30 PM. Meat, bread, and drinks
provided
- 15 Lessons and Carols, Morning Worship presented
by Chancel Choir
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7 PM.
Communion and Sean Crites singing
***Church Offices are closed Dec. 23 thru Jan. 1.



Loaves & Fishes

...bringing our gifts to God and God
compassionately multiplies

**NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP
EMPHASIS MONTH WHEN WE
RENEW OUR STEWARDSHIP
WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS AND
THANKSGIVING.**



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