

**FEBRUARY
2020**

The Link



HISTORY MONTH

The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

52 S. Florida St. Buckhannon, WV 26201 304-472-9494 fumc26201@gmail.com www.firstchurchum.com



Shrove Tuesday...Fat Tuesday

Call it whatever you want,
but the Pancakes and Sausage are

GREAT!

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 5 to 7 PM

\$7 Adults / \$4 Children

Godwin Fellowship Hall
Gluten Free and Take-Out Available
Sponsored by Young Adults Group
Proceeds go to support
The Upshur Parish House

**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP**

**Wesley Chapel
West Virginia Wesleyan College**

**February 26, 2020
7 PM**

BISHOP SANDRA STEINER-BALL

Preacher

Bishop: West Virginia Annual Conference
United Methodist Church

SPONSORED BY
WESLEYAN DISTRICT—UPSHUR PARISH
WV UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Don't forget...you can give to First Church
online. Go to the church's website,
www.firstchurchum.com, and on the first page
and the upper right hand side, look for
"Paypal Online Giving" and click on "Donate."
And, as always, "Thank You."**



The time is almost here!

A day of refreshing, a women's retreat while we are enduring the winter months!

Join us on Saturday, February 8, as we gather to fellowship, pray, and study the Word.

Renee will be facilitating a day of study using Frequency, a resource from Pastor Robert Morris, about hearing God's voice.

Here's the tag on the book:

"How can I hear God?" "Does God still speak?" "Is He speaking to me?" The good news is, yes, God is speaking. And like a radio host broadcasting His voice into the airwaves, God speaks all the time. The question is, "Are you tuned in to the right frequency?" In this series, Pastor Robert shares how to connect with God and hear His voice."

Through a sermon series and study guide from the book, we will listen to and talk about what the Bible says about hearing God's voice in our spirits. We will spend time in prayer and in journaling our thoughts and concerns.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., with the first session starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be a continental breakfast provided, along with a light lunch and other refreshments during the day. The retreat will conclude by 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$15, which will cover the retreat materials and food for the day. Scholarships are available.

Please register by Saturday, February 1st, by emailing Renee Warner at refwarner@gmail.com. Payment can be mailed to the church office or turned in on Sundays to Renee. Make checks payable to FUMC and add "retreat" in the memo line.



General Conference 101 Session

with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and our delegates

Sunday, February 16

4 pm

Broad St UMC, Weston

All are welcome to come and learn about the process of General Conference and proposed legislation that may be voted on.

If you enjoy or have a knack for electronics, consider the Sound Team and help with monitoring the sound system on Sundays or other special services. If you have any questions, ask the person running sound on Sunday morning, or email Phil Loftis: pdloftis@gmail.com, or Danny Green: littlebrofumc@gmail.com. With a little bit of training, you can share your gifts and help provide very helpful support.

“THE ONE WHO SINGS PRAYS TWICE.”



If you enjoy singing and music, or want to share with a great group of friends, you are cordially invited to the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7 PM, and Sunday morning Warm-Up is 10 AM before Worship. Rehearsals are in the Choir Room just off Godwin Fellowship Hall.

The Anthem Schedule for February is:

2	Come Share the Lord
9	Steal Away
16	Worthy to Be Praised
23	Transfiguration Hymn

Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 18, Chancel Choir will begin extended rehearsals to prepare for the April 10 Good Friday/Tenebrae/Service of Shadows. The Tenebrae Service is one of the Christian year's most moving and meaningful experiences as we remember the events of the day Jesus was crucified. So come, sing, and pray twice. You'll be blessed as you share the blessing of music.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

✿ If you would care to help with ushering, join one of the Usher Teams. There are available positions for ushers. If you are interested, see Pastor Steve, or email: stevowvu@gmail.com.

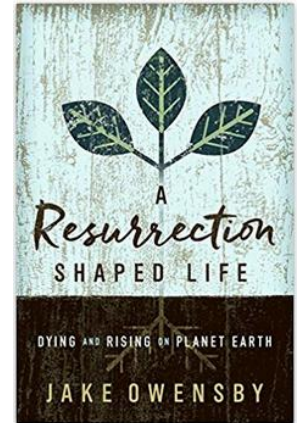
✿ Everyone is family at First Church. There are some who have recently mentioned that they want to make First United Methodist Church their formal church home by placing their membership here, If you are interested or have any questions, please let Pastor Steve know, call the church office, or email: stevowvu@gmail.com.

Pampering Reception for The McGees

We will host a reception following worship on Sunday, February 2 for Junior and SarahJean McGee as they prepare to welcome Baby Girl McGee in February. Please bring a package of diapers and/or wipes for the McGees, and join us for the reception.

MID-WEEK STUDY GROUP RETURNS!

Beginning TUESDAY, Feb. 18, 6 to 7 PM, Room 21, Mid-Week Study Group will return with a Lenten Study, “A Resurrection Shaped Life” by Jake Owensby. We’ll try the change from Wednesday evenings to Tuesdays before Choir, and the earlier hour will allow folks to be home earlier. We hope you can join in as we reset Mid-week Study Group and prepare ourselves for Resurrection. One reviewer says this book is “balm for the soul.”



An excerpt: "Life is not about being endlessly Carefree. It's about being unguardedly, relentlessly caring. At the end of the day, our tears will be wiped away. But the point is that we have shed tears ... Tears of love. We have not protected ourselves from Pain and sorrow and loss." (p. 103)

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... THANK YOU!

A "Thank You" to just some of the faithful volunteers who are busy behind the scenes...

-Jane Crutchfield who prepares Communion and sets the table

-Lynne Petrosky who coordinates the Greeters

-Barbara Loftis who spends a lot of time caring for the Chancel, plants, and organizing for worship and special services

-All the persons who are “Prayer Buddies” for our children and youth

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Let Your Light Shine, Ignited for Justice is the theme of United Methodist Women programs for 2020. On January 5, Nancy Hefner and Barbara Loftis introduced this theme of light and its importance in Bible stories and pointed out ways UMW can shine that light on justice issues in society. We watched a video of Apollo 8's Christmas message using the creation story in Genesis 1:1-8 and showing its view of Earth from space. Next was the Christmas story of Jesus' birth and how he began referring to himself as "the light of the world". After a few examples of people sharing their light and reciting our UMW Purpose, we finished with a candlelight service signifying our individual and collective commitment to shed light on injustices in our society and seek solutions.

On Sunday, February 2, at 2 pm in Fellowship Hall, Barry and Brandon Moll will tell us about their sharing the light of service on trips to Ireland and Costa Rica.

During December of 2019, Cookies and More was quite successful. We raised about \$1,400 which will be set aside for mission projects during 2020. We thank our loyal supporters. Bean soup kits continue to be available for purchase after church on Sundays.

Matt and Jessica Bohman of Restoring HOPE, a service organization, requested help with present wrapping before Christmas. Lynne Petrosky and Nancy Hefner both helped one evening. Matt had presented our unit meeting program last February about their work and how we could help.

As you can tell, Nancy Hefner, our vice president, is very involved in UMW events. In addition to what you've just read, she serves as the UMW Remembrances Chairperson sending cards at times of illness and celebration, and as VP is responsible for unit meeting programs. Nancy is also on the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (not part of UMW). That's why we presented her with a Special Mission Recognition Pin for service in December. Thanks for all you do Nancy!



Nancy Hefner receives service award.



Lynne Petrosky and Nancy Hefner help wrap presents with Restoring HOPE.

FUTURE DATES:

January 23: Executive Board, 4:30 pm
in library

February 2: Unit meeting, 2 pm, with
Barry and Brandon Moll sharing about
mission trips

March 7: Officers' Training, 9am-3pm
at FUMC

April 17-18: Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 24-26: Northeastern
Jurisdictional Meeting, Baltimore, MD



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ±
2 + S School 9:30am Worship - Sanc 10:40am UMW-GFH 2:00pm	3 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	4 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	5 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	6 +	7 +	8 + 8:15am – Women's Retreat-GFH
9 + Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	10 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am 6pm – Witness-21 7pm – Nurture-Lib	11 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am DCOM Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm	12 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	13 + Valentine Cookie Delivery	14 Valentine's Day+	15 +
16 + UMM- GFH 8:00am Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanc10:40am 12N – Micah Meal 2pm – Wesleyan Dist meeting-GFH	17 President's Day+ Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am 6p – Outreach-Lib CUBS - GFH 7:00pm 	18 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm Study Group – 7pm - #21E	19 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Morning Circle - Fleming Lounge 9:30am Afternoon Circle - Fleming Lounge 1:30pm	20 +	21 +	22 +
23 + Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	24 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	25 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir - Annex 7:00pm 9am – District Nominating-Lib Study Group – 7pm - #21E	26 Ash Wednesday + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	27 +	28 +	29 +

MICAH OUTREACH TO DELIVER VALENTINE COOKIES TO SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



Micah Outreach will be delivering cookies to First Responders on Thursday, Feb. 13. We will begin packing cookies at 9 AM and then delivering immediately afterward. If you can help with packing the cookies or delivery, please let Sandy Presar know: 304-472-6012 or email: thepresars@aol.com.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Calef-Boring
- 2 Christa Edwards
- 3 Carrie Wallace
- 8 Brooke Scott
- 10 Naomi Lynch
- 15 Joe Wiest
- 16 Amy Hayslette
- 17 Alison Whitehair
- 18 Steve Wilson
- 20 Barbara Loudin
- 24 Lynne Petrosky
- 27 Steve Meadows

FEBRUARY USHERS

Junior McGee (head), SarahJean McGee, David Petrosky, Ron Pugh, David Rowan

DECEMBER GREETERS

- 02/02 Linda Phipps, Debbie Shapiro
- 02/09 Andy & Brooke Scott
- 02/16 Gary & Paula McGrew
- 02/23 Chris & Janis Allen

ITEM OF THE MONTH

February is "PERSONAL CARE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS" Month, the monthly collection for the Parish House & sponsored by the Micah Outreach Ministry Team. (shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, tampons, dish soap, powdered laundry detergent, bathroom tissue). Please leave your gift in Linger Hall on Sunday or leave at the church office.

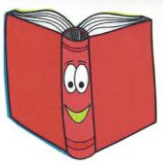
MICAH MEAL

You are invited to the February Micah Meal, Sunday, February 16th immediately following Worship in Godwin Fellowship Hall. Bring a large dish or dessert to share and join the fellowship and food. The proceeds of the Micah Meal donations and the February Loose Change offering will go to support the Nickell Fund/Pastor's Help Fund.

HELP SUPPORT THE NICKELL FUND!



FROM THE LIBRARY



The church library is always open. You are welcome to browse through the books at any time, and borrow one to read at home. Just sign the card in the back of the book and leave it on the desk.

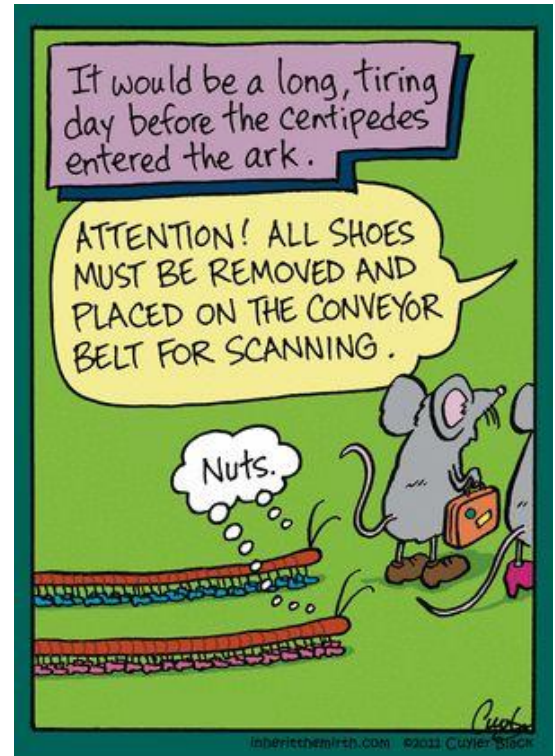
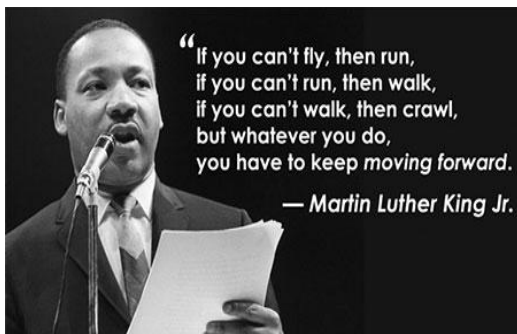
*Here's some good reading:
"These Strange Ashes"
By Elizabeth Elliot*

Elizabeth Elliot went to the jungles of Ecuador as a missionary among the Colorado Indians. As a young woman from New Jersey to the rain forest in Ecuador this book tells of her first year: her trials, her struggles, her joys, and her adventures. It is a remarkable sharing of her life and a memorable testimony to the realities of authentic Christian commitment. In spite of some shattering experiences Elizabeth still believes that "we should not be surprised at the mysterious ways in which God works all things together for good."

PARISH HOUSE NEEDS BLANKETS



The Parish House is collecting new or gently used, clean blankets during the winter months. We have had an increase in requests recently and need more. Drop them off at the Parish House between 9 am to 1 pm, any day Monday through Friday - or put them in the box in Linger Hall. Thank you!



Dear FUMC,
Thank you for always thinking of our neighbors and supporting our mission and ministry through your monetary gifts, Micah Meals, loose coin offerings, and food collections! We deeply appreciate your kindness.
With gratitude,
Kristi Wilkerson, Director
Upshur Parish House



Confirmands helping out at the Parish House

THIS IS HOW FEBRUARY BECAME BLACK HISTORY MONTH



It was in 1964 when the author James Baldwin reflected on the shortcomings of his education. “When I was going to school,” he said, “I began to be bugged by the teaching of American history because it seemed that that history had been taught without cognizance of my presence.”

Baldwin’s thoughts echoed those of many before and after him. Half a century earlier, when Carter G. Woodson had the same frustration, he set the foundation for what would become today’s national Black History Month, observed each February.

In the early 20th century, while he earned a Masters degree from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Harvard, both in history, Woodson witnessed how black people were underrepresented in the books and conversations that shaped the study of American history. According to the way many historians taught the nation’s past, African Americans were barely part of the story—a narrative that Woodson knew was not true. So in 1915, he and Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, or the ASALH). The organization would promote studying black history as a discipline and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans.

“If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated,” Woodson said of the need for such study.

In 1926, Woodson and the ASALH launched a “Negro History Week” to bring attention to his mission and help school systems coordinate their focus on the topic. Woodson chose the second week in February, as it encompassed both Frederick Douglass’ birthday on February 14 and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday on February 12.

The celebrations and studies spread quickly, as the ASALH tells it, driving demand for teaching materials and spurring the formation of black history clubs. But, though a newfound understanding of black culture and literature was spreading amongst the middle class, the idea of expanding the week to a month did not come until several decades later. During the Civil Rights Movement, Freedom Schools in the South embraced the week and its curriculum message as a way to contribute to the mission. By the mid-1960s, the most popular textbook for eighth-grade U.S. history classes mentioned only two black people in the entire century of history that had transpired since the Civil War—and that problem could no longer be ignored. It was in that decade that colleges and universities across the country transformed the week into a Black History Month on campus.

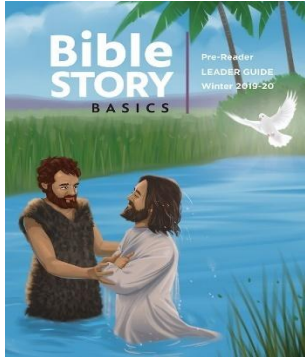
A number of mayors had already adopted the celebration as a municipal event by the time President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance in 1976, on both the fiftieth anniversary of the first iteration and America’s bicentennial year.

“In celebrating Black History Month,” Ford said in his message, “we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

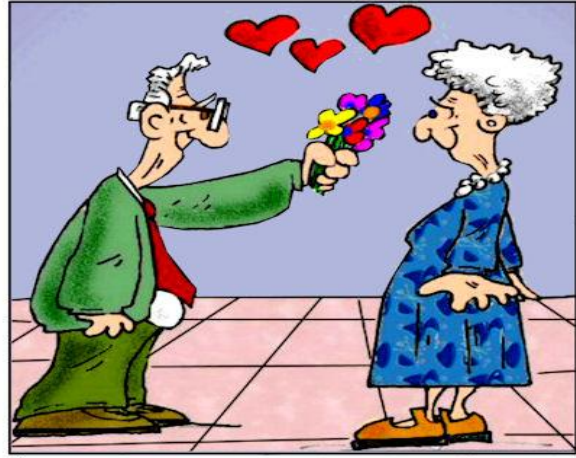


writer Langston Hughes, photographer Gordon Parks, inventor George Washington Carver, actress Hattie McDaniel, football players Gale Sayers and Barry Sanders, baseball player Elwood “Bingo” DeMoss and musicians Charles “Bird” Parker, Coleman Hawkins and Eva Jesse

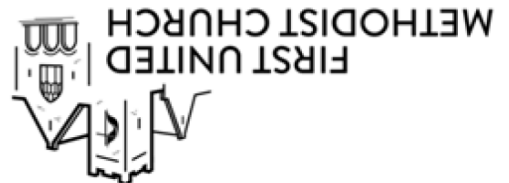
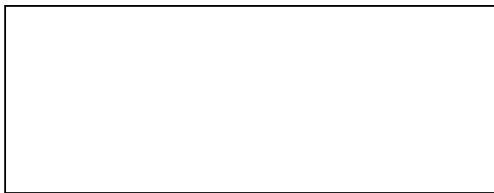
Children's Sunday School Continues with "Bible Story Basics." Sunday Mornings, 9:30 AM for both Pre-Readers and Readers. Youth Sunday School meets in the Youth Room, Grades 6 and up.



The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Your teeth are store bought and as white as the hairs on yer head. **Song of Solomon for Seniors**



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