



The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

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We celebrate those who participate in our virtual worship!

*Val Huffman, Renee Warner, Dan Martin, Barb Loftis, Phil Loftis, Steve Meadows,
Charlie Washington, and Danny Green (not pictured)*

LIVE @ FUMC

We knew the Second Phase of the Audio/Visual Project needed to move forward to completion, but we had no idea the missional need was so great. FUMC needs your help so that completion of the 2nd Phase can become a reality. Due to the need of Online Worship now, and our continuing to reach out with Online Worship in the future, we have pulled together our best resources, along with the Online Worship Team, to do the job of Sunday Morning Online Worship. The 2nd Phase will also enhance the In-Person Worship experience by increasing visibility during worship on the monitors, the use of video for special presentations, Wiggletime and baptism close-ups, project service hymns and responses, etc. Some pieces of necessary equipment had to be purchased to get us where we are now, but First Church does not have the needed cameras, controls, electronics, hardware, and computer to do the job appropriately and carry this new component and venue of worship into the future. The cost for everything is estimated at \$18,000. Some pieces of the equipment have already been purchased which lowers the estimate approximately \$1,500, and we have received already some monetary gifts. THANK YOU! If you would care to give a special gift that will help First UMC move forward with Phase 2 of the Audio/Visual Project, please send your gift to First United Methodist Church, 52 S. Florida St., Buckhannon, WV 26201 and mark your gift: LIVE @ FUMC.

SOFT DATE SET TENTATIVELY TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP JUNE 14

Following the direction of our Bishop and the Cabinet, no church in the West Virginia Annual Conference should be planning worship through the month of May. First UMC has put together a team of persons to evaluate the Covid-19 restrictions near the end of May. Those serving in the team are: Pastor, Steve Meadows; Dr. Dan Martin; Renee Warner; Karen Cartwright (Lay Leader); Barbara Loftis (President-UMW), Shea Phillips and Tom Bacorn (Maintenance-Custodian). Tentatively, we hope to be back for In-person worship sometime in June. Our target date is June 14, 2020. And, when we return, there will be social distancing guidelines that we will follow. Until then, please continue to join First UMC for worship online. And, Thank You for your patience and for your continued financial support during this time of "Safer at Home." We will be notifying the church family with instructions and if any developments or changes occur.

Grace and Peace. Stay safe. Steve



These guidelines are intended to help churches prepare for a “Re-Launch” of safe in person gatherings in phases.

SUGGESTED PHASES TO CONSIDER:

- Phase One: Worship
- Phase Two: Meetings, small groups, Adult Sunday School, etc.
- Phase Three: Children and Youth Sunday School, activities, nursery

FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED IN ALL PHASES :

- The maximum number of people who can gather in person while maintaining CDC social distancing procedures.
- Ability to maintain CDC sanitizing surfaces guidelines.
- Plans for communicating your intentions to your congregation, potential attendees from online viewers and community.

PHASE ONE: WORSHIP

To reduce contact with people, consider:

- Shorter Worship times, sanitizing in between groups.
- Use of a fellowship area, where social distance/sanitizing easier to do.
- No greeters, handshaking, hugging, Passing the Peace.
- No nursery. Families stay together.
- No nursery, children or youth ministry “in-person” until public schools are in session.
- No gathering of children up front for children’s time.
- No refreshments gatherings for coffee, cookies, etc.
- No Holy Communion until safe guidelines are established
- Consider not doing baptisms at this time. If not, follow current CDC guidelines for social distance. Infant should stay in parents’ arms. No walking infant up and down aisle. Multiple baptisms would require separate water bowls, sanitizing hands in between.

To reduce contact with surfaces, consider:

- No bulletins or handouts of any kind.
- No passing offering plates, use separate collection site.
- No hymnals in pews.

To reduce air-borne contact with virus, consider:

- No congregational or choir singing, use recorded and/or instrumental.
- Limit responsive readings to between people, six feet apart.

PHASE TWO: Meetings, small groups, Adult Sunday School, etc.

- Follow all CDC guidelines current for social distancing and sanitizing.
- Consider how to communicate your plans to congregation and potential online and community people.

PHASE THREE: Children, Youth Sunday School, Nursery

- Follow all CDC guidelines current for social distancing and sanitizing.
- Consider how to communicate your plans to congregation and potential online and community people.

REMINDER: WV Conference website has many resources for Re-Launch and online worship. Click on Covid-19, then the appropriate link underneath. Check and check often conference website, state and federal guidelines.

JUST AS IMPORTANT DISCOVERY: Many have discovered a whole new community of people seeking the wisdom of the church through their online worship opportunities. God has opened up a whole new harvest field! We cannot forget them once we get back inside our church buildings. Online and potential community seekers must REMAIN in EVERY aspect of planning,



June 21st



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors. The people of the United Methodist Church

"DO YOU RECOGNIZE US?"



On May 30, 1970, we were united in marriage by Dr. Ramsey Bridges at Cross Lanes Methodist Church in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. We traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina for three years of training, spent two years in Florida serving in the Air Force, and settled in Buckhannon in September of 1975 accompanied by a three year old daughter and boy and girl twins. Bingo, our first dog, remained in Florida. Charles Godwin had been my childhood minister. First Church was a natural choice and has become a wonderful church family, Upshur County citizens have become friends, and Buckhannon, home.

Sorry we can't celebrate at the Church due to the pandemic. Thanks to all who have made our stay here special. Think of us on the 30th. No gifts please.

John & Lora Mathias
37 Lincoln Way
Buckhannon, W. V. 26201

WONDERS NEVER CEASE! CHURCH COUNCIL VIA ZOOM!



St. Joseph's Hospital and the Rotary Club of Buckhannon-Upshur to hold blood drive Tues., June 16 -17



St. Joseph's Hospital and the Rotary Club of Buckhannon-Upshur will be holding a blood drive on Tuesday, June 16 and Thursday, June 25 in the social hall of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Buckhannon. Social distancing and the cancellation of many blood drives has created an urgent need for healthy, eligible people to donate blood. Blood will be drawn by Vitalant, the blood supplier for St. Joseph's Hospital and United Hospital Center. Donors need to be identified prior to the drive and appointments will be scheduled. If you are willing to be a blood donor, call 304-473-2164 or email Allyson.Fell.m@wvumedicine.org with your name, phone number and email address.



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SUMMER LOOKS DIFFERENT FOR US THIS YEAR! WE'RE HAVING A VIRTUAL VBS!

Unfortunately, we won't be able to have Vacation Bible School in person. However, we are working on a Virtual VBS! We hope to have everything in place for a four- or five-day online VBS in July. More will come soon, as we work out the details. Watch for announcements on Facebook and in our church emails!

If anyone would like to participate in the planning and implementation of this very special VBS program, please let Renee Warner know via email at refwarner@gmail.com. It's a brand new way to deliver this important children's ministry, so she will appreciate any input!



- 1 Craig Wallace
- 3 Matt Leventry
- 4 Sandra McCutcheon
- 6 Jane Corathers
Lucy Phillips
Winnie Phillips
- 10 Kaitlyn Gifford
Fred Shannon
- 16 Anthony Gum
- 17 Araceli Almond
- 18 Lewis Simmons
Kelley Tierney
- 23 Barbara Godwin
- 25 Kent Carpenter
- 29 Junior McGee
Marjorie Miles
- 30 Mason Lantz
Clayton Lantz

IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 14 (*TENTATIVE DATE*) !

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

First Church still needs your gifts to make sure ministry continues.

Thank You to you who are continuing your support. You may either mail your gifts of tithes and offerings to the church office:

First UMC

52 S. Florida St., Buckhannon, WV 26201, or you can visit the church website and use the Paypal Online Giving method of electronically giving. Go to: www.firstchurchum.com, and on the home page, look for the **DONATE** button

Donate



Join First UMC, Buckhannon for Online Sunday Worship, 10:45 AM.

Go to

<https://www.facebook.com/firstumcbuckhannon/>.

Look for the Church Logo.



LIVE @ FUMC

Phase Two of the Audio/Visual Project

Thank You for your gift that helps First Church enlarge our community and reach the Good News to others. Mark your gift: LIVE@FUMC.

Also, the YouTube Link is shared for both Sunday Worship and Children's Sunday School each week.

You can subscribe to the Church's active YouTube Link. In the Search Bar at the top of your Web Browser, type in a search for:

FirstChurchUMBuckhannon/YouTube. And you can Subscribe from any of the Church's YouTube videos.



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METHODIST CHURCH

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