

# THE LINK

## SUMMER 2020

### The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

52 S. Florida St. Buckhannon, WV 26201 304-472-9494 [fumc26201@gmail.com](mailto:fumc26201@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchum.com](http://www.firstchurchum.com)

#### HELPING OTHERS THIS SUMMER "It's Ella!"



Ella Whitehair, 8-year-old daughter of Todd and Alison Whitehair, and Collette Whitehair, and who just received her 3rd grader Bible in March from her First Church family, hosted her first-ever lemonade stand. She prepared the lemonade herself and invited her family and neighbors

to purchase a cup for a good cause. Ella's idea included donating all proceeds to the Upshur Parish House. She collected a total of \$40 and gave it all to support local residents currently needing assistance with groceries or paying utility bills.

"I wanted to help people who need some extra help right now because of the pandemic," Ella said. "I always hear about the Parish House at church so I wanted to give it to them so they can help other people who really need it."

Kristi Wilkerson, Parish House Director says, "We are so very thankful for Ella's tremendous kindness. What an amazing gift we received from Ella and her family and neighbors!"

Ella is a rising fourth grader, and in addition to making lemonade, Ella enjoys riding her bike and playing outside. Ella...your Church family is so very proud of you and your faithfulness, showing us that Outreach ministry is in good hands for the coming generations.

#### Zoom Bible Study

During June and part of July, some of the women of the church "gathered" every Thursday on Zoom to study the book of James. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, digging into God's Word, and learning more about how we can apply the scriptures to our lives today.

We are going to begin again on Thursday, August 20, again on Zoom. We will be working through the book of Ephesians. All are invited to join us; of course, even the men of the church! Barbara and Phil Loftis will be setting up a weekly Zoom link for us to use. That link will be sent to the church email list. If you do not use technology, call Renee directly at 304-322-1177 and we will set you up to call in to the meeting.

I hope you'll consider joining us as we dive into Ephesians. Be blessed!





## 2020-2021 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Greetings! As you all can imagine, this school year has been unusual to say the least! I completed my first year at Glenville State College this Spring with a 3.7 GPA and with academic honors. I also played baseball at GSC. This was an amazing experience! I made lifelong friends and memories being on the team. However, as soon as the actual Spring season started, it was cut short due to COVID-19. I really enjoyed the time I spent with my teammates and coaches. It was hard work, but worth every minute. Regarding this upcoming year, I have made the decision to transfer home. I will be attending West Virginia Wesleyan College and I am hoping to major in Psychology and Political Science with a minor in History. I also plan to play baseball for the Bobcats. However, I will probably have to sit out a year of actual competition due to conference regulations, but I will be able to practice with the team. I can't wait to start this new chapter of my life. I hope that there will be some semblance of normality this Fall in spite of COVID-19. I hope to see my church family more often as well. Thank you very much for thinking of me with the gift packages. I really do appreciate all of your support. Please stay safe.

Sincerely, Nicklaus Calef-Boring



This last academic year has been a whirlwind to say the least. In the fall, I traveled to Singapore with my cappella group, The Princeton Nassoons. Then, with the same organization, I was able to help organize and perform our Winter Concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. While none of us planned for the Coronavirus in the spring, I am grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with my local community. Kristi graciously allowed me to volunteer at Parish House as I finished my semester and my work there has transformed into a summer internship. Fortunately, my original summer internship in a Ugandan clinic has evolved into a virtual internship program that I am able to complete alongside the Parish House internship. Academically, I officially declared my major as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology instead of Neuroscience, but I hope to pursue certificates (minors) in Neuroscience and Global Health. I still intend to pursue a career in medicine and even had the opportunity to shadow Dr. Linger in order to gain more clinical experience. I hope this has offered you insight into my past year and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards, Sean Crites



I want to first say thank you for nominating me again for the Higher Education Scholarship. It means a lot to me knowing that I have my church family with me every step of the way through my college education. My first year of college was a really big change from high school, I had to grow up and fast. I learned that if I needed something I couldn't just call up my dad or mom when I needed something, I had to be an adult and do it myself. While being in school for fifteen more years I'll be studying Pre-Med Biology to become a Cardiothoracic Surgeon. My plans for the future are more schooling and hopefully saving lives. While in college I was in The West Virginians and we would go around to different churches Sunday mornings and sing for them. Going to those churches made me miss my church family so much.

Morgan Gifford



My second year at West Virginia University ended as anything except predictable. As learning transferred to online education, I was able to continue growing as a student, musician, and child of God. Over the last two years. While pursuing my bachelor's degree in music education, I was able to be a member of the West Virginia University Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, and Percussion Ensemble. While at WVU, I have had the opportunity to attend a bible study group with some friends and faculty to continue growing my relationship with God. Thank you to my entire church family for being a constant support system and always encouraging me. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, and I hope to see you all so soon! Thank you so much! (Alex is the recipient of the 2020-2021 Charles Godwin Scholarship.)

Alexandra Edwards





## JUST A NOTE TO THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF FUMC:



Hi everyone! I just wanted to say hello and tell you that I miss you so much! Whether you are one of our littlest people, elementary age, middle and high school students, or our college crew, it has been so hard not to see you and spend time with you through these past few months.

We are sending children's bulletins every week to our young people up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It's nice to write little messages to those kiddos every once in a while. I also have reached out to the older ones a couple of times. If you all need anything, please let me know. My email is [refwarner@gmail.com](mailto:refwarner@gmail.com) or you can text or call me at 304-322-1177. Remember that we are here for you!

*Renee*

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



**5** Troy Casto  
**9** Nancy Hefner  
**10** Karen Kesling  
**11** Carolyn Mallory  
 Mark Harkins  
 Charles Washington  
**12** Sebastian Reger  
**13** G. Paul Richter  
 Shelli Lantz  
 Ella Whitehair  
**16** Greg Kennedy

**18** Sandra Presar  
 Dan Martin  
**22** Sylvia C. Elmore  
 Martha Meadows  
**23** Curtis Wilkerson  
**25** Ben Crutchfield  
**29** David Rowan  
 Danny Green  
**31** Sarah Carr  
 John Walsh  
 Andrew Scott

17 Margaret Walls

## UPSHUR PARISH HOUSE BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

Whether in the classroom or at home, our Upshur County students receive greatly needed help from the Parish House.

First UMC always works to help with supplying backpacks and school supplies.

You can call the Parish House to make arrangements to drop off your donations, or leave your donations on the front porch..., and the PH Ministry can always use a donation to purchase needed Back-to-School items. Thank you in advance.

Call: **304-472-0743** or mail your donation:  
**68 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201**



## Backpack and School Supply Giveaway - General Needs List

- larger backpacks for Middle School and High School students - size 17 inch or 19 inch
- medium size (2 inch) three-ring binders
- packs of markers
- safety scissors for elementary students
- packs of 24 count Crayola crayons
- highlighters
- packs of wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- packs of college-ruled loose-leaf paper
- pink eraser blocks (not small pencil top erasers)
- glue sticks
- single subject notebooks
- pocket folders
- pencil sharpeners
- pens



## LIVE STREAM WORSHIP WITH BISHOP SANDRA BALL SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

On Sunday Morning August 2, 2020 at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship will be livestreamed from Wesley Chapel on the campus of WV Wesleyan College.

**First UMC will join the livestream worship**

at: [www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org). Any connection details will be shared by email and Facebook closer to that Sunday.

All congregations are asked to connect to the livestream and use this service for their Sunday Worship Service. As we worship together with the Annual Conference, Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball will celebrate a baptism, ordain a Deacon and an Elder, with family members and a few representatives of the Board of Ordained Ministry and conference leadership present. Worship celebrations of Commissioning and additional Ordinations will take place at a later date in local settings.

## FIRST CHURCH DIGITAL COMMUNITY OF FAITH CONNECTIONS

Find First Church Services on:

Facebook:

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

Subscribe to YouTube: FirstChurchUMBuckhannon

Connect by telephone: Sermon by Phone—call: 1-304-250-4556 (Please include the Sermon by Phone image in the newsletter.)



## Sermon by Phone

First United Methodist is making it easier for everyone to stay connected.

You may call **1-304-250-4556**, on your telephone, anytime to listen to the most recent Sunday Sermon.

Stay safe. May God richly bless you with God's peace and grace.



## FIRST CHURCH FAMILY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Dearest Steve, I know that you have reminded the congregation of God's greatest commandment—that we love one another. Please tell the members how very grateful I am for their many messages of hope, encouragement, and love. I read them over and over, and I smile.*

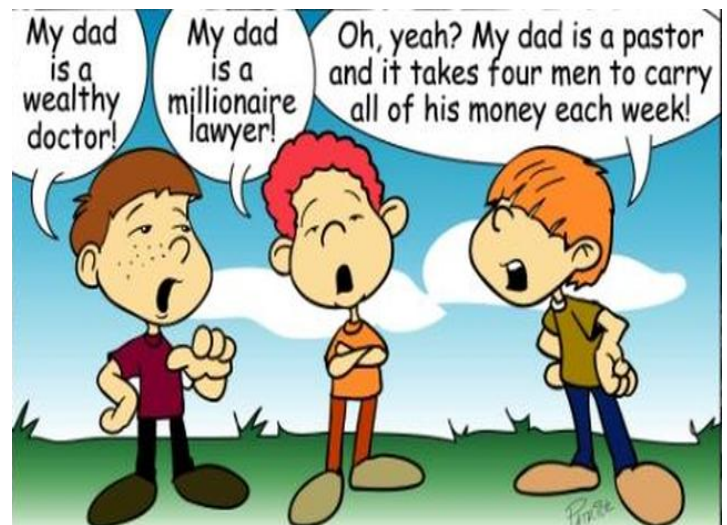
*Yours in Christ, Marilyn Clarke*

## THE UPSHUR PARISH HOUSE NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

- \*green beans and other canned veggies (peas, carrots, mixed, etc.)
- \*size 5 diapers
- \*deodorant
- \*school supplies



You can call the Parish House, 304-472-0743 to make arrangements to drop off your donation, or leave your donation on the front porch. Thank You.





## LIVE@FUMC

The Board of Trustees has given the go ahead to purchase the needed equipment and resources while we raise the funds for our best Online presence. Thank you to those who have given gifts toward [LIVE@FUMC](#). The needed equipment has been ordered (some things are on backorder due to the Virus slowdown)...and you've already given \$2950 toward the estimate of \$18,000. Thank you! **But, the bill isn't yet paid.**

We continue to ask for your special gifts of support as we raise the funds to cover this new, vital Visual component of our Online presence. The Online services have opened a new outreach for the First Church Family, one that we have to further pursue. This visual equipment will continue to serve our Online Community after we return to In-Person worship, as well as, be a needed compliment to the new sound system and enhance the worship experience by using the monitors during worship and other gatherings.

You may mark your gifts [LIVE@FUMC](#). And “*Thank You*” in advance for your faithful stewardship, and your continuing financial support of the First Church ministry, especially during the pandemic.



# LIVE @ FUMC

### Phase Two of the Audio/Visual Project

- Video record Services and project service hymns and responses
- Cameras to project Wiggletime and special events
- Increase visibility during worship
- Use of video for special presentations
- Hardware and computer appropriate for Video demands

## UPDATES

From the Re-Start Team—The First Church family continues to worship online due to the unstable nature of COVID-19. The deepest call upon our lives is to Love; and while the Virus is continually changing and revealing that all age groups are potentially vulnerable, the First Church Re-Start Team chooses to love the Church family by doing our best to keep everyone safe...**SAFER AT HOME**. The staff continues to work off hours to limit potential for contact, the Custodian is busy disinfecting following every worship recording, and the On-Line Worship team is faithful in their work, support, and being mindful of protecting each other through distancing. We are putting as much energy as possible toward the Online presence.

Restart Team: Steve Meadows, Dan Martin, Val Huffman, Tom Bacorn, Linda Wellings, Karen Cartwright, Renee Warner, Shea Phillips, and we invited Programming Committee Chairpersons to join the last meeting.

## ALEX RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP!



The Upshur Parish House and director, Kristi Wilkerson is pleased to present the Edwin Bryon and Elva Mary Humphreys Memorial Scholarship to Alexandra Edwards. Alex, a

member at First UMC will be a junior music education major at WVU this fall. Congratulations, Alex!

*(The scholarship is presented in partnership with the United Methodist Foundation of WV and WV UMC Board of Global Ministries.)*

~~~~~  
**Happy Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary to**  
**Bill and Carolyn Mallory!**  
**May God's Abundant Blessings**  
**surround you!**  
**9 Kepner St.**  
 ~~~~~

zoom

**CHURCH NIGHT OUT...**  
**TUES. AUG. 18, 6-7:30 PM...**  
*Details coming soon!*



52 S. Florida St.  
Buckhannon WV 26201  
firstchurchum.com