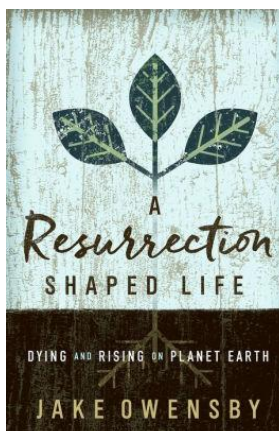




## The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

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

### WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP TO RESUME



Beginning TUESDAY, Oct. 6th, 6 to 7 PM, by ZOOM, Mid-Week Study Group will restart with the study, "A Resurrection Shaped Life" by Jake Owensby. We hope you can join in as we reset Tuesday Study Group. If you are interested, please email Steve: [stevowvu@gmail.com](mailto:stevowvu@gmail.com). The ZOOM link will be sent to you. If you do not have a book, please contact us and we'll work that out too. One reviewer says this book is "balm for the soul."

### OCTOBER IS UNDIE MONTH!

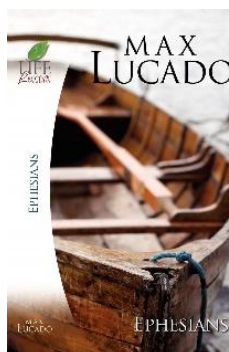


You are invited to share a package or two of new boxers, briefs, undies, t-shirts, long-johns, socks and/or trainingpants with our friends at Upshur Parish House. You may leave your donations at the Parish House, call the Parish House at 304-472-0743, or email Kristi Wilkerson at [krlwilkerson@gmail.com](mailto:krlwilkerson@gmail.com) to make drop-off arrangements.

### HEY YOUTH! MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

First UMC is beginning virtual meetings for FUMC Youth beginning Sunday, October 4, at 6:00 p.m. Sarah Wilmoth has joined us as a service scholar from WVWC. We are excited to have her alongside us in working with the First Church youth. There will be Bible study sessions, service opportunities, and some fun activities. We will send out an email to the parents by Thursday, October 1, with additional details and the Zoom link. We **hope** you will join us!

### STUDY WITH RENEE



What a great opportunity to grow, and share the journey with friends! We continue to hold ZOOM meetings on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We are studying the book of Ephesians, using a guide from author Max Lucado. The group is led by Renee Warner. If you would like to join us, or have any questions, contact Renee: [refwarner@gmail.com](mailto:refwarner@gmail.com).



## WE'VE GOT MAIL!

*Dear friends, Thank you for making my 26 July 90<sup>th</sup> birthday a wonderful celebration.*

*Following a lunch in our yard with our son Thomas and his wife Joan from Lewisburg came a huge surprise, planned by them – a procession of cars and a bicycle through our alley with signs, balloons and horns blowing.*

*These were friends from town and out of town, members of First UMC, the Buckhannon – Upshur Rotary Club, the Emeritus Club, Wesleyan Community, and Buckhannon neighbors.*

*This parade and the many cards, notes, and gifts for the Emeritus Club International Travel Scholarship have overwhelmed me.*

*Your kindness and generosity remind me to always have a grateful heart and willingness to love and serve others.*

*Please stay healthy as we follow the advice of the medical scientists and VOTE this November.*

*Sincerely in gratitude with love and many good wishes,*  
*Harold Elmore*

.....

*Dear Church,*

*I wish I were there for a visit, but it doesn't seem likely this year.*

*I pray that this time we are having now is leading us into a different way of living that will be better than that to which we have become accustomed. Our merciful God has a plan and will lift this scourge from us when the time is right.*

*Love, Sue Karickhoff*



Our thoughts, prayers, and Christian sympathies surround the family and friends of Dr. Leon Linger who died Monday, Sept. 14. The First Church family is grateful for Leon and Melba sharing with us the journey.



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS



The First Church family continues our annual tradition of helping with Thanksgiving meal baskets given from the Upshur Parish House. You may leave your donations at the Parish House, 68 College Ave., or call to make arrangements for a drop-off: 304-472-0743, or email the Director, Kristi Wilkerson, [krlwilkerson@gmail.com](mailto:krlwilkerson@gmail.com).

*\*Here is a list of things being collected:*

**canned green beans, canned corn, jiffy pie crust mix, fruit pie filling, pumpkin pie filling, evaporated milk, cranberry sauce, chicken/turkey gravy, canned yams, tubs of frosting, cake mixes, stovetop stuffing, instant mashed potatoes.**

And, as always, we can offer our help with items given from the Parish House **food pantry**:

**grape jelly; size 4, 5, or 6 diapers and/or Pull-Ups; kid-friendly foods such as spaghetti o's or ravioli with pop-tab tops; canned vegetables; canned pork n beans; canned/jarred fruit such as applesauce or peaches; shampoo; toothpaste and toothbrushes; deodorant; tampons; dish soap; powdered laundry detergent; and bathroom tissue.**

Thank you in advance for your help and support of this vital ministry in Upshur County.





## SWEARENGIN NAMED WESLEYAN DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball recognized Rev. Rick Swearingin as the new District Superintendent of the Wesleyan District at the 2020 Special Annual Conference of West Virginia Annual Conference.

Swearingin began his ministry 23 years ago, in 1997, as an assigned supply, and became a licensed pastor in 1999 serving the Mt. Zion Charge in Calhoun County. Since then he has served four charges and a total of 11 churches. He served the last six years at Madison UMC in Boone County.

Asked how the move to district superintendent has differed from his other moves, he said, "Some similarities and some differences compared to others but it is always difficult to say good-bye." Swearingin added that Covid-19 has made this a challenge in how we do things, how we say good-bye and especially in how we say, 'hello.' He is looking forward to visiting the churches and getting to know the congregations in the Wesleyan District but Covid-19 has posed a challenge as not all churches are back to meeting in person.

Swearingin succeeds Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, who has served as Wesleyan District superintendent for the past eight years.

*Judy Pysel, special Annual Conference Edition*



*Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan speaks with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston during the Celebration of Ministry livestream Aug. 1. (Photo by Shannon Blosser)*

## FALL BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

**11** Marvin Carr  
Marty Kelley  
**13** Susan Martin  
Gary Summers  
**15** Tena Shannon  
**16** Tina Horstman  
**17** Phil Loftis  
Margaret Miller  
**18** Jane White  
**21** Phil Petrosky  
**22** Ellen Nickell  
**23** Herbert Coston  
**24** Jeannie Wiest  
**25** Bekah  
Wilkerson  
Rob Rupp  
Lynn Rupp  
Joyce Hoover  
**26** Kathy St. Clair

### OCTOBER

**1** Diane Godwin  
Elizabeth Spencer  
**4** Leslie Kennedy  
**7** Kenneth Welliver  
Felicia Johnston  
**10** Jane Crutchfield  
Graham Godwin  
**22** Katherine  
Huffman  
**24** Jim Finegan  
**27** Dan Hagi



### NOVEMBER

**2** Patty McComas  
Karen Cartwright  
**4** Chuck Loudin  
**10** Grant  
Wilkerson  
**11** Linda Wellings  
**13** Rick Edwards  
**15** Lori Hagi  
**17** Ava Lantz  
Gary Frush  
**20** Jeff Godwin  
**22** John Wildman  
**23** Mary Ellen Biller  
**26** Mary Welliver  
**28** Randy Clark

## WELCOME JIM!



The First Church family welcomes James "Jim" Watson to the Membership. Jim joined First United Methodist Church, Sept. 13 on ZOOM and by Profession of Faith.

If you would like to send greetings to Jim by mail or email:

49 S. FLORIDA ST., APT. 2, BUCKHANNON, WV 26201 or [jdwatson26@yahoo.com](mailto:jdwatson26@yahoo.com).

**Everyone is family at First UMC. If you would like to make First Church your formal church home by placing your membership at First Church, email Rev. Steve at [stevowvu@gmail.com](mailto:stevowvu@gmail.com), or call the Parsonage, 304-472-1267.**



## THANK YOU TOM BACORN AND MEGAN MORGAN!

Their hard work and talent have beautified our parsonage porches!



*Front porch of parsonage*



*Back porch of parsonage*

You may use the First UMC Website to donate electronically: go to [www.firstchurchum.com](http://www.firstchurchum.com), and look for the "DONATE" button on the first page. Your gifts will be processed through PayPal securely. Thank you for your ongoing support during this Covid-19 Season.

## VIRTUAL WORSHIP

A colossal "THANK YOU" to the On-Line Worship Team. Dan Martin, Renee Warner, Val Huffman, Barb and Phil Loftis, Charles Washington, Danny Green, and Sean Crites (*who helped through the summer*).

Welcome to you as together, we join in the  
FUMC Virtual Community of Faith.  
*Livestream Worship on the Facebook page,  
Sundays, 10:45 AM*

[www.facebook.com/firstumcbuckhannon](https://www.facebook.com/firstumcbuckhannon)

The YouTube Link will be shared as it becomes available. Subscribe to the Church's YouTube channel: FirstChurchUMBuckhannon.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP ON-LINE AND ON-THE-PHONE:

Sermon by Phone: 1-304-250-4556  
(*Scripture and Sermon only*)

Use the church website:

[www.firstchurchum.com](http://www.firstchurchum.com), and click on the  
Sermon page.

Get the Sharefaith App---Go to Google Play or the Apple App Store, search for the Sharefaith App. Download the app, and then search for First United Methodist Church, then select. You will receive the sermon weekly and any other App communication.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2020 First United Methodist Church Charge  
Conference, Nov. 8, 6 PM. An Online ZOOM  
opportunity will be provided.**

## A SPECIAL THANKS

Thank You, Renee Warner  
for staying in touch with the  
children. Renee makes sure  
every child receives weekly  
Children Bulletins and  
there's a weekly Sunday  
School YouTube offered.







## REPORT FROM THE RE-START TEAM:

Thank you, all of you, for sharing this shadowy journey.

The First UMC Re-start Team following a recommendation from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, receiving input from others in the Church family, and using the most recent data regarding COVID-19 has recommended NO In-Person worship at this time. Understanding that the end goal is to return to In-person Worship as soon as possible, and recognizing the priority of the safety and health welfare of the Church Family and those who may attend, the Team set its next meeting for Monday, Oct. 12 to revisit our priorities of In-Person worship as well as providing a safe environment for worship.

Thank you for your patience and faithfulness during this time.

And, please know that you are valued, loved, and a treasured presence in the First UMC family.

## Board of Trustees Report...among a number of smaller maintenance projects:

- Both front and back porches of the Parsonage have been completely redone and an additional hand rail was install on the rear steps of the Parsonage
- The drain system that has been problematic for over two year has been completely repaired. The work involved both a private contractor, Tom Bacorn's numerous hours of tracking down one issue after another, and finally reattaching old and broken tile with pipe all the way to the city drains.
- The Trustees gave the go-ahead to move forward with the LIVE@FUMC Visual component for the Church's online presence. We continue to raise funds to cover the cost of all the work.
- First UMC will likely be using a different internet provider that offers more security, upload strength, and stability.

# Watch for it...Stewardship Letter for 2021 coming soon



## LIVE @ FUMC

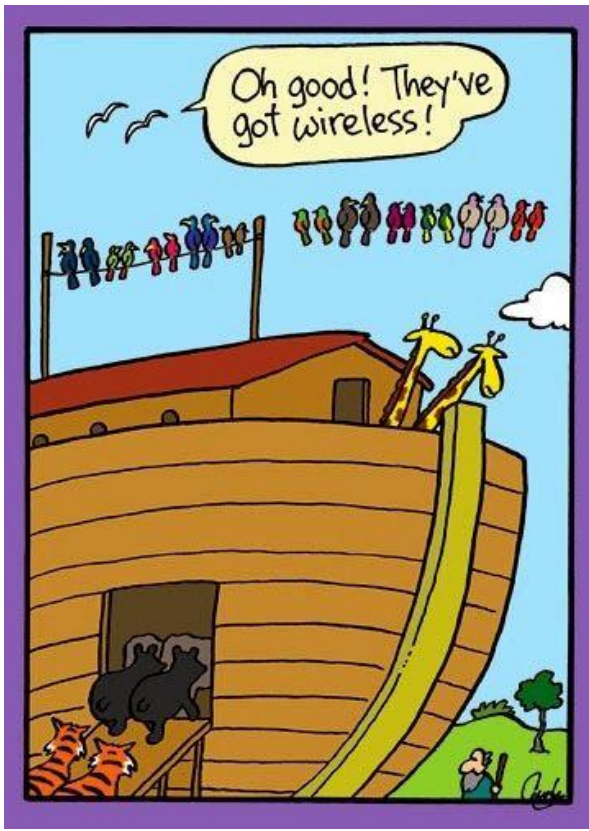
### Phase Two of the Audio/Visual Project

- 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

## 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.



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

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