



The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church,

52 S. Florida St. Buckhannon, WV 26201

304-472-9494

fumc26201@gmail.com

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES

On Palm Sunday, March 28, the First Church family will resume In-Person Worship. (Please see enclosed Guidelines for important details).

We are joyful to be gathering In-Person again. But we can not let our guards down! Masks, no contact, and social distancing are a MUST! If you are not feeling well or vulnerable because of other issues, please worship on-line or Sermon-By-Phone, 304-250-4556. Thank You in advance for helping maintain the Re-start Guidelines.

MAUNDY/HOLY THURSDAY



First Church will pause to remember the evening Jesus spent with the disciples in the Upper Room on the evening before the Crucifixion. Our observance will not be in person but via YouTube. The Link will be available early on Maundy Thursday so that you may pause at your convenience on that day to prepare for Good Friday.

TENEBRAE/GOOD FRIDAY REMEMBRANCE



Available via YouTube, Dr. Val Huffman has taken previous Choral anthems from previous Tenebrae worship services and combined the music with scripture to provide a challenging, reflective, and moving experience to help the viewer remember the events of the Day of Crucifixion. The YouTube will be available early on Good Friday so that viewers can pause at the Cross to prepare for the celebration of Easter.



NEIGHBORS REACHING NEIGHBORS



The Micah Outreach Ministry Team encourages you to continue your support of the Upshur Parish House. The Food of the Month for April is "CANNED VEGETABLES." You may leave your donation in Linger Hall if you attend Sunday Worship, or you may leave your donation on the Front Porch of the Parish House, 68 College Ave.

THANK YOU!

Dear First Church,
We are so grateful for the many ways you support the mission and ministry of the Parish House and Crosslines - and especially for your kindness and compassion for our neighbors in need! You always bless us all with your ongoing prayers and gifts.
With gratitude, ~Kristi Wilkerson

PARISH HOUSE EASTER DONATIONS



The collection for Easter Basket items at the Parish House will continue through Sunday, Mar. 28. *Needed items are: boxed instant mashed or scalloped potatoes, canned green beans, brownie or cookie mix, or cake mix with frosting.*

You may leave those Easter Basket meal items on the Front Porch of the Parish House. Thank you for reaching a kind hand to our Neighbors!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Beginning Sunday April 18, Adult Sunday School classes will resume. "A Harmony of the Four Gospels" led and taught by Dale Shannon will meet, socially distanced in their usual Room 23. The Enquirers Sunday School Class led and taught by Carolyn Mallory will **NOT** meet in their usual Room 21 but will meet socially distanced in **Godwin Fellowship Hall**. The safety protocol of no touching, masks, and socially distancing will be observed to maintain safety. Attendance will be taken in case there may be a need for contact tracing. Sunday School begins at 9:30 AM. Children's Sunday School will remain on YouTube for now!

ATTENTION!

The **Church Administrative Office**, (1st Floor of the Christian Education Building), will resume a regular schedule beginning Tuesday, April 6. New office hours are: **9 AM to Noon, Monday through Thursday**.

There is a new sliding window installed in the Office that slides open to the Hallway. And there is a shelf at the window and a call bell to ring. This addition will increase office security and help with reducing potential virus exposure.



IT'S A GIRL!

The First Church family welcomes **Emelia Eleanor Whitehair**, born Christmas Day, 2020! Our Christmas baby was born to Alison and Todd Whitehair. Emelia has a big sister, Ella! We celebrate Emelia's arrival who is "perfect in every way!"



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Executive Committee of our United Methodist Women unit at First United Methodist Church met in late February by Zoom. Our officers are the same as last year: Barbara Loftis, president; Nancy Hefner and Janis Allen, co-vice presidents; Jane Crutchfield, secretary; and Jo Criss, treasurer. Ellen Nickell and Patty McComas are also on the committee as circle leaders.

We voted to keep the same budget from 2020 for 2021. This means we'll be supporting the same service organizations as usual and paying our District UMW pledge. Though we aren't currently meeting and having our usual fundraisers, many organizations such as Crosslines count on our support. We are not officially filling out pledge cards, but you can send money any time to your circle treasurer, or directly to Jo Criss, the unit treasurer. In November 2021 when we pay our budget items, we'll determine if we need to withdraw funds from our reserve in the United Methodist Foundation to meet our obligations.

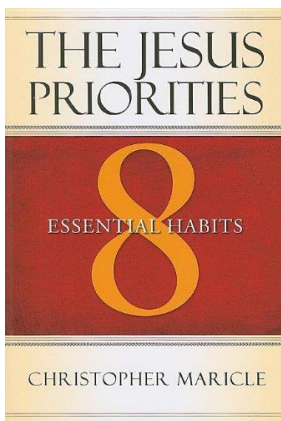
Our hope is to resume meetings in May. We plan to meet in Fellowship Hall, masked and properly distanced. However, if the church building remains closed, the weather will likely allow us to be outdoors. We do not anticipate a Spring 2021 Basement Sale.

If your email, address, or phone number has changed recently, please let your circle leader know.

The District UMW has cancelled all spring in-person meetings. A 2021 Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held April 24 beginning at 10am. You do need to register for this event by April 1. Contact Barbara Loftis for the form.

We look forward to meeting in person in the near future!

COMING SOON TO TUESDAY STUDY GROUP...The Jesus Priorities by Christopher Maricle.



Here are the priorities evidenced by the words Jesus most frequently spoke and the acts Jesus most often demonstrated. Allow your life to be an instrument of God's grace in the world as you learn the Jesus priorities and make them your own.

Succinct summaries,

scripture, questions to consider, and prayers ...

Can Jesus change your life—your everyday, going-to-work (or school or the grocery), taking-care-of-the-kids life? The resounding answer found in this warm spiritual survival guide is, "Yes!"

Contact Rev. Steve for a copy if you want to participate in the conversations.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



While our efforts to grow the Audio/Visual Ministry began before COVID-19, First UMC has discovered an Online congregation and ministry that must continue after we return to In-Person Worship. The Online Ministry Team has been faithful to provide Sunday Worship services while keeping the Church family safe.

Now, the Online Ministry Team needs your help. The Online Ministry Team must grow by 3 to 4 more persons who are willing to share the tasks of sound board and camera control so that we have back-up personnel and the new ministry Online will continue. Training will be provided. If you are interested or have questions, please email Rev. Steve: stevowvu@gmail.com.

And...while you're scrolling through social media (or email), like and share First Church's posts and messages. Sharing the Good News has never been easier.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

**Tuesday Study Group (ZOOM) continues each Tuesday, 6 PM. We are about to wrap up "A Resurrection-Shaped Life." An email is sent each week with the ZOOM Link. Or you may email Rev. Steve for the ZOOM Link: stevowvu@gmail.com.

**1st and 2nd Peter Bible Study (ZOOM), each Thursday, 7 PM. This study is led by Renee Warner. Please email Renee for the ZOOM Link. refwarner@gmail.com.

Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is.
Jessica Harrelson



The Rotary Club of
Buckhannon-Upshur &
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL 

Blood Screening

By Appointment **ONLY**
(No Walk-ins)

Saturdays:
April 3rd and 17th
May 1st, 15th and 22nd
St. Joseph's Hospital Main Lobby

To Schedule, go to:
<https://RotaryBloodScreening.as.me/>

BASIC BLOOD PROFILE TESTS - \$35

Optional Testing Available:

- TSH (Thyroid) - \$5
- Colon Cancer Screen - \$5
- Hemoglobin A1C (Diabetes) - \$15
- PSA (Prostate Cancer-Men only) - \$20
- Hepatitis C Antibody - \$20

**Optional Tests Only Available
With Basic Blood Profile*

It's Easy...All you do:

1. FAST for 12 Hours Before Test
2. Cash or Personal Check Accepted
3. Test Results Viewable in MyWVUChart or Mailed to Home

 **WVU Medicine**

Everyone MUST wear a mask



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firstchurchm.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BUCKHANNON
RE-START INFORMATION FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP–Phase ONE
PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

Based on guidelines from The WV Conference, United Methodist Church

- All persons are encouraged to continue to watch the Livestream instead of attending in person.
- Please continue to worship by Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/firstumcbuckhannon/> YouTube (Channel: FirstChurchUMBuckhannon), www.firstchurchum.com
 - (click on Sermon tab)or Sermon By Phone: 304-250-4556

If you feel that you must return to IN-PERSON WORSHIP, First Church will offer Sunday Worship, 10:45 am, beginning Sunday March 28, 2120. Pre-service music will begin at 10:40 AM followed with Worship beginning at 10:45 AM

- Doors will open at 10:20 am.
- **UPON ARRIVAL YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE** in Linger Hall in the event that contact tracing needs to be done. Registration must be done before entering the sanctuary for worship. Registration will be weekly.

Please note that only certain doors to the church will be open to enter. These include:

- Black double doors on S. Florida St.
- First Floor glass doors (52 S. Florida St.) of the Christian Education Building
- Elevator (handicap) Door
- Back door closest to parsonage with stairway up to Linger Hall.

The doors on Latham St. (off the portico with the 3 archways) will remain locked.

The following guidelines are for everyone's protection:

- If you are of a vulnerable age, have any underlying health issues, have allergy issues, are immunologically compromised in any way, any other health related concerns, or feel sick in any way, ... **PLEASE stay home and worship online.**
- **All persons MUST bring and wear a mask, including children.** You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer. We have “some” masks and “some” hand sanitizer. If for health or other reasons you cannot wear a mask, then please, continue to worship On-line or by “Sermon-by-Phone.”
- Unavailable seating will be marked on pews that respects Social Distancing. Families will sit together. Please, no hugging, handshaking, or personal contact that breaks the 6 feet requirement for Social Distancing.
- There will be no childcare, but the Nursery Worker will be on hand should there be a need for help.
- Please use the restroom before you leave home. The Unisex Restroom and the Women's Restrooms in the back of Linger hall will be open if needed. All other restrooms in the building will be closed. If you have any problems related to restroom usage, please stay home, and watch online.
- There will be no group singing, group recitations, bulletins, bibles or hymnals in pew racks.
- There is expected to be special music. At this time, there will be no Choir. The Covid-19 Quartet will still be providing singing during the hymns from an appropriately safe distance.
- There will be Wiggletime, but children must remain with their families and will not be allowed to gather at the Chancel.
- Offering plates will not be passed during worship but will be placed in Linger Hall before and after worship. Or, you may mail your offering to the church, or donate electronically.
- Please do not gather in the building before/after service; instead, wave, place your hand over your heart, or “air-hug” to greet folks. We can still find community as we worship.

Following the Service:

- Those worshipping will be dismissed row by row during the Postlude, beginning with the balconies, then back rows, and on toward the front of the sanctuary. When leaving please continue to maintain 6 feet social distance.

Ongoing notes regarding the church building:

- The Education building and other levels of the facility are closed until Adult Sunday School Resumes
- No Sunday school or other group gatherings will convene in the facility at this time.
- Children's Sunday school will remain available by YouTube. Children's Bulletins will be mailed each week. You will be notified of any other On-line opportunities.

This is **Phase One** in making FUMC worship space available again. This schedule will continue until further notice is given. First UMC appreciates your support and prayers during this time. As always, watch for social media and email for updates or changes. **Thank you, Re-Start Team, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Church Council**

We applaud our audio/visual team!



And the man behind the camera!