



THE LINK

SUMMER

2021

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The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

RESTART TEAM UPDATE

The restart team met by ZOOM, Monday, July 26. The Team is made up of persons across the Church family including Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Lay Leader, Staff, and United Methodist Women. The meeting came on the evening before the most recent and unexpected CDC guidelines were released regarding the Covid-19 variants and the word that the “war against Covid-19” has changed.

The Restart Team agreed upon the following guidelines in every effort to keep moving forward toward resuming the life of the Church and to provide a safe gathering place for worship, study, and other gatherings. The primary goal of the Team is to guide the Church family toward resuming the life of the church in a safe environment... **To Do No Harm.**

The following guidelines are in place for Worship, Sunday School, and All Other Activities.

- **Fully Vaccinated—Masks Recommended**
- **Unvaccinated—Masks Required**
- **To Sing or Respond (All Activities)—Masks Required**
- **Social Distancing—Required at All Times**

At this point there remains other unanswered concerns but until more guidance is provided, the Restart Team’s primary goal is To Do No Harm. This is yet another “one step at a time” move in the life of the Church. Everyone has been kind and patient as we have cautiously worked to return to some sense of normalcy.

This is a welcome step for some and an anxious step for others.

Thank you for your help as together we remain the Church, the Body of Christ, and a reflection of the Light of Jesus.





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women resumed in person unit meetings in May and June. Throughout Covid restrictions individual circles met by Zoom and outdoors in small groups, but we agreed it was great to be all together in Fellowship Hall.

Sylvia Elmore presented our May program about leadership, opening with the question, “Who’s on First?” Her message reminded us that our ability can get us to first base, but we depend on others to carry us further and hopefully to our goal. That includes the Lord as Psalm 98 says, “Sing a new song to the Lord! He has worked miracles.”

“She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference” was our June Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program led by President Barbara Loftis. She began with the story of how Moses went to the Lord on behalf of Zelophehad’s daughters, who in that day would be denied any inheritance from their father. Because they had the faith and courage to speak up, inheritance laws began to change. We discussed ways women are left out today and how our funds and support can empower women everywhere.

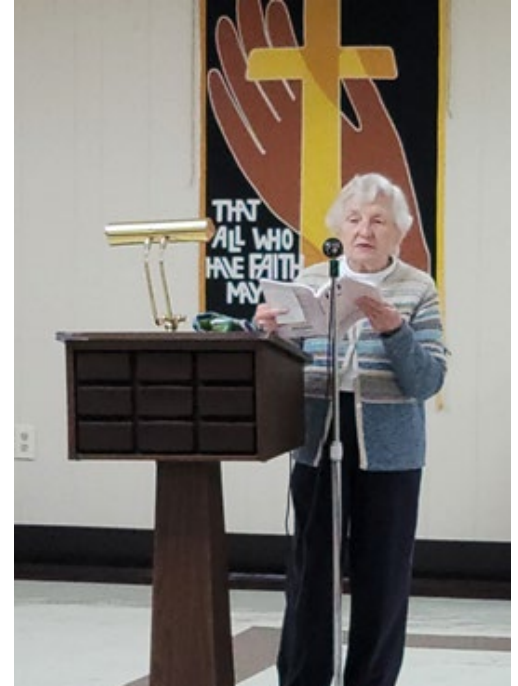
Executive Committee will meet in August to make plans for Fall 2021. We do expect to meet monthly in Fellowship Hall but will discuss a possible meeting change to daytime. Share suggestions and concerns with Barbara Loftis or any committee member.

Please continue paying your usual pledges, as we hope to support all our budgeted non-profit organizations in 2021.

At our May unit meeting, we voted to combine budget items for Upshur Helping Hands and Habitat for Humanity just this year and gave Habitat \$850. Their current house project is in Hampton, and several church members are volunteering there.

Upcoming Dates:

- ★ October 5: Basement Sale! Drop off beginning Sept. 20
- ★ October 22-23: UMW Annual Meeting at Community of Grace UMC, Huntington
- ★ June 16-18, 2022: 2022 Mission U at Cedar Lakes



**Early Birds will meet
each Wednesday
at 9:00 in the
Library.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Chancel Choir** will resume weekly rehearsals, Thursday (note change of day), 7 PM in the Sanctuary.



FROM THE TRUSTEES:

The Board of Trustees are currently working toward repointing and sealing the S. Florida side of the Old Main building (sanctuary). This will prohibit moisture from seeping through the wall and creating interior wall issues of paint bubbling and plaster becoming soft and falling. Once the exterior wall has been repointed and sealed, then the interior wall issues can be addressed.

Also, a memorial gift has been given toward replacing the wooden fencing that begins at the District Office and stands along the perimeter of the back yard and ends at the rear of the parsonage. The existing fencing has aged and in several places it has become either soft or brittle. The Trustees are grateful for the memorial gift and the seed funds to move toward replacing the fence. And the Trustees are grateful for the patience of the Church family as they, one by one, care for the needs of the First Church facility.



SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

**Inviting others to First Church has
never been easier**



**If you use Facebook and receive posts for
Worship and Sunday School from
First United Methodist Church, LIKE
those posts and share them with
others.**



**Or, if you receive the weekly emails that
invite folks to On-line worship, Sunday
School, and list other First Church
opportunities, you can forward those
emails to others**



***What a great way to grow the First
Church On-line congregation!***

CONGRATULATIONS ZACH CALEF-BORING!



Zach Calef-Boring, son of Kevin and Lisa Calef-Boring and grandson of Sue Boring, was named to the West Virginia Sportswriters Association All-State Baseball Team, second team. Zach was one of the top hitters in the region for the Buccaneers his sophomore season.

WELCOME!

The First Church family welcomed Melissa McCauley and her children into the Church Membership on June 6. Melissa began worshipping with First Church through the Online Ministry last September and connected with Pastor Steve.

Welcome Melissa, Allayah, Corbin, and Elliel It's great to share the journey with you!





YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

First UMC, Buckhannon, Livestream Worship on Facebook. 10:45 AM

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

Subscribe to First UMC YouTube
(FirstChurchUMBuckhannon):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCydw6hKQYnBfJ7T8n7t9iNw>

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

For the Sermon on the Web: Go to First Church Website: www.firstchurchum.com, look for SERMON tab on the home page

Sharefaith App---Go to Google Play or the App Store, search for the Sharefaith App.

Download the app, and then search for First United Methodist Church, then select.

Volunteers Wanted!



Are you interested in helping make First UMC's services happen? The Tech Team is looking for volunteers to help once or twice a month and as back-up support with working our livestream cameras, audio, and slides. Training will be provided. If you're

interested in being a part of this exciting and growing ministry, please email Pastor Steve at stevowvu@gmail.com.



Alcoholics Anonymous meets once a week, Saturday, 8 AM in Room 23.

CONGRATULATIONS HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!!!!

Sean Crites

Gracie Boyles

Alexandra Edwards

Morgan Gifford

Nick Calef-Boring

Princeton University

Concord University

WVU

Ross Medical College

WV Wesleyan

COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, Sept. 12



The sacrament of communion will resume on Sunday, Sept, 12 at In-person worship. Those wishing to receive

communion will be

given a pre-packaged grape juice/wafer in a zip-lock bag by a gloved individual when they arrive for worship. Following communion, persons will be asked to put the empty container back in the zip-lock bag, seal the bag, and drop the used container/zip-lock bag in a trash container as they leave.



If you would like to receive by email, Circle of Prayer, the daily prayer concerns of the First Church family, please send your name and email address to lwelling@mpl.com.

If you are not on the FUMC email list to receive announcements, notices, newsletters, etc., please send your name and email address to lwelling@mpl.com so that you are up-to-date on the most recent updates at First Church.



The Clothes Closet thrift store at 47 Sedgwick Street, Buckhannon, is not accepting any donations of clothing, books, household goods, etc., due to a current lack of storage space, throughout the month of August.

In addition, the Clothes Closet will be closed for staff training on August 6 and 7 (Friday and Saturday).

Please call 304-471-2290 with any questions.

NEIGHBORS REACHING NEIGHBORS

Parish House Item of the Month



The Micah Outreach Ministry Team encourages you to continue your support of the Upshur Parish House. The Collection of the Month for August is **“bar soap, powdered laundry detergent, bathroom tissue, and garden vegetables.”** You may leave your donations in Linger Hall if you attend Sunday Worship, or leave your donations on the Front Porch of the Parish House, 68 College Ave.



Thanks and appreciation to our Musicians!



Thank You! These past several weeks of surgery, complications, and recovery have been made much more bearable because of your prayers, help, well-wishes, and encouragement. As I continue to recover and reflect, the list of persons who have helped continues to grow. Thank you to Rick Swearengin and Barry Moll for preaching, to all the volunteers and the On-line Worship team and the Staff for covering all the bases. And Thank You to my Church family for your prayers and patience. Truly, Grace happens at First United Methodist Church.

Best of all, God is with us.

In gratitude and peace, Steve and Martha Meadows

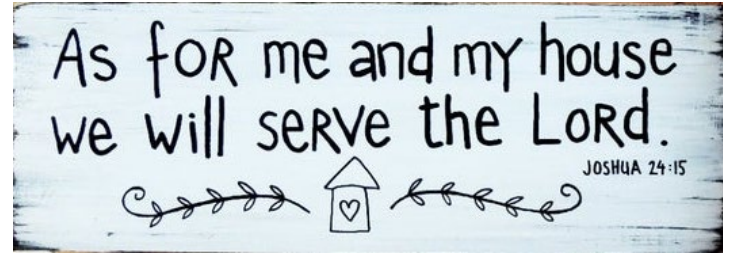
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

If attending In-Person Worship, please leave your Gift in Linger Hall.

You may mail your Gifts to First UMC or if you wish, you may give Electronically. Go to: www.firstchurchumc.com and click the

DONATE (Paypal) Button.

Thank You! again for your faithful stewardship as ministry continues at First UMC.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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