



First United Methodist Church of Clarksburg, West Virginia

The Grapevine

Dear Friends,

I recently read a phrase that challenged Christians in “becoming Easter People in a Good Friday world”. To be honest, my mind has been consumed by the notion that our world is so preoccupied with death and destruction that we fail to see and experience the possibilities of life around us. In fact, this is exactly what happened on that first Easter. To paraphrase the Gospel of John, the women went to the tomb of Jesus expecting to witness death and, in that preoccupation, were not able to recognize Jesus alive. It took Jesus speaking to Mary before she could comprehend that Jesus was alive!

As Easter People we are called to communicate life in all areas of our lives. Oh, we may never reach that goal on a daily basis but we should always strive. What’s more, the community of faith should be communicating and striving toward the same goal. Our beloved Rev. Harry Jenkins has challenged us in recent years to think of First Church as a place where people get their life back. I think the nuance of this challenge captures exactly what it means to be Easter People in a Good Friday world.

When I reflect on our world and specifically the people in West Virginia, I think everyone needs to hear a message that brings hope and life. This Easter we have an opportunity to do just that through our Easter offering. This year, our Outreach Team, has designated our Easter offering for West Virginia Conference Mission Ministries. All of these ministries in our Annual Conference reach people in need through the state and communicate the message of hope and life. You will find a list of these ministries and their focus inside this newsletter. I pray you will be generous in your gift as we communicate the possibility of life to people struggling to find hope.

To help us strive toward becoming Easter People,
join us on Easter Sunday at 10:45 AM. For in doing so, we grow in our faith and are better equipped to communicate Jesus’ message of hope and life.

So then, let us embrace the challenge set before us to become Easter people in a Good Friday world. Our world needs to hear this message so that they too can find hope and life.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Mike



F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements



Signs, Sounds & Symbols

Second Sunday Family Fun Day, March 10, 2024

Friends of all ages came together for a fun evening of fellowship! The group enjoyed make-your-own tacos and nachos then set off on a scavenger hunt around the church, put together by Shelley Spellman. The scavenger hunt had us looking for signs and symbols, that opened up conversation about what each means. The children discussed signs of Spring, there were crafts for all, and we sang together in anticipation for Palm Sunday.

Don't miss out on the next Fun day: April 14th!

**SCAN
HERE!**



Paper forms available
upon request

First United Methodist Church Directory Update

Please help us update our church directory. For new attendees AND for those who have been with us for years, we ask that everyone fill out a contact form.

HOW TO: Using your mobile phone camera scan the QR code to the left of this text. A link to the form will appear in your mobile search browser. A separate form will need to be filled out for each adult member of your family. *One* family member will be responsible for adding your children's information if applicable.

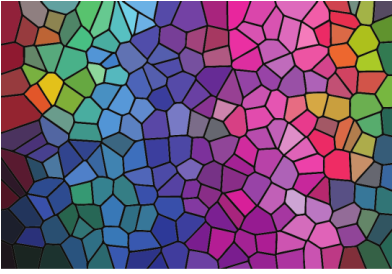
**If you need help, please ask
Leah or Pastor Michael**



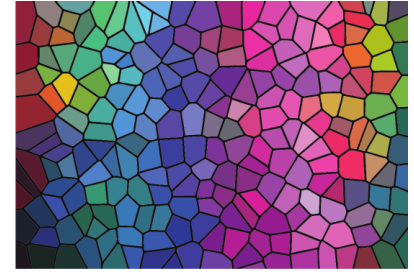
The FUMC Family Choir & Robert Skidmore, Violin

If you would like to talk about joining any of the choirs, contact Don Gardner.

“Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.” –Song of Songs 2:12



What is happening at our
..... **CHURCH**
this month



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

Monastic Meal

A simple weekly meal, eaten in silence as inspirational literature is read aloud. Join us at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday in the parlor. Meal donation is \$4.00. To learn more, contact Don Gardner.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Thursday from 5 to 6, a group gathers in the groom's room to knit or crochet shawls for those who may need the loving embrace of the church. Contact Nancy Ferber or Cheryl Moorhead for information.

Feed My Sheep

3rd Mondays of each month (April 15) at 12:00 (noon) This ministry welcomes to the table those who might be overlooked or rejected. Food donations are appreciated! Contact Anita Burns for more details.

**First United Methodist Church
Women's Luncheon**

3rd Thursday of each month 12:00 (noon) in the parlor. Please contact Shirley Murphy for more information 513-600-8469

MEETINGS

SPRC will meet April 4 at 6 p.m.

Trustees will meet April 9 at 6 p.m.

Finance will meet April 16 at 5 p.m.

Outreach will meet April 16 at 5 p.m.

Council will meet April 16 at 6 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming meeting or event that you would like to have featured in next month's newsletters please email Leah at CFUMC@citynet.net or call the church office.



Hand Bell Choir Practice
Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
Contact Don Gardner

Youth Events

April 14– Family Fun Night, 5-7 p.m.

April 21— Youth Bowling, Alley 304, 6 p.m.

connect with us



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist
Church – Clarksburg



scan the QR Code with
your mobile phone for easy
access to our Facebook
and YouTube accounts



YouTube: First United
Methodist Church –
Clarksburg



Church Office Hours

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 9-1, Thursday 9-1



Feed My Sheep

Takes place on the 3rd Monday of every month.
This is a free meal that offers fellowship and connection between the church and community.



We Need Your Help! Food Items Needed

If you are able to donate please let us know. You can sign up for item(s) by scanning the QR Code with your phone camera. Click the link that pops up and fill out the questions on the form. If you are not use the QR Code Please contact Anita Burns 304-203-1279



Community Rewards



Scan the QR Code or go to www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards for step by step instructions. If you need assistance setting this up contact Leah Wray during office hours.



Children's Church every Sunday
after children's moments during the 10:45 worship service

Infant Care Available



Newsletter Deadline for March is April 25th - Please see Leah Wray



“Make Your House Fair As You Are Able...”

These words from one of our Advent carols encourage us to prepare for the arrival of Christ. But I'd like to invoke them for us throughout the year, here at our “house”, First United Methodist of Clarksburg.

It is exciting to see all of the activities here! Some we generate ourselves; some are those led by outside groups. In all cases, when those activities are done, let's leave the house clean and ready for the next group.

As lay leader, I want to encourage us all to do our part to “make our house fair...” How? Sometimes that means joining me for an hour or so tackling a major job --- cleaning a storage room, mending some acolyte robes, defrosting the freezer. (I'll be chipping away at these from 1:30 to 2:30 most Tuesday afternoons beginning April 15th.)

But moreso, it is the little things. Picking up a scrap of paper and tossing it. Straightening a chair as you finish a meeting. Ours is a beautiful and majestic “house”. Yes, we have a custodian on duty, and she does a wonderful job! But, we have a role to play, too.

One more thing, then I'll end. “T.L.C includes B.L.D.” --Tender Loving Care includes Bathrooms/Lights/Doors.

If you are here of an evening, and among the last in your group to leave, please check the taps in the bathrooms, turn-off the lights, and make sure the exterior doors are properly shut and locked. Problems with any of that....just let me know!

Our church home is about 70 years old, and is a wonderful place for worship and ministry and fellowship.

Thank you for your part in taking care of it!

God's blessings to you, Don Gardner

WV Conference Mission Ministries

Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries ...

...provides basic needs assistance in the form of food, clothing, utility or rent assistance, new born supplies for Kanawha County.

Ebenezer Community Outreach Center...

...offers a state licensed childcare and after-school program for youth ages 2 through 12 in the Huntington area.

Heart and Hand House, Inc ...

...aids more than 1,700 low-income individuals with food, financial assistance, clothing, home repair, feeding programs for children. Heart and Hand House serves the Barbour County area.

House of the Carpenter ...

...serves children and families in the Wheeling area through: Basic Needs Program, Children and Youth Programs, Adult Programs, and a partnership with Madison Elementary School.

Scott's Run Settlement House...

...provides basic necessities to those in need in Monongalia County through their food pantry, backpack feeding program, baby pantry, and seasonal outreach programs.

Tyrand Cooperative Ministries ...

...located in Randolph County, offers programs that provide emergency assistance, food baskets, home repair, school supplies, and a disaster shelter for people in need.

Upshur Parish House...

...serves people in the Buckhannon area through rental and utility assistance, clothing, and food .

Volunteers in Mission...

... is organized to deploy work teams throughout the world to minister to church and community needs.

New Vision Depot...

...is an extension ministry of the WVAC Disaster Response Committee that provides quick, ready access to critical supplies and materials to help survivors recover from natural disasters.

Open Heart Ministries ...

...is an ecumenical ministry that serves people in Harrison County by providing financial assistance with rent and utilities.

In April & May we have a goal to fill **170** food bags for Nutterfort Elementary

Our next donation due date and bag assembly will take place on April 14th after worship.



To find out what is needed or how you can help-- Contact Leah Wray

In Need of:



Items should be kid friendly, easy to open and non-perishable.
We collect these items throughout the whole month.

Thank you to all of those of have prayed, donated and given hands on support to make this ministry possible. Blessed to be a blessing!

United Women in Faith

During the March luncheon gathering, Catherine Burley blessed the group with her story and testimony.

Catherine is a faithful member of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist church and a volunteer/advocate from the Kelly Miller Community Center and Black Heritage Festival.

Cathy shared with those in attendance the personal story of her transition to Harrison County and about the work she is a part of to bring both celebration and awareness for the Black history and community in our area.

Plan to join the next upcoming luncheon

– All are welcome!

April 18, 2024 at Noon in the Parlor



First UMC will cover half of the registration fee for any of our youth & children who are interested in attending Spring Heights Church Camps.

Registration is open now! Call the church office for more information or visit www.springheights.org

**FELLOWSHIP HALL WORSHIP
AND COVERED-DISH BRUNCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

BRUNCH AT 10:30 --- WORSHIP AT 10:45



Second Sunday

FAMILY FUN DAY

**When: April 14, 5-7 PM
Where: FUMC Fellowship Hall
Food & Fun for All**



SAVE THE DATE!

July 10th, 11th & 12th

Where: First United Methodist Church

Age Groups: 3-5 yrs, 6-8 yrs, 9-12 yrs



Registration available soon!

Follow FUMC on Facebook to stay up to date on VBS information!

April Birthdays

Jennifer Alberts	4/01	Catherine Lilly	4/07	Emily Righter	4/20
Brenda Davisson	4/01	Alex Rodriguez	4/08	Matthew Kersting	4/21
Garrett Harpold	4/01	Jackie Spicer	4/09	Joshua Reinhart	4/21
Beth Taylor	4/01	Dave Utter	4/09	Matthew Spicer	4/21
Wesley Walls	4/01	Chase Brannon	4/11	William Righter III	4/22
Joen Tayman	4/02	Robert Gifford	4/11	Delilah Seibert-Payne	4/22
Joshua Maxwell	4/03	Kelsey Lantz	4/13	Sarah Rogers	4/23
Drew Brannon	4/05	Jill Burlock	4/15	Maren Rodriguez	4/25
Nick Dyer	4/05	Tim McMunn	4/16	Sierra Walls	4/27
Emerson Collins	4/06	Andrew Skidmore	4/17	Anita Burns	4/30
Emma Finly	4/06	Adam Dyer	4/19	Vanessa Wood	4/30