



Each October our Finance Team begins the process of creating a ministry budget for the coming year. The team begins this process by examining the Church's current ministry expenses and by assessing the resources that provide funds for our ministry. As the Finance Team met to begin this process, leaders learned that First Church is on course to meet our budgetary needs for 2024. This is truly Good News!

I personally want to thank you for your trust and for your commitment to support the ongoing ministry of First Church by offering your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness! You truly are making a difference in peoples' lives and the ministry we offer is bearing fruit in multiple ways. Thanks to you, we've welcomed over 20 adults and children into the membership of the church. Your commitment helped us reach more than 45 children and youth through ongoing ministry (Children's Church, VBS, Youth, etc.). I celebrate that over 35 people have participated in our discipleship ministries and our outreach ministry (Feed My Sheep, Winter Shelter, Shower Ministry, Daily Lunch Ministry, etc.) impacts over 100 people weekly! And all this doesn't even begin the list of ways First Church makes a difference. Thank you again for your commitment to share the Good News with people in our community and world.

While we celebrate what God is doing through our ministry, there is still work to be done. Over the next two months our Finance Team will be forming a budget for 2025 and the team needs your help in that process. In a few days, you will receive a letter asking you to complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2025. By completing this card and returning it by November 10th, the team will know the anticipated income for 2025 and will be able to shape our 2025 budget. I am asking you to help us with this process by prayerfully joining me in this effort to be faithful stewards of the resources God provides us individually and for the ministry of First Church.

God's Blessings,

*Pastor Mike*



# F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements



## CONNECTION

First Church's Connection Kick-Off took place on Wednesday, September 25th. Over 50 friends came together in the fellowship hall to enjoy a Spaghetti dinner, made complete with fresh Italian bread, a garden salad and an ice cream treat! Pastor Michael opened the evening with prayer and instruction while Don

Gardner led the group in song. After dinner, different age groups split up throughout the building for activities. With help from the Youth, the children's group made sock puppets. The self-named "Work in Progress" group (friends who range from their 20's - 40's) played with playdough and got to know each other. While the Mixed Age group participated in watercolor painting. Laughter was heard throughout the building and fun was had by all.

The second Connection gathering took place on October 30th (not in time to make this newsletter) **We hope you will consider joining us next month on November 20th at 5:30 for "We are Thankful"**

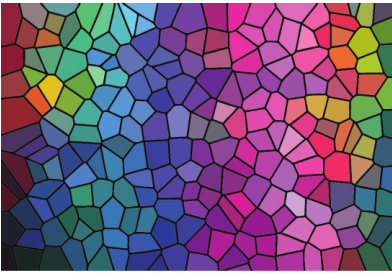
One of the most effective ways to offer encouragement and support to those in need is through words. Sending a handwritten note or sympathy card can be a tangible reminder that you care and that your thoughts are with your recipient when times are tough.



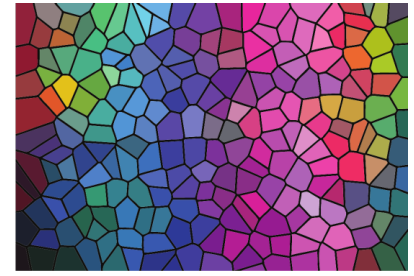
If you would like a copy of our "Thinking of You" address list, please call the church office or send a request by email at [cfumc@citynet.net](mailto:cfumc@citynet.net)

If you know of someone we should add to the list, let us know!

**Colossians 3:15:** *"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."*



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 p.m., 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 (November 18) 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

**Trustees** will meet **Nov. 12** at 6:00 p.m.

**SPRC** will meet **Nov.14** at 6:00 p.m.

**Outreach** will meet **Nov. 19** at 5 p.m.

**Finance** will meet **Nov. 19** at 5 p.m.

**Council** will meet **Nov. 19** 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.

**First Church Youth**

**Nov. 3: Youth Meeting @ Parsonage, 5:00 p.m.**

**Nov. 10: Youth Service Project After Church**

**(Youth will eat lunch together and then move into our community to help others prepare for the winter months by raking leaves, removing plants, etc.)**

**Nov. 20: Youth will assist with Children at Connection**

connect with us



[WWW.CFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.CFUMC.ORG)



[cfumc@citynet.net](mailto: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





## DECEMBER 18th– Christmas Pageant

After Church Rehearsals:

**November 3rd and December 1st**

All who are participating should plan to hang after worship until 12:30 p.m. for practice.

Children will be working on their parts during children’s church.

A monthly time to come together to fill our hearts & minds with meaningful connection to God and one another. There will be activities for all ages from 0-100. You are encouraged to invite guests.

*All are welcome!*

Food at 5:30– Music and “break away” activities following.

-A love offering will be taken up at each Connection gathering to cover the cost of the meals.

**Join us**

**November 20th**

**5:30 PM**



### Fall Workshop is an annual gathering of youth

ages 12-18 (grades 6th through 12th) throughout the West Virginia Conference. Young people can gather with others to worship, grow in faith, and have a lot of fun!

This year’s Fall Workshop will be November 22-24 at Jackson’s Mill in Weston, WV. Cost is \$125 per person (this includes all meals and lodging). First Church will cover the cost for registration.

To register click the link on the conference website [www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org)

### Our goal this month is to fill 100 bags!

First Church is collecting food items **every month** for The Nutterfort Elementary Food Backpack Program.

We will prepare bags on the *Sunday before the 3rd Friday of each month.*



#### Food Items Needed:

**easy to open**

- \*snacks
- \*ravioli/spaghetti o’s
- \*mac and cheese cups
- \*chips/crackers
- \*fruit cups

*other kid friendly lunchbox items*

### Bag assembly will take place on Sunday, November 10th

Nutterfort Elementary has asked that we do NOT send Capri Sun pouches or items that can leak or be easily punctured.



Over the last four years, Friends Feeding Friends has offered a free community dinner every Wednesday evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the church. During this time, this outreach ministry has grown from an average of 40 people served to an average of 150 people served each week.

With the tremendous increase in attendance at these outreach events, the safety of participants has become an increasing concern for organizers and volunteers alike. To that end, Rick Squires, Chairperson of the

Trustees, and I met with Friends Feeding Friends organizers, Kevin Brand, Michelle Freeman, and Karen Alastanos, to discuss ways to ensure the safety of participants while continuing our support of this ministry by providing space for their outreach. After much prayerful consideration, Friends Feeding Friends has discerned that their best move forward is to relocate their weekly event to Temple United Methodist Church beginning Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In a recent correspondence to me from Kevin Brand regarding their decision to relocate, he stated, “We are thankful that your church congregation welcomed us with open arms and we will forever have wonderful memories of the space you allowed us to use”. I shared with Kevin that First Church is grateful for their ministry to the community and that we will continue to support their outreach in whatever ways we are able. If you would like to read Friends Feeding Friends announcement regarding their decision to relocate, you can find that on their Facebook Page.

I invite you to join me in prayer for the Friends Feeding Friends’ ministry as they make this transition.

Blessings, *Pastor Mike*

This year the Thanksgiving Special offering will go to Friends Feeding Friends.



**FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....**

One of the hats I wear here at the church is that of Financial Secretary. For a few hours each week, I help get the bills ready to be paid, generate whatever reports are needed or requested, enter weekly donations, prepare annual reports, etc. (By the way, we have nearly complete transparency about finances...the main exception being that relating to donations: who gives how much is private and protected!)

In preparation for our stewardship drive, I've been preparing some church financial statistics. Here are a few you may find interesting.....

- 1) Our pledges in 2024 total \$108,590.00 The lion's share of general budget income is from endowment funds.
- 2) There are 32 pledging "units" --- (a family, a couple, an individual)
- 3) Pledging units in years past?    2023 – 34      2022 – 36      2021 – 33      2020 – 27
- 4) Those who begin pledging usually continue (until moving or death)
- 5) Most of those who give (either pledge or non-pledge) are also regular in worship attendance, and in service.

2024 Pledges

Less than \$1000 annually	---	7 pledgers totaling	\$ 3,310.00
\$1000 to \$1999 annually	--	10 pledgers totaling	\$13,360.00
\$2000 to \$2999 annually	--	5 pledgers totaling	\$11,160.00
\$3000 to \$3999 annually	--	3 pledgers totaling	\$ 9,960.00
\$4000 to \$4999 annually	--	0	
\$5000 to \$5999 annually	--	0	
\$6000 to \$6999 annually	--	3 pledgers totaling	\$18,000.00
\$7000 and higher annually	--	4 pledgers totaling	\$52,800.00

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In <u>2023</u> , pledged offerings paid out at 93% totaling	\$ 97,225.00
In <u>2023</u> , non-pledged receipts totaled	\$ 68,934.00
In <u>2023</u> Pledged & non-pledged income, plus loose-plate totaled	\$168,287.12
In <u>2023</u> , our total general income from all sources	\$633,391.53
(This does not include designated giving, 100% of which goes to the intended recipient/program/ministry.)	

**If ever you have questions about our church finances,  
please contact Don Gardner.**

*We remember those loved ones who have passed this year.*

We name them with love, and are grateful for having shared  
the fellowship of the Church with these sisters and brothers in Christ:

Edith Davisson	Terry Tallman	Mary Jo Short	These names were received as of 10/24/24. There may be additional names added to the bulletin for All Saint's Sunday on 11/3/2024
Jay Grega	Laurel Klein		
Barbara Carroll	Diane Troy		
June Lewis	Vincent Patton		



Men's Ensemble (above) and Chancel Choir (below) n Sunday Oct. 20– Laity Sunday.



Thanksgiving  
Food Basket  
Tree

Items due by  
Nov. 17

**God is Good** 

**All the Time!**



## Shower Ministry

# VOLUNTEERS

# NEEDED

Fridays from 12-3 p.m.

### Duties Include

- checking guests in and out
- providing guests with fresh clothing
- monitoring access to the building




304-623-3397
cfumc@citynet.net

# Happy Birthday



Jack Brandimarte	11/01
Paige Winters	11/01
Carolyn Yost	11/01
Randy Matheny	11/02
Luke Dyer	11/05
Pam Preston	11/06
Richelle Squires	11/06
Parke Thrush	11/08
Sherry Lantz	11/10
J. B. Wilfong	11/12
Leah Wray	11/15
Sue Brandimarte	11/16
Benjamin Dyer	11/16
Karley Lawrence	11/16
Charlene Cathell	11/17
Pamela S Reese	11/18
Launa Walls	11/18
Lisa Dyer Thrush	11/19
Tracey Lawrence	11/23
Kelsey Lawrence	11/24
Penny Arnold	11/26

**Please accept our apology if yours is omitted, and let us know so that it will be included.  
And, if yours is included, and you'd rather it not be, let us know that, too.  
(304-623-3397)**

## What's happening around our building?

**AA Meetings:** Mon./Tues./Wed.(12:00 p.m.),  
Tues. (7:00 p.m.)– Room 206

**NA Meetings:** Mon./Wed./Thurs. (7:00 p.m.)- Room 206

**Healing Circle:** Fridays at Noon

**Resilience Collaborative:** Fridays, 12-4 p.m.

**Sit-n-Eat Bagged Lunches:** M-Th 12:15 p.m.,  
Friday at 1:00 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.

## **Local Food Pantries**

Mustard Seed: M, Tu, Th, Fr, 11a-3pm, 444 E Pike St. Clarksburg.

Our Daily Bread: Mon.- Sat. Must Call 304-476-1434, Kelly Miller Bldg. Clarksburg

Salvation Army: Tu.-Fr. Must Call 304-622-2360, 1010 S. Chestnut St. Clarksburg

Stealey-Duff St. UMC: Tuesdays 9:30am—1pm, 400 Duff St.

North View UMC: Thursdays 2-4 pm, 1320 N. 19th St. Clarksburg

Progressive Women's Assoc.: Thursday 1-4 pm, 304 Washington Ave. Clarksburg

Shepherd's Corner: Tu-Th 10 am-2pm, 19 Pennsylvania Ave. Bridgeport

## **Job Hunting?**

Consider WorkForce West Virginia  
152 West Main Street, Ste B.  
Clarksburg, WV  
Email: [workforceclarksburg@wv.gov](mailto:workforceclarksburg@wv.gov)



# Church Office Hours

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

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



## Community Rewards



Scan the QR Code or go to  
[www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](http://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



To include your news in next month's newsletter, contact Leah Wray