



Over a year ago, members of the Church Council and the Vision Team participated in a conference workshop designed to assist local congregations with their missional effectiveness. During that workshop (Mission: Possible) the facilitator indicated that one of the biggest obstacles that hinders a church from being effective in their ministry is a direct result of the administrative structure of the church. Needless to say, this news for those in attendance was eye-opening.

As our team processed the information presented at this workshop, we quickly realized that our current administrative structure does indeed hamper and sometimes even prevents ministry from happening in a timely manner. Our current structure divides the administrative tasks among various committees: Administrative Council, Finance, Staff-Pastor Parish Relations, and Trustees. The Administrative Council is the authoritative team in all matters of church ministry. The Finance team is tasked with the responsibility of allocating resources for ministry. The Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee is responsible in overseeing the staff and pastor of the church. And, the Trustees, in short, are responsible to managing endowments, making sure that the church is adequately insured, and ensuring that physical plant of the church can adequately support ministry. New ideas for ministry must move throughout these committees for approval and resourcing before that ministry is launched.

In an effort to become more missionally effective, the Administrative Council recently approved a motion to change our existing structure to a more simplified accountable model. The motion read as follows: "We at First Church Clarksburg adopt for one year – 2025 – the creation of a Leadership Board, which serves as Church Council, Board of Trustees, SPRC, and Finance Committee. In late summer of 2025, we shall evaluate the efficacy of this structure and decide whether to continue, or proceed in a different direction." In addition, this motion authorized the Nominations Committee to include all members of the 2025 and 2026 classes of the Council, Trustees, SPRC, and Finance on this new Council and also nominate additional "at large" members to serve on the Council. In short, First Church will create a single team to oversee the administrative responsibilities of the Trustees, SPRC, and Finance team. This new team will not, however, replace the existing ministry teams (outreach, Children's ministry, etc.) that are currently in place. These ministry teams will continue to work as they are currently.

At our upcoming Church Conference on September 19, this new structure will be explained in greater depth and brought before the Church Conference for approval. It is my intention to provide you with important information regarding a shift in the way the church handles the administrative tasks of the church. If you have questions and/or concerns about this new structure, please don't hesitate to contact me or our Lay Leader (Don Gardner) at the church.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

*"Don't worry so much about the principal,
get on good terms with the secretary and the janitor!"*

I learned much from my lead professor in grad school at Southern Methodist many years ago, but this bit of practical advice has served me especially well through the years. There are many people that help create a compassionate, successful ministry, and those in the foreground are certainly essential. But often the folks working behind the scenes are those that keep the ministry alive and well!

As your Lay Leader, I want to thank those of you who quietly keep the ministry going...who volunteer as worship helpers, choir members, kitchen crew, kids' teachers, committee members...and so much else.

If you are searching for ways to get involved in ministry here at First Church, I would love to chat with you. Catch me after worship (*Before worship is often hectic; afterwards is much better!*), or leave a message in the collection plate, or an e-mail at cfumc@citynet.net, or a phone call at 304-623-3397.

God bless you and yours!

Don Gardner

You are invited to join us for our ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

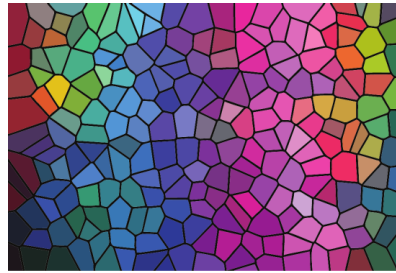
Thursday, September 19th at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Church Conference's purpose is to approve the Pastoral Salary, to elect officers to serve for the coming year and most importantly– to celebrate the ongoing ministry of the church.

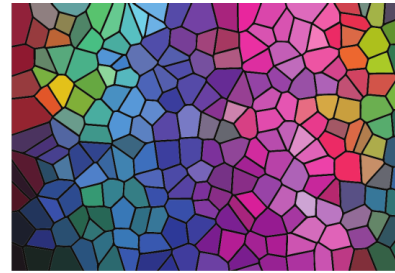
All members of the church have a voice and vote in matters that come before the church conference. We encourage you to participate in the conference as we engage in the business and recognition of the ministry of First Church.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

—Galatians 5:22-23



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



CONNECT C O N N E C T I O N

Coming Soon to First Church!

What is Connection?

A monthly, all-inclusive time to come together to fill our hearts & minds with meaningful connection to God and one another.

When?

On September 25th First Church will host its first Connection gathering. The evening will begin at 5:30 and last until approx. 7 p.m. (2 hours max!)

What will we do?

During this time together we will share a prepared meal and offer time for fellowship before breaking away into small groups for activities, study discussion & more.

Each gathering will look different, meaning we might focus on crafts, mission projects, physical activity, and age-level study discussions at different Connection gatherings. Music, Food & Fellowship will be a given! We will share these specific plans before each Connection event.

Who?

There will be activities for all ages from 0-100. We will form activities based on participation and hope to accommodate children, youth/teens, young adults, and a mixed-age group. You are encouraged to invite guests.
All are welcome!

TELL ME MORE!

Connection will take place on the last Wednesday of the month, with flexibility around holidays and other organized events that are taking place at our church.

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

-If you feel called to be a part of planning or leading a Connection activity please speak with Pastor Michael.

-RSVP's will be appreciated (to accurately plan for food and activities) but not required.

Mark your calendars

September 25th "Connection Kick-off"

October 30th "Fall Fun"

November 20th "We are Thankful"

December 18th "Christmas Pageant and Carol Sing Along"

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 (September 16) 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 **Sept. 3** at 6:00 p.m.

Trustees will meet **not meet in Sept.**

Outreach will meet **Sept. 17** at 5 p.m.

Church Conference **Sept. 19**

Finance will meet **Sept. 24** at 5 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

Sept. 8— Youth will meet at 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 15 — Bowling at 304 Alley

Sept. 22 — Youth will meet at 5:00 p.m.

**Sept. 25— Youth will meet at
CONNECTION, 5:30 p.m.**

**In September the youth group will be
reading and discussing Ester.**

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





**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!**

For more information about how to be a part of the pageant, talk with Don Gardner

Time to start preparing for the 2025 school year

August 11th we will begin collecting food items for Nutterfort Elementary's Food Backpack Program.

We will prepare bags on the 2nd Sunday 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

Distribution will begin in September! Let's start now!

Meet us after the service on Sunday, **September 8th** to assemble food bags for Nutterfort Elementary. Assembly will take place in the fellowship hall.

We are starting off with a goal to fill 100 bags.

This year the school has requested **NO** capri suns or drinks that can be punctured or leak easily.



F.U.M.C T-Shirts

royal blue shirts
\$ donation to the VBS fund
See Leah for sizes

great for community outings and outreach events!

Items can be brought to the church and stored in the designated rummage sale closet. This closet is on the basement level, in the fellowship hall (dining room) in the far right corner by the stage and behind the piano.

Please mark your items for RUMMAGE.

If you have questions please contact Anita Burns.

*help is needed for set up on October 3rd.



Rummage Sale

Save The Date | October 4-5

Rummage item collection begins now!

contact Anita Burns for questions



MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH

Chancel Choir (youth and adults)
Handbell Choir
Men's Ensemble
Children's Choir (in process!)
HeartSong

Guest Musicians --- Special Worship --- Community Events
If you would like more information, contact Don Gardner

“

“GRACE IS NOT
CONTINGENT ON WHO YOU
ARE OR HOW YOU IDENTIFY.
GRACE IS NOT LIMITED.
GRACE IS GOD'S FREE GIFT
OF LOVE.”

Rev. Michael Atkinson



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 other students 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).

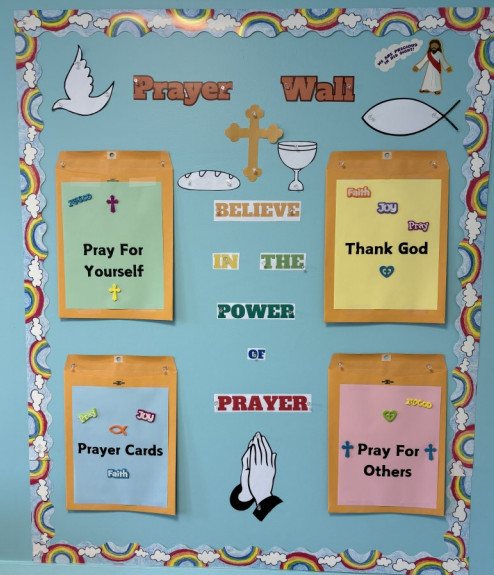
Fairwell to the Stout Family



The Stout Family is moving to Maryland. Alex will be the Camping Director for the Baltimore Area Council of Scouting America, Madison will be teaching 6th grade at Patterson Mill Middle. The boys will be in daycare but will also enjoy a lot of opportunities to explore their new backyard living at the Scout Camp

Children's Church

This Prayer board was created by Sammi Mikolon and Catherine Preston for the Children's Church room. On Sundays during Children's Church the group will be using this display to help guide them through prayer. With help, the children will be adding their personal prayers to the designated envelopes. This ongoing lesson will remind them to Thank God, Pray for others and for themselves.



Happy Birthday



| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Kate Thrush | 09/01 |
| Suzie Faris | 09/02 |
| Boyd Warner III | 09/02 |
| Mary Lou Jones | 09/03 |
| Jennifer Lopez | 09/03 |
| Sandy McMunn | 09/03 |
| Lisa Ross | 09/03 |
| Doug Sayers | 09/03 |
| Sharon Agnew | 09/04 |
| Destiny Postle | 09/06 |
| Katie Shaver | 09/06 |
| Roxane Panarella | 09/08 |
| Rick Squires | 09/08 |
| Noah Stout | 09/08 |
| Sarah Smith | 09/10 |
| Natalie Alker | 09/11 |
| Finley Wray | 09/11 |
| Tristan Jenkins | 09/12 |
| Charles Ritter III | 09/12 |
| Lauren Barratt | 09/14 |
| Scott Arnold | 09/15 |
| Rita Looker | 09/19 |
| Christy Fubio | 09/20 |
| Doris Riegel | 09/20 |
| Jim Winters | 09/21 |
| G.T. Thomas Lopez | 09/26 |
| Michael Skidmore | 09/27 |
| Chloe Ann Chipps | 09/29 |
| Scott Lantz | 09/29 |
| Judy Burns | 09/30 |
| Heath Jenkins | 09/30 |

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

Friends Feeding Friends: Wednesdays at 6 p.m., 2nd St.

Healing Circle: Fridays at Noon

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

Sit-n-Eat Bagged Lunches: M-F 12:15 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. Clarksburg

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

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
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