



Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Huntington WV

April 2018

Dealing With The “What Now?” Feeling

The Lenten journey has been completed for the year. We shared in wonderful times of worship and study. The work of Holy Week is always hard emotionally and spiritually. We hear the stories of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem; the powerful sharing of a last meal with his disciples and friends; the agony of betrayal; a shameful trial; the mocking and taunting; and the pain of the crucifixion. And even though we know what happened, we still are surprised at the passion and struggle. We join together on an Easter morning to proclaim that what we see is not all there is, for Christ is risen!

The joy of Easter is such a wonderful time of celebration and praise. The sanctuary looks so beautiful with the flowers and ferns. The First Light Praise Team, the brass instruments and organ sound so rich and full. The singing of the children puts a smile on our faces as they remind us, “He is risen!” The sanctuary choir causes our hearts to swell with joy as they

share their stories and finally sing, “Hallelujah.” The pews and tables are nearly full. O how we enjoy seeing so many people together in worship. Family and friends enjoy catching up with one another. The fellowship is fantastic. Our hearts are full!

Then, after the service, those who’ve offered flowers pick them up. Family pictures are taken at the cross or outside. The greeting time ends and folk pack up and head home for food and fellowship. By late afternoon, we wonder, what’s next? Was it all worth it?

It was the same for the first disciples. They had the “what now” feeling. They were ready to go back to the way life had been before Jesus. The Risen Christ comes to them and with the simple words: “Peace be with you” he lets them see and know that nothing is the same. Jesus didn’t lecture the disciples for hiding behind closed doors. He didn’t scold Thomas for wanting physical evidence in order to celebrate

the risen Lord. Jesus invites his doubtful friend to put his fingers into the wounds that he had received from the nails and swords that destroyed his body only three days earlier.

Peace be with you! That is where we begin to live our Easter faith. We see the grace that the Risen Christ offered his disciples and we know the grace that Christ continues to give to us. As we offer our doubts, fears, questions, even our need to see in order to believe, Christ’s Spirit offers to us the assurance that believing leads to life in the name of Jesus, the risen Christ. As Christ’s peace is shared with us, we realize that we are not alone, but have been found. We see the and know the Risen Christ in the simple acts of kindness, mercy, justice, and love. Let the new life in Christ begin.

Easter Blessings.
Mark

Lenten and Easter Thanks

It “takes a village” to allow us to experience and know the power of this Lenten and Easter seasons. Our congregation is blessed with wonderful, hard workers who offer their service as a ministry of love. At the risk of leaving someone out, we offer our thanks to:

Our guest preachers who offered holy, powerful, and thoughtful words to us as we shared in our Wednesday Lenten Noontime worship. We heard some wonderful soloists from a variety of congregations. Sandee shared week by week in the music. Susan offered lunches and fellowship time after the services.

The youth and adult volunteers help Schauna prepare for the children’s Easter Egg Hunt.

Bulletins and attention to a host of little details that no one sees (but would certainly notice if they weren’t done) are cared for by our Office Administrator, Mary.

Music during Lent and Easter is such an important part of our worship experience. We share our thanks with the Sanctuary Choir, Wesley Choir, Handbell Choir, and First Light Praise Team. Thanks to Marcia, Debbie, Judy, and Sandee for their leadership, love, and service.

Thanks to our weekly greeters, bulletin handlers, and ushers. Margaret cares for us as she prepares our communion time. Sound tech workers make sure you can hear. All our nursery workers and volunteers work extra hard to help children

(especially visiting children) feel welcomed and cared for.

Our Wednesday Workers do behind the scene things like, putting up the sanctuary cross, moving furniture around, and even re-working the floor of the sound booth.

The beautiful arrangements of flowers for Easter morning takes many workers. Mary and Harriett collect the orders and make sure the money is in order. Margaret and crew (Katie, Vicki, Nancy, Norma, and Anne) arrange the flowers and ferns so beautifully.

Our church staff works hard all the time, but the Lenten and Easter seasons are especially busy times.

Thanks to all!! Your support, care, and work keep us going.

Stewardship and Finances

During March we received enough income to pay all of our regular bills. In February we paid \$14,000 toward our 2018 Fair Share, which brings us to \$19,000 so far this year. We appreciate your ongoing faithful support toward our General Fund budget. Your gifts help to keep our ministries and service going day by day. Thank you.

Our faithful stewardship is more than our monetary contributions. Faithful stewardship is our life response to the amazing and wonderful gifts that God has given us. We are challenged live our lives as a response to God's generosity to us. Living as stewards bring tough questions to our lives. For example, do our time-planners, credit cards and check books, reveal that we are good care-givers in our families and congregations? How do we prioritize our time, our assets, and the multiple demands on our lives? And what does all this have to do with our life as faithful disciples? Those are hard questions, but important ones, especially as we respond to the gift of new life that is given to us by our Risen Christ.

Wesley Kids Musical Scheduled for May 6

By Debbie Bradley

The Wesley Kids are singing, dancing and clucking each Wednesday night, preparing for their Spring musical, "O Chicken of Little Faith." Set in a barnyard, the musical explores the timely topics of trust and faith. Beginning April 18th (and continuing until the musical is over) we will begin our rehearsals at 6:00, rather than 6:30. Jeanette Bailey is working on our costumes and if any items are needed from home, we'll contact parents. We have a dress rehearsal planned for Saturday morning, May 5 from 10:00-11:30 and the performance will be the next day, Sunday, May 6th at the 10:45 service, in the sanctuary. Be sure to attend this performance so you can finally discover, "why the chicken crossed the road."

Around the Building

Last month, we were looking for a leak in the ceiling above the serving area of the Fellowship Hall. The roofers were here repeatedly. They found a few minor places that needed to be repaired, but those were not the cause of the leak. Our plumbers were then called in. After opening up a couple of places in the ceiling, it was discovered that a hot water heating pipe travels through a large I-beam. (This was done during the building of the Education Building.) with time, the copper pipe rubbed against the steel beam and small holes developed. The boilers had to be drained so the pipe could be fixed. All the repairs have been made to the pipe and boiler. Work will soon begin on the repair of the ceiling. Our insurance company has been involved and will cover the costs (less our \$2500 deductible). We appreciate your patience.

Choral Union Concert

Everyone is invited to Marshall University's Choral Union Spring Concert on Sunday afternoon, April 29 at 3pm in Smith Recital Hall. The choir is directed by Debbie Bradley and includes several FUMC singers. The Lincoln Brass will be featured on several numbers on the program which all revolve around the importance of music in our lives. There is no admission fee.

Youth and Children's News

The Youth

I just want to say, yet again, how proud I am of the youth in this church. They are so active and ready to help when it comes to the children's ministry. They are willing to help with Easter Hunts, Big Brother Big Sisters, the nursery, fundraising and much more. We as a church are truly blessed. Watching them grow is one of my favorite parts of this job. I just want to say thank you for allowing me to be a part of your youth's lives.

Blessings, Schauna

Children's Ministry

We are coming full force in our children's ministry. Our classes are growing and I don't want you all to miss out on the opportunity to make a difference in the children's lives. We want you to be able to build relationships of the children

of the church and watch them grow in their faith and everyday lives. We are usually busy, but volunteering for an hour or two once a month can make a huge difference. I ask you to pray and think of ways that you could benefit from being involved in our children's ministry. Please email me at schaunbers@firstunitedmethodist.com or call me if this interests you.

Blessings,
Schauna

Mission Trip Meeting

We are going to try something different. We are going to meet at 10am in the youth room on Sunday April 29th. We will be talking about where we are with the mission trip and what needs to be done to help prepare for the mission trip this summer.

Wednesday Evening Bible Studies

We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them... all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. This study is lead by Pastor Steve and meets each Wednesday at 6:00 in Room 208.

Women's Bible Study: *12 Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur: This study is Wednesday at 6:00 in Room 202 led by Cindy Krantz. Because it is on Wednesday evenings, child care will be available.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are sick or homebound...

Randy Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Benny Allison, Jason Anderson, Drew Apgar, Pris Beard, Kenny Berry, Mary Berry, Faye Brangham, Cyndi Bright, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Dorothy Cutright, Mary Jo Danford, Leona Davis, Samantha Davis, Jeanette Dorsey, Diana Duba, Betty Duke, Jack Eblin, Sue Furbee, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Johnny Jackson, Nancy Kincade, James May, Mary Ann Myers, Pam Moritz, Tom & Barbara Pafford, Jocelyn Page, Nancy Palmer, Christine Phipps, Sharon Riley, Tige Rogers, Kaysen Rose, Nancy Slaughter, Mike Smith, Charlotte Tallman, Jana Tigchelaar, Bobby Thacker, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White

For those who grieve

Family and friends of Vivian Tschop who died on March 9

For those celebrating new life...

Linden Montgomery Chiles born February 26 to Drew Chiles and Shannon Adams

Carolyn Rae Chiles born March 20 to Kicker Chiles and Chelsea O'Donnel

For those experiencing the waters of baptism...

Jacob Dallas Gerlach son of Jarrett and Jennifer Gerlach baptized March 11

Remember those in the military who are in harm's way.

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

4/1 Bob Tebbetts
Bill Weekley
4/3 Bull Archer
Tricia Derrig
Sara Allen
4/6 Logan Phipps
4/7 Stephen Riggs
Gina Davis
4/8 Faye Brangham
4/9 Kelly Daniel
4/10 Garrett Weekley
4/11 Ginnie Tebbetts
4/13 Abigail Sheets
4/14 Kenny Tschop
Andrew Gooding
Amy Young
4/15 Donna Griffith
Jody Eddins
4/16 Pat Thabit
4/17 Scott Archer
4/18 Leona Davis
Mike Sheets
4/19 Ben Fulks
4/20 David Daugherty
Peyton Smith
4/22 Bonnie Hughes
4/24 Alexa Hensley
4/25 Chase Rutherford
4/26 Maribeth Anderson
Kevin Sergent
4/28 Sue Furbee
4/29 Nancy Kincade
Evelyn Rutherford

Spring IS Coming

By Jane Morse

God loves us because He has given us Spring. We show our thanks for this bounteous gift by sharing our bounty with others. We will have a chance to do just that on May 6. That day will be dedicated to flowers, food, fellowship, mission and the voices of children singing.

FLOWERS: The weekend begins with Spring flowers. Place your orders now for red and white geraniums for \$1.00 each and hanging baskets for \$14.00.

FOOD: Of course, food comes next. United Methodist Women will be providing a covered dish brunch from 9:30-10:30. Join us with a dish or an appetite. The cost will be \$5.00 a person, \$20.00 a family, and \$2.00 for children under 6. Proceeds from flowers and food support the mission work of UMW.

C.O.M.E. Also, on May 6, our church will be hosting the Celebration of Mission Event from 1:00-3:00 and the District Conference at 3:00. Come and learn about our WV Mission projects. There will be mission displays and representatives from Scott's Run Settlement House, Osage; Heart and Hand, Philippi; and Volunteers in Mission.

DROP YOUR DRAWERS: As a part of C.O.M.E. we are collecting underwear, school supplies and personal hygiene items for the Mission projects. Deposit them in the red barrel by the downstairs elevator.

We will culminate on **UNDIE SUNDAY**, Mother's Day. Remember your moms by giving new underwear to folks in need. There is always great need for new underwear in all sizes for men, women and children. The underwear will be shared with WV Missions and Cridlin.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser April 13

The 15th Annual Empty Bowls Benefit for the Facing Hunger Foodbank will take place April 13 from 10:30-2:30 at First Presbyterian Church. At this event you will have a lunch of soup, bread, and a drink and get a bowl made by students at Marshall University and area high schools. All proceeds will go to the Facing Hunger Foodbank. For more information, please visit marshall.edu/emptybowls.

Thanks to all who helped fill and deliver over 1000 backpacks to Central City Elementary!

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Senior Pastor,
 Mark Conner

Associate Pastor
 Stephen Hensley

Director of Christian Education
 Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

First Light	8:45 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Korean Church	1:00 p.m.

Next Tower Topics Deadline is April 30

Asbury Woods Church Camp News

It's time to get signed up for church camp. Registrations forms are available in the back of the fellowship hall and sanctuary. See Schauna or Steve for more details.

Younger Elementary	K-2 nd Grade	July 2-4
Older Elementary	3 rd – 5 th Grade	July 1-4
(Elementary Camps will end with lunch on the 4th)		
Middle School	6 th – 8 th Grade	July 8-13
High School	9 th -12 th Grade	July 15-20

Camp Round Up at the Mall

Saturday, April 14th will be Camp Day at the mall. Asbury Woods will have a table set up with information about all the camps available for the summer and giving away one full scholarship per camp for people who sign up and pay their deposit that day. That is four full scholarships that we will be handing out. Come out and see us at the Huntington Mall from 10 am to 3pm.

Middle School Spring Retreat

Asbury Woods Spring Retreat for Middle Schoolers is going to be April 20th - 22nd. The full cost is \$25, but please pay what you can. Don't let the price keep you from experiencing this crazy weekend. Gayla Vanhorn will be your dean that weekend and it will be something you won't want to miss out on! If you need more information please contact Schauna Chambers.

U M Women's Events

Spiritual Growth Retreat,
 Cedar Lakes, April 12-13; and April 14-15

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball is speaking on *The Power of Relationships*

Western District Spring Meeting,
 Kenova UMC, April 21
 Registration, 9:00 AM, Program, 10:00 AM; Guest Speaker, Joann Davis, Church and Community Worker at Hope in the Mountains. Lunch, \$6.00-RSVP Roberta Ferguson, 304-972-3294. In-gathering: Handmade baby hats and booties for UMW mission projects.

2018 UMW Assembly,
 Columbus, OH, May18-20.
 Theme: *The Power of Bold*

Mission u, Buckhannon, July19-21.
 Theme: *The Power of Identity*