



Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Huntington WV

September 2018

Invitational Evangelism: Sharing our Faith

In the Spring, Steve and I attended a workshop about growing members into disciples. The workshop stressed that, as people of faith, we are growing in our work as faithful disciples; learning more not only about our walk of faith with Christ, but also how we live our faith through our life of worship, hospitality, our openness to Jesus, our service, and our generosity. This journey of faith is a life-long walk.

One of those out-comes of our growth in faith is a desire to share our faith through word, example, and service. Most of us were taught that our relationship with Christ could be seen through our involvement in our congregation, but that relationship was a personal matter. We were taught that good conversations avoid politics and religion. Yet if we are living our faith and obeying Christ, we are also sharing that good news with others. The workshop leader, Rev. Paul Nickerson invited us to look at the importance of “invitational evangelism.”

People hear the word “evangelism” and get scared because they picture a street preaching button-holing people demanding to know if they are saved. But that isn’t what invitational evangelism is about. Every study of church growth has found that most people start attending church when they are invited by lay people rather than a pastor. Invitational evangelism is something that lay people do. It is about sharing with other people something you have found in your own life to be

of importance and value. It isn’t about pushing faith down someone’s throat. We also know that many people who are not yet a part of the church were not brought up in the church, have no real experience of a congregation, and so find that churches can be a scary place. (A building like First Church is beautiful to a first time attender but it is also pretty intimidating.)

So we have to develop strategies for inviting people to church activities that lowers the fear or threat factor for them and makes it a more comfortable experience.

Here’s how it could work. (This is a fictional story.) Matilda is a member of Third UMC in the town of Lovin, WV. She enjoys scrapbooking and decides to host a scrapbooking party at her home and invites several of her church friends who also enjoy this activity or would like to give it a try. Matilda also invites Sylvia; someone she knows at her workplace who has expressed an interest in crafts. Sylvia has no relationship with any congregation. Matilda lets her know what is going on and that some of the people coming to the party are friends from church. Sylvia accepts and it is an enjoyable evening. Several weeks later Matilda tells Sylvia that the same group of friends she met at the party are going out to lunch and invites her to come along. Matilda agrees to attend. A month later Matilda invites Sylvia to a crafting day that her church is sponsoring. Sylvia decides that since

she already knows some of the people, it would be a fun thing to do. While at the craft time, Sylvia meets some more of the church people and becomes involved in making fleece blankets for the Children’s Hospital. Sylvia now has a relationship with others and church is now not such a scary proposition.

So here’s the basic idea: Pick something you actually like to do. Invite a few church friends to participate at your house (or another location – Not the church). Also invite as your guest someone you know who is not a part of a faith community and you think might enjoy or find benefit from the activity. Then after a while invite that person to participate in another event or activity (again, not at the church). You are helping them to get to know some people at the church in a relaxed, enjoyable setting, so that they may feel more comfortable about accepting an invitation you offer at a later point to attend a church event, study, or special service.

Invitational evangelism is a way of sharing your faith; it is a way of being a disciple; and a way of helping others discover their place with Christ. You are the evangelist—the one who shares the good news of Christ’s love for us. Share the faith.

Blessings,
Mark

Finance Update

We appreciate your loving support of the financial needs of our congregation. During July we were able to pay all our usual expenses. We paid \$8,000 toward our conference Fair Share. That means we have to date paid \$44,000 of our \$101,731 yearly expectation. While we are not quite “up to date,” we are ahead of where we were at this time last year.

We do remind you that even though you may be away or unable to attend weekly worship services, the work (and costs) for the church continues. Please remember that you may mail your contributions to the church office directing them to the Financial Secretary.

During July, mid-year statements of financial giving were sent by email to our regular pledging giving units. (Statements were mailed to those who do not have email.) If you did not receive one or if there was some problem with your emailed statement, then please contact the church office. (We may need to update the email address we have for you.) Emailing these statements saved the church over \$150 in postage. The next statement will be sent out after the end of the third quarter (sometime after October 1).

Amazon Smile and Kroger Cards

If you are an Amazon shopper, you can help in supporting our church budget while getting your upcoming holiday shopping done. Amazon has a program of providing non-profit groups with a percentage of your purchase totals. Please click on the Amazon Smile tab as you are making a purchase. Register that you wish to support First United Methodist Church, Huntington WV. (There are a lot of First UMC's so please be careful in clicking on the one for Huntington.) Once that is registered the church will receive a contribution from Amazon.

This program works much like our local Kroger and Foodfair programs. When you use your shopper's cards with Kroger and Foodfair, the church receives quarterly gifts based on a percentage of our shopping. Remember that you must re-enroll your support of First Church as the recipient of your Kroger Rewards Program on an annual basis. You do not need a new card! Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and update your support of First United Methodist Church of Huntington.



Work has continued around the church building through the care of the church's Trustees. Scaffolding was built in the “courtyard” (space between the sanctuary and office sections of the building) to help with some needed repairs to the east side of the sanctuary roof. A lift was used on the west side of the sanctuary to help Boggs Roofing make roof repairs there. While working it was realized that some cleaning was needed to the Fifth Avenue doorways and roof tiles on the north side of the sanctuary roof. Advanced Restoration used a chemical with low pressure power washing to brighten the front façade of the building. Work has been done to clean tiles on both levels of the roof on the alley side of the church.

Preparations are being made to “renew” our church nurseries. That work will include new carpet and painting. We will let you know when that work begins.

We anticipate that the dome will be re-installed sometime just after the first of the new year. Bovard Stained Glass Studio will also do the work on the three major windows and the window in the back area of the sanctuary.

Cleaning, mortar repairs, and re-painting of the detail and wrought iron work at the parsonage has been completed. The brick and mortar will soon be completed.

Call to Prayer

Four years ago our Huntington Mayor, Steve Williams, asked that each church share in a time of prayer asking for healing and guidance as our community worked to address the horrible results of the drug epidemic. The response to that appeal was incredible. Individuals of faith all over the world heard the request and joined us in praying for healing.

The Mayor has asked that we take

some time during our worship services on Sunday, September 9 and continue in that way of prayer to “thank the Lord for guidance during the past four years as we have fought this epidemic, and to offer prayers of healing to our neighbors and family across the nation who are being devastated by this disease.”

We will share in a time of prayer on that day. Please remember this need during your daily times of prayer.

Undergraduates Awarded Scholarships

On Sunday, August 5, over \$8,000 in scholarship gifts were awarded to eight of our congregation's undergraduate students. (We have more college students than that, but they chose not to apply.) These scholarships are provided through endowed gifts for education that have come to the congregation through the years. This year Brooks Anderson, Megan Archambault, Cassie Bacon, Alexander Bradley, Gavin Brandenburg, Evan Gooding, Zoe Harold, and Isaiah Vidal received scholarship gifts.

Additional gifts to the scholarship funds can always be made.

Thank you!!

Week by week, our congregation is blessed to have a group of retired men who join together on Wednesday mornings to help with projects big and small around the church building. They are affectionately known as the “Wednesday Willing Workers.” (It is a continuation of a tradition begun many years ago.) They gather for a time of coffee and conversation and then spend a couple hours each week doing work throughout the building (tasks like cleaning all the fellowship hall chairs—and keeping caps on the chair legs, changing lights, repairing all kinds of things around the property inside and out). They provide a service that is a tremendous help (and a financial savings) to our congregation. ***Thank you Wednesday Workers.***

Two New Wednesday Evening Bible Studies Begin

Starting Point: Everything has a starting point—your life, your relationships, your education, your career. Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point as well. For some of us, our faith journeys began in childhood as a set of beliefs handed to us by a parent, teacher, or pastor. Maybe you developed a framework of faith based on personal experience. Or maybe you had no faith at all. Too often, a faith formed in childhood isn't strong enough to withstand the pressures of adult life.

But what if you could find a new starting point for faith? Join us for **Starting Point** with Andy Stanley each Wednesday evening at 6:00 in Room 208 led by Pastor Steve.

Cindy Krantz will lead a Woman's Bible Study beginning September 5 using the book, "**Open Your Bible: God's Word is for You and for Now**" by Raechel Meyers and Amanda Williams. Study books can be purchased at Life-way or online. The study will meet in room 202 at 6:00 each Wednesday.



I hope each one of you had a restful and happy summer and are ready to get back in the groove for the fall season.

Choir and Handbells begin again on September 5. If you have been thinking about trying choir, we would love to have you join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 in the choir room. We would love to have some more singers even if it is seasonal. If you have small children and need someone to watch them, Schauna has arranged for our regular Wednesday baby sitter to stay until 8:00 to be with your children.

Handbells meet from 6:00-6:45 in Room 213. If you read music and would like to be a ding-a-ling, please join us.

Music With Debbie

Wednesday night Children's Choir is back in full swing but it's not too late for your youngster to join. We rehearse from 6:30-7:15 each week and sing for church every month. We have wonderful choir helpers: Carolyn Waggoner and Terry Hensley. The Sundays we will be singing for the 10:45 service are September 23; October 21; November 18; and December 9.

We're also already working on our Christmas Program which will be presented on Wednesday evening, December 12th in the Fellowship Hall. Our dress rehearsal for that performance will be after church on Sunday, December 9th. I hope having the dates now will help parents plan ahead.

All youth are invited to our new Youth Band experience on Wednesdays at 6pm. Bring your voice and instrument we'll make a joyful noise!

First Light Music

We are always seeking people to play instruments or sing in our early service, First Light. No commitment required, you just need to enjoy music. The music ranges from hymns to praise and worship to popular and oldies. If you are interested, please see Marcia Canterbury. First Light worships in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 8:45.

Invitation to Sing!

Marshall University and Musical Arts Guild are joining together to present a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 2. If you're interested in joining either of these groups, please contact Debbie Bradley at bradley34@marshall.edu. Choral Union rehearses on Monday nights and MAG rehearses on Tuesdays.

Confirmation Mentors: Rewarding for All

We're on the lookout for potential mentors who will help guide 2019's confirmation class. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let Schauna Chambers know. It is a way to build a relationship with a young person that will not only change their faith journey, but yours as well.

Sunday School Start-up

FISH (Friends In Service to Him) is a new small group for young families that will meet for the first time on September 9. The FISH small group aims to strengthen families through mutual support and Christian formation of its members. The class intends to study a variety of Bible based topics and to enjoy a combination lecture (video)/discussion format. The group plans to have opportunities for outreach, mission and socializing throughout the year as well.

The first study will be based on Adam Hamilton's book, **Creed: How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning to life?** Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. It will be a 6-week study.

FISH will meet Sunday, September 9 in the parlor at 9:30 and then meet weekly. Come be a part of this small group.

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, Carole Bacon, Pris Beard, Kenny Berry, Mary Berry, Faye Brangham, Cyndi Bright, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Dorothy Cutright, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Samantha Davis, Jeanette Dorsey, Diana Duba, Betty Duke, Jack Eblin, Sue Furbee, Bob Ganzer, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Johnny Jackson, Nancy Kincade, Gil & Sally Lester, Claire McClure, James May, Barbara Pafford, Jocelyn Page, Nancy Palmer, Christine Phipps, Sharon Riley, Tige Rogers, Kaysen Rose, Charlotte Tallman, Bobby Thacker, Dreama Ward, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White

For those who grieve...

Tracy Jones and family on the death of his sister, Joan Davidson
Blake and Garrett Weekley on the death of their mother, Sharon Weekley

For those experiencing the waters of baptism...

Logan Stanley Chambers, son of Schauna and Josh Chambers
Charlee Jean Adkins and Emelia Jaymes Adkins, daughters of James and Bethany Adkins

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



9/1	Caleb Jackson
9/2	Mike Waggoner
9/3	Melanie Hughes Jamie Legg
9/4	Charlie Buell Timothy Reed
9/5	Christine Phipps Cruze Smith
9/6	Gary Taylor
9/8	Todd Bacon Zealand Wylie
9/10	Lois Chatfield Nickolas Kleck
9/12	Mary Arthur Chris Thomas Lily Hager
9/13	Sam Denning
9/14	Gene Weekley John Knight
9/15	Jon Holtzworth Jennifer Price Schauna Chambers
9/16	John Edwards Chuck Hanshaw Bart Stone
9/17	Sharon Powers Ashley Duncan Taylor Davis
9/18	Stacy Morgan
9/19	Evalee Kyger Joann Vanover Steven Richardson Karen Hagan
9/20	Robert Hagan
9/22	Sara Tschop Tim Dillon
9/23	Paul Edwards
9/25	Debbie Bradley
9/25	Waverly Hughes
9/26	Joshua Crum
9/27	Michael Broce
9/28	Chase Thomas Shelby Naegele
9/29	Jake Maue
9/30	Leann Haines Jeremy Vest

In Our Mail

First UM Church,

Thank you so much for the binders for school.

Ebenezer Community Outreach Center: Decontrey, Ameisha, Jaymaylah, Mercedes, Canul, Noah, Gus

FUMC,

The [scholarship] money sent to me is a blessing from you guys. Thank you so much! With this, I can graduate by the end of this year!
Isaiah Vidal

Dear Church Family

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. It means so much to me to know that my church family supports and encourages my higher education.

Megan Archambault

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all your cards, visits, thoughts and prayers during the loss of Charlie Bowen. Once again the importance of my church family was exemplified in my life. Love you all.
Harriett Evans

Change of Address

Kevin Dillon graduated from Marshall in May with a degree in Digital Forensics and Information Assurance. He has accepted a job as Security Engineer with a company in Tampa FL and moved there in June. If anyone would care to write him a note his new address is:

Kevin Dillon
922 Iris Lake Dr., Apt 203
Tampa FL 33619

Youth and Children's Ministry News

By Schauna Chambers

As the hustle and bustle of summer is coming to a halt and everyone is getting back into a routine of school, fall sports, and other extracurricular activities the church's program is starting back up and is ready to go. I remember always going to church when I was growing up; no matter what season it was I looked forward to going to church. We hope that we are creating that type of atmosphere for our youth and children as well at First UMC.

Big things are happening. A team is being built to make sure we have constant goals and a great foundation for our youth and children ministries and you will soon see some changes being made to the downstairs children rooms. When the changes start happening, there will be signs that will direct you where children can go and at what times.

I just want to remind everyone that Sunday School is from 9:30 to 10:30.

- preschool ages 4-5 year olds are in room 101 with Jane and Jerry Morse
- grades K-5th are upstairs with Katrina, Meghan, Terry, and Maribeth
- youth grades 6-12th will meet downstairs in the youth room
- the nursery is available at all times for ages 0-3years old

On Wednesdays, children in grades K-5th will have Kids for Christ (KFC) from 6:00-6:30 then children's choir from 6:30-7:15. Youth grades 6th-12th will have youth band from 6:00-6:30 and then from 6:30-7:15 we will have games and a lesson. If you are not a part of the youth band, please come prepared to have 30 minutes of school work or personal devotion time.

If you have any questions, or would like to get involved in our ministries please see Schauna Chambers. Email- schambers@firstunitedmethodist.com phone- 304-634-9684.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

This summer has been filled with opportunities of mission and fellowships for the youth and children and I could not do any of the work without my volunteers. If you helped out with Sunday school, mission trips, camps, VBS, opening your house up to the youth, or helped straighten up the rooms please know that I value you, the youth appreciate you, and the children love you. Thank you for being phenomenal and giving.

Blessings,
Schauna Chambers

Ministry Team Meeting Scheduled

The Children's and Youth Ministry's first team meeting will be held on September 9th following the 10:45 service. Please be in prayer as this group comes together to discuss and set goals for our two ministries.



2019 Youth Mission Trip Informational Meetings September 9 and 12

There will be a mandatory mission trip meeting for anyone who is interested in going on the 2019 mission trip. There will be two meetings to choose from one on Sunday September 9th at 9:30 am in the panel room, and one on Wednesday September 12th at 5:30 pm also in the panel room. Meetings will last 15 to 30 minutes. Youth and parents should be in attendance and you only need to come to one of the two meetings.

After Church Spaghetti Dinner September 21

A youth sponsored Spaghetti dinner will be held September 23rd following the 10:45 service. All proceeds will go towards raising funds for their 2019 Youth Mission Trip. Please come and fellowship with us as we begin our prep for our Summer 2019 mission trip.

Joint Youth Lock In

We are in the works of planning a conjoined lock-in with Ke-nova UMC, 4th UMC, Cross Roads UMC, and Johnson Memorial on September 29th. Save the date, and be on the lookout for more information!

Scouts Reorganize September 4

Cub Scout Pack 7, Boy Scout Troop 7 and new GIRL Scout troop at FUMC *all* meeting September 4 at 6:30 pm. Invite friends, help us plan, play!

Cub Scouts (k-5) are now allowed to have girls AND boys. Elizabeth Long is starting a Girl Scout group (k-5) at FUMC. We want to meet with ALL of the interested parents and kids to see how we want to organize our kids and activities. Boy Scouts is for boys ages 11-18 and they can have girls starting in February if that is what we want to do, but we need to talk about it together--we have some boys and dads interested in revitalizing the Troop.

Please come join us! Bring your friends and your kids' friends--it is more fun with more kids!

For more information, call Grace Gooding (304-522-8179 home, text 304-591-9072) or call or text Elizabeth Long (803-287-3292)

First United Methodist Church
1124 Fifth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2288
Phone:(304) 522-0357
firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com
www.firstunitedmethodist.com

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Huntington, WV
PERMIT NO. 173



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 September 24