

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Huntington WV

November 2018

A Season for Thanksgiving

The materials that were shared with the congregation in preparation for our Consecration Sunday focused on the amazing generosity of our God. Our response to that generosity is the offering of thanksgiving to God and the sharing of our gifts. It is truly a season for thanksgiving.

On Sunday, November 18 we will share in worship services that celebrate our thanksgiving to our generous God. (First Light at 8:45 and Sanctuary worship at 10:45). You may bring non-perishable food items to be shared with the Cridlin Center. Later in the day we will join in worship with our sisters and brothers during an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church. On Wednesday, we will share a Thanksgiving luncheon with the men and women of the Life House Ministries. These are wonderful opportunities for expressing our thanksgiving to our God.

As I count my blessings and offer my thanksgivings before God, I hope you know my thanks for you, the First Church congregation. I count it a privilege and blessing that I have the opportunity to walk with you in this journey of faith and discipleship.

In his book, *Prayers for a Privileged People*, Dr. Walter Brueggemann (Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary) has offered a collection of prayers that guide our relationship with God as we share in daily times of prayer. In a prayer titled, "At Thanksgiving," he pushes me to remember:

Amid football, family, and too much food, we pause quickly and without inconvenience to remember and to thank. We remember ancient pilgrims who followed dreams of alabaster cities and financial opportunity. We remember hospitable first nation people who welcomed them, and then lost their land. We remember other family times filled with joy and filled with anxiety, and old scars still powerful. We thank you for this U. S. venue of justice and freedom, and are aware of its flawed reality. We thank you for our wealth and safety, and are aware of how close to poverty we are and how under threat we are.

We gather our impulse for gratitude today, grateful to you and to our ancestors, grateful to you for our families, our health, our government, our many possessions.

We gladly affirm that "All good gifts

around us are sent from heaven above," but we yield to none in a sense of self-sufficiency, our weariness in needing to share, our resentment of those who take and do not give.

Your generosity evokes our gratitude, but your generosity overmatches our gratitude. We are ready to thank, but not overly so; we remember our achievements, our accomplishments, our entitlements, and our responsibilities that slice away our yielding ourselves to you.

Move through our half measure of thanks and let us be, all through this day (season), more risky in acknowledging that we have nothing except what you give.

You have given so much—not least your only Son. Gift us the gift of dazzlement and awe that we may rejoice in our penultimate lives and keep you ultimate all the day long, relishing the wonder of your self-giving love.

May it be so in our lives at Thanksgiving—and every day.

*Thanksgiving Blessings,
Mark*



The downtown community will join together for a Thanksgiving Worship service on Sunday, November 18, at 6:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church (corner of 11th Street and 5th Ave). Leaders of various congregations will lead in worship. Father Chip Graves will be the preacher. Please come to enjoy the fellowship, music, and worship as we celebrate Thanksgiving together.

Church Finances

We celebrate the prayerful and loving generosity of our First Church congregation. During September and October, we were able to pay all our regular church bills and some of our conference Fair Share. To date, we have paid \$80,000 of our 2018 Fair Share amount of \$101,731. That is amazing progress for us. This Fair Share supports ministries throughout our annual conference and national church, and our global missions. We care for campus pastors, mission agencies (like Ebenezer Community Outreach Ministries), the administrative costs for UMCOR, our general church ministries, and salaries for our annual conference leadership. Our support of the Fair Share provides us with opportunities to be in ministry with other congregations reaching out to service far beyond

what any local congregation might be able to do. We intentionally share in missions and ministry because we are The United Methodist Church.

We appreciate your support given through your 2019 Commitment Cards. We share our gifts as a response to the amazing generosity of our God. So far we have received Commitment Cards from 61 giving units (32 of those are either new or represent an increase in commitment over 2018) for a total of \$270,040. We know a number of people could not be present on Consecration Sunday and invite you to offer your Commitment Card at any time. Please either send those to the Church Office (to the attention of our Financial Secretary) or place them in the offering plates during worship. Cards are available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary or the fellowship hall.

Around the Church

The Board of Trustees continues in its work to care for and maintain our church property. There has been work done on the Sanctuary roof. We hope this has corrected the problem which caused a problem in the dome. Work continues on the renewal of our nurseries. Paint work is in progress, which will be followed by new carpet, lights, and window blinds.

We have received word from Bovard Studios that the work on the dome is progressing. We anticipate that the dome will be re-installed and work done on the three major windows during the first few weeks of January.

Endowments allow us to provide careful maintenance of our church properties. Those endowments are gifts from those who have gone before us as they remember First Church with their bequests. You have the opportunity to help in caring for First Church's future by remembering the church in your will or with your planned gifts. The Trustees can be helpful in working with you as you remember the future of our church.

Bringing Thanksgiving to Others

The Life House Thanksgiving dinner has become a tradition at FUMC. This year we will serve dinner at 1 pm Wednesday, November 21. We expect about 100 guests from the residential faith-based addiction recovery program.

We are now seeking volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up. We will grocery shop on Saturday preceding the dinner and cook Monday through Wednesday. For information or to sign up to help, see Susan or check the sign-up sheet on the kitchen door closest to

the parking lot.

There are jobs available for anyone who wants to help. Last year, we had 36 volunteers who ranged in age from 6 to 76. Some came every day, some only once. Many who couldn't volunteer prayed for us, donated desserts or turkeys or money or supplies. Our children made placemats for the tables and greeted the guests. This opportunity to serve can touch in ways you had not expected.



Choral Union Concert December 2

Everyone is invited to "Christmas Carols with Choral Union" which will take place in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, December 2nd at 3pm. The concert will feature not only Marshall University Choral Union, but the singers of Musical Arts Guild and members of Marshall University Singers. They will be accompanied by Lincoln Brass and Dr. Johan Botes on organ. The program will include bright and festive arrangements of your favorite carols, under the direction of Debbie Bradley. We hope you'll all make plans to attend this one-hour concert and stay afterwards for delicious goodies in our fellowship hall. Begin your holiday season with fabulous Christmas music in our beautiful, historic sanctuary.



You are invited to stay after the dinner on Wednesday, November 28 as we decorate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many hands will make this work go very quickly. Trees will be put up and decorated, greens will be added to the windows, and the Advent Wreath will be set in place. Please help us with the Hanging of the Greens.

Advent Study Begins November 14

The details of the Christmas story can seem unbelievable. So now, thousands of years after shepherds watched their flocks, and wise men followed a star, you may be asking, "Who needs Christmas?" Well, as it turns out, we all do. The world needed Christmas, God needed Christmas, and we still need Christmas—but maybe not for the reasons you think. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6 beginning November 14 in Room 208 and we look at Andy Stanley's "Who Needs Christmas".

2018 Nicaragua Mission

This year's mission trip to Nicaragua is December 27 to January 2. A group of West Virginia United Methodists will travel to Sandino, Nicaragua to distribute food, school uniforms and other necessities to approximately 350 families surrounding the Moravian church in Sandino. Other necessities are medicines and supplies for the health clinic and the sewing mission of the church.

There is political unrest in Nicaragua that has greatly affected the economic situation of the country. The needs are greater than in recent years. A small team of five will travel to Nicaragua to take the money for the projects, Norma Denning is one of the team members.

The fundraising goal this year is \$15,000. It is anticipated to raise about \$10,000 - \$11,000 with the Tequila Grill fundraisers, the Spaghetti Dinner, Cookie Sales, and Trustees donation. The rest comes from individual donors and small groups.

If you can help with this mission, please donate to First United Methodist Church with Nicaragua on the memo line. *You can also support the mission by eating at the Spaghetti Dinner after church on November 11.*

Mission Grant 2019

First Church is a church in mission. We try to plan our projects to involve all ages and many concerns. The Work Areas are:

1. Port-A-Pot: \$1,200
2. Cridlin: \$1,200 for food
3. Branches: \$400
4. Student Food Program: \$1,000 backpack food for over 250 students at Central City Elementary
5. City Mission Lunch Program: \$800
6. Ebenezer Outreach: \$1,000
7. Flood Relief and Work Team: \$4,000
8. Harmony House: \$400
9. Marshall UM Students: \$500 toward the work teams to the Carolinas

United Methodist Women

By Jane Morse

Brunch: Thanks to all of you great cooks, we raised \$414 for Mission. We have spent \$98 of that to purchase four travel bags for foster children.

"No More Garbage Bags": In addition to purchasing the bags, we have collected over \$300 from you and from Oktoberfest to fill travel bags with love and personal items for foster children looking for a safe home.

Annual Meeting: In October I repre-

sented you at Annual Meeting in Mineral Wells. Dr. Bill Wilson brought the message about "Belonging". The music was great. The women filled the offering plate with over \$2,000 for WV Church and Community Workers and for Brooks-Howell Home for retired missionaries. And, the cherry on top, was spending time with Jim and Jennifer Plyburn.

Cookie Walk: Bakers mark your calendars for December 16. We need all you great cooks to bake cookies and we need all of you cookie monsters to buy them.

Who Then Was the Good Samaritan?

By Jane Morse

We all know the story. The "good" man and the rich man walked by without helping the mugging victim. It was the "worthless" Samaritan who bandaged up the injured man's wounds and found him shelter. What does that story have to do with Christmas? Everything!

How often do we look the other way? How often do we indulge ourselves and fail to help those in need? Ponder how we Americans spend our wealth in one year:

- \$705 billion for entertainment and recreation
- \$179 billion spent by teenagers
- \$ 65 billion spent for jewelry
- \$58 billion for state lottery tickets
- \$31 billion spent on pets.
- \$13 billion spent on cosmetic surgery
- \$5 billion by all the 700 overseas Protestant missions, agencies such as

the Church World Service, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, etc.

As we tighten our belts and trim our shopping lists, we must remember that there are those in far worse shape than we are - in our community, our nation, around the world, and, yes, within our own church family. We can make a difference with our time, our prayers, and our money. Here are some ways:

Give a Gift of Time: Visit a shut-in or invite a lonely person to join your festivities: Baby-sit for a stressed-out mom: Run some errands: Play a game with a child: Read a story to a friend: Write a letter or send a card to a student, sailor, soldier, or missionary: Volunteer at the hospital, school, Red Cross, Big Brothers, CASA, Ebenezer, etc.

Mitten Tree: The mitten tree will soon appear at the foot of the stairs. Fill it with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats to keep our local, needy children warm.

Angels: Give Christmas to a child this year. Names of the children will be posted on the doors to the fellowship hall.

Gifts for Baby Jesus: A perfect way to celebrate the gift of the Christ Child. Bring layette items to the manger on Christmas Eve. These gifts will be distributed locally through Ebenezer's Bassinet.

Food: At Holiday time we will share the bounty of our lives with others by donating non-perishable foods for the Cridlin Food and Clothing Closet. Remember, there is a real need for protein foods.

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, Mark Brookover, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Dorothy Cutright, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Samantha Davis, Carl Dilley, Jeanette Dorsey, 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, Cheryl Mossman, Barbara Pafford, Jocelyn Page, Nancy Palmer, Christine Phipps, Sharon Riley, Kaysen Rose, Charlotte Tallman, Bobby Thacker, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White

For those who grieve...

Chip Gue on the death of his uncle, George Chafin
The family of Sue Bowen, former member who died on October 1
The family and friends of Joan Basford Hebert, former member who died on October 29

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



11/1	Ben Fischer
11/2	Jacob Hensley
11/3	Gus Cooke IX
11/4	Libby Knight
11/5	Steve Hensley
11/7	Madison Sergent
11/8	Emily Dye
11/10	Ansel Meade Oskar Meade
11/11	Harper Ashley
11/12	Megan Archambault Abby Birkhimer
11/13	Ed Stone Martha Cummings
11/14	Campbell Chiles
11/15	Margaret Reichenbecher Chris Hutchison
11/17	Marc Rutherford
11/18	Bob Palmer Emelia Adkins
11/19	Micah Krantz
11/20	Isaiah Cramer
11/21	Anne Weeks
11/22	Anne Tebbetts Stephanie Smith
11/23	Sue King Joe Denning Charlee Adkins
11/24	Myrtle Mancini Evan Knight
11/25	Clark Neighborgall II
11/28	Cynthia Beal Andy Tschop Jonathan Hager
11/29	Mel Cummings III Mike Brown Stone Arthur



Wedding Invitation

Please join us in celebrating the Marriage of Amanda Nichols and John Archambault On Saturday, November 17, 2018 At 4:00 pm In the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church.



All Saints Day was celebrated on November 4. During our worship services we remember these saints of Christ's love who joined the church triumphant during the past year. We appreciate and celebrate their lives.

Carol Bartram
Vivian Tschop
Nancy Slaughter
Robin Adkins
Tom Pafford
Robert Phipps
Margaret Ann Stewart
Charles Bowen
Jon Rogers
Hunter Stanley

Dear Friends at First UMC,

Thank you so much for your help with making lunch available to Marshall students, staff and faculty. We know you have a heart for our students and your help is greatly appreciated. We are currently seeing 50 to 100 students, faculty and staff coming into the Center for Lunch for a Buck twice a month and just FYI we had about 109 the day you were here. We ask for your continued support as we continue to operate the facility in which so many worthwhile Christian programs are located.

Again thank you so much, and God bless you.

The Campus Ministers
Campus Christian Center

Dear Members of First UMC.

Thank you for your recent donation of \$600.00 to the Christian Associates/Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry. These funds will be used to purchase frozen chicken to be distributed in our food orders. Your generous support is greatly appreciated and will help us meet the needs of those coming to the pantry for assistance.

In Christ's love and spirit,
Diana Van Horn
Pantry Director



Children's Choir

Debbie's Notes

We are having great fun in choir preparing our anthems and working on our Christmas Musical. The children will be singing for 10:45 worship again on November 18th, the Sunday BEFORE Thanksgiving and parents were given a special "MEMO" concerning the anthem for that Sunday. Shhh! We're planning a little surprise for that anthem and we don't want to give it away beforehand. So, if you're a parent and you're clueless about this, please see me and I'll gladly fill you in ASAP.

As far as the Christmas musical goes, we're working on it every week and hope all the parents are getting tired of hearing the CD! That would mean your children are listening to it and learning their parts. Please encourage this, because there's only so much we can accomplish in 45 minutes each week. However, we'll be extending the length of choir rehearsal soon - beginning at 6:00 but still finishing at 7:15. Please watch the bulletin so you'll know when that begins.

Jeanette Bailey Bannon is in charge of costumes for the musical and will be talking to all of the parents soon about what you can help with and what you need to supply.

Sunday, December 9 is a big day for us: we'll be singing for 10:45 worship and then having our dress rehearsal afterwards from 1:00 - 2:30 on the stage. Susan Nickels (our church hostess extraordinaire) will provide lunch (for donations) so the kids can eat quickly and get into costume before 1:00. This is our only time to work with lights and microphones, so please do everything possible to be there. The musical performance will be on Wednesday evening, December 12th at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We can't wait to share it with everybody!



Backpacks for Central City

November is our month to deliver backpacks, and help is always needed on delivery days. We will be delivering backpacks November 8, 15, & 29. We meet at the 12th Street door at the church at 2:30 to load trucks (trucks are always welcome) then go to Central City Elementary to distribute the backpacks. It usually only takes about 45 minutes with enough help. On November 15 we will have a larger supply to deliver since they will be out of school the following week. It is fun and a great ministry provided to our community.

Youth and Children's Team Meeting

The youth and children's team will be meeting on Sunday December 2nd after second service. If childcare is needed, please let me know. For more information, please seek Schauna Chambers.

Confirmation Class

The 2019 confirmation class is being developed. If you know of a youth (6th grade and older) who would be interested in going through confirmation and becoming a member of the church, please let Schauna Chambers know. The class will start after the first of the new year.

Mentor A Confirmation Youth

If you are interested in helping with confirmation class by mentoring a youth, please see Schauna Chambers. This is a great way to build a relationship with these young people and to share your experience with them. Please know that you can have an impact on the youth and that they enjoy having adults around and a part of their faith journey.

YOUTH NEWS

Fall Workshop November 16 - 18



Fall workshop is a weekend experience for grades 6th through 12th at Cedar Lakes. The weekend is filled with fun, fellowship, and all centered around God. This year there will also be a color walk/run. The cost for the weekend is \$100. If you or someone you know is interested, please see Schauna Chambers for more information.

Lifeline Dinner Help

Youth, November is a time to be thankful and what better than to show thankfulness by helping others. Come help during the week of Thanksgiving and during on November 21. Let us give back and show some love.

*For mission trip youth, this will count as a community service project.

Mission Trip Payment

The second deposit of \$100 for the Mission Trip will be due this month. This is to ensure our tickets for the conference part of our trip. If there are any questions or concerns, please see Schauna Chambers.

Save the Date

Youth, our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 7th from 6 to 8 pm. Please bring a gift for the game and come enjoy some food, games, prizes, and fun. Don't forget to dress up!



Who will win the most festive this year?

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Senior Pastor,
 Mark Conner

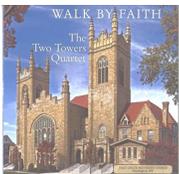
Associate Pastor
 Stephen Hensley

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 November 26



Walk By Faith CDs on Sale Now!

Looking for a wonderful Christmas present? The men are selling the Two Towers CD, **“Walk By Faith”** for \$10. We only have 40 left so hurry, don't wait. When they're gone they're gone. Call the church office for more information. Or look for them in the back of the sanctuary or fellowship hall.

Veterans Day is Men's Breakfast Theme

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday November 10 at 8:00. Come early and help cook. Wes Shanholtzer will be the speaker. All men are invited to attend for food and fellowship.

Wednesday Menus and Helpers for November

- November 14 Salad Bar, Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Dessert
 Fellowship Class
- November 21 We are serving Thanksgiving to the folks from Lifehouse,
 there will be no Wednesday evening meal.
- November 28 Salad Bar, Tacos, Beans, Dessert
 Finance Committee