



Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Huntington WV

February 2019

The Season of Love

I'm not sure why the "Season of Love" comes in the middle of February with Valentine's Day. To me, it would seem more appropriate in the springtime of new life and growth. But it is the 14th of February. This year we have the advantage of a late Easter so we don't have to begin our Lenten journey (and sacrifice of chocolate) during these days.

Paul wrote to a church in Rome. It was a congregation in a bit of a squabble. They had some differing factions in the church and people had drawn some boundary lines around their group. It was "us" verses "them." He offered instructions for the congregation:

Love from the center of who you are, don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil, hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply, practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out, keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians, be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies, no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other, don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back, discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even, that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he or she is thirsty, give them a drink. Your generosity will surprise them with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Romans 12: 9-21 in *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

Those words have become especially important to me lately. It feels like there are so many factions in our world, nation, states, and communities. We have differing political camps who seem to depend on identifying those whom we should fear and those whom we cannot trust. It happens in the church as we try to decide who is worthy of inclusion. We draw our own boundary lines. And that makes it difficult for us to truly love as Christ loves us.

As we were growing up, my sisters and I would sometimes come home from school complaining about someone who had offended or hurt us. We would say some "not so nice" things about them and our father would listen for a while and then ask us if we had prayed for them. (It was an adventure to have your father as your pastor. Sermons could come at any time.) Prayer did change attitudes—about others and about ourselves. Now I look back and realize that when you are praying for someone that person becomes more than an "enemy." In prayer we begin to see them as a person who is also a Child of God, beloved in the eyes of Christ. Love from the center of who you are.

In this season of love, I am working to move from my comfort zone of "self-protection" to find those ways where I can see the face of Christ in others as we share love, hospitality, justice, compassion, and grace.

May Christ's love surround you.
Blessings.

Mark



Around the Church Building

January was a busy month for work done around the building.

Bovard Stained Glass Studio had workers in the building for two weeks. They brought back and installed the stained glass dome, cleaned and repaired the lay light (the flat stained glass panels in the over flow section of the sanctuary); and began work on the Resurrection window. Workers will return for two weeks in February to continue work on the three major windows in the sanctuary. They will clean and repair the interior glass and then take down the current exterior window coverings, clean and repair the glass and install protective glass coverings on all three windows.

Your Home, a company that specializes in lighting efficiency, spent a week upgrading the lighting system in every hallway, nook, and corner of the building (except for the sanctuary, which had already been upgraded). New light fixtures with LED lighting were added to hallways and rooms in the education areas. New LED bulbs were added to existing light fixtures. It is an amazing transformation. We're seeing some things we haven't seen before. We thank Jody Eddins for his friendship with Chad Horne that brought this company to our attention and for all Jody's work to help with the installations. These new LED lights are energy efficient and long lasting. We trust this will provide some savings on our electrical use.

The Nursery renovations are complete. The children will be back in their rooms soon. Each room was painted, new carpet installed, new window treatments installed, and cabinets and countertops have been completed. The rooms look amazing and provide a clean, fresh, and comfortable area for our young children!

New Sanctuary Light

A new Sanctuary Eternal light was added to our sanctuary. The Sanctuary lamp (also called an Eternal Light) is a symbolic reminder of the presence of Christ in our midst. One of the images we use to describe the work of Christ is that he is the light of the world. Ours is an electric light (some are candles which must be changed frequently). The hanging lamp is brass with a ruby glass globe.

The Sanctuary Light was given by family and friends to the church in memory of Reverend Ronald R. Brooks, pastor of First United Methodist from 1985 until 1992. In retirement he returned to Huntington and was named

Pastor Emeritus of the congregation.

We offer our thanks for this beautiful addition to the sanctuary.



In Our Mail

Greetings First UMC Huntington:

Thank you for improving the Conference apportionment pay out for 2018 as compared to 2017! On behalf of the West Virginia Conference, I thank you for your hard work and faithfulness in paying a higher percentage this year. Apportionments make the mission and program work of our Conference and our District possible. Apportionments enable the sharing of the good news of the Gospel in many ways. Some of the ways include camps, training events, campus ministry, preparing and examining people to serve as clergy we make disciples. Our conference staff also works in specialized areas such as youth, evangelism, com-

munications and preparing people to reach the unchurched. What I have shared is just a small part of the ministry of the West Virginia Conference and the Western District. Ministry happens because of the giving of local churches. Every dollar given toward apportionments helps the ministry of the church.

Again thank you for your work. May God bless First UMC Huntington in your effort in reaching new people and making Disciples in 2019. I will keep you in my prayers.

Grace and Peace
Dr. Okey Harless
District Superintendent

Special Session of our United Methodist General Conference

Please continue to be in prayer for the Special Session of General Conference to be held in St. Louis, February 23-26. Please pray especially for our Bishop, Sandra Steiner Ball, and for the lay and clergy delegates from our WV Annual Conference: Ellis Conley, Mary Ellen Finegan, Sharletta Green, Judi Kenaston, Erin Sears, and Rich Shaffer (and alternates: Mark Flynn, Lauren Godwin, Fred Kellerman, Connor Kenaston, J. F. Lacaria, and Royce Lyden).

Wednesday Evening Bible Studies

We continue to offer two adult Bible studies each Wednesday evening. Cindy Krantz leads a women's study in Room 202 and we continue our study on the life of Simon Peter in Room 208. Both studies start at 6:00.

Small groups are a vital part of any church and of our own personal faith journeys. If you are not involved in a study or small group, Wednesdays are a perfect time to meet at the church, although you could meet anytime and anywhere. If you are interested in leading a study or getting a small group together see Steve Hensley.

Cookies For Your Valentine (or for yourself)

The Youth are selling Oreo Balls in the shape of hearts. These will be \$10/dozen. If you cannot find a youth or Schauna, you can find an order form in the back of the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. They will be ready for pick up on Sunday February 10th.



Men's News

Our next breakfast is Saturday, February 9th at 8 am. Jody Eddins is working on securing a program.

The menu for this month's breakfast will be the usual and I am working on waffles for the March meeting.

Remember to come early and help or just stand around in the kitchen because that is where the action and real fellowship happens.

Our March meeting will move to the 3rd Saturday of the month, March 16th. The program will be about our Youth's Mission Trip to Kansas City. After breakfast we will be doing prep work for our now "Famous Potato Bar," that will take place the next day, Sunday March 17th (otherwise known as St. Patrick's Day.) Proceeds will help defray expenses for the Youth's trip.

Bob Ganzer

Backpack Delivery

Our next month to prepare and deliver backpacks to Central City Elementary is coming soon. We will once again be heading to the school on Thursday afternoons in March to distribute packs of food for students to take home for the weekend.



This is a wonderful ministry shared with other downtown churches and the students are very appreciative of the food.

To prepare, we will be picking up our food during the week of February 25. The exact date and time will be announced. The more helpers we have the quicker it goes and trucks are always needed on these days. Once we get the food here it will be sorted and packed on a Wednesday evening. Please watch for dates and times when you can help and be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Choir Notes from Debbie

Thank you to Sandee Folsom for accompanying the children's anthem on January 27th! And thanks to Mary Ganzer, Terry Hensley, and Marcia Canterbury for their help with the children. All help is appreciated!

The children will be singing for 10:45 services on each of the following Sundays: February 27; March 17 (St. Patrick's Day!); April 21st (Easter); AND May 5 (our musical, *In the Big Inning*).

Jeanette and Ken Bannon will be handling the sound and costumes for the musical, so you'll hear more about that later. Please reserve Saturday, May 4th 9-11 for a dress rehearsal in the sanctuary. All children should have received a CD recording to be listening to and learning the words. If anyone doesn't have one, please let me know.

Parents: thanks for all you do to have your children at rehearsal each week. Our attendance is really terrific!!

Information about Confirmation to Come Soon

We will be sending information about confirmation classes in February. If you know of a youth that would like to become a member of the church and go through confirmation class, please tell Schauna Chambers. If you know of any adults that would love to be a part of this process as well and be a mentor to the youth and build a relationship with them, please see Schauna Chambers. Thank you.

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...

Bobby Adkins, Randy Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Drew Apgar, Pris Beard, Mary Berry, Faye Brangham, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Judy Davis, Jeanette Dorsey, Scott Drown, Betty Duke, Jack Eblin, Sue Furbee, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Nancy Kincade, Gil & Sally Lester, Claire McClure, Harold McKenzie, James May, Barbara Pafford, Christine Phipps, Charlotte Tallman, Michael Waggoner, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White

For those Who grieve...

Richard Drown on the death of his daughter, Kim
Stephanie Smith and family on the death of her grandmother
Edna Brooks on the death of her sister, Hester
Debbie Conley and family on the death of her father, Carl Dilley



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Yeon Choi
2/2	Jean Frederick Leslie Cummings
2/4	Jim McVey
2/7	Jim Cummings Jax O'Roark
2/9	Karen Shanholtzer Matt Duncan
2/10	Abby Naegele
2/12	Zara Harold
2/13	Ashley Davis Brienne Holbrook
2/14	Alex Nelson
2/17	Emily Phipps Justin Legg
2/18	Willa May Weekley Harriett Evans
2/20	Claire McClure Bill Archer Rick Brown Drew Cummings
2/21	Betsy Hager Mathew Allen
2/22	Becky McCoy
2/23	Fenton Cummings Jeanette Bailey
2/24	Jordan Fulford
2/27	Gil Lester Troy Jones Drew Adkins

Celebration of Mission Event 2019

Why should our church support the Celebration of Mission Event?

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:15-16

Just when we think things can't get worse, we waken to yet another catastrophe. Each day, we must search for miracles. The questions are never ending. The answers may be as close as one of the nine West Virginia Conference Mission Projects scattered across the state. Each is geared to the needs of its community, but all reach out to those in need with a variety of programs—food, clothing, rent support, day care, continuing education, Bible studies, community gardens, home repairs, and so more. These missions depend on us to give our gifts and time. How can we do that? By supporting the Celebration of Mission Event.

The Celebration of Mission Event

is an ingathering of money and goods for West Virginia Mission Projects and Volunteers in Mission sponsored by the WV United Methodist Conference. In 2018, churches across the West Virginia Conference raised \$103,038.34 in cash for the West Virginia Mission Projects. That means that each mission received \$10,422.00 and each Church and Community Workers received \$5,211.00. Another \$9,240.34 was banked with the UM Foundation.

Last year, Western District churches gave more than \$14,160.57 in cash and over \$3,000 in donated goods. Dinner Theater is one way we support WV Missions, but it doesn't have to be the only way. Collect items, host a fund raiser. Involve our children and youth. Needs lists will be posted.

In 2019, the two Missions being emphasized in Western District are: Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries, South Charleston and Tyrand Cooperative Parish, Mill Creek.

The event will be held in conjunction with the District Conference on Sunday, May 5 at First UMC, Barboursville.

Jane Morse



February Work Party

The Youth are participating in a community service day on February 23rd at Asbury Woods camp. We will be doing some work in the Meyer's building and are inviting anyone who would like to help to join us. If you are interested in getting involved please see Jody Eddins or Schauna Chambers

First Church Dinner Theater

Presents

The Bitsy and Boots Radio Hour

By Jonathan Joy



February 14, 15, 16

Starring

Bitsy - Jane Morse	Boots - Loretta Hetzer
Faye - Mary Williams	Bertie Lou - Sheila Redling
Bridget - Cara Hedrick	Roger - Todd Green
Raul - Mike Naglee	Gertrude - Sara Tschop
Burglar-???	Nigel - Antwon Williams
Buck Travers - Levi Joy	Pauletta - Diana Maue
Virginia - Schauna Chambers	
Callers - Sara Tschop, Schauna Chambers	

Directed by Jerry Morse

Dinner served at 6:00 PM Show at 7:30 PM

Choice of entrees: Prime Rib au Jus or Glazed Cornish hen
Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Green Peas and Pearl Onions, Dilly Rolls
Assorted Valentine Desserts

Dinner plus Show: Adult--\$27.00 Child under 12--\$8.00

Show only (as space permits) - \$5.00

Babysitting available on request for all shows (advance notice required)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL DINNERS

Call: (304) 522-0357 or (740) 867-8576

or e-mail firstchurchdinnertheater@gmail.com

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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 February 25