

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Huntington WV

May 2019

Words for Times of Transition

I confess, I don't like change. (I know I made the choice that is causing the change I'm experiencing.) The results may not be so bad, but the transition time is hard work. There are boxes throughout the parsonage in preparation for a move date (which is coming on May 23). Many of you remind me of how much time I have left here at the church before my retirement. On most days, I try not to think about the coming change—and yet it is always there.

In this transition time I have been drawn back to words from the Prophet Isaiah. He offered these words to the people of faith in a time of difficult transition.

“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Do not fear, for I am with you.” (Isaiah 43: 1-5) Isaiah then reminds them: *“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* (Isaiah 43: 18-19)

In the midst of transition and change there is always the sure and strong assurance of the presence and power of God at work in and through us. We do not always see what or how any change will work; we worry about the results, but we do have the assurance that God always walks with us. I am trusting that for you, for First Church, for Pastor Scott and his family, and for myself.

David Haas offered words and music to offer this affirmation (“You Are Mine,” found on page 2218 in *The Faith We Sing*).

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.

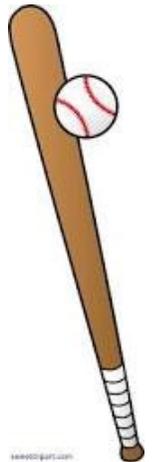
We continue in prayer for each other and for our congregation.

*Blessings,
Mark*

Play Ball!

The children's choir will present their spring musical *“In the Big Inning”* at the 10:45 service on May 5. This baseball themed play stars the 20+ member Wesley Kids Choir, select youth and adult celebrities under the direction of Debbie Bradley. You won't want to miss it!

There will be a reception in the Grubb Fellowship Hall immediately following the service that day. Please stay to celebrate with the children.



Around the Church

Bovard Stained Glass Studio workers have returned to the church to finish their work on our larger stained glass windows. They are now working on the Nativity Window (East side of the sanctuary). The window has been cleaned and repaired. New exterior glass is being installed. They are also working on the Resurrection Window (5th Avenue side of the sanctuary). It too is being cleaned and repairs made. New framing is being installed to hold the protective glass. Two windows in the Chapel had to be taken to the studio in Iowa to be re-leaded (the individual pieces were taken apart, cleaned, and then new lead lines were installed to re-stabilize the glass. Those windows have been re-installed. You will not see the dramatic change that you noticed with the repair of the dome, but this work has stabilized and protected our beloved windows for the coming years.

Church Finances

Through the end of April, we have paid just under 18% of our budget through your tithes and offerings. All bills have been paid and we shared \$7,000 toward our Fair Share. To date we have paid \$18,500 toward our goal of \$101,812. Our leadership and membership consistently affirm our desire to meet our conference commitment in full.

We appreciate your generous and faithful giving to the work and ministries of our congregation. *Your contributions with the Children's Noisy Offering in April added \$443.28 to our mission work. Thank you!* As we make our way into the summer months with vacation times, please remember that the work of the congregation continues on, even if you cannot be present. Your gifts may be mailed to the church office anytime you cannot be present.

This response to our work together was offered in Tower Topics a few years ago. It is worth sharing again”

Dues vs. Mission

To gain a better understanding of the Methodist Theology of giving we must look at the line item in a churches budget labeled, “Apportionment”. In looking at the line, all we see is a dollar sign followed by a large number. Many of the line items in the budget are pretty self-explanatory: salaries, office supplies, postage, music and more. But “Apportionment” just sits there.

Many organizations’ structure of finance includes “dues”, as a means of carrying out their mission. We know that organizations like Rotary work toward the eradication of polio; Lions are concerned with eyesight; Kiwanis support a local day care, Pilot provides care for brain related disorders. Yes, they have local fund raisers, but the focus of their support comes from a national “headquarter”. In the case of the United Methodist church it our focus for support is mission and service and those expectations are set by our Annual Conference.

With our support, our Apportionment dollars help in many areas. Locally,

Ebenezer Outreach receives funding and statewide many agencies of the United Methodist church are supported in their work by our apportionment dollars. The New Vision Depot in Beckley would not be what it is without support. Also many local Methodists churches in rural areas of West Virginia would not be able to spread the Good News without our help. As one person said, “we sometimes help smaller congregations by offering salary support to maintain a full time pastor in their community.”

These are but few of the ways our congregation offers support and mission through our apportionments. But we as Methodists are larger than that. Nationally and worldwide United Methodists are helping people see and know the power of Christ at work in their lives through schools, orphanages, hospitals, clinics, mission projects, and church. Great work is being done because our support is added to what other congregations offer. Together we do wonderful things to share the ministry and mission of Christ.
Bob Ganzer

Confirmation and Graduation Celebration May 19

On May 19th we will be welcoming our confirmation class into our congregation and recognizing the graduating class of 2019 during the 2nd service. We hope that you will be there to celebrate with us. If you know of anyone graduating this year, please let the church office know as soon as possible.



Wednesday Season Finale May 8th

We hope everyone comes out to help youth raise money for the 2019 Youth Week. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served by the youth and the money donated will help with their trip in July. There will be plenty of fun for the kids afterwards outside with inflatables for everyone to enjoy. We cannot wait to have fun with everyone!

Summer Sunday School

Summer is always super busy for everyone, but we are still here every Sunday providing a welcoming place for our kids at Sunday school. We would love your help this summer with teaching our children. You have the chance to sign up for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you would like. A lesson will be provided and you don't have to teach alone. Sign-up sheets can be located in fellowship hall and the back of the sanctuary.



Wild Encounters

VBS will be held on a Friday evening and Saturday day this year on June 7th and 8th. Kids will learn about Wild Encounters with God through 3 different experiences. We invite kids preschool through 5th grade to come and celebrate how awesome our God is.

VBS Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help out with team members, Games, crafts, and lessons throughout the two days of VBS. If you can't make it those days you can help setting up the rooms the week before. Please let Schauna Chambers know what you would like to be involved in.

Mark Your Calendar for June 7 & 8

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, Paula Duckworth, Betty Duke, Sue Furbee, Barbara Gilbert, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Sandy Joseph, Jo Kendall, Nancy Kincade, Gil & Sally Lester Larry Martin, Claire McClure, Harold McKenzie, Nancy Palmer, Barbara Pafford, David Rouse, Mike Sheets, Charlotte Tallman, Sara Tschop, Michael Waggoner, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White, Mike Williams

For those who grieve ...

Judy Eblin and family on the death of her husband, Jack Eblin
Debbie Lewis and family on the death of her father, Willis Larry Sanders



5/2	Shirley Kincade
5/3	Bill Reed Marlene Sheets
5/5	C.R. Neighborgall IV Courtney Ashley
5/8	Kil Choi Matt Birkhimer
5/9	Christopher Gooding
5/10	Sandee Folsom
5/13	Sheri Duncan
5/14	Alyse Lewis Alex Hill
5/16	Nancy Campbell Tess Anderson
5/17	Nancie Perry Peggy Brown Craig Sergent Hilary Bownstead
5/18	Erik Legg
5/19	Rosie Bright Alex Naegele
5/21	Vance Bunn Wendy Bacon
5/24	Keir Adkins Coleman
5/23	Sally Duncan Andy Legg Avett Bannon
5/27	Ted Johnson Karianne Fischer Harrison Massie
5/28	J.D. Maue
5/29	Rob Archer Benjamin Skaggs
5/30	Autumn Arthur

Mission Headlines

Mission Committee Report

Blessed with Dinner Theater proceeds and more, the Mission Committee has voted the following gifts:

- \$2,000.00- COME
- 1,000.00- Youth mission trip
- 500.00- Asbury Woods
- 300.00- Puerto Rico hurricane relief
- 500.00- CCCUMS work team of Marshall students for Carolina hurricane relief

Undie Sunday is May 12

Every WV Mission Project and Cridlin stocks new underwear in every size for clients in need. For many folks, new underwear is something they simply can't afford. Please remember their needs and honor Mom by filling the red barrel by the elevator with new underwear.

Food of the Month

Cridlin food and clothing pantry food of the month for May is 96 boxes of cereal. They are still in need of children's clothing size 6T-16, especially boys clothing.

Thank You!

Dear Pastor Conner and First United Methodist Church,
We at A New Beginning cannot thank you enough for participating in our Baby Bottle of Blessings Campaign. Your generous giving helps us do what we do. You collected \$682.83! Please continue to pray for this ministry.
Diane Bilbrey, Director

United Methodist Women

Many thanks to those who helped with the Spring District Meeting with desserts, serving, and programming, especially the Dorcas Circle. Special thanks to Susannah Wesley (Cynthia Beal), Dr. Clara Swain (Sue Atkinson), and Dr. Ordonez (Alice Stone) for telling their stories, and Emily Dye, Judy Taylor, and Sandee Folsom for beautiful music.

Men's Group News

During our last breakfast, the men voted to help the youth who are going to Kansas City for Youth 2019. We donated \$1,500 using the proceeds from the potato bar.

Our next meeting will be June 8 (no meeting in May) and July's meeting will be on the 13th.

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 May 28

Asbury Woods Summer Camps

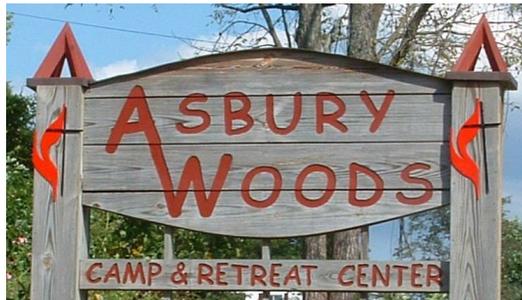
Church Camp is right around the corner. What a great way to dive deeper in faith and have fun with friends.

Younger Elementary

Dates July 1st-3rd

Theme: Lamb of God

Be prepared to learn about the Lamb of God with Cassie Bacon while doing games, crafts and lessons. The cost for this camp is \$170.



Middle School

Dates: July 7th- 12th

Theme: Unplugged

Middle schoolers get to dig deep with Gayla Vanhorn as they challenge to live a life unplugged. The cost for this camp is \$250.

Older Elementary

Dates: June 30th – July 3rd

Theme: Christmas in the Summer

What better way to cool off from the summer heat than with Christmas in July with Katrina Burgess. The cost for this camp is \$190.

High School

Dates: July 15th- 19th

Theme: The Office

High schoolers get a little mix of comedy with learning to find messages inside the mess with Schauna Chambers. The cost for this camp is \$250