



Newsletter of the  
First United Methodist Church  
Huntington WV

April, 2020

## From the Pastor

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.” (1 Corinthians 13:11)

There is much to be said for keeping a Bible verse within its full context in the Scriptures. As Paul is talking to the church in Corinth he is speaking to them about ways to spiritually mature when it comes to both their personal actions and their interactions with those in the church and outside the church. However, on another level, this little verse of the Bible has some wisdom in it that goes even beyond the specific context of the problems that existed in Corinth.

“Putting an end to childish ways” may be one of the most needed phrases of our day and time – a time where the pace of change and the fear of the unknown threaten us to the point that we sometimes want to revert to being childish in our faith. The Corinthians were not facing what we are facing, but Paul’s words can be very encouraging to us as we go through this time of “being apart together”.

It would be very simple to allow the fear and uncertainty to turn to a type of fatalism that says, “Oh well, if it is my time, then it’s ok.” We don’t find anyone in the Scriptures talking about death that way with the possible exception of Christ himself who was willing to accept the cup his Father was putting before him and yet prayed that this very cup would pass by him. Even Jesus did not become fatalistic as he faced the cross. He remained faithful. He stayed willing to do what God desired him to do.

It is also easy for us in days of fear and uncertainty to become so afraid that we pull back on our generosity to God and God’s Kingdom. We think we have to look out for just ourselves rather than check on that neighbor we haven’t seen

out and about for a while. We think our time is so precious that now that we have been given the chance to avoid going to church each week, well, then maybe we don’t have to be generous enough to God to give God our worship through online ways. We think that in the conducting of business and work from home we don’t have to find ways to live our faith in electronic communication. It is even easy to give up on our generosity in giving to God because we are not really going to church anyway, so why should we still give?

We reach out to others, worship as we can, share our faith, and give our gifts to God, not out of obligation to some rule or order that God laid down to us. We do them because we have grown spiritually mature and realize that being generous is part of being mature – even in the midst of a crisis like the one our world is going through.

I am not Catholic, but the following words of Pope Francis spoke deeply to my spirit as I worked on writing this article:

“Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.” Pope Francis *“homily from extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing”*

Paul reminds us that as we mature in Christ, we put away childish ways. We face the world as people who have been changed by the cross and resurrection in such a way that we are still generous to God in all aspects of our life.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Scott

### Zoom and Facebook Live Meetings

The pastors and ministry staff of First Church are doing all that they can to use both Facebook Live and Zoom Meetings to offer the opportunity for people to gather online. If you would like more information, please watch the church Facebook page for posts or events announcing them. If you have any questions in using the technology, feel free to call Pastor Scott at the parsonage – 304-525-1821.

### Church Office

Until further notice, there will be no regular office hours for First UMC. In case of pastoral emergency, please call the parsonage, 304-525-1821.

### Live Streaming

First Church has gone live on YouTube; the 10:45 service is now available for the Sunday mornings now that we can’t get to church. Here’s how:

Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for First UMC Huntington.

You can also access the live stream from our web site: [www.firstunitedmethodist.com](http://www.firstunitedmethodist.com) and click on the “More” button on the Resurrection Window page.

## Easter Service and Easter Flowers

At the current time, we are not planning on having an open church for worship on Easter Sunday, April 12. We will be continuing to provide a livestream as long as necessary through this health crisis. When we do return to having worship at our 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue location, our first Sunday back will be a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus that will be bigger than anything we have had before. We would love to hear your ideas about how to make that day special. Please email them to Pastor Scott [sears.scott@gmail.com](mailto:sears.scott@gmail.com) so that we can begin our planning now!!!



Many of you have made donations for flowers for Easter Sunday. Just after our first "closed sanctuary" worship, we were contacted by the flower distributors that they were selling their inventories and would not be processing orders for Easter Sunday. So, we will not have Easter Sunday flowers in the sanctuary for our live-streaming service. If you would like us to return your money for those flowers, please call the church office and leave a message. If you would like us to hang onto the money for flowers at a later time, you need not do anything. As soon as we are able to get the flowers, we will

do so and we will hope to do so on our first Sunday back, if local florists have the inventory we need. (See the celebration ideas above) We **WILL** have an "Easter Memorial" insert in the bulletin on our first Sunday back.

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## First Church Army of Mask Makers

WV hospitals are in desperate need of hospital approved face masks. The cloth ones are not approved for medical staff but can go to nursing homes, fire stations, groceries, etc. The approved ones are made from Filtrete furnace filters. A "Face Mask Command Post" has been set up in the foyer off the church office. We have filters, wire for the nose piece and elastic in various forms for ear pieces. What we need are SEWERS, more elastic, and hub locations for distributing the supplies. Drivers and other volunteers are needed as well. For full information, contact Jane or Jerry Morse at 740-744-8495.



A Command Post set up in the foyer to distribute supplies to volunteers sewing masks.

They may look like furnace filters but these are waiting to be made into face masks for medical personnel.



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## Men's News

The Potato Bar fell victim to the virus we are all enduring. The food had been purchased in the hope that the event would take place as planned. But, at our March breakfast it was decided that we all needed to go home and if possible stay home. The proceeds of the event would have helped local agencies. That being said, the food - potatoes, eggs and more went to the Huntington City Mission.

The next breakfast will not be held until we get the all clear signal. As for the Potato Bar's return, we may have a Back To Church celebration in the future and will hold it then. Thank you to all who helped fund the event this year.

## Giving to the Church

Right now there are two ways that you can continue to be faithful in your tithes to God and your gifts to God's Kingdom. You may mail your checks to First UMC, 1124 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Huntington, WV, 25701. (Please, please do not send cash!) You may also use your bank's online banking service to set up a bill pay for First UMC and they will send a check directly to us as you direct. Either way will help us get through this time of not receiving an offering through offering plates!

## Devotions Wanted

We all know that these days of living through the COVID19 Pandemic are unique to our lives and to our faith. Few, if any, of us have been through such an event. However, even in the midst of it, we are sure the people of First Church are finding hope, strength, courage from their reading of the Bible and reflecting upon the ways that they see God.

First UMC is working on putting together a "This Is What Gave Me Hope" devotional booklet that is written by members of our congregation. As the Lord's Spirit leads you to particular passages of Scripture or ways of noticing God, please take a few minutes and write down what is happening or what God is revealing to you. Send those reflections to Pastor Scott or Pastor Steve at [sears.scott@gmail.com](mailto:sears.scott@gmail.com) or [shensley@firstunitedmethodist.com](mailto:shensley@firstunitedmethodist.com). We will work with putting together this devotional booklet or sharing the insights online in some way.

This will be a great way for us to look back upon these days and take with us the lessons we have learned.

## 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, Diana Blakely, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Judy Davis, Doug DeMuth, Scott Drown, Paula Duckworth, Sue Furbee, Barbara Gilbert, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Nancy Kincade, Shirley Kincade, Mary Lamb, Chris Lannan, Gil & Sally Lester, Claire McClure, Harold McKenzie, Jim McVey, Kesha Merritt, Helen Noe, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, David Rouse, Jeanne Anne Rutherford, Mike Sheets, Ardella Stone, Charlotte Tallman, Michael Waggoner, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White, Louise White

### *For those who grieve*

The family of Mabel Brooks who died on March 10  
Sande Folsom and family on the death of her step-daughter Kathy Jo Bush  
Terry, Steve, Alexa and Jacob Hensley on the death of Terry's mother, Sharon Jones

## With Love from Schauna

Youth,

I hope you have been making the best of your quarantine time. Know that I miss you all and cannot wait to get back into a routine with each of you. I want you all to know that my phone is always on and you can reach me every night until 9 pm for anything! *We have been meeting on ZOOM every Wednesday at 7 PM for a lesson and a catch up session.* I hope that you get to hop on with us. I am praying for strength and peace for each of you during this time.

With Love- Schauna

To the awesome FUMC Kids!

I have been loving our online time on Facebook. If you haven't been able to join us you can play them back and also join us every Sunday and Wednesday at 1pm. I try to give you a challenge to do each week. Remember to take pictures and send them to me of all the things you are doing, so I can share with the church. Right now we are making palm branches and coloring Easter eggs to put in our windows for our neighbors to see! I cannot wait to see what you all come up with! Know that I miss you all so much and cannot wait for us to be back together!

With Love- Schauna

## Wesley Kids Choir Notes from Debbie

Hello to all our singers! I miss seeing you and hearing your beautiful singing voices at church but I hope you will keep singing along with your "Prodigal Clown" CD's and learning your lines. That way, when we get to come back to church we can finish getting the musical ready without having to start all over again. I'm asking all of you to listen to it (all the way through) at least once a week and PLEASE sing along with all the songs. You don't have to do that all at one sitting; you can listen to a couple songs every day, but just try to get through all of it in a week. Would you please do that for me? I'd really appreciate it. Enjoy your time at home with your families and stay well! I look forward to seeing you soon!



April  
BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Bob Tebbetts Bill Weekley
4/3	Bull Archer Sara Allen
4/6	Logan Phipps
4/7	Stephen Riggs Gina Davis Nathan Edmonds
4/8	Faye Brangham
4/9	Kelly Daniel
4/10	Garrett Weekley
4/11	Ginnie Tebbetts
4/12	Gavin Eddins
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

## Address for Michael Sheets

Mike and Marlene Sheets have a new address for the next few weeks while he receives treatment at Cleveland Clinic. It is 18232 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, OH, 44135. They would welcome your encouragement through notes and cards! They will be there until April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**First United Methodist Church**  
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NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Huntington, WV  
PERMIT NO. 173



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Senior Pastor,**  
Scott Sears

**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 27**



He is  
**RISEN**