



TOWER TOPICS

February 2022

Most of you know by now my love and affection for the Harry Potter books, so I'd like to share a brief quote with you: "Welcome to a new year at Hogwarts! Before we begin our banquet, I would like to say a few words. And here they are: Nitwit! Blubber! Oddment! Tweak!" —

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

And even though I like the cleverness and humor of Dumbledore's choice of words, I would like to offer a few of my own:

"Faith! Compassion! Community!"

Hopefully, by now you know that these three words will be the driving force behind our 150th Anniversary celebration this year. I will be talking about them in these months ahead but I want to center in on the word "Compassion" this month.

If you have been in the sanctuary in the latter half of January, you will have noticed the "Compassion Tree" that was painted by Charlie Buell. You also may have heard an invitation from Marla Haslam, our Compassion Team Coordinator, to perform an act of compassion for our community and then "report" it by filling out a leaf and placing it on the tree.

Okay...but what does that mean?

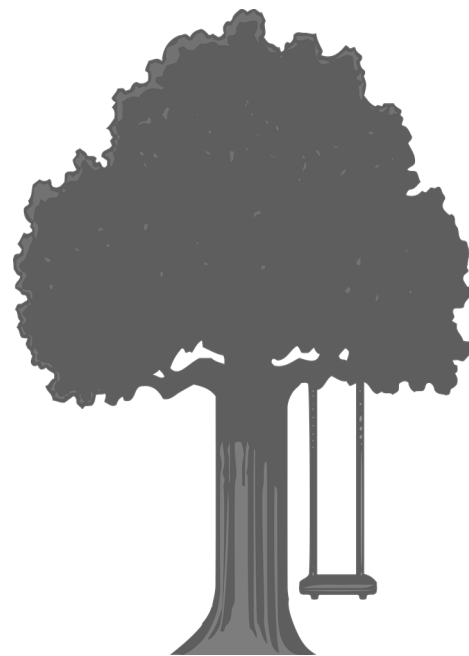
It is an invitation to all of us to be looking around our own neighborhoods and the whole city to find something that we can do that would be an act of compassion. It may be shoveling your neighbor's walk without ever being asked. It might be stopping to help someone broken down on the road. Or it could be something like what happened to me not long ago...

I stopped in a store to pick up one item. There was only one of these items left on the shelf and I was quite happy to get it. However, as I was checking out, another gentleman inquired about the same item and was told that they had just sold the last one. When I was done paying for my item, I simply walked over, handed it to the man who had asked and said, "God bless you. You can have this..."

Compassion is what we show when someone else has a need and we have the ability to fulfill that need even if it means it might cost us something. Compassion is what Jesus showed upon crowds of people when he healed them or took time to feed them. Compassion is what Jesus showed us upon the cross.

Compassion is a value that is deeply ingrained in the history and DNA of our congregation, but it is especially important for us to practice as we celebrate our 150th anniversary. Nothing will make us more visible to the people in our community...nothing will make us more vital to the life of communities...nothing will help us grow closer to Christ than the exercising of our compassion.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



Our First Light service is experimenting with a little different format this year as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary. You will find the same casual style, but it will be a little more interactive and conversational as we look at our church's history, our present, and our future, as well as what the Bible teaches us about being church. We also will begin recording these services podcast style, so if you can't join us in person you can still listen when you have the chance. (More information about that to come!)

First Light is in our Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 8:45.

**Donations
Needed**

The Nicaragua Mission is still collecting money for the Moravian church and people in Sandino, Nicaragua. As soon as Covid-19 allows flights to Nicaragua a small group will travel to the church to deliver the money and assess needs.

Please consider making a donation to this mission. Money may be put in offering plate, mailed to FUMC or dropped by the office. Make sure to designate it for Nicaragua.

Wesley Kids Choir:



I hope many of you got to see the children's "Christmas Express" program in December. They, along with Scott Anderson and Bert Fulks delightfully helped us raise nearly \$400 for Harmony House Charities, all while teaching us what Christmas should be about. They are ready to embark upon another musical adventure for spring

(information below). Be advised that they rehearse each Wednesday from 6:00-6:45 in the children's choir room and we ALWAYS have room for more singers!

Here is our anthem-singing schedule for this semester:

Sunday mornings, 10:30: Jan 30

Feb 13

Mar 13 (Daylight Savings Time Begins!!)

April 17 (EASTER)

May 8

"The Sailor's Bible"

The children's musical this spring will be "The Sailor's Bible" by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote. Hope Publishing states "this new children's musical includes three Bible stories: Noah and the Great Flood, Jonah and the Great Fish, and Paul's Shipwreck. Each story features the ocean as a symbol for the chaos of life and shows how only the power of God is greater than the natural forces of wind and wave."

The musical will take place on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:00.

Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir had a busy, busy holiday season preparing & performing special music every Sunday morning, plus presenting the very special "1940's Christmas Homecoming" to a packed house on Dec 12th. The choir, as well as our actors did a tremendous job on this musical production. Not only did they sing beautifully, they decorated and supplied ALL THE DESSERTS!

Our actor/singers were terrific and we thank them so much: Hillary Herold, Scott Jarrell, Charlee & Drew Adkins, Scott Sears, Jimmy Adkins & Steve Hensley. (please note that Steve Hensley did NOT sing!) We also are indebted to Susan Nickels, the Wednesday Willing Workers, Jane & Jerry Morse, Stacy Morgan, Fran Allred and probably many others whose names I'm forgetting. It was a fun and satisfying project with a wonderful Christmas message; and we raised nearly \$1000 for our choir fund.

If you have been thinking about joining choir, there's never been a better time than NOW. We enjoy each other's company as we sing, laugh and pray each Wednesday & Sunday and we'd love to have YOU join us. Some of our members read music, some don't; some have solo voices, some don't. Some come every single week; others come when they can. As the song says, "All God's children got a place in the choir" and we have a place for you, if you like to sing.

Tickling the Ivories: Our organist, Dr. Johan Botes is on sabbatical from Marshall University this semester and as a result, won't be playing for us regularly again until next August. We wish him well on his "around the world" performances. In the meantime, we are very, very blessed to have not 1 but 2 accomplished musicians to fill in. Jay Brooks (Edna's son) will be playing organ most Sundays and Rhonda Adkins will be accompanying the choir. We are very pleased and grateful for their willingness to share their skill and time with us.

Lenten Season Theme: Full to the Brim

The scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise — these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over.

Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us.

When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith.

And so, *Full to the Brim* trusts the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that. *Full to the Brim* doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude.

And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.





Join us for these fun faith-building activities!

Confirmation Class

Information has been given about confirmation class. Confirmation class begins on March 6th and will run for 6 weeks. Confirmation Sunday will be on Easter Sunday. If you haven't received that information, please contact Schauna Chambers.

Ski Trip

Youth will be going on a ski trip on February 19th at Winterplace. It will be an up and back trip, if you are interest in going please see Schauna Chambers.

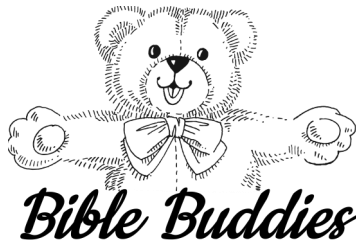
Marshall Basketball Game

Youth will be going to a Marshall Basketball Game following the Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd. Tickets will be \$15 plus tax, if you are interested please contact Schauna Chambers.

Keep in Touch with the Band App

Reminder for parents and youth to download the Band app to keep up to date on all the youth activities. If you have any problems see Schauna Chambers.

2/1	Yeon Choi
2/2	Jean Frederick Leslie Cummings
2/4	Jim McVey Paxton Brown
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
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 Watson Stefanides
2/26	Olivia Butterfield
2/27	Troy Jones Drew Adkins



First Sunday of February the elementary age children will be able to adopt a Bible Buddy. They will pick out a stuffed animal to adopt that will come with a Storybook Bible and an 11 week reading guide. In addition to their stuffed Bible Buddy they will also have a church buddy that will ask them about their favorite stories they had read each week. When completed we will have a celebration with our Bible and church buddies.



College Age Small Group

Plans are being made to begin a Sunday evening small group for those who are college age or their 20's. Be watching for a big event to kick this off and if you are in this age group come, bring your friends, and let us know what you want in a group at your church for your age group.

Wednesday Evening Small Group

All adults are invited to join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in Room 208 for a small group time. We sometimes study from a book or DVD, sometimes just sit around and talk, or sometimes have discussions on the latest TV shows everyone is watching. But mainly, it's a place to get to know some new people and have a group to share and grow with, which also enjoying some good laughs. Hope to see you all there each Wednesday evening.

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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.
 Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline February 18, 2022.



96 SPAGHETTI
 SAUCE

CONTACT
information



If you have recently had a change in any of your contact information, please call the church office.

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...

Mel Cummings, Anna Dinaico, Della Porter, Martha Cummings, Jack Patrick, Marlene Sheets, Jon Bradley, Debbie Conley, Nancy Palmer, Carolyn and Michael Waggoner, Tom Baskowsky, those suffering from COVID-19, caretakers.

For those we grieve:

Wyatt Weeks, Father of Anne Weeks who died January 19th.

2022 FUMC LEADERSHIP TEAMS

MINISTERS

All members of First United Methodist Church carry out the ministry of the Church!

CHURCH-WIDE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS (*Denotes members of CHURCH COUNCIL)

*Chairperson, Administrative Council	Chris Chiles
*Secretary to Administrative Council	Katie Bonnett
*Lay Leader	Jarrett Gerlach
*Church Treasurer	Charles Hanshaw
*Lay Members to Annual Conference	Mike Sheets and Allie Sears
*Lay Member to District Conference	Pam McCoy and Jane Morse
*United Methodist Women President	Jane Morse
*United Methodist Men President	Bob Ganzer
*Church Historian	Mike and Marlene Sheets
*Church Archives and History Room	Pat Daugherty

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
James Adkins	Vicky Buell	Jay Shepherd
Sandy King	*Maribeth Anderson – Chairperson	Peggy Brown
Christy Stefanides	Chris Thomas	

Other Members: Lay Member to Annual Conference, Lay Leader, Senior Pastor

FINANCE COMMITTEE

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Meg Cyrus – Secretary	Tyler Haslam	Erik Legg
*Jarrett Gerlach – Chair	Debbie Conley	Rhonda Adkins
Chad Matthews		

Other Members: Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairperson Administrative Council, Representative of Staff Parish Relations, Representative of Trustees, Senior Pastor

TRUSTEES

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Todd Bacon	R. Scott Anderson – Treasurer	Jill Nelson – Secretary
*Charles Hanshaw – Chairperson	Judy Eblin – Design and Memorials	Mary Ganzer
Gene Weekley	Jody Eddins	Harriett Evans

Trustee Emeritus: Richard Drown

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Chairperson: Pastor Scott

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Sue Atkinson	Anne Weeks – Secretary	Linda Hay
Jon Bradley	Jeanne Anne Rutherford	Joan Meredith
Judy Davis	Jaime Matthews	Tim Yoost

Other Members: Lay Leader

Ministry Team Leaders – As leaders, these members gather others to carry out specific ministry tasks:

Team Leaders

*Parsonage: Charlie Buell	*Kitchen: John Ferguson	*Scholarships: James Cummings
*Scouting: Chuck Hanshaw	*Cub Scouts: Grace Gooding	*Missions: Jane Morse
*New Team Development: Chris Chiles		

Visioning Task Force – From Pastor Scott

Chairpersons of SPRC, Finance, and Trustees
Youth Representative
Choir Representative

Adult Sunday School Teachers OR a Representative
Lay Leader

February 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:

8:45 First Light Worship Service
9:30 Small Groups for all ages
10:45 Traditional Worship

WEDNESDAY

9:00: Wednesday Willing Workers
10:00: Veterans Fellowship (Parlor)
11:00 Bible Study (Parlor Room)
5-6:00 Dinner (Reservations required).
6-6:45 Yoga (\$5.00 a person)
 Wesley Kids Choir
 Small Group Meetings
7-8:00: Sanctuary Choir

		1	2	3	4	5
			Finance Meeting Dinner: Tacos			Women's Bible Study 9-11 Fellowship Hall
6 Bible Buddies Begins	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Trustees Meeting Dinner: Baked Steak			
13 Children Choir Anthem	14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18	19
			Dinner: Lasagna			Youth Ski Trip
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Presidents' Day		Dinner: Pizza			
27	28					

