

March Birthdays

Annie Kathrine Diradour (2), Jackson Diradour (3),
Randy Honaker (4), Michael R. Smith (4), Sarah Moody (6),
Mackenzie Parr (6), Melva Armstrong (7), Tom Heimbuch Jr. (7),
Bonnie Griffith (8), Robert Johnson (8), Jordan Blaney (9), Linda Cahoon (9),
Zuwena Hill (9), Tonda Huddleston (10), Jeanne Thompson (12),
Deborah Marks (16), Brian Dixon (17), John Maddy (26), Aubrey Posey (26),
Carolyn Hoagland (29), Sam Dobbs (30), Laura Austin (31)

March Anniversaries:

Thurman and Carol Elmore (1), David and Deborah Hunt (14),
Ron and Karen Rhodes (25), Paul and Norma Nicholson (37)

First News is a regular publication for members and friends of First United Methodist Church. Articles for the newsletter should be submitted to the Church Office no later than the 15th of the month before the Newsletter goes out.

Church Office Hours: Monday –Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Phone (804) 458-8076

Visit our website: www.fumchopewell.org

Chris Andress., Senior Pastor

Warren Smith, Admin. Asst.

Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader

Judy L. Blevins, Director of Music

Nancy Honaker, Organist

Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Hopewell, Virginia

Permit No. 32

First News

First United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 636

Hopewell, Virginia 23860-0636

Address Service Requested

FIRST NEWS.....*Easter Blessings*

U
M
C

First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA
March 2016

Hello First United Methodist Church!
We are a Prayer Covenant Congregation! Prayer is essential to sustain our faith. Jesus modeled a life of prayer that established the DNA for the Christian Wesleyan heritage of prayer. Bishop Cho is spending his time as bishop creating a culture of prayer. His goal is for at least 10% of the clergy of the Virginia Conference to engage in spiritual disciplines for one hour each day and for 10% of Virginia Conference churches to become a Prayer Covenant Congregation. This means we engage "one hour daily" in spiritual disciplines (fasting, intercessory prayer, Lectio Divina (sacred or spiritual reading), centering prayer, breath prayer, contemplative prayer, Tongsung Kido prayer, a service of common prayer, morning midday or evening prayers, etc.)

We need to find more ways to pray together! Watch out for opportunities to do so and to meet the suggestions in this covenant. Let's pray together and discern what God has in store for us!

Chris





United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church hosted their annual Christmas Program on Monday, December 14, 2015. President Linda Frederiksen served as the evening's mistress of ceremonies. The annual event included a Christmas Program written by Linda. Helping Hands provided a delicious roasted tenderloin with sides provided by attendees.

2016 Executive Board members were introduced and installed as follows:

Linda Frederiksen- President
Carol Elmore- Vice President
Secretary- Christy Frank
Treasurer- Verna Brundin
Membership and Outreach- Kim Taylor
Spiritual Growth- Earnestine Oliver
Social Action- Dale Lipke
Education And Interpretation- Karen Daley
Program Resources-
Nominations Committee- Josie Cuffe
Communications Coordinator- Angie Hildreth

Circle Chairwomen-
Guilders- Verna Brundin
Helping Hands- Josie Cuffe
Wesley- Carol Elmore

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies will be placed on our altar Easter Sunday. You may purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one for \$12. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 13. Order forms will be available in upcoming bulletins and from the office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

Pioneer Club- We are up and running and invite everyone to join us on Sunday's from 4:00 to 6:00pm. We will not meet on Easter Sunday March 27.
FUMC Children's Community Easter Egg Hunt- Will be held on Saturday March 26th at 5:00pm at the vacant lot across W Broadway from the church. Bring the kids and invite neighbors for this fun event. The Free Community Supper is the same day and plan to stay and enjoy the continued fellowship. A box will be set up to take donations of individually wrapped candy for the eggs.

Children's Choir:

Children are offered participation in the Children's choir during Children's church the 3rd and 4th Sunday's and is located on the second floor of the education wing. The Children will be singing on the 2nd Sunday of the month and this exciting ministry to lead by Cindy Altman.

Children's Church:

Children's church is provided on the 1st, 2nd and 5th Sunday during the 11:00AM worship service for children age four through fifth grade and is located in the Chapel. It is a team led, and follows the Pastor's Children's Time in the Sanctuary service. All children are invited to attend Children's Church, but are also welcome to remain in the Sanctuary service.

Children's Ministry Leaders/Volunteers needed:

I pray that you will consider volunteering your talents in this exciting ministry as we live our mission statement.

I would like to thank everyone for your donations, prayers and continued support of the Children!

Kim Taylor (804)720-1489

FUMC

Celebrating 100 Years! 1916-2016

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration will begin with a catered dinner on Saturday, April 23rd at 6:30 PM, and tickets will be available for purchase soon. "Catered Affairs by Shelby" will prepare and serve the dinner for us. A special program will follow the meal featuring several former ministers and guests who will bring greetings and share a few memories about their times at First United Methodist.

A special 10:30 AM Sunday worship service will feature VAUMC Bishop Young Jin Cho as guest speaker. A reception to honor Bishop Cho will follow the service.

Invitations with further details will be mailed to all church members and friends by mid-March, so if you would like an invitation sent to someone special, please notify the church office.

Our Anniversary Celebration promises to be a grand event. We hope everyone will save the April 23rd and 24th dates and plan to be a part of this memorable occasion in the life of our church.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

On Wednesday, April 6 at 2:30pm Audra Honaker will be performing at the Swift Creek Mill Theater in Chesterfield. The group discount tickets are \$35 each for LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, an award winning Broadway play full of music and mayhem. The ticket price of \$35 does NOT include a meal. Checks may be made payable to Beverly Johnson with memo *for April 6 play*. **The nonrefundable payment is due by March 20.** For information please contact Beverly Johnson. The signup sheet is posted near the prayer request bulletin board. Please indicate on the signup sheet if you need a ride. We must have at least 15 participants to receive the group discounted rate. The website for the play is www.swiftcreekmill.com. Elevator provided.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

FREE Community Supper

Saturday, March 26th

5:00pm to 6:30pm

Our next Free Community Supper is the night before Easter Sunday when some of our members will be out of town. If you are not traveling this year, please consider volunteering to help at this Community Supper. Volunteers are needed for the setup, the cooking, the serving, and the cleanup, along with folks to welcome and chat with our neighbors. Setup begins at 4:00pm. Remember... **"IT TAKES THE WHOLE CHURCH"** – mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, March 26th, for this Neighborhood Outreach Activity. The FUMC Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be on the same day (Saturday, March 26th) at 5:00pm. Bring the kids and grandkids and plan to stay for the Free Community Supper. Invite your neighbors, too!

MISSION COFFEE

The Missions Committee is giving you the opportunity to indulge in high quality coffee at a very reasonable price. Your order entirely goes to support the small coffee farmer in developing countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru. Any additional tips you wish to add will go to our Missions Budget.

This UMCOR Coffee Project is an innovative way to reach out to small-scale farmers in the developing world while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee that is fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate are helping small scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Coffee sales will be available on the fourth Sundays in our greetings foyer.

There will be several flavors to choose from. The price of the regular flavors is \$7 and the price of decaf flavors is \$8. You will be impressed by this certified organic coffee flavor which undergoes strict regulation to ensure top quality coffee.

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help with the coffee sales please contact Dale Lipke, dalelipke@yahoo.com.



“THE CROSS OF JESUS”

A Musical Celebration of the Risen Christ

Palm Sunday, March 20th at 11:00 AM

Inspiring Easter anthems and quotes
from early church fathers on
Christ’s death and resurrection.

Presented by the Chancel Choir
Accompanied by Nancy Honaker, pianist
Directed by Judy Blevins

The next edition of *FIRST NEWS* will be the April edition. All articles should be turned in to the church office no later than March 15.

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2015, our clocks will move an hour ahead (or spring forward) to begin daylight saving time.

Our *Food Pantry* emphasis for **March** is **Jelly**. (**No glass containers, please!**) Donations can be placed in the barrel at the end of the first floor education wing. The Hopewell Food Pantry serves thousands of families in our local area.

UMW NEWS

Thank you to all who supported the 2nd Annual Soup and Sandwich on February 7th. The generosity of all allowed United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church to begin the 2016 year successfully!

Upcoming events for United Methodist Women.

March 27th- Annual Bake Sale

April 2nd - Pancake Breakfast 8:00-9:45am Tickets available from any United Methodist Women. Donations go to missions of the United Methodist Women.

District Lenten Breakfast is Saturday April 16th.

You are cordially invited to a Soup and Sandwich Lunch in loving memory of Ryan Williamson, March 6th 12:00 pm.

Family Ministries in connection with Children and Youth Ministries are hosting the 1st Annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch in memory of Ryan Williamson. The Williamson family has established a scholarship fund through John Randolph Foundation. Ryan is one of our children, active in Pioneer Clubs as well as Vacation Bible School. It is our love for this child that we will host this lunch with all donations going to support the scholarship fund. We would like to see this scholarship active this year! Please help us fund the scholarship fund. Donations may be made the day of the lunch, or to the church with a note that the donation is for Ryan Williamson Scholarship. Donations may also be made directly to the John Randolph Foundation with the designation of Ryan Williamson Scholarship Fund.

GREETERS

The 2016 Greeter Schedule has been posted in the hallway by the parking lot entrance. Thank you to those who have already signed up. If you are available to help out, please contact Verna Brundin at 862-8749 or vbrundin@aol.com. We also need substitutes that can be called upon when the scheduled Greeter is unable to be there.

Dear Members of FUMC:

There are so many needs in our community, nation and world. God calls us to share the abundance that we have with others. This is your Faith Promise Missions Budget for 2016. These are the needs your Missions Committee has chosen to support in the coming year. Thank you for making this possible.

I recently read a quote that said "You have not really lived until you do something for someone who can never repay you." May this be true in our personal lives and in the life of our Church.

Sincerely,
Dale Lipke, 2016 Missions Committee Chairperson

**2016 FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS BUDGET
First United Methodist Church
Hopewell, VA**

Local Projects

- 1. Hopewell Food Pantry.....\$800
The foremost resource to help hungry and needy people in Hopewell is the Food Pantry.
- 2. Homeless Mission / Teens Opposing Poverty (T.O.P.).....\$600
Serving homeless people on the street with food, personal items and love.
- 3. CARES.....\$300
This is a shelter in Petersburg for women and children to stay short-term. It serves the tri-city area and depends on financial contributions and donations. We can also help by providing bagged lunches during the year!
- 4. Habitat for Humanity, Inc.....\$500
Local people get involved in helping build affordable housing for poorer families. Our financial support helps to provide materials for construction of these homes, but we also encourage individuals from within our church to get personally involved in some of these projects on weekends.
- 5. Pathways.....\$600
Their mission is to create a community through relationship building with all who live, work, and play within the neighborhood by improving the economic, health and spiritual environment in the community.
- 6. Camp Rainbow Connection / Superkids / Special Olympics.....\$500
Camp Rainbow is the Conference camp for mentally disabled adults. Superkids and Special Olympics are local organizations.
- 7. C.C.H.A.S.M. \$300
Its mission is to provide food, financial assistance and career clothing to area residents who are in an emergency situation which threatens their survival needs.
- 8. Prison Ministries.....\$200
Sharing God's love to inmates through card ministry. Funding used for cost of cards and postage.

- 9. The Reach Out Center of Petersburg VA.....\$300
An outreach ministry whose mission is to passionately lead people to greater purpose through the transforming power of God.
- 10. Response Fund.....\$1,000
A fund for responding to unforeseen mission needs.
-TOTAL \$5,100

United Methodist Volunteers in Missions

- 11. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.....\$1,000
Support our own local church teams of short-term mission volunteers to travel and work one to three weeks on a mission site in a variety of ways, such as construction, medical treatment, evangelism and education.
-TOTAL \$1,000

National Division Specials

- 12. Society of St. Andrew.....\$500
A Virginia group, which salvages millions of pounds of produce and distributes the food to hungry people nationwide. Our giving helps cover the cost of delivering a truckload of produce to a needy area.
- 13. Red Bird Mission School.....\$200
This comprehensive mission and outreach program in Kentucky provides education for hundreds of pre-school through high school age children in a remote area of the Cumberland Mountains that is poorly served by public systems.
-TOTAL \$700

World Division Specials

- 14. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)\$200
This project will assist the United Methodist Church to move swiftly when there is a disaster anywhere in the world. This is just a beginning of our disaster support.
- 15. Methodist Church in Colombia.....\$500
The mission work of this church is to street kids in Cali
- 16. Methodist Church in Cambodia.....\$2,500
A covenant relationship (\$5/year per FUMC member) supporting Clara Biswas, a missionary with The General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC #13952Z.
- TOTAL \$3,200

TOTAL MISSIONS BUDGET \$10,000