

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

David Lovelady (3), Ethan Rotz (3), Kim Taylor (3), Carol Elmore (4), Charles Minshew (5), Ralph Parmele (7), Allison Henry (8), Karen Daley (11), Mary Beth Rackley (11), Mary Katherine Taylor (11), Courtney Bujakowski (12), Ronald Watson (12), Paul Nicholson (13), Kevin Frank (15), Jason Myers (15), Carolyn Nicely (16), June Partin (16), Ben Rackley (18), Jaclyn Hines (19), Kelly Flournoy (21), Evelyn Rackley (23), Susan Mason (25), Scott Honaker (26), Kathy Fisher (28), Branwyn McCormick (28), Adria Andress (29), Joyce Purr (29)

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny & Mimi Hines (28)

**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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the Newsletter goes out.  
Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Visit our website: [www.funhopewell.org](http://www.funhopewell.org)

Phone (804) 458-8076

E-Mail: [Office@funhopewell.org](mailto:Office@funhopewell.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

Chris Andress, Senior Pastor

Patti Williams, Admin. Asst.  
Judy Blevins, Director of Music  
Nancy Honaker, Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist  
Scott & Patricia Honaker, Youth Directors

Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader  
Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant  
Cindy Altman, Chapel Pianist/Children's Choir Director  
Gloria Donati, Custodian

**First News**  
First United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 636  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860-0636

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Hopewell, Virginia

Permit No. 32

Address Service Requested



FIRST NEWS.....*Happy Easter!*

U  
M  
C

***First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA  
April 2017***

Happy Easter First United Methodist Church!

We've had a wonderful Lenten season with so many speakers from our Community and beyond to get us ready for the resurrection. Do you, "remember?" That was my clever transition to telling you about us all "Re-membering." We're into such a groove during Lent with a Wednesday night event each week, let's keep it going for a bit! Beginning April 22, 2017, at 7 pm, we will have a book study and discussion based on the book: Being United Methodist: What It Means, Why It Matters by J. Ellsworth Kalas. He was my favorite professor in Seminary, and he helped me to learn to become a preacher.

The book has 12 chapters, and we will cover two per session to make a six-week study. We will have sign-up sheets available soon, so sign up if you want a book. A generous member has offered to buy the books so we will need to know how many to order. Dr. Kalas was a wonderful preacher and teacher and the book covers our history and polity and beliefs and a dream for the future of the United Methodist denomination.

I say we are "Re-membering" because many lifelong Methodists don't know the richness and depth of our denomination. They will be "Re-membering," or becoming members again as they learn more about being a Methodist. We have some interested in becoming members, so this will serve as their "New member's class."

Be sure to sign up today!

Grace to you all!

Chris

**Letters of Thanks**

*The Family of Nathan Curtis Lee acknowledges with grateful appreciation the Church’s kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for all of your prayers, cards and support during this most difficult time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we try to gain strength day-by-day. (Rhonda, Nicole & Mallory)*

*Thank you for your gift to support missionaries and ministries in Colombia and our Global Efforts. (UMCOR)*

*Thank you to my FUMC family for your cards and prayers during my surgery and recovery. I’m always amazed at the powerful “Prayer Force” that our church exhibits in times of need. I’m so thankful to all of you for your support and love. (Susan Denny)*

*Bill and I would like to thank all of you for all the cards, phone calls, and visits from all of you. Thanks! (Frances Duncan)*

*Thank you to each of you for your love, support, prayers, cards and calls during the last few weeks on the loss of my mother. (Gary and Mary Hamilton)*

*Thank you for your continued support of our shelter. Your contribution allows us to provide services to the community. (Hopewell Humane Society)*

*Thank you! Your donation provides the services of the Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities for women and their infants who participate in our programs. (Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities)*

---

**Treasurer’s Report for month ending February 28, 2017:**

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 1/31/17..... \$17,923.75  
Income for February..... 21,912.61  
Expenses for February..... (21,599.85)  
Balance as of 2/28/17 ..... 18,236.51

Designated Funds Balance as of 2/28/17 ..... 45,222.40  
Money Market Balance ..... 53,954.98  
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) ... 500.00

---

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –**

April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Bake Sale between services.
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Breakfast 8-9:45 AM.
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	General Meeting
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Yard and Bake Sale
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner

**UNITED METHODIST MEN  
NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –**

The next breakfast meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at Rosa’s Restaurant.

**UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –**

April 23 is Youth Sunday. Our youth will be leading the service, so please come support UMYF. Also, we still have some t-shirts left, so please let us know if you are interested. They are available for a suggested donation of \$15.

On March 19, we traveled to Richmond Korean Central Presbyterian Church to hear a biology professor talk about faith and science. Is faith anti-science? According to this scientist, not at all. In fact, much of what we have learned because of the sciences could be considered evidence for the existence of God. However, we still have many questions, and sometimes we want a comprehensive explanation for everything, just like Job. We would be wise to remember God's response in Job 38:4 - "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand." We may not get answers to all our questions in this lifetime, but God has given us enough information to make belief in Him a most reasonable thing, and to say with the psalmist, "in His word I put my hope."

On March 24, we heard Christian artist Aaron Shust at the Beacon Theatre in Hopewell. Our youth group attended along with several other members from our

church, and we had a great time worshipping together. A big shout out to Karla Gerner for organizing this trip. Thank you Karla!



## AN EASTER MUSIC CELEBRATION

*Arranged and Orchestrated by Marty Parks with additional selections by Various Composers*

PRESENTED BY  
**THE CHANCEL CHOIR**

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9 ~ 5:00 PM

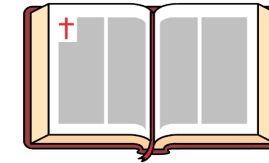
***The FUMC Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited!!***



*This event, coordinated by Kim Taylor, will bring children from the neighborhood for an Easter egg hunt, while feeding their families with the community dinner. The UMW & UMM will host the meal prepared by Larry Hildreth. This function is for our entire church family, as well as friends from the neighborhood.*



All children are invited to participate in our Children's Handbell Choir as well as to sing the Children's Choir. Rehearsals are held on the first and second Sundays during the **11:00 AM Children's Church hour**, and both groups perform monthly in the 11:00 AM Sanctuary worship services. A special blessing indeed!



### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR APRIL

*Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 5:1

The child of an airport lounge member has free access into the lounge to enjoy all of its benefits. Likewise, through Jesus Christ we have free access to God's kingdom with His freely given unconditional benefits including His peace, love, grace and mercy. This is the only source of true peace.

Perfect peace is not the absence of problems; it's the presence on God in the midst of problems. Peace is not something to be found in alcohol, drugs, fame or fortune or even human relationships. Only God's presence is what takes the stress out of living.

Are you longing for peace? Surrender to Jesus Christ every day. He loves you unconditionally and wants to show you the way into The Kingdom.



## THE HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS STAPLE FOOD ITEMS

<b>Peanut Butter</b>	<b>Canned Tuna &amp; Chicken</b>	<b>Low Sodium Veggies</b>
<b>Fruits Packed in Juice</b>	<b>Spaghetti Sauce (No Glass)</b>	<b>Canned or Dry Beans</b>
<b>Hot &amp; Cold Cereal</b>	<b>Whole Grain Snacks</b>	

### APRIL - STEWARDSHIP

Ushers: J. Lovelady, J. Armstrong, W. Frederiksen, D. Parr, S. Williamson

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service

April 2, 2017	Christy Frank
April 9, 2017	Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer
April 16, 2017	Curly Moore
April 23, 2017	Margie Dowden
April 30, 2017	TBD

Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Carolyn Foxworth and Pat Rainey



## **WANT TO GET RID OF YOUR STUFF ?**

You can now donate your unwanted stuff to our storage unit for our fall church yard sales any time between now and November. Thanks to Wilfred and Linda Frederiksen, FUMC now has a large storage unit available for our use. The PRINCE GEORGE VIGILANT SELF STORAGE is located at 4110 Commerce Road, Prince George, VA 23875. Please call the office at 452-2001 for assistance. Sturdy boxes (with content labels) are preferred for easy stacking.

Bring your stuff, even furniture. In addition to the November 11<sup>th</sup> UMW sale, the UMW will also have a presale at the storage facility unit in October. Good condition books and clothing that are not sold will be donated to other charitable organizations.



## **OUR OLD E-MAIL HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!!**

**Please address all church e-mails to:**

[office@fumchopewell.org](mailto:office@fumchopewell.org)



## HOPE HOUSE

Hope House is currently located in the 700 block of W. Broadway, just two blocks from FUMC. The Hope House is a faith-based, community-driven, volunteer service program that addresses the needs of the homeless, the at-risk, and those looking to improve their situations.

Rev. Daryl Boggs of First Baptist Church in Hopewell began organizing the Hope House last year. Under his leadership, he has brought together the support of the community, a lot of volunteers (no one is paid) from all walks of life along with many agencies, churches and businesses in the city to offer many services in addition to shelter during winter nights. They are looking into applying for 501©3 status.

Recently, Rev. Boggs gave the Helping Hands circle an excellent program about the impressive work and future goals of the Hope House. He later replied:

*“Thanks for the invitation. This is a wonderfully compassionate community that has responded well to the slightest request for assistance. There are good folks all over the city who have invested themselves in this ministry, and I am just grateful for the opportunity to tell of their good work. Please pass on to the Group and to the larger body our gratitude for the financial contributions. We pledge to be good stewards of them. For example, we just purchased basic tools for a man to start his new job. He is moving off the streets and into an apartment in a couple of weeks because of the opportunities made available through Hope House and the generous contribution of others. “*

For more information, please pick up a Hope House brochure in our church lobby or contact Hope House at 804-513-8045. If you would like to make a financial donation, checks made payable to Hope House may be put in the Sunday offering plates or taken to our church office.