

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Roger Miles (4), Kathy Anderson (6), Louise Conover (6), Thurman Elmore (6), Kyn Richey (6), Chris Hodson (8), Mary Hamilton (13), Richard Taylor (14), Elsie Mae Atkins (15), Trey Birchett (17), Curly Moore (20), Betsy Resnick (22), Diane Parr (25), Nancy Karabaich (28), Bert Rackley (29), Sachi Blevins (30), Barbara Hammond (31)

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Billy and Tonda Williamson (2), Kevin and Christy Frank (8), Chris and Adria Andress (20), Bunn and Melva Armstrong (21), Tony and Teresa Sherrill (29)

**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.fumchopewell.org](http://www.fumchopewell.org) Phone (804) 458-8076  
E-Mail: [Office@fumchopewell.org](mailto:Office@fumchopewell.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

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

Chris Andress, Senior Pastor

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  
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Hopewell, Virginia 23860-0636

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FIRST NEWS.....*Happy May!*

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

Happy May, First United Methodist Church!

The sun is shining, and the Son has risen, and the world seems more alive. We had a wonderful celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday and a nice sized congregation to welcome our eight newest members! Why would eight people join this congregation? The answer lies in that old hymn, "They'll know we are Christians by our LOVE." People want to be part of what God is doing at First United Methodist Church because they sense God's love through you! That is why eight people became members by transferring from other churches, or by professions of faith on Easter Sunday! They can tell we are Christians by our \_\_\_\_\_! Fill in the blank! Go ahead, I'll wait right here.

You may remember, we began a series on "Ten Ways to Love" before we walked the Lenten road together. We only made it to four of the ten ways to love! We will pick that series back up the last Sunday in April. We love well because Christ first loved us. BUT we can always do better! This series is aimed at helping us love better each and every day. If you miss a Sunday and want to keep up with the series, you can always read the sermons on line from our website.

So, Christian, go love the world like Christ does!

Chris

## **Letters of Thanks**

*Thank you for your donation of \$100 to Heart Havens. Your gift is making an everyday impact in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. (Jennifer Boyden)*

*Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Through your gift, you are helping to provide assistance or survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty, holistic community-based health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation. (Roland Fernandes & Mary Andreolli)*

*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)*

*Thank you to all who donated money, candy bikes and their time for the Easter Egg Hunt, Dinner and Bike give away! We served over 150 hot dogs to the community and church family! We were also able to give away 10 bicycles to some very excited children. Thank you for blessing these children with love, fun and food! (Angela Hildreth)*

*We hoped you enjoyed the Lenten Dinner and Speaker Series this year. Thank you to all who prepared food, served and cleaned up afterwards! Special thanks to UMW, Youth, and Choir for providing meals during the series. Also a special thank you to Melva Armstrong and Alice Eldridge for helping when we needed a little extra! (Angela Hildreth)*

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### **Treasurer's Report for month ending March 31, 2017:**

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 2/28/17.....	\$18,236.51
Income for March.....	21,597.10
Expenses for March .....	(19,166.31)
Balance as of 3/31/17 .....	20,667.30

Designated Funds Balance as of 3/31/17 .....	47,663.50
Money Market Balance .....	53,362.11
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) ...	500.00

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## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

### **NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES --**

Thank you to all who baked and bought goodies during our Palm Sunday Bake Sale. We were able to raise over \$250 to use towards mission projects.



May 6<sup>th</sup> (8 to 9:45) is our Annual Pancake Breakfast. A \$5 donation is requested; see any UMW member for a ticket. There will be a tip jar at the breakfast. If you enjoy your meal and would like to put something in the jar, the proceeds will be going to Ruda Dongerdiva, who ministers with Life Light Ministries in Aurangabad, India. If you would like to learn more about the ministry, you can go to: [Lifelightindia.weebly.com](http://Lifelightindia.weebly.com)  
Thank you for your support.

May 22nd is the Annual Candle Burning Ceremony at 7:30 pm. We invite the entire congregation to attend to hear a special program from John Randolph Medical Center Staff Sherri McGrath, Debra Hudson and Ashley Hansen on the Free -Standing Emergency Department, Medication Access, C-diff, Chest Pain, Stroke and CPR/AED.

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

### **NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –**

The next breakfast meeting will be May 13th in the Fellowship Hall. Tom Wagstaff will be providing breakfast

## Health Kits for Conference

to



How would you feel if you did not have a washcloth and soap clean your face, a toothbrush to brush your teeth or other health items? You have the opportunity to help provide specific items in a health kit for people in need through UMCOR. Monetary contributions are now being collected through Sunday, May 28th to be used to purchase the specific items in bulk. Please note "health kits" in the memo line on your check made payable to the church or you may give Carol Elmore your contribution directly. Thank you.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Greetings from First United Methodist Church at Broadway and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

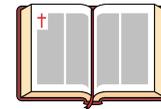


Raised garden beds have been built for your use in the grass area behind the church on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Please come share your gardening talents by planting and labeling vegetables or flowers of your choice. The church will keep the garden watered. At harvesting all neighbors are welcome to take what they need. More raised garden beds will be constructed as the interest grows.



## *Little Free Library*

Also, neighbors are encouraged to use the Little Free Library constructed outside on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Broadway. There is no need for check out. All ages can take a book, read it, give it to a friend or return it to the Little Free Library which is always open.



## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR MAY

*"The reason I use parables in talking to them is that they look, but do not see, and they listen but do not hear or understand."* Matthew 13:13.

When the disciples asked Jesus why He tells parables Jesus answers, *"Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any receptivity soon disappears."* (The Message, Matthew 13:11-12.)

Some people can see but do not understand. Some people can see then understand. And some people can understand without seeing. How about you? Can you see Jesus today? Whenever we open God's Word He speaks to us with such strong and soothing words, that our hearts are revived and our sight is restored. Look! The living Christ is showing us the kingdom of God.



***Peanut Butter  
Fruits Packed in Juice  
Hot & Cold Cereal***

***Canned Tuna & Chicken  
Spaghetti Sauce (No Glass)  
Whole Grain Snacks***

***Low Sodium Veggies  
Canned or Dry Beans***

**MAY - STEWARDSHIP**

Ushers: B. Henry, J. Dye, E. Henry III, B. Rackley, T. Tench

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service

May 7, 2017 Christy Frank

May 14, 2017 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer

May 21, 2017 Curly Moore

May 28, 2017 Margie Dowden

Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Wesley Circle