



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

"TRUNK OR TREAT" time will be here soon!

Plan to come and hand out your candy or treats to our church and neighborhood children. Mark your calendar now for Saturday,

October 27th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM in our church parking lot. You are invited to be in costume and/or decorate your vehicle trunk and be in the "spirit"! Let's help these children have a fun and safe time!

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 – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone (804) 458-8076 Visit our website: www.fumchopewell.org E-Mail: Office@fumchopewell.org

CHURCH STAFF

Chris Andress, Senior Pastor

Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader

Patti Williams, Admin. Asst.

Judy Blevins, Director of Music

Mary Taylor, Tori Pierce, Gloria Donati, Nursery Attendants

Nancy Honaker, Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist

Cindy Altman, Chapel Pianist/Children's Choir Director

Scott & Patricia Honaker, Youth Directors

Gloria Donati, Custodian

First News
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FIRST NEWS **Fall 2018**
(September, October, November)

First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA

Hello First UMC!

Fall is falling fast! What a *quick, long* Summer! It will be good to see many of you again, as many have been away this Summer. School will be in, Summer will be over and we will return to our regularly scheduled program called "life".

1 Corinthians 12:27 You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. 28 In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. 29 All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? 30 All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? 31 Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.

If, for some reason, you have fallen out of the habit of joining us at the corner of Broadway and 6th on Sunday morning at 8:45 or 11:00, now is the time to make a new habit. You need the Church, and the Church needs you. Because...wait for it, wait for it...YOU are the CHURCH! Together we make up the Body of Christ, the Church. We need to steer together and then we need to work together to share the light of Christ's love with Hopewell and the surrounding counties.

See you Sunday? See you Sunday!!

In Christ,

Chris



The **Chancel Choir** will return from its summer break to rehearse on **Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 AM** before singing in the 11:00 AM service. The Choir will resume **7:00 PM Thursday** rehearsals on **September 13th**! Our church is blessed to have faithful and dedicated Choir members and a wonderful accompanist, but more voices are always needed! Please pray about singing in the Chancel Choir. The ability to read music is helpful but not required – section leaders will help new singers. Every Choir member will welcome you as part of our wonderful Choir family – join us, and you'll be blessed! **Adults AND youth are welcome!** Choir members who have not been singing with us for a while are encouraged to return to sing again! We've really missed you!

Our **NEW** Christmas musical this year is entitled **"CHRISTMAS IS CALLING – finding Peace, Hope & Joy in the Savior's Birth."** Christmas rehearsals will begin soon, and we encourage everyone to share in this wonderful celebration in music, song – and again this year, a beautiful accompanying **VIDEO!** Christmas rehearsals will also be scheduled on several Saturday mornings, and those dates will be announced soon. (If you cannot attend weekly rehearsals and/or sing every Sunday, talk to us about learning the Christmas music by CD and attending Saturday rehearsals.) You will enjoy this exciting musical to be presented at **5:00 PM, on Sunday, December 16th**.



youth are welcome!

The **Handbell Choir** will also resume weekly rehearsals at **6:15 PM on Thursday, September 13th**. We have **NEW** patriotic and holiday music that you will enjoy! If you are an experienced ringer, please plan to return. If you have never experienced ringing bells, please come and explore their majestic beauty! Instructions are easy to follow, and you will receive help and support from other ringers. **Adults AND**



CALENDARS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

There are 2 large calendars on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Anyone is invited to write in upcoming dates for area events, local and civic events or other churches' events. One calendar is for the current month, and the second one is for the following month.

- FALL BASH** - September 15, 5-6 PM
- FALL LUNCHEON** – September 16, 12 PM
- WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST** for Children & Youth - September 23, 9:45 AM
- PICNIC UNDER THE BRICKS** – October 7, 12 PM
- UMYF CHURCH-WIDE LUNCHEON** – October 21, 12 PM
- TRUNK OR TREAT** – October 27, 5-7 PM
- SCOUT BISCUIT BASH** – October 28
- SCOUT SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON** – November 11
- UMW BAKE SALE** – November 18
- THANKSGIVING LUNCH** (covered dish) – November 18, 12 PM



Treasurer Report

Month ending July 31, 2018

Operating fund:	
Beginning balance as of 7/1/18.....	\$11,570.68
Income for July	20,775.13
Expenses for July	(22,961.93)
Balance as of 7/31/18	9,383.88
Designated Funds Balance	32,945.93
Money Market Balance	68,093.50
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account)	500.00



SEPTEMBER - STEWARDSHIP

Ushers: B. Henry, B. Rackley, T. Tench, B. Clarke
Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 September 2, 2018 Christy Frank
 September 9, 2018 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer
 September 16, 2018 Curly Moore
 September 23, 2018 Margie Dowden
 September 30, 2018 Volunteer
Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Guilder’s Circle

OCTOBER - STEWARDSHIP

Ushers: D. Patrick, R. Anderson, D. Calloway, G. Hamilton, D. Johnson
Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 October 7, 2018 Christy Frank
 October 14, 2018 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer
 October 21, 2018 Curly Moore
 October 28, 2018 Margie Dowden
Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service -- Bev Johnson & Tricia Patrick

NOVEMBER - STEWARDSHIP

Ushers: R. Honaker, G. Bowman, M. Bujakowski, J. Moosman, C. Moseley
Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 November 4, 2018 Christy Frank
 November 11, 2018 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer
 November 18, 2018 Curly Moore
 November 25, 2018 Margie Dowden
Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Linda & Wil Frederiksen

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



This is the fifth year that FUMC will be participating in this outreach project that delivers joy to millions of children around the world through shoeboxes that are packed with gifts for needy children (ages 2-14). You have been very generous in your support of Operation Christmas Child in the past and we hope you will want to support this mission outreach project again this year.

Last year we packed and shipped 56 shoeboxes and they were sent to needy children in the Ukraine (in Eastern Europe) and Malawi (in Southeast Africa). I am sure these children were excited and happy to receive them.

There are several ways you can participate:

1. **Pack your own gift-filled shoebox.** Empty OCC shoeboxes are available in the Mission Corner near the parking lot entrance and also in the hallway behind the Chapel.
2. **Make a monetary donation.** Please make check payable to First UMC; note OCC on the memo line.
3. **Donate items that can be combined with others and included in the gift shoeboxes.** Suggested items are washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, hats, shoes, gloves, socks, shirts, dresses, toys, sticker books, etc.
4. **Pack a Shoebox Online.** Go to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on Operation Christmas Child to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement, and “pack” them in a shoebox.

The deadline is Sunday, November 11th.

If you have any questions about this outreach project, please contact Verna Brundin at 862-8749 (vbrundin@aol.com) or any member of the Missions Committee.

Thank You Notes

Thank you for my school supply present. I love First Church.
Love, Bristol

We wish to thank our church friends and Pastor Chris for your cards, calls, visits and meals provided to us after our strokes earlier this year. We appreciate your continued prayers.
John & Louise Conover

Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Bert J. Gerner
With Sincere Gratitude.
Rita, Bret, Karla, Karol, and families

Dear FUMC Bereavement Committee,

Thank you so much for putting together such a nice luncheon for my mom after her funeral. It was such a blessing to our family. I particularly liked seeing and speaking to those who love me so many years ago when I was a youth at FUMC. My mom would have really loved being back in "her church". I was reminded that she had been a member since April 1938. The love of Christ that you shared with us is the same love that drew her there so many years ago. Thank you again for your kindness to me and the "Jackie Patterson" family.
Love, Kim Murphy

TRI-CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY -- Thank you for your financial support.
Donation of \$500.

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW – Thank you for your prayers for ministry and your financial support. Donation of \$200.

REGENESIS – Thank you for your gift of \$500. We hope that your church is greatly blessed for your money, time and effort to support us.

UMCOR – Through your gift, you are helping to provide assistance for survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development project that alleviate hunger and poverty.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ron Cahoon (1), Margie Dixon (1), Alex Kaufman (4), Emma Blaney (7), Bill Crafton (8), Bill Garvin (9), Donnie Parr (10), Randy Sealey (11), Tony Sherrill (13), Verna Brundin (14), Ed Daley (16), Lee Bujakowski (17), Frank Cuffe (17), Willard Lesley (19), Margie Dowden (20), Bunn Armstrong (21), James Bornschein (21), Truman Tench (21), Joe Hudson (22), Dennis Lipke (22), Wendell McCallister (28), Scott Jones (28), Laura Poe (29)

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

HD and Barbara Hammond (6), Bob and Mary Tinker (19), Carl and Verna Brundin (21), Jarrod and Kayla Pandel (21), Hal and Diana Zavislak (28)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

David Richey (1), Trish Honaker (3), John Conover (4), Madison Frank (5), Christy Frank (6), Tucker Martin (6), Dave Johnson (8), Max Kaufman (8), Marty Blaney (9), Helen Cross (9), Harold Shreves (11), Joe Orlando (12), Linda Lovelady (14), Bristol Pierce (17), Shirley Bishop (19), Angie Hildreth (19), Mike Moosman (19), Bobbie Lee (20), James Gay (21), Audra Honaker (21), Robert Moseley (21), Libe Houser (22), Robert Moody (22), Jackie Tatum (22), Abby Williamson (22), Colton Dobbs (23), Tyler Smith (25), Kathy Felton (26), Anne Kitchen (28), Beverly Johnson (30), Lisa Martin (30), Larry Hildreth (31)

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Josie Cuffe (10), Kim and Richard Taylor (21), John and Louise Conover (23), Todd and Jan Butterworth (25), Bill and Anne Page Henry (26)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Greg Steininger (1), Eddie Henry (3), Billy Williamson (6), Wendy Drake (7), Bob Tinker (7), Vickie McCormick (12), Norma Nicholson (13), Jacquelyn Smith (17), Viola Watson (20), Kathy Hodson (22), Bill Duncan (25), Olivia Hildreth (25), Mike Robbins (26), Kathryn Thomas (27), Larissa Flournoy (28), Kimberly Smith (30)

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Drew and Mallory Di Stefano (5), Charles and Pat Steininger (23), Robert and Shirley Bishop (24), Randy and Cindy Sealey (30), Layman and Dolores Shreves (30)
Carolyn Foxworth (21), Eddy and Ann Henry (21), Larry and Angie Hildreth (23), Jeff and Shari Moosman (25), Ronnie and Viola Watson (25), Sam and Heather Dobbs (29)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES --

On behalf of the United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church, thank you for your generous support of our summer mission...RVA Comfort Cases! Because of this wonderful church family, we raised over \$2,000 in donations that will go directly to RVA Comfort Cases. Lauren Cash, director of RVA CC was so excited when Olivia and I delivered the cases. They had just given out their last older child bags and were concerned with what would happen. Our donation of 53 cases will allow them to continue to hand the cases to children who need them! We look forward to continuing this vital mission to serve the children in our local area. It is our hope that will deliver more cases in a few months. – Angela Hildreth, President United Methodist Women



Dear FUMC:

I know that summer is a great time to relax, swim, have beach vacations, family reunions, etc. It is definitely my favorite season of the year. Unfortunately for many people in our community, summer is just like any other time of the year because they still have to struggle to make ends meet, put food on the table for their families. Sometimes while we are enjoying the sun at the pool or beach, they are working in that hot sun in order to pay their bills.

*Our loose change in the **RED BOX**, which goes to the Hopewell food Pantry, has been almost empty these last few months. So as summer unfortunately draws to a close, please consider putting your loose change and some paper money too in our **RED BOX** each Sunday so that we may continue to share our abundance and blessings with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you as always for your generosity.*

*Sincerely,
Dale Lipke (Missions Chair)*

Welcome to the Library



The United Methodist Women have purchased and placed in the library on designated shelves several books on the 2018 Reading List. There are at least one or two in each of the 5 categories for this year plus many going back 5 or more years. Please notice the Bulletin Board as you go down the steps from the Sanctuary and make a point to read one of those books. There is a sign-up sheet on the shelves in the library. Many of the books are not only timely but interesting.

Book review for UMW Reading List book, “**Born on Third Base**” by Chuck Collins.
Review written by Josie Cuffe

The grandson to the Oscar Meyer fortune, Chuck Collins was committed at an early age to not only making it on his own (he gave away his inheritance) but to helping others realize their potential. For 20 years he has been an advocate for keeping the Estate Tax because it is the only tax on inherited wealth. He has spoken wherever he could – nursing homes, churches, talk shows, to speak to the hearts of wealthy individuals that some have referred to as the 1%ers.

He walks the walk. He lives in the communities where he works with others who want to see the lower-economic community thrive. He is an advocate for “opening one’s heart” to realizing that those of us in today’s middle class have been given all kinds of advantages. We haven’t succeeded because we are smarter than others or work harder, it is an accrued advantage passed down to us from our parents and grandparents. Many of those 99%ers, blacks and others, have not had those same advantages. They have had menial jobs all their lives, have little education and no ability to accumulate wealth. Yet many want to blame them for not trying harder.

Inequality is institutionalized in this country – like it or not. It’s hard for us white people to be objective but if we are and really analyze the situation perhaps we could all be more sympathetic and empathetic to the situation that the inequality has engendered in this country.

Chuck Collins says that people should feel an obligation to pay back to a society that has made everything possible for us. I wish corporations would do the same. Let’s try to remember that when we all do better it is better for the whole – our Commonwealth.

He was born on Third Base – almost home; some of us were born on 2nd but most on 1st. This is not a boring book. It is well-written and thoughtful.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –

All of us who are a part of UMYF want to thank Shari and Jeff Moosman for hosting a pool party on August 11. This was the second year in a row that the Moosman's have invited us to enjoy their pool. We had a great time swimming and savoring what turned out to be a beautiful day outside. After swimming a while, dinner was served, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Shari and Jeff - thank you so much for your generosity and for your wonderful hospitality. You are truly a blessing to our youth group.



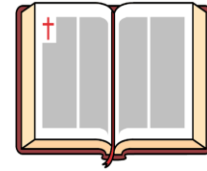
This year, UMYF is again hosting the Fall Bash in our church parking lot. This event will take place on Saturday, September 15, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. We will again be joined by the good people at The Teeny Tiny Farm. They will bring their petting zoo, including a mini cow, mini llama or alpaca, miniature donkey, mini horse, miniature pig, miniature goats, sheep, and multiple bunnies! There will also be pumpkin decorating, games, and free food. We get back in the swing of things with Sunday school in September. We will have a welcome back breakfast on Sunday, September 23 at 9:45 AM. All children, youth, and their families are invited. On Sunday, October 21, UMYF will be hosting a luncheon for the whole church in the fellowship hall immediately following the 11:00 service. Stay tuned for details about the menu. The purpose of this luncheon is to help raise awareness about hunger. Donations of any amount will be accepted and appreciated, and in an effort to help end hunger, will be given to the Hopewell Food Pantry.

FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES –

Fall is upon us once again! With our schedules refocusing from busy summer days we want to remind our church family of upcoming events. The annual church picnic will take place "under the bricks". We will host a lunch in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 7th following the 11 o'clock service. The church will provide hamburgers, tea and lemonade. Plan to join us and bring your favorite picnic side dish!



Please note that we will clean out both the freezer and the refrigerator during the month of September. Any and all food that is out of date will be discarded. Please remember to label any items that you leave in either unit. Thank you!



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR SEPTEMBER

If you really love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands. John 14:15

Jesus says we demonstrate our love for Him by obedience to what He says. We cannot hear God clearly if we are not obeying Him in what we already know to do. Without obedience we have a guilty conscience which separates us from faith and confidence. See I John 3:20-24.

The primary goal of a Christian should be to obey and glorify God. Making a full commitment to be guided daily by His principles is more important than any religious formula. Invite the Holy Spirit as your teacher in life and do your best to obey his direction. When you fail, ask for forgiveness and begin again. Don't give up or waste time and energy feeling guilty because in Christ we can always have a new beginning. People who grumble and complain do not hear God because to hear Him, they have to stop complaining. We need to focus only on God's promise to help us. Complaining opens the door for the enemy but thanksgiving opens the door for God.

Pursuing obedience and a thankful heart every day demonstrates your love for God and brings you closer to God to find His wonderful destiny for your life. Paul's letter to the Romans speaks to Jews, gentiles, new believers then and to us today. Paul talks about how the old covenant of laws of what we must do for God has been replaced by God's new covenant of what Jesus has done for us. The new covenant helps us to focus on Jesus' finished work, instead of us focusing on our sins and guilt that have kept us separated from God.

We are saved not by our efforts to obey the Old Testament laws but only by believing that Christ washed away our sins with his blood so that we may come confidently before God directly anytime as God's righteous child. We can trust that God wants to be a loving father to us and to provide for us.

The current subject of our Tuesday Bible study class is Paul's letter to the Romans. Join us and learn how God's love for you will make you strong and show you how you can overcome fear and live life with great confidence and victory. We don't have to earn God's new covenant because He already loves us!