



FIRST NEWS ..... *January & February 2019*

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*First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA*

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### A Reminder from Pastor Chris...

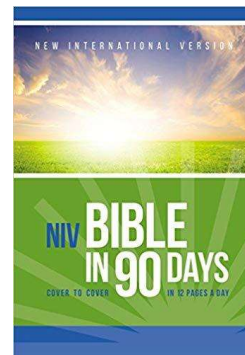
**2019 will be the year of the Bible at First UMC!** In January, we will begin a 3-month program called **The Bible in 90 days or B90!** We will read 12 pages a day of the Bible and in 3 months, we will have finished reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. There will be a Wednesday evening Bible Study to help us dig deeper into the massive amount of Scripture we will have read that week. Sunday's sermon text will be taken from that week's reading for the previous week.

### What in the world will we get out of reading the Bible so quickly?

We will get a bird's eye view of Scripture like we never have had before. *We will find ourselves reading the prophecies about the coming Messiah and a week or two later, we will begin reading about Christ's birth!* **It is a lot of work but it is worth it!** Reading plans will be available for those who wish to use their own Bibles for the program. Or, NIV large print Bibles are available with the daily reading marked out for you. There is a participant's guide to help you prepare for the discussion at the Bible study or to help you dig into your reading on your own. Be sure to stop by the office for a large-print NIV Bible already marked and to let us know that you will be participating in the B90 program.

*Join us on Wednesdays,  
beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>,  
from 7-8 p.m.*

(Covered-dish dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.)



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**We are in the process of updating our membership listing!!**

If you have moved or if there has been any changes in your information (home address, e-mail address, or phone number), please let us know. This can be emailed to Patti Williams at church at [office@fumchopewell.org](mailto:office@fumchopewell.org) or call her at 804-458-8076.



The **Chancel Choir's** wonderful Christmas musical -- "**CHRISTMAS IS CALLING – finding Peace, Hope & Joy in the Savior's Birth.**" – was recorded and is available should you want to enjoy it again or give it to someone who wasn't able to attend. To request a copy, please contact Patti Williams at the church office.



Our Tuesday morning bible study class invites you and your friends to begin your new year with us. Our one-hour class starts at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays in the meeting room.

## UPcoming EVENTS

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>.....UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING at 7:00 PM
- January 6<sup>th</sup> .....CHILI AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER at 12:00 Noon (lunch will be provided)
- January 6<sup>th</sup> .....PACKING PARTY FOR CHILDREN'S OUTREACH PROJECT, following luncheon
- January 7<sup>th</sup> .....SPECIAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING RE 2019 BUDGET at 2:00 PM
- January 7<sup>th</sup> .....PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING at 7:00 PM
- January 8<sup>th</sup> .....STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING at 5:30 PM
- January 9<sup>th</sup> .....COVERED-DISH DINNER BEFORE B90 at 6:30 PM
- January 9<sup>th</sup> .....BIBLE IN 90 DAYS from 7:00-8:00 PM (study continues on Wednesdays)
- January 12<sup>th</sup> .....UMM BREAKFAST at 8:00 AM
- January 14<sup>th</sup> .....HELPING HANDS CIRCLE MEETING at 10:30 AM
- January 27<sup>th</sup> .....MISSIONS SUNDAY – 2019 Budget Presentation at 8:45 and 11:00 AM Services
- January 27<sup>th</sup> .....MISSIONS COFFEE SALES from 9:30 AM – Noon
  
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> .....SOUP-ER BOWL LUNCHEON (UMW FUNDRAISER) at 12:00 Noon
- February 4<sup>th</sup> .....HELPING HANDS CIRCLE – Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM
- February 4<sup>th</sup> .....MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM
- February 5<sup>th</sup> .....UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING at 7:00 PM
- February 9<sup>th</sup> .....UMM BREAKFAST at 8:00 AM
- February 24<sup>th</sup> .....MISSIONS COFFEE SALES from 9:30 AM - Noon

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2018 Results



A total of 47 gift-filled shoeboxes from FUMC were dropped off for shipping to needy children around the world. Some of them included tracking labels and the report shows that our shoeboxes went to Peru, The Dominican Republic, Burundi, Ukraine, and Malawi. What a great way to share God's love in a tangible way. Thank you for supporting this mission project!



If you enjoy working on crafts/ hobbies or learning something new, come join a gathering of Christian crafters

### **“Hearts & Hands”.**

Our next meeting is Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10-12 in the Kelly Classroom. Join us and bring a friend or two!

## **WINTER HATS AND GLOVES NEEDED**

Winter hats and gloves are still being collected for the children in our area. A bin for the donations will be available throughout the winter on a shelf in the MISSIONS CORNER, which is located in the Welcoming Center at the parking lot entrance.

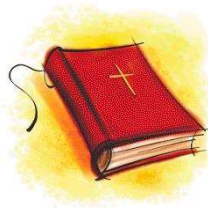


### **RVA Comfort Cases**

**(providing comfort and support for kids entering foster care in the tri-city area)**

This church-wide project runs until Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, when there will be a Chili & Sandwich Luncheon fundraiser following the 11:00 AM service with the proceeds going to Children’s Outreach. Lunch will be provided. After lunch, we will have a “packing party” to assemble the donated items and pack them into the cases/backpacks.

**MISSIONS** - Thanks to your generosity, we were able to come within a few dollars of meeting our 2018 budget. My sincere thanks to the members of the committee and the congregation for making this possible. Thank you! Dale Lipke, Missions Chair.



## SCRIPTURE VERSE

ISAIAH 12:1, 2 *"I will praise you, Lord! You were angry with me, but now you comfort me and are angry no longer. God is my savior; I will trust him and not be afraid. The Lord gives me power and strength; he is my savior."*

There are hundreds of predictions, God's promises, in the Old Testament concerning the first advent of Jesus of Nazareth, all fulfilled by Him. In this verse, Isaiah is foretelling the future when God will no longer be angry.

Joy to the world! The Lord has come. Let every heart prepare him room.

Fire and brimstone sermons about God's wrath and punishment of the Old Testament are not preaching the Good News for us today. *The law was given through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*, John 1:17. Jesus, the Messiah, has come to teach us about our Father's complete and unconditional love. Jesus died for us and took our punishment so that His blood has washed away our sins: past, present and future. Believing this with absolute trust and assurance is the way to God's kingdom, to know His bountiful blessings for each of us.

Freedom from legalism is not a call to lawlessness. Because Christ has made us clean, God is calling us to come all ye faithful. When we accept God's invitation to be one of His flock then He is leading and caring for us with unlimited and powerful love. Oh, come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.

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### **HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY**

Please consider putting your loose change and some paper money, too, in the **RED BOX** each Sunday so that we may continue to share our abundance and blessings with those who are less fortunate than ourselves.



### January Birthdays

Jan Butterworth (2), H. D. Hammond (2), Randy Rainey (2), Almentine Phipps (3), Mo Moseley (3), Katie Cave (4), Judy Karnes (6), Joanne Miller (6), Tricia Patrick (6), Bill Henry (7), Betty Lane Robbins (7), Anne Page Henry (8), Shari Moosman (9), Mimi Hines (10), Mary Tinker (11), Kenny Hines (14), Sydney Sherrill (14), Tom Fisher (17), Ann Mason Bujakowski (18), Jeff Moosman, (18), Nancy Honaker (19), Mary Sue Langley (20), Karen Rhodes (21), Mayes Marks (23), Marian Henry (23), Jim Dye (24), Earnestine Oliver (24), Scott Jones Jr. (26), Chad Houser (27), Stephanie Wimbush (28), Reed Posey (30), Alison Lawson (31)

Almentine Phipps will be celebrating her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. Her address is Hopewell Health Care Center, Room 102-A, 905 Cousins Avenue, Hopewell, VA 23860.



### January Anniversaries

Jackie and Russell Tatum (5), Dennis and Dale Lipke (17), Randy and Nancy Honaker (22), Bill and Frances Duncan (24), Dave and Beverly Johnson (27)

### February Birthdays

Jason Poe (1), Frances Duncan (2), Wilfred Frederiksen (2), Pat Steininger (2), Carl Brundin (3), Karla Gerner (4), Garet Jordan (5), Ron Rhodes (8), Brenda Harrup (9), Mike Bujakowski (9), Heather Dobbs (9), Sally Sparks (9), Robert Bishop (10), Kay Rackley (11), Rachel Narron (12), Kathy Bond (13), Dawn Williamson (13), Dick Hoagland (14), Kaitlyn Mitchell (14), Frances Myers (15), Dennis Foxworth (16), Gladys Lovelady (17), Cindy Sealey (19), Luke Butterworth (20), Pat Rainey (20), Christine Bornschein (22), Claire Richey (22), Connor Dobbs (23), Kayla Pandel (23), Tori Pierce (23), Susan Denny (26), Connie Houser (26), Sherri McGrath (26), Doug Patrick (27)

### February Anniversaries

Gus and Betty Lane Robbins (6), Ben and Kay Rackley (12), Gordon and Betty Bowman (16), Willard and Gladys Lesley (16), Doug and Tricia Patrick (23)

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### FYI....

**Communications** – Karla Gerner and Doug Patrick have been working on the church website with the new Elxio platform. This will have one database which will be used for finance, membership, One Call Tell All,

email, calendar and website. Robert Johnson is working diligently on getting the database set up. He, Patti and Carol will go through training soon.

**Elder Church** – Beverly Johnson is working on updating the list of shut-ins. The youth will be sending out cards/notes to all shut-ins.

**Missions** – “The missions committee is meeting regularly. Unfortunately, our community garden has not been a success due to lack of response from the congregation and the community. The Little Free Library is still serving its purpose. We would like to invite anyone who has a heart for missions to join us 6 times a year to plan and seek discernment as to what we should support in the years to come. The next meeting is at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, in the meeting room. Please prayerfully consider joining our great team. Thank you – Dale Lipke, Missions Chair”

**Scouts** – There are a number of new scouts and cubs. Leaders are needed!

**Strategic Planning** – Karla Gerner announced a Strategic Planning Process has formed and she will be chairing it. A specific group of folks have been selected to form this committee and started meeting in October. Rev. Andrew Book from the James River District office will be a resource person during the process. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

**SPR** – A question/concern has been raised regarding what is available for an elementary age child to be able to do during the 11:00 worship service in lieu of sitting in the service. Cindy Altman is having children’s choir. But if a child does not want to participate, what else is there? The SPR has spoken with the nursery attendants and they have resources available to provide a lesson/activity for this age group.

**Church Safety/Security** – Procedures are being developed. The Usher Teams have already started receiving training on the procedures for securing the building during worship services.

**Church Announcements** – Gene Day questioned how all of the programs, events, etc. that are planned are announced – weekly bulletin, newsletter, emails, outside LED sign. He was at another church recently and they had a TV monitor displaying upcoming information. He wondered if we could have something similar possibly on the TV monitor in the welcome area. He will discuss such with Robert Johnson in regards to the new Elexio program.

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The United Methodist Women have purchased and placed in the library on designated shelves several books on the 2018 Reading List. The focus of the UMW Reading Program points toward involvement in Christian mission in its many forms. Books are available in the church library for anyone and everyone to borrow and read. Your cooperation in signing the book out as you take it would be appreciated. Josie Cuffe recently read one of the books and has provided the following review:

“The Golden Cage” by Shirin Ebadi (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate)

I have to admit that before reading this book I was largely ignorant of the politics involving Iran. I feel compelled to bring what information I gleaned to those who like me, want to be knowledgeable. I’m being as accurate as I possibly can as the history is complicated.

For 50 years, the Pavlavi dynasty ruled in Iran (1926-1956). Problems concerning the oil fields which had been signed over to a British man, William Knox D’Arcy, for a 20% interest for Iran by another Shah in 1901 was later to become a bone of contention. Reza Shah who took over in 1926 and his son Mohammad westernized Iran. When Reza was forced out because of his tacit approval of Hitler, Mohammad took over and almost immediately had a more open attitude. One of

the persons in government, Mossadegh Ambriothe, succeeded in voiding the pact with Britain concerning the old fields and immediately became very popular. He became Prime Minister, but the Shah dismissed him and, in an apparent coup, he was arrested and tried for treason. He died in prison in 1967. (In an apparent concession to the U.S. involvement, Madelline Albright later said the US had made a mistake and apologized to the Iranian people. Many said that had Mossadegh remained in power, his reforms would have forestalled the radicalization of the Shah's regime and prevented the Islamic Revolution.)

Mohammad and his father before him said that women were not to wear veils and had transferred judicial power from religious leaders to its pre-Islamic origins breaking with Sharia law. Other reforms involving redistribution of land were opposed by the clergy because they were large land holders. They also opposed the "army of knowledge" a group of young people the government sent out among the people teaching them how to read and write. This was work the clergy had normally done and, of course, they didn't like it because they could no longer be a major influence in religious ways on the people. Merchants didn't support the reforms either as they feared fiscal policies would ruin their businesses.

The growing influence of the Khomeini was even more pronounced after Black Friday in 1978 when the military shot into a demonstration. The Khomeini became the voice recognized as the voice against the Shah. Nationalists, communists and Islamists joined forces to protest for Iran. Gravely ill, the Shah left Iran in 1979. Khomeini returned and because of the weakness of the transitional government, he created an Islamic Republic. He became Supreme Leader. The new constitution put all power in the hands of a few. A decree was issued: the veil must be observed and polygamy legalized.

Like the Shah, arrests and torture were for those enemies who opposed them. When Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State shook hands with Saddam Hussain, it made the Iranians support the Islamic Revolution even more because Iran hated Iraq with whom they had had a war – and now the Satan US was supporting them.

The Revolution sought everyone who might in the slightest way have said anything against them and jailed and executed them. You were an enemy if you didn't praise the government even after the war ended. Writers were targeted. The mass executions of the early years were protested by the UN which sent in delegates to investigate, but in secrecy, they continued by tribunals or special operations teams headed by religious leaders. Well-known dissidents were killed, one that drew international attention in 1992. The religious leaders confiscated property of anyone they thought they could.

AGAINST THIS HISTORICAL BACKDROP IS THE STORY OF "THE GOLDEN CAGE". IT IS ABOUT AN IRANIAN FAMILY WITH 3 SONS WHO EACH WENT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT and a daughter who became a peace prize recipient. IT IS A GRIPPING STORY, ONE THAT IS DIFFICULT TO PUT DOWN. The history is woven into her story and is more incidental than I have made it out to be. Because I knew nothing of Iran, I took notes but the story of the family is gut-wrenching and sad – incidents in our lifetimes that we in the US never have had to deal with.



**JANUARY**

Ushers: R. Honaker, G. Bowman, M. Bujakowski, J. Moosman, C. Moseley  
Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service  
 January 6, 2019 Christy Frank  
 January 13, 2019 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer  
 January 20, 2019 Curly Moore  
 January 27, 2019 Margie Dowden  
Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Helping Hands Circle

**FEBRUARY**

Ushers: D. Patrick, R. Anderson, D. Calloway, G. Hamilton, D. Johnson  
Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service  
 February 3, 2019 Christy Frank  
 February 10, 2019 Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer  
 February 17, 2019 Curly Moore  
 February 24, 2019 Margie Dowden  
Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Karla Gerner and Rita Gerner

**Month ending November 30, 2018**



**Treasurer Report**

Beginning balance as of 11/1/18 .....	\$ (1,801.22)
Income for November.....	19,323.12
Expenses for November.....	(19,758.89)
Adjustments .....	2,528.72
Balance as of 11/30/18.....	291.73
Designated Funds Balance .....	55,941.71
Money Market Balance.....	67,651.95
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) .....	500.00



## **Thank You Notes**

**RED BIRD MISSION** – Thank you for your gift of \$200 to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

**UMCOR** - Thank you for your generous gift of \$300 to UMCOR – Where Most Needed Fund. Your generosity makes it possible for the church to extend God's mission across the globe to more than 60 countries and many areas of the United States.

**UMCOR** – Thank you for your gift of \$150 to support US Disaster Response and Recovery.

## **Weekly Schedule**

Sundays	8:45 AM	Worship in Trinity Chapel
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	12:00 PM	Youth Group (as scheduled)
Mondays	10 -12 Noon	Requests for Food Pantry Vouchers and Emergency Needs
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
Wednesdays	10 -12 Noon	Requests for Food Pantry Vouchers and Emergency Needs
	7:00 PM	Cub Scouts
	7:00 PM	The Bible in 90 Days
Thursdays	6:10 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts
Fridays		

## **Our Mission Statement**

***Connecting in Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love, and Making Disciples in Jesus Christ!***

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**First News** is a regular publication for members and friends of First United Methodist Church and is published on a bi-monthly basis. 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)

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### **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

Jan Buttenworth, Lay Leader  
Mary Taylor, Tori Pierce, Nursery Attendants  
Cindy Altman, Chapel Pianist/Children's Choir Director  
Gloria Donati, Custodian