



FIRST NEWS .....*March & April 2019*

U  
M  
C

*First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA*

---

Welcome to Lent and Happy Easter First United Methodist Church!

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3***

I pray you have a meaningful Lenten experience as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday! This year we have been reading the Bible together. We are more than half way through the Old Testament now. Let that sink in. Let it sink in some more. We will not be having Lenten Suppers this year since we are in the midst of the Wednesday night component of the Bible in 90 Days program. But I **encourage** you to consider joining us in reading, or just in participating in the Bible Studies when we begin studying the New Testament during Lent. You will add much to our discussion and you will gain much too. So pray about it, and then join us on Wednesday nights at 7 pm!

Grace and peace,

Chris



### **Ash Wednesday**

We will begin the Season of Lent on Wednesday, March 6 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary with a special message and Disposition of the Ashes.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Join us for a Maundy Thursday service on April 18, 2019 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

We will think about Who is Maundy? What is Maundy?  
And we will celebrate Holy Communion in a different way than we normally do.

### **Easter Sunday**

Join us on Easter Sunday for a combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10 am.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite and bring some friends to celebrate the Resurrection!!



## UPcoming EVENTS

March 3 – 6:00 pm	Daniel Elmore Presentation On Korea with a Pot Luck Dinner
March 5 – 7:00 pm	UMW Exec Board Meeting
March 6 – 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
March 9 – 8:00 am	UMM Breakfast
March 10 -- 9:45 am	Kelly Class - Open House
March 11 – 10:30 am	Helping Hands Meeting
March 16 – 8:00 am	UMW Pancake Breakfast
March 19 – 5:30 pm	Strategic Planning Meeting
March 25 – 11:00 am	Guilders Meeting
March 31	UMCOR Sunday
April 2 – 7:00 pm	UMW Exec Board Meeting
April 8 -- 10:30 am	Helping Hands Meeting
April 14 – 11:00 am	Easter Cantata
April 18 -- 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
April 20 -- 5:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt
April 21 – 10:00 am	Easter Sunday (One Service)
.....	
April 22 – 11:00 am	Guilders Meeting
April 27 – 5:00 pm	"Blessing of Animals"



### An Easter Musical Celebration presented by the Chancel Choir

**Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM**

We celebrate Easter  
on Easter Sunday and with other events  
leading up to that day ...  
but do we think about what Easter really  
means to our everyday lives –  
*every day* throughout our lives –  
**FOREVER?**

Our musical program this year  
will focus on what  
Easter really means to us.

Anthems will include  
"The Road to Calvary"  
"Hallelujah" and  
"Amazing Grace/My Sins are Gone"  
plus other inspiring selections,  
ending with the dynamic  
"We Believe!"

Join us as we are reminded of how our  
lives are **FOREVER** blessed  
by the miracle of Easter!



Rev. Daniel Elmore will be  
presenting his program on his  
recent trip to Korea on Sunday,  
March 3rd. We will have a pot luck  
supper at 6:00 PM with his  
program following. Come hear how the  
Methodist Church in Korea is rapidly growing  
and what we may learn from them!



**SATURDAY,**  
**APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>- 5-6 PM**

Bring your children,  
grandchildren,  
nieces, nephews,

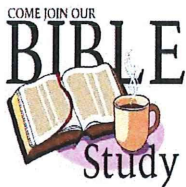
and neighborhood kids for lots of fun  
finding Easter Eggs. There will be  
hot dogs with chips and drinks for  
everyone!

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



On Saturday, April 27, at 5 pm FUMC will be holding our first community blessing of the animals followed by a snack supper in our parking lot.

The Blessing of Animals witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. It is also a service with special appeal to children. Start spreading the news to your friends, club houses and community associations. We need your help to make sure we have a good turnout.



You are invited to join our Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the Kelly Classroom. We are near the end of the book of Isaiah where we are finding

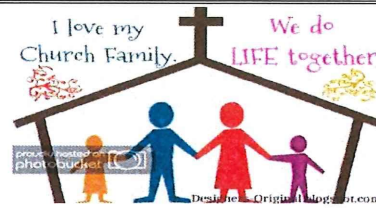
encouraging words for us today as well as many references to the coming Messiah. We are looking forward to studying the Gospel of Matthew whose overriding purpose was to demonstrate that the carpenter from Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah.

### Join the Kelly Class for Coffee & Donuts



Sunday, March 10th  
9:45 - 10:45 am

Spring is such a lovely time for you to join us for **Adult Bible Studies in Sunday School!** You are invited to The 'Kelly Class' for coffee and donuts and breakfast treats in hopes of recruiting new members. Please come and bring a friend!! The interdenominationally developed cycle is arranged by seasons. This Spring, we will be studying about the 'Call' specifically, discipleship and missions. Winter was about 'Love' specifically, our love for God.



### HOW TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS TO OUR CHURCH

One of the most effective ways to welcome new faces into our church is to have them brought by someone they know. A friend, neighbor, or co-worker can provide a level of comfort to ease the sense of isolation that often comes when entering an unfamiliar space for the first time. You should regularly bring along new faces that could benefit from our ministries. You can bring your guests to one of the monthly UMW lunches for extra fun and fellowship. Be sure they get one of our NEW VISITOR GIFT BOXES located on the communion rail. Let each one of us welcome them and encourage them to come back the following week.

### New communication system

Our church now has a new computer system which sends out emails and phone calls to our members and various groups in the church. The emails come from various group leaders with an email address of [noreply@elexiochms.com](mailto:noreply@elexiochms.com). Please check your spam folder to be sure you are not missing any important church emails! Please be patient as we are still working on improving the new calling system. If you are receiving phone calls on your cell phone and would like to have these calls come through on your home phone, please let Carol Elmore know ([teecbe@gmail.com](mailto:teecbe@gmail.com)). Please be sure to let Patti in the church office know if your address, phone number and/or email address change. Did you know we have to pay extra for any mail sent to an incorrect address? That postage adds up, so help us stay up-to-date!



WiFi is now available in FUMC. To use the church WiFi please set your device to Psalm\_23, using a capital "P".



Dear FUMC friends,

When we presented our budget in January, it was mentioned that we were considering supporting a scholarship program through an organization called Art for Humanity which is based in Honduras. It sponsors children enabling them to go to elementary school. The children come from varied home situations so the sponsorship amounts differ. They start from as little as \$20 per month.

There are many ways we can help these children, we can sponsor a child as an individual, a family, Sunday school class, women's or men's group, or share the financial responsibility with a friend or coworker. If you choose to participate in this please understand that this will be a monthly commitment. I would also like to stress that this project is over and above our regular giving to missions NOT instead of it.

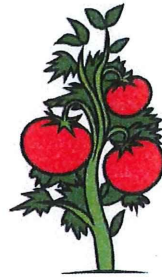
On Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Glenn Evans the director of Art for Humanity will be visiting our church and speaking to this very worthwhile cause. He will be able to explain the program and answer any questions you may have. There will be pictures of some of the children who need sponsorship on one of our bulletin boards. I would ask you to prayerfully consider getting involved in this project. Education is many times the springboard that enables children (and adults) to rise above their situations into a more meaningful and productive life. I do not think we could ever comprehend the value of a gift like this.

If you would like more detailed information their website is

<https://www.artforhumanity.org/hibs/these-students-need-a-sponsor/>

Thank you,

Dale Lipke (Missions Chair)



## FUMC GARDEN BEDS

Last year, unfortunately, the community did not show an interest harvesting our community garden behind the church parking lot.

So this year, the missions committee has agreed to let our church members use the beds for their personal use. You are welcome to plant your own vegetables and/or flowers by labeling them with your name and water them when needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your harvest with your friends. Fresh flowers for the alter would be a wonderful gift, too.



### ***March 31st will be UMCOR SUNDAY.***

Special UMCOR envelopes will be provided for our donations to cover the administration costs at the United Methodist Committee on Relief. When a specified donation is made to UMCOR, you can be assured that 100% of every dollar will go to the program you specify.

UMCOR Sunday is our annual opportunity to support the administration that is essential in the planning to execute these programs.

See the UMCOR website at <https://www.umcor.org> for more information.



## SCRIPTURE VERSE

*"Be strong and  
courageous, Do not be  
afraid or terrified  
because of them, for the*

*Lord your God goes with you; he will never  
leave you nor forsake you."*

***Deuteronomy 31:6***

Every book of the bible contains great and mighty promises and we need every promise God has given us so we can stand firm and look up without wavering ( Hebrews 10:23). All of the Bible's forty writers keep pointing their readers to God's powerful promises, which we can claim for ourselves. The narrative running throughout the Bible reveals the importance of keeping our eyes and attention on God, regardless of the situation being faced. Instead of looking at our physical surroundings and circumstances we need to focus our attention on the Lord and His promises. The more we bask in the truth of His Word and the power of His presence the more our worries dissolve. God is the source of our strength, health, favor, provision, wisdom, hope, salvation and glory.

God has promised you His constant presence, but are you 'seeing' His presence wherever you are? When you do, you will experience a peace when you feel nervous, focus when you feel distracted, energy when you feel tired, and a mind to do the work required. You will "feel" him guiding you to make the right choices and to reflect His love to those around you.

Read and claim God's promises for your life today. Everything God has for you is freely available for you because Christ has paid for your sins. He has good plans for you. Believe and experience His promises.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Annie Kathryn Diradour (2), Jackson Diradour (3), Randy Honaker (4), Mike Smith (4), Sarah Moody (6), Mackenzie Parr (6), Melva Armstrong (7), Tom Heimbuch (7), Bonnie Griffith (8), Robert Johnson (8), Jorday Blaney (9), Linda Cahoon (9), Zuwena Hill (9), Tonda Huddleston (10), Jeanne Thompson (12), Debbie Marks (16), Brian Dixon (17), Aubrey Posey (36), Carolyn Hoagland (29), Sam Dobbs (30)

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Thurman & Carol Elmore (1), David & Debbie Hunt (14), Ron & Karen Rhodes (25)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

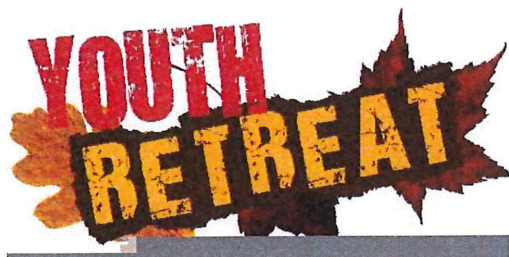
David Lovelady (3), Ethan Rotz (3), Kim Taylor (3), Carol Elmore (4), Charles Minshew (5), Allison Henry (8), Mary Beth Rackley (11), Mary Taylor (11), Courtney Bujakowski (12), Ronald Watson (12), Kevin Frank (15), Jason Myers (15), Ben Rackley (18), Jaclyn Hines (19), Kelly Flournoy (21), Evy Rackley (23), Susan Mason (25), Scott Honaker (26), Kathy Fisher (28), Branwyn McCormick (28), Adria Andress (29), Joyce Purr (29), David Taber (30)

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny and Mimi Hines (28)

# UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Our UMYF attended the James River District youth retreat (Jesus Camp) February 8-10 in Wakefield.



Here are some comments from the youth:

The retreat was a place where I could really connect with God. My connection to him grew stronger. I made new friends there and I will always be thankful for them. At the retreat, you can just be who you are. I was accepted for being me. I'm so glad I got to go because of my connection to God and the new friends I made.

The retreat is where you grow closer to God, grow closer to other people, and have a good time. While we were there we got to meet other people, listen to live music, play fun games, and heard insightful sermons. This experience has helped our youth group become closer and we made a lot of unforgettable memories we will never forget.

Youth Sunday will be coming soon, so stay tuned to the bulletin inserts or the calendar on the church website for more information.

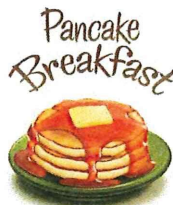
# UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 8:00 a.m. for Breakfast & Fellowship. We usually have a guest speaker from our Community at the breakfast.

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women had a great response to our Soup-er Bowl Sunday luncheon and want to thank everyone for their participation. We raised \$428 that goes towards Missions.

The UMW Spring retreat is scheduled on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at Wesley UMC in Colonial Heights.



Mark your calendars for our Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00/ticket.

UMW members will have tickets to sell on Sunday mornings if you are interested. Come with your friends, family and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!

Coming up in April is our UMW Lasagna Luncheon. It will be immediately following the Church Service on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Again, please invite your friends and family to join us!





**MARCH**

Ushers: R. Honaker, G. Bowman,  
M. Bujakowski, J. Moosman, C. Moseley

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service

- March 3 – Christy Frank
- March 10 – Joyce Purr & Ben Farmer
- March 17 – Curly Moore
- March 24 – Margie Dowden
- March 31 – Volunteer

Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service –  
Mary Hamilton and Verna Brundin

**APRIL**

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

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service

- April 7 – Christy Frank
- April 14 – Joyce Purr & Ben Farmer
- April 21 – Curly Moore
- April 28 – Margie Dowden

**Thank You Notes**

**HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY**

From Dick Commander, Director of HFP:  
The total loose change donated to the Hopewell Food Pantry in 2018 was \$614. On behalf of the Hopewell Food Pantry Board and the many families we serve, I want to thank all the people at First United Methodist Church for their ongoing help. With your help, we shall continue to provide food to the clients coming to our pantry (11,000 client visits in each of the last six years). Your generous support, along with that of many others, allows our mission to be successful.

Please check out the HFP Facebook page under Hopewell Food Pantry and our website at [www.hopewellfoodpantry.com](http://www.hopewellfoodpantry.com)

**UMCOR** - Thank you for your generous gift of \$800 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.

**MERCY MALL** – Thank you for your gift of \$213, Your donation provided not only necessary personal, baby and household items, but also love, hope, and encouragement.

**REGENESIS** – Thank you for your continued support to our organization.



**Month ending  
January 31, 2019**

**Treasurer  
Report**

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 1/1/19...	\$ 7,410.65
Income for January .....	\$ 17,909.74
Expenses for January .....	(25,467.26)
Balance as of 1/31/19 .....	(146.87)
 Designated Funds Balance .....	 \$122,352.76
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account)	\$500.00

*From the family of Ernestine Oliver*

\*\*\*\*

*Thank you for all of the love and support we received from the FUMC family and friends. Ernestine loved the church and enjoyed all of the visits over the years.*

## 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	6:15 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!***

---

**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)

---

### CHURCH STAFF

Chris Andress, Senior Pastor

Patti Williams, Administrative Assistant  
Judy Blevins, Director of Music  
Nancy Honaker, Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist  
Scott & Patricia Honaker, Youth Directors

Jan Butterworth, Lay Leader  
Mary Taylor, Tori Pierce, Sheila Villagomez, Larry Hildreth, Nursery Attendants  
Cindy Altman, Chapel Pianist/Children's Choir Director  
Gloria Donati, Custodian