



FIRST NEWS *May & June 2019*

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First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA

From the mouths of babes:

“Mom I know you’ve loved me as long as I’ve lived but I’ve loved you my whole life.”

Happy Mother’s Day to all moms and Happy Father’s Day to all the dads !

Sarah Ruden said, **“love is manically verb centered.”** So is parenting. Active verbs show the heart of an active God. Nurturing, instructing, protecting, disciplining, nursing, serving, calming, enjoying, challenging, teaching, cleaning, entertaining, worrying over, singing over, playing with and the list could go on. Mothers and fathers teach us a lot about God. **How?** Fathers and mothers energetically love, God energetically loves. Fathers and mothers actively love, God actively loves.

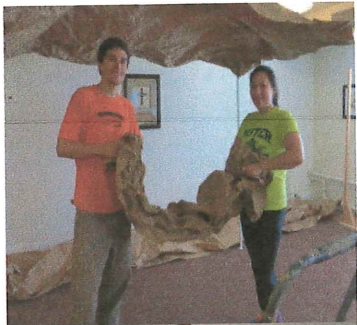
We read about Jesus’ mother:

Luke 2:51 “Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

Mothers and fathers also treasure a life full of memories and moments of their children’s lives. Thank you to all the dads and moms who actively love their children into wonderful adults, disciples and future parents!

May God bless all the fathers and mothers as much as they have blessed us!

Chris



Thanks to Scott & Trish Honaker!

I hope you will join me in expressing thanks to Scott & Trish for so many years of wonderful dedication and leadership to our youth at First United Methodist Church! I remember so many fun and interesting ways they connected fun and depth of learning to help our youth grow on their relationships with Christ. The Shadow play! The petting zoos! The retreats! The Sunday school classes and youth meetings! When you remember these things and the many other ways they have helped our youth grow, mention it to them as you thank them for their years of service. And please say something like Paul said the believers in Phillipi:

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. 4 I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. 5 I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. 6 I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.

Scott & Trish,

We thank God every time we mention you in our prayers, thankful for you every time we pray, and its always a prayer filled with joy! We love how you have partnered with us in the ministry of the Gospel for so many years! We're sure about this: what you have started here God will finish because of your faithfulness.

God bless you as you have blessed us and the youth!

Chris (On behalf of every soul that is First UMC!)



UPcoming EVENTS

May 1 -- 7:00 pm	UMW Exec Board Mtg
May 6-- 6:30 pm	Potluck Dinner & Guest Speaker at 7:00 pm
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May 11 -- 8:00 am	UMM Breakfast
May 12 --	MOTHER'S DAY
May 13 -- 10:30 am	UMW Helping Hands
May 14 -- 7:00 pm	Finance Committee
May 18 -- 2:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
May 19 -- 12:00 pm	UMW Luncheon Chicken & Waffles
.....	
May 20 -- 6:00 pm	Boy Scout District Dinner
.....	
May 21 -- 5:30 pm	Strategic Planning
June 2 -- 11:00 am	Graduation Sunday
June 3 -- 2:00 pm	Missions Meeting
June 3 -- 7:00 pm	Program Planning
June 9 -- 12:00 pm	UMW Salad Fundraiser
June 10 -- 10:30 am	Helping Hands
June 16 --	FATHER'S DAY
June 24 -- 11:00 am	UMW Guilders Meeting

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



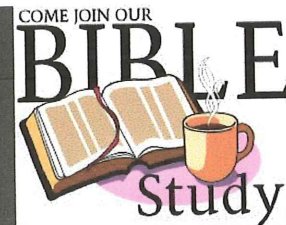
***On Saturday, May 18th,
at 2 pm FUMC will be
holding our first
community blessing of
the animals in our
parking lot.***

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.



*We invite everyone to
worship with us on
May 12th as we
celebrate
Mother's Day.*

*We hope you can join us on
June 16th when we have an
opportunity to honor our
Fathers during our
Worship Service.*



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The Tuesday morning Bible Study Class wants you and your friends to visit our class! Our one hour class starts at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays in the meeting room. The only text book you need is your Bible.

In May we are continuing to review and discuss the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's purpose was to prove to his Jewish audience and to us today, that the son of a carpenter from Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah, the King of the Jews. Matthew shows that Christ is the heir of the line of King David and demonstrates that He is the fulfillment of dozens of Old Testament prophecies regarding the king who would come.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH



The Easter egg hunt on April 20th was a success. Several dozen children from the neighborhood and from our own church family got lots of Easter candy and even some additional prizes. A lot of folks stayed for hot dogs as well. UMYF would like to thank everyone who participated, and a special thank you to those who came early to prepare food and set up for the event.



Special note from Scott & Trish-
In July, Trish and I will be stepping down from our positions as co-youth directors. It has been a privilege to serve the church in this capacity. Thank you for supporting the girls and us over the last three and a half years. We will continue to encourage and pray for the youth and know the church family will do the same. We remain convinced that God will continue to work in the lives of the youth at FUMC, doing immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine.

*With Love,
 Scott and Trish*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thanks to all for supporting our Lasagna/ Konkydoodle Luncheon Fundraiser on April 7th!! It was very successful and all of the proceeds (\$418) will go towards MISSIONS!

UMW WILL SPONSOR CHILD

After listening to Rev Glen Evans on March 31st about how we can help the children of Honduras receive an education, the UMW have decided to sponsor a child through Artforhumanity.org We challenge other groups within the church to do the same.



ORGAN DONATION SPEAKER

Monday night, MAY 6th

Patricia Dean from LifeNet

Health will be speaking to us about organ donation at 7:00 pm. Please come and bring your friends to find out more about this important subject. We are planning a potluck dinner at 6:30 so bring your favorite dish to share. All offerings will be donated to the LifeNet Health Foundation.



The UMW is sponsoring a chicken & waffle luncheon fundraiser! MAY 19 @ 12 PM. Please join us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE 9TH.

We will be tempting you with all types of delicious salads for lunch. Join us @ 12 noon.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us on the 2nd Saturday at 8:00 am for Breakfast & Fellowship. We usually have a guest speaker from our Community.



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.

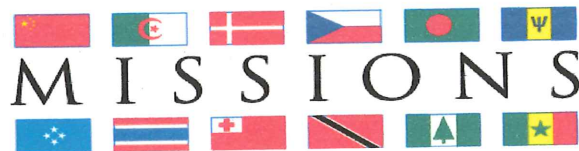
New communication system

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@elxiochms.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 (teecebe@gmail.com).

Please be sure to let Patti in the church office know if your address, phone number and/or email address changes.



WiFi is now available in FUMC. To use the church WiFi please select the FUMC2.4 Network on your device and enter Psalm_23,(using a capital "P") as the password.



Dear FUMC friends,

The Missions Committee was favorably impressed with the Rev Glen Evans as he addressed our congregation on March 31st on the needs of the people in Honduras, especially the quality of the education there. We ask you all to consider sponsorship of one of those children. Our church has often helped our local children with school supplies... imagine how great it would be if we could enable some children to actually go to school. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in this matter. If you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact me at dalelipke@yahoo.com or Glen Evans at Artforhumanity.org.

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)

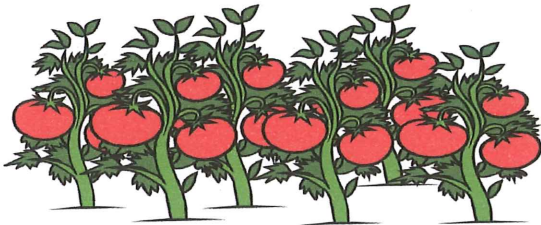


A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW is sponsoring

Katherine! She is in the 3rd grade. Please consider sponsoring a child through Artforhumanity.org The UMW has challenged other groups within the church to do the same.

FUMC GARDEN BEDS FOR OUR MEMBERS



You are welcome to plant your own vegetables and/or flowers in the FUMC garden beds behind our parking lot. Just label them with your name and water them when needed.

Early May is the time to plant peppers and tomatoes. To plant them any sooner would stunt their growth and cause their blossoms to drop off.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share your harvest with your friends. Fresh flowers for the altar would be a wonderful gift, too.

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.

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 31st was UMCOR SUNDAY...and we would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions. We collected \$210 for this very special committee. See the UMCOR website at <https://www.umcor.org>

SCRIPTURE VERSE



Ephesians 5:15, 17 *"Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Don't act*

thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do."

Wisdom is not the same thing as knowledge. It is not just about knowing what's good for you, God's will, but applying that knowledge to your decisions every day. Seeking spiritual wisdom is ongoing. Like the wise men who came in search of the newborn king, we need to be curious, get up, learn new things and go see what the Lord is leading us to do. We need to get out of our comfort zone to be willing to see new places, meet new people, and do new activities.

Under the free will God has given to us, wisdom is a choice for each one of us to seek the Lord's viewpoint. Become familiar with scripture to make wise choices whenever they arise. Wisdom leads us to make the right decisions and how to approach someone with the right words that won't leave them angry or offended.

Proverbs 9: 10-12 tells us, ***"The fear (respect and reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer"***.

We can ask God for wisdom and expect it and receive it as young Solomon did. Let God show you the right thing to do each day. We need wisdom to grow, learn and change for the better.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Roger Miles (4), Kathy Anderson (6),
 Louise Conover (6), Thurman Elmore (6),
 Kym 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),
 Bunn and Melva Armstrong (21),
 Tony & Teresa Sherrill (29)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Dye (2), Meredith Rackley (4),
 Jake Butterworth (4), Melissa Markland (4),
 June Minshew (8), William Lawson (8),
 Glenda Barefoot (9), Carolyn Gentry (10),
 Halee Wadsworth (11), Diana Zavislak (11),
 Olivia Pandel (12), Mae Vaughan (14),
 Alizabeth Moody (16), Stuart Posey (16),
 Ben Farmer (19), Taylor Parr (21),
 Michael Sherrill (24), Chase Richey (25),
 Scott Williamson (25), Scott Martin (26)



MAY

Ushers: B. Henry, J. Dye, B. Rackley, B. Clarke

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 May 5 – Christy Frank
 May 12 – Joyce Purr & Ben Farmer
 May 19 – Curly Moore
 May 26 – Margie Dowden

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

JUNE

Ushers: D. Patrick, R. Anderson, G. Hamilton,
 D. Johnson

Greeters: 8:45 a.m. Worship Service
 June 2 – Christy Frank
 June 9 – Joyce Purr & Ben Farmer
 June 16 – Curly Moore
 June 23 – Margie Dowden
 June 30 – Volunteer

Greeters: 11:00 a.m. Worship Service –
 Marian Henry and Judy Karnes



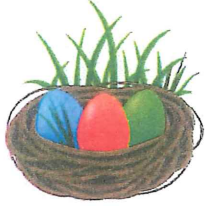
Treasurer Report

**Month ending
 March 31, 2019**

Operating fund:
 Beginning balance as of 3/1/19...\$ 9,793.57
 Income for January \$ 21,014.67
 Expenses for January (20,734.02)
 Balance as of 1/31/19 \$10,074.22*

Designated Funds Balance \$128,207.59
 Love & Needy
 (Separate Checking Account) \$500.00

*There was a one-time giving of \$10,000 in February.
 Balance is actually \$74.22 from regular monthly giving



General Board of Global Ministries
Street Children Ministry in Cambodia
Happy Easter! 2019



Dear Friends.

We are again celebrating Easter 2019. It reminds us that Jesus rose again from the dead. We too will live again like him if we believe in Him and obey His command. We thank God for the opportunity to share this privilege to believe and obey Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. This is the reason why we are in Cambodia. We are here to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus! Our ministry to the Street Children and their Families is the way how to do this. Praise God you are there to support us both in prayers and financial help.

As we commemorate this very important event in the life of our Lord Jesus, we cannot help but thank God to thank for your lives, my dear friends who continue to support us in this ministry. Like people in darkness, our street children here in Cambodia need light and support in their difficult situation.

"Each of us is a star. Sometimes situations take our shine away. Sometimes we shine with the rest, sometime we twinkle alone. But we have to realize that sometimes, we are the only light for someone in times of darkness. Let your light shine no matter what." I am inspired by this statement, It is because I know I am not alone in this ministry of GBGM. You are there with me and I cannot do anything without you.

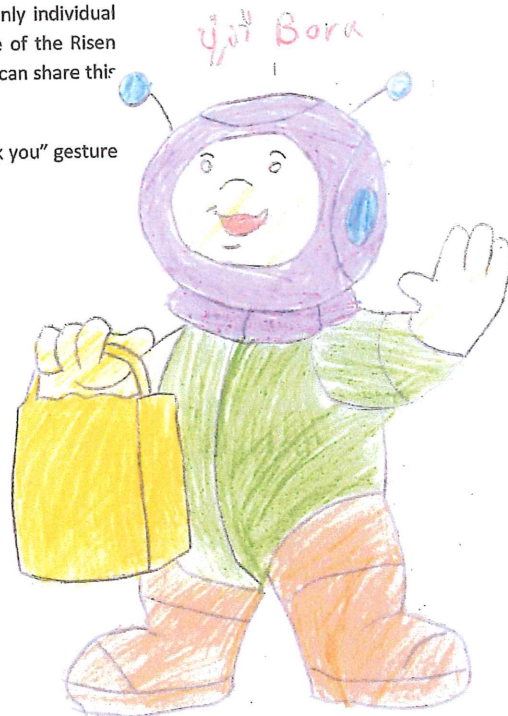
Thank you very much. We can minister to these, the "Least of my brethren" as Jesus has said. We can accomplish many things through your help. God bless you always.

May we continue to share our love through our support to transform not only individual children, but their families as well. We are instruments to proclaim the love of the Risen Christ. As He rose from the dead, we will be risen too. How nice it is that we can share this to others. Through our ministry, we are spreading God's love.

An Easter card is attached which was sketched by our children. This is a "thank you" gesture of love for you. Thank you so much. Happy Easter 2019!!!

Very truly yours,

Clara Mridula Biswas
P.O. Box 2493
Phnom Penh3, Cambodia



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
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 15th 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

Phone (804) 458-8076
E-Mail: 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