

First United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

January 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

Inviting

Guests Among Us: You did it. Jesus heard your prayers and continues to bless our congregation with guests each Sunday. When you went to someone's home and invited them to worship; they responded. When you called them, emailed them or just sent them a Facebook message they responded. Most of all, when folks arrived you treated them with great respect. How many guests, our first Sunday in January started with 29 guests present in our worship service.

Confirmation Class: January 15 begins our 2020 Confirmation class. The purpose of this 12-week class is to help students increase in their faith and answer their questions. It will take part for our 6th grade students as a part of our Take TWO program on Wednesdays. If you would like your child or grandchild to take part of this training with Pastor Brian please talk to Teresa Fields.

Hispanic Ministry: A family of five Hispanics has been attending worship. Two of them speak little or no English. They only come to support their children. They represent a group of around 30 individuals in Giles County who speak Spanish as their primary language. At this point no church in our county is providing worship for this group in their language. Could we be that church home for them? Could we host a Bible Study for them on Sunday mornings? Could we bring in a Jesus-loving, Spanish-speaking teacher to lead the group? Could groups in our church agree to provide a breakfast for the group at 9 a.m. so that they would feel welcome? The Lord has already provided funds to get the program started. Once we find a leader, we are ready to go.

Growing

Resurrection 2020: This is the event that is a proven life-changer. It is a weekend where youth and adults are faced with faith questions and given a chance to say "Yes" to life with Jesus. It is a time when they are even invited to go into full-time service for Christ. And yes, they have fun! This year Renee Williams is leading a group that consists of 12-16 kids and 3-6 adults. The dates are January 24-26. Rejoicing that our church continues to take part in adventures that change lives.

Preschool Staff Changes: Tina Hedrick would like to announce that beginning in January Joyce Marion returns as the primary teacher for the 3-year-old class. We give thanks for Teresa Perdue who was a vital part of our school staff and pray for God's blessing upon her life.

Celebrations from 2019: Financial: All bills were paid, and that includes 100% of our commitment to the New River District and the Holston Annual Conference. We gave to all the areas of mission to qualify once again as a Five-Star church. Our giving to local needs exceeded \$9,900. Instead of a staff raise this year, we were able to distribute \$2,000 as a year-end bonus among our 8 church staff members.

HUB Ministries: Our church works side-by-side with our 18 other UM Churches in our county. Together we got to enjoy the gifts of Tim & Amanda Cowles during the Giles Family Resurrection Event. We saw 100 children take part in the Camp-in-the-Community events. we hosted all three of the Appalachian Trail Chaplains this year. you helped distributed 300+ country ham biscuits to those involved with the Muddy ACCE race. And we took part in the Giles Carilion Hospital Trunk or Treat.

Shared Space: Our church building is a tool for ministry; and it is a joy to share it with a host of groups. Whether it is the Giles County Community Chorus, the Bible Study Fellowship, the Macy Backpack Program, Narcotics Anonymous, New River Community Action Parenting classes, Giles Christian Mission Angel Tree, Head Start Christmas program, Giles Junior Women's Breakfast with Santa, or the Giles Extension program for Food safety or fun for Orchard Grove. Each of these groups brings people into our facility and they begin to realize that this is a safe place where Jesus reigns.

Take TWO: Take Two will resume Wednesday, January 15 from 3:30-4:45. The Bible focus will be the Fruits of the Spirit based on Galatians 5:22-23. The sixth graders will be led by Pastor Brian in a twelve week confirmation study. The last regular week will be April 1 with our concluding picnic the following week (April 8) at Treasure Island in Pembroke.

Serving Others

Thrive Giles: Will you be among the 18 volunteers who help that day? We start at 9 and should be done by 1. As leaders in the county we are going to be the first group to enact the new distribution plan. We gather at the Giles High School Cafeteria and split into two groups. One group delivers 125 meals to folks in Pearisburg. The other group prepares the 600 to-go plates. Jo Ann Zimmernan and Ellen Salmon are our key leaders in this event.

February 16 - Alaska Day: That Sunday, stick around after worship and enjoy a free meal. As you enjoy the meal, you are invited to leave a donation to assist the 2020 Alaska Mission Team. It would be great if we could at least raise \$400 that day so that this group can go knowing that you are supporting them.

February 2 - Super Bowl Lunch: As of today, 8 teams are still in the playoffs for the Super Bowl. While you are rooting for your favorite team, let's get ready for the big day. Enjoy lunch after worship on February 2 sponsored by the Relay for Life team. You may not know who will be playing the big game, but you can count on a feast of delicious soups and sandwiches ready for you.

Macy Backpacks: The next packing day for Macy Backpacks will be February 5 at 9:30 am. Anyone is welcome to join us. Many hands make light the work! Any food donations of easy open vegetables (green beans, corn, carrots) can be donated during the month of January and dropped off in either the Narthex or in the hallway by the kitchen.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Nancy Cooper
Tommy Johnston
Ellie Miller
Bob Parks*



Stewardship Report-Budget

Received December a year ago.....\$ 26,716.09
Received December.....\$ 23,467.84
Received Y-T-D a year ago\$ 233,064.64
Received Y-T-D\$ 232,815.99

Six Week Worship Series

God's Antidote to Worry

Max Lucado's Psalm 23 for Modern-Day Life...

I am my own shepherd. I am always in need.
I stumble from mall to mall and shrink to
shrink, seeking relief but never finding it.
I creep through the valley of the shadow of
death and fall apart.
I fear everything from pesticides to power
lines, and I'm starting to act like my mother.
I go down to the weekly staff meeting and
am surrounded by enemies. I go home, and
even my goldfish scowls at me.
I anoint my headache with extra-strength
Tylenol.
My Jack Daniels runneth over.
Surely misery and misfortune will follow me,
and I will live in self-doubt for the rest of my
lonely life

Jan 19 - Welsh Shepherds and Sheep Dogs

Jan 26 - Napping Behind the Partition

Feb 2 - Get Off The Treadmill

Feb 9 - The Shadow

Feb 16 - Stay Still & Quit Wiggling

Feb 23 - Fearing the Future

- Jan 12 – Church Council – 6pm
- Jan 14 – Wild Bunch – Shoney's - 6pm
- Jan 15 – Take TWO Resumes
- Jan 16 – SPRC Meeting
- Jan 21 – Prime Timers Dinner – 6pm
- Jan 28 -Wild Bunch-Friends & Family - 6pm

Every Wednesday:

Take TWO–3:30-5:45pm

Handbell Ringers–6pm Choir Rehearsal–7pm

Prime Timers

Prime Timers will meet on January 21st. On the menu is baked spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Entertainment will be announced at a later time.

Wild Bunch

The Wild Bunch will dine at Shoney's on January 14th at 6pm. On January 28th, they will have dinner at Friends and Family.

Cherry Pie Making

Pie-making day will be Saturday, February 8 beginning at 9:00 am. Lots of help is needed. Bring a rolling pin and help out. Can you sell pies faster than we can make them? Text your orders to Jan Houck.

Celebration

2019 attendance for worship and for Sunday school were higher than 2018. Thanks for making a radical change in our church and bronze award winner for evangelism.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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Pearisburg, VA
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