

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

February 2019

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## ***Jubilation***

Senior Adults mark your calendars now for May 6-8. Get ready to travel to Pigeon Forge to be like the youth: shop, eat and worship. This year's worship is led by retired Bishop Ken Carder. Bishop Carder was born in 1940 in Washington County, TN. In addition, there will be music and a guest appearance by "Forest Gump."

## ***Men's Prayer Breakfast***

During 2018 the men's prayer breakfast met monthly. We had a speaker ten out of the twelve months. Some of those speakers were within our breakfast group and the rest were from outside the group. These programs included Pearisburg Fire Department, Town Police Department and County Police Department. With help from our regular group all have participated in keeping this outreach program in our church going strong. We thank especially our cooks who do a remarkable job each month. If anyone would like to join us we meet at 8:00 the first Wednesday of each month. We would love to have you join our group.

## ***Talent Show Sunday***

March 3 our children are invited to share their talents. Jason Mills was highly impressed by the display of talents at the recent Macy and Eastern Elementary talent shows. At the end of December, he challenged our children to share their talents with the church. We look forward to Worship on March 3.

## ***Missionaries are Coming***

Kurt & Cynthia Zimmerman, friends of the Burch's from their dating days will be in town March 19 & 20. This missionary couple spent three decades teaching school in Bolivia. They are now working on the Texas-Mexican border.

## ***March into Sunday School***

The Bible shows it is true. Harvard professors show it is true. Christian leaders know it is true. Those persons who are a part of a regular small setting grow in their faith. This March, how many Sundays can you make it to Sunday School? We want to recognize those who make it one, two, three, four or all five Sundays.

## ***February Hearts***

This month as a disciple of Jesus Christ get your heart spiritually in rhythm. Our four worship services are going to revolve around prayer. Let's examine the prayers of St. Patrick, Mother Teresa, Brother Lawrence and Martin Luther King Jr. If you are utterly convinced our God can do more than we ask or imagine, let's spend time talking with him and sharing our praise and concerns.

## ***Parenting Class***

Get positive tools for parenting over eight weeks from 10 to noon at our church. The cost for the class, materials, snacks and child-care is free. Classes begin February 6 and go through March 27. This is sponsored by New River Valley Cares. For more information contact Keli at 540-381-8310 or [keli@nrvcare.org](mailto:keli@nrvcare.org)

## *February*

- Feb 3 – "Souper" Bowl Lunch – 12pm
- Feb 6 – Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8am
- Feb 12 – Lydia-Susanna – 10am
- Feb 12 – Cherry Pie Making – 9am
- Feb 14 – New Friendship Circle – 7pm
- Feb 19 – Prime Timers: Bingo – 6pm

### **Every Wednesday:**

Take TWO–3:30-6:00pm

Handbell Ringers–6pm Choir Rehearsal–7:00pm

## ***Giles Family Resurrection***

Wow, God is working! Two nationally known groups are coming to Pearisburg to bless children and families. They will be at Macy & Eastern Elementary Schools that Friday. They will be in our church as a part of event sponsored by the 22 Giles Methodist Churches on Saturday, April 6. That Sunday morning, they will be back to lead our worship. This is truly an event where you can positively invest time with your children and grandchildren.

## ***Relay for Life***

The "Eternal Flame" Relay For Life Team, will have their Annual "Souper Bowl" Luncheon on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us after church for Soup, Sandwiches and Dessert. Immediately after the luncheon, "Auctioneer Andy" will return. You will have the opportunity to bid on cakes, candies, and breads. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Come join the fun.

During February you can purchase the Luminaria Bags for \$5.00. They can be purchased In Honor or In Memory of those you love. They will be decorated and placed in the church on Luminaria Sunday, and taken to the Relay event in June.

We would love to have new team members. Contact Diane Haynie at 540-599-0204, to sign up for our church team.

## ***Valentine's Day Celebration***

Two groups in our church family deserve recognition this Sunday. We will ask all couples that have been married forty or more years to stand and let us give thanks for them. The other group is whose spouse has died. We want to give thanks for these who loved until "death do us part." See you on February 10 during worship. If you are a member of either of these groups please let Sherry Fleeman know. 921-1021 or [pburgfumc@gmail.com](mailto:pburgfumc@gmail.com)

## ***Immediate Needs at the***

### ***Giles Christian Mission Food Pantry***

Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Jello/Pudding, Breakfast Cereal/Oatmeal/Pop Tarts, Canned Fruit, Soups, Canned Vegetables, etc. The food can be left at the church, I will pick up and take to the Mission. Anyone can take food at their convenience. The Mission is open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday - Saturday.  
Jo Ann Zimmerman

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Rachel Ballard*

*Chuck Salmon*

### Stewardship Report-Budget

Received January a year ago.....	\$ 17,744.50
Received January.....	\$ 17,538.50
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 17,744.50
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 17,538.50

### **Sweet for Valentine's Day**

The Lord's Acre group and UMW have joined to make your valentine shopping sweet and easy! Chocolate-covered peanut butter hearts and fried cherry pies will be available Tuesday, February 12 by 5pm through February 14 as supplies last. Hearts are \$5 and pies are \$2. Call the church office to place your order, as only ~ 200 pies will be made.

Calling all pie-makers! Pie making will begin Tuesday, 2/12 @ 3 pm until we run out of ingredients! Grab your rolling pin and dough board and join us! Questions or want to help, see Jan Houck (921-3980) or Debbie Taylor (921-4185).

### **Time to Dream**

The 2019 Trustees are under the leadership of Jason Ballard. With the non-stop improvements made we are ready to face the next big challenge. Can we upgrade the heat and air on the second floor of the Education wing? Currently we have three Sunday school classes who attempt to meet upstairs. Yet the winter cold and summer heat make it challenging to bring in a crowd. Also, if we are to expand our Sunday school, it would wise to use the empty rooms. Your donations to the Capital Fund could make this dream come true.

### **International Methodist Meeting**

February 23-26, 864 delegates from the 12 million Methodists around the globe will meet together in St. Louis. With the highly divisive items on the agenda for this meeting, the first day is devoted to prayer. You are encouraged to spend time in prayer that Saturday, February 23 for those delegates. Among this diverse group, which includes 42% from outside the United States, one calls Eggleston, VA her home: Rev. Kim Goddard. After you pray, you are encouraged to await the 3 pm meeting on 3/3 in Wytheville to hear from those that attended to hear the results.

### **Prime Timers**

Prime Timers will be playing Bingo on February 19. Dinner will be served at 6pm, menu announced later. Come, bring something for a prize: a favorite baked good, gifts cards, anything at home you don't want. Books are great!! Come enjoy the fun.

## **Value of an Opera (A word from Pastor Brian)**

Years ago, I was involved with a church that put on an annual madrigal dinner. This was a massive affair. It took three nights for the performances. It was popular; in fact, getting the best tickets involved knowing the right people so you could get them before they went on sale to the general public. As a younger pastor, I started to make a lot of noise asking, "Why are we doing this?" Each of the scripts focused on the true meaning of Christmas and exhorted people to believe; yet no new believers came from the event. Tickets were not cheap. Some years, the production created quite a profit that helped fund the music ministry. Yet, the previous year the production lost money. So, if this did not bring new people to Christ and it did not make money why should the church be investing so much energy into it? At the time, two senior saints pulled me aside and told me politely to "shut up."

Years later, I could look back and make the following observations. If you fill your church with musicians who love to perform; they want to be challenged and do more than can take place during the worship hour. This was their chance to shine for Jesus. The dinners did create new members for the church. The big show allowed an opportunity to involve new persons in a variety of roles from waiting tables to acting. Those persons rubbed elbows with the saints of the church and they realized this was the place they wanted to be to grow in their faith. Also, as persons waited for their scenes to take place, they had powerful discussions about faith and putting it into practice.

This year, Pearisburg FUMC did an opera. The last opera I attended was in college when my nephew was in one and I figured one opera per lifetime was enough. Praise God, Rhonda changed my mind. The same truths I learned from years ago applied to our event as well. Our church has a long history of being blessed with quality musicians who love to give their all for Christ. The quality of the event came through in that 400 persons came out despite the weather to be blessed by the event. You would be surprised how many calls the church got asking how much tickets were for a free event. It was also a time when a host of potential new members got to spend hours in our sanctuary practicing and creating a supportive community. Yes, children, youth, and adults worked side-by-side and learned that this is a place where you can discuss your faith. So, praise God for an opera. I believe we will see fruit from it for years to come.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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Pearisburg, VA
24134

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First United Methodist Church