

First United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

February 2021

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

Quick Updates

- Resurrection 2021 took place online in January. At least 10 from our church family sang, worshiped, and prayed while watching this service.
- Portable battery jumper is the church's newest toy. Why did we get one? Because in the last six months four car batteries died during the parking lot service.
- Fried Pies Postponed: Our committed core of volunteers did not feel safe undertaking this project YET. When the time is right, the apple filling and cherry filling are on hand.
- Vaccines: Our church is blessed with many school employees. When you add in our folks in the medical field, and our senior citizens it means that around 20% of our church members are already vaccinated. Thank you for being brave leaders.
- Chris "Bone Spur" Estus is set to start hiking the Appalachian Trail this spring as the newest AT Chaplain. We will keep you posted on when he passes through Giles County.

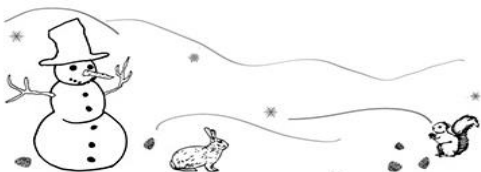
Are We Still Alive?

YES! 174 people a week are taking part in worship. That includes our 11 a.m. Sanctuary service, our 9 a.m. Parking lot service and our online numbers. Data is from October through December 2020. Our income from the year allowed us set aside funds for 2021 VBS, missions, savings, staff, and care for our building. Initial numbers from January 31 when in-person worship was canceled due to 6" of snow, show that 160 people worshipped with us.

In-Person Worship Changes

Our Sanctuary service is canceled on Sunday, February 7 due to an abundance of caution. We rejoice that the number of COVID-19 cases in Giles County is back below the highs of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We look forward to seeing you again on Valentine's Day, February 14 at 11 a.m.

Because our Parking Lot service takes a whole team to put together we have a simple snow-policy. "If the road is white, then online is right." For those unable to worship online we apologize but those who attend made it clear that the safety of your church staff matters to you.



Elijah Bible Study

Eleven persons are already onboard. There is still time for you to join too. Grace Carpenter is leading an online Bible Study. The weekly discussion will include reflections from your own study, and reflections from a DVD. The material is written by Melissa Spoelstra.

God Solved It

"The hot water on that sink does not work because it leaks. The handle on that sink is too hard to turn so the water is cut off. That sink is not handicapped accessible". Those were some of the issues. Then a solution appeared. Thanks to a CARES grant for non-profits and our work with the Preschool and Daycare, we qualified for funding that took care of 60% of the cost. Ten touchless faucets and new sinks are here ready to be installed. Yes, our primary bathrooms are getting a needed update that reduces the spread of germs, saves water, and solves issues from 50-year-old parts.

Surviving Spouses

Bill Davis, father of Diana Israel, wants to help a group in our church. Are you among those who have lived through the death of a spouse? Bill is still going through that process. A key part of his healing is coming through a group that meets in Blacksburg of folks in a similar situation. Once we can find a way to gather safely, Bill would like to gather with folks in Giles County and share about the program. Maybe it is something that would bless you. We will keep you posted.

102 Years

Ginny Lucas a former member of our church passed away on November 28 at 102 years old. Ginny had moved to Roanoke with her daughter, Rebecca Ayres. In her last two and a half years, she lived at Hermitage Roanoke and was cared for by a "delightful and caring staff." Ginny was a sweet lady and a little firecracker. She will be missed dearly.

Prime Timers

In January, Sandy Peters and her team delivered 75 meals to seniors in our church family. The meals were prepared by Sylvia's Catering. The hope is to provide another meal on February 16. Weather plays a big role in our scheduling, so keep in touch with us. If you did not get a meal and would like one please call the church office 540-921-1021.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

Barbara Adams James E. Hankins
Alice Harmon Thomas Johnston, Sr
Virginia Lucas Ralph Lucas
Victor Marcussen Mullie Mulheren
Nancy Noble

Stewardship Report-Budget

Received January a year ago.....\$ 14,377.15
Received January.....\$ 14,761.90

Committing 1%

14 minutes a day or less than 2 hours a week is one percent of your life. Would you give that much throughout February to Jesus? Here are some ideas on what you can do:

- Come to or watch worship.
- Participate in Zoom Sunday school
- Watch children’s Sunday School.
- Pray for the church, the community, for our nation.
- Share/comment/subscribe/like the online services.
- Join new Elijah online Bible Study.
- Record a song, a scripture, a prayer, a children’s time, or a testimony for worship.
- Help set up the canopy/take it down.
- Paint new markers on the parking lot.
- Volunteer at Giles County Christian Service Mission
- Call members and LISTEN more than you talk.
- Take a gift/meal to someone.
- Help with the Senior Food Boxes (2/16 from 10:30-11:30)
- Collect tuna fish, chicken in a can, peanut butter for the mission.
- Help shovel snow for someone.

New

FOOD PANTRY

It seems like yesterday that the Giles County Food Pantry did a total renovation of their food pantry. Dave Zimmerman was a prime leader in this. That allowed the Mission to go from feeding folks four times a year, to monthly. It is time to expand again and do more for others. Already, Roger Houck, Lanse Carpenter, Joey Williams, Mark Petrus, Tom Troisi, Carl Adams, Amy Westmoreland, DeAnne Burch, and Brian Burch are among those who are committed to this. Yes, in addition to those from our church family, others around the community are jumping in. The overly optimistic goal is to be ready by March 1, 2021. Ways you can help:

- 1) Donations of Time: The week of February 14-21 lots of volunteers are needed. Painting, cleaning, and finishing. The following week the new floor will be installed. Then we get to start moving thousands of pounds of food from 516 Wenonah to 512 Wenonah.
- 2) Donations of Money: The entire cost of the project including purchase of the building, a new Walk-in freezer, HVAC, electrical, ceiling, floors, walls, doors, and bathrooms is going to be over \$58,000. All but, \$2,200 of this is on hand. Your donations make a difference. If you are feeling extremely generous, another \$12,000 should put us in position to pay off our loan on the two other buildings. This would free up another \$1,000 a month for ministry.
- 3) Donations of Food: Three staple items are available for every client who gets food: Peanut butter, tuna, and chicken in a can.
- 4) Donations of Prayer: Please pray for the mission. The name itself includes the words “Christian Service.” As we help meet the physical needs of others, help us meet their spiritual needs as well.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 37
Pearisburg, VA
24134

First United Methodist Church
401 Hale Street
PO Box 400
Pearisburg, VA 24134