

First United Methodist Church
NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

April 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

Dealing with Our Temporary Reality

Because we care about others, we as a church were among the leaders in our community to establish policies that created physical distance between individuals. Yes, this meant that gathering in our sanctuary for worship, Take TWO, Prime Timers, the Preschool and many other events temporarily ceased. Yet, this does not mean we have to be socially disconnected. Your church leaders are working hard to help you spiritually now and help meet the emergency needs of our community. ***All of the following events and plans can radically change in response to the COVID-19 virus.***

Online Worship

Each Sunday you can find our online worship service on our church Facebook page and on YouTube. Links are provided for you each week through email. If you are not receiving the emails, please contact the church pburgfumc@gmail.com. Grace Carpenter, Jim Frazier, Sara & Chris Smith with Rhonda Frazier were our musicians for our first three services. Our streaming license with CCLI allows us to choose between 300,000 songs. So, if you would like to sing a song for a recorded service, pick one out and Bryan Stafford will record you.

Online Worship Data	Facebook Active Engagements	YouTube Views	Zoom Sunday School
3/15	211	61	8
3/22	131	45	10
3/29	269	32	13

Easter Morning Worship

The Amended New Revised Updated Plan: Come to Church on Easter Morning at 10:55! Turn your radio on and enjoy singing and praising the Risen Savior gathered safely with your church family. With the April 1 announcement by Governor Northham, we are set to have services in our church back-parking lot. Here are the stipulations. You must stay in your vehicle. Officer Scott Moye will be in the parking lot with a stun gun and a paint ball gun in case you get out [Only kidding slightly]. The church playground & building including bathrooms will be closed.

Macy Backpacks Continue

Yes, this extra food for low-income elementary age children in our community continues. Thanks to our partnering churches, our local Lions club members and Director Teresa Fields this service to our community is still in action.

Youth News

While we experience this pandemic, let us use this time for good. Be sure to include time in God's word, start a prayer journal, call someone you haven't spoken to lately, check on loved ones, check on neighbors. This is a great time to start spring cleaning. If you can find a corner to store any items, the youth will gladly pick donations up for our rummage sale once this has passed & it is safe to do so. Other ideas are have family game night, work on a scrapbook, paint a picture, make a craft, bake cookies, dance, sing, etc. The youth will extend our prayer stations whenever we are able to meet at church again but you can have a family prayer prompt, get out your Scrabble board & take turns spelling out what you are thankful for. Another idea is to have a family prayer board. It can be a poster board, a chalkboard or dry erase board. Each person can add a prayer concern or blessing each day & take a moment to pray over others listed. We are still going to work each day, as we are an essential business, if you need anything, let me know; Renee 921-2644 or 787-0145.

Meals for Seniors

The first week of the Coronavirus attack attempted to halt our Prime Timer meal. Thanks to donations from Queen's and the Giles County Public Schools free meals were delivered to 45 of our church senior citizens. Plans are being developed to do this again, possibly weekly. Giving thanks to the dozen volunteers who packaged the food and made the deliveries that evening.

Where is the Church Directory?

You came out in amazing numbers last fall and got your pictures taken. Thank you again. So, why haven't you received your free directory yet? Well, in preparing the name address list our church staff discovered that up to 50% of the addresses or phone numbers were out-of-date. We do have current phone numbers for our active members and visitors. It is those members who joined years ago and moved away that we are updating. One positive of the quarantine is that most folks are home and we are now halfway through the updates.

Shop Local & Save

Reinvesting your tax dollars back for our local businesses, Giles County is providing gift certificates for 14 local restaurants. You spend \$20 and get \$30 to spend at one of these locations. Sign up through the Giles County Website.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

Sandra Payne

Stewardship Report-Budget

Received March a year ago.....	\$ 20,037.05
Received March	\$ 22,026.70
Received Y-T-D a year ago	\$ 56,882.80
Received Y-T-D	\$ 52,567.85

Calling Teams

120 families in Giles are involved in a weekly calling program to check on a portion of our church family. You matter, and these weekly phone calls are a powerful tool to ensure that we stay socially connected in this time of separation. Giving huge thanks to our team leaders: Ann Price, Jean Gilreath, Carl Adams, Rita Palmer, Mary Ellen Thomas, Patty French, Betty Oakley, Kay Houck, Teresa Fields, Debbie Leet, Evelyn Kanter, Tracy Ferguson, Barbara Scheid, Emily Moye, Trish Poole, DJ Johnson and Kaylie French.

Giving

Thank you to those who choose to continue to show their love of Christ and support of this congregation. You are making secure donations online (www.pfumc.net), mailing them in (PO Box 400 Pearisburg, VA 24134), or dropping them off at the church. In this time of fear, it is a glorious time for our faith to shine. Your gifts allow us to provide emergency care, minister to those in need and adjust to the changes around us.

Parsonage Renovations

Last fall, as you were stirring apple butter and then making and selling a quadzillion fried pies, you wondered how the Lord's Acre team would wisely use this money. For two years they have dreamed about renovating the bathroom on the second floor of the parsonage. The plumbing has been an issue for almost two decades and a redesign would make the space far more useful. Darren Light is the contractor and is set to begin work the week before Easter.

Lenten Offering

For those of you who like to make an extra offering around Easter to help those in need, this year's money is being split between the Giles Mission and the Mission trip to Alaska. In March, the Mission was able to purchase in cash the 512 Wenonah building with a clear dream to expand their food ministry. The Alaska mission trip is still in the works. The good news is that airlines are now decreasing the costs for flights so hopefully soon we can purchase tickets.

2nd Floor HVAC

Even Rev. Fred Austin says, "It's about time." Yes, the section of our church that only had wall heaters and no cooling now has central heat and air. So instead of only using this section of the church in the spring and fall, it can be used year-round. Celebrating that this \$34,100 upgrade could be paid for in cash. Your donations to Capital fund make projects like this possible. Special thanks to Steve Taylor who got all the bids for this project.

Senior Welfare Check

Senior Check is designed to provide a means to communicate with our citizens who are most vulnerable to potential impacts from COVID-19. This group of Seniors includes our elderly and disabled citizens. By participating in this program seniors will be connected to any eligible program and receive as much help as they request. Sign up through the Giles County Website or call 921-0035.

Easter Egg Parade

Want to enjoy some Easter Fun? If you will commit to staying in your car, we have a plan where you can. You can follow the church van around the community as we visit the homes of our Take TWO and church children. This begins at 2 pm Sunday and should take about an hour. Call or email Pastor Brian if you will be taking part so we can give you your supplies.

540-599-3526; BrianCBurch@gmail.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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First United Methodist Church