

First United Methodist Church

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

April 2021

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## ***Sunday School Returns!***

On Easter Sunday both the Willing Workers and the Disciples Class are resuming in-person class meetings. Special thanks to Rita Palmer and Carl Adams who have each taken leadership in this process. We give thanks for those who have actively stayed in contact with each other over the past year by telephone. The Blended Class will continue meeting by Zoom at this time. Also you can find our Children's Sunday School class each Sunday on Facebook and YouTube.

## ***April Worship***

April 4: Easter morning and it means great music. For the first time in 2021 we get to enjoy handbells and a group of five persons singing. Also, another highly popular saxophone and piano duet. Pastor Brian is preaching on the "Hope of Humanity."

April 11: Our children, youth and Kathy Mitchem are putting together a joint worship service for you. The theme is "Christ is Alive and So Are We." Be ready to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with multi-person service.

April 18: "Are you Ready to Reclaim Your Life?" The President of Delta Airlines believes people are and is excited about the increase in business.. Pastor Brian knows that life offered by Christ is more than vacations. It is an abundant life filled with the presence of Christ.

April 25: Depression, it is real. It is not made up. It is a disease that cripples those in the faith and those outside the faith. You can't smile your way out of it. This Sunday let us examine the scriptures and discover the solid truth offered.

## ***Jubilation News***

Plan on taking part in 2022 for the 20th anniversary event. The date has not yet been determined, but this group looks forward to meeting again safely.

*Thank You!*

I want to say thank you to the entire church family for all the kind thoughts and words during the time of Ann's passing.

Bryan and Curtis Stafford

*In Memoriam*  
Dorothy "Ann" Stafford  
February 21, 2021

Our condolences go out to Bryan Stafford and family at the loss of his mother Dorothy "Ann" Stafford. Ann was a member of Pearisburg First UMC since August 19, 2007.

## ***Alaska 2021***

- Plan: To be one of three groups that assists in building an equipment shed for the Willow United Methodist Church Community Food Pantry and Church. It is not a high skill job. The site was prepared last autumn.
- Where: Willow, Alaska. Draw a straight line from Anchorage to Denali and it passes through Willow. Holston Conference Missionaries Christina and Joseph Dowling Soka serve there. It is where retired missionary Fran Lynch served for many years.
- Lodging: Air mattresses in the church fellowship hall.
- What about COVID-19? Currently the church is only meeting online. They hope to return to outside worship in the coming months when temperatures finally go above freezing. It is expected that all participants on the trip will be vaccinated.
- Cost: The estimate is \$1,500. However, we do some financing that can help with a portion of the cost.
- When: We are scheduled for July 9-17. Because of Summer School and Sheffey Camp Meeting we are seeking to change the dates to July 23-31.
- Who can go? Anyone who loves God and is willing to serve. This is a joint ministry of the Holston United Methodists in Giles County.

## ***Mission Work Project***

It is scary to say it, "But we are finished." Yes, thanks to this community, we are ready to start moving the food from the old pantry to the new pantry. The following is a partial list of those persons who totally renovated the old Britts Appliance Store into the 512 Food Pantry. Those with an asterisk "\*" are all a part of our church.

Amy Westmoreland*	Bentley Ratcliffe & sons
Bob Stockburger	Brian Burch*
Carl Adams*	Clendal Brown
Daniel Mitchem	DeAnne Burch*
Drema McMahon	Ed Blair
Ed Bradley	George Conley
Giles County Staff	Jackie Troisi*
Jake Ballard	Jake Nunn
Jim Savage	Joey Williams*
Kathy Mitchem*	Lanse Carpenter*
Leisa Palmer	Mark Petrus*
Michael Chase	Morris Fleischer
Phil Whisman	Robert Trent
Roger Houck *	Ronnie Philpot*
Spider Havens	Tom Bannon
Tom Bube	Tom Spangler
Tom Troisi*	Xander Trent

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

Barbara Adams  
Victor Marcussen  
Ann Stafford

Stewardship Report-Budget

Received March a year ago.....\$	22,026.70
Received March .....	\$ 20,760.45
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 52,567.85
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 58,765.37

Wasted Form

It was one of the bureaucratic frustrations. Fill out two forms that apparently no one reads. And yes, in the computer change-over by those higher up, the previous unread answers were lost so we got to start again. Yet, God can even use paperwork for good!

Year church founded: 1810; Pearisburg First is here to stay.

Last major building renovation: 2002, new roof, elevator, and other improvements. Wow, all of those made a difference.

What significant or unique ministries does the church offer the sake of the community?

Pre-COVID: Only Hispanic ministry in the county, and an afterschool ministry for kids. Post-COVID: Our preschool, partnership with Imagination Station Day Care, monthly Senior Food Distribution. You as a church keep finding ways to reach out.

Church Membership: 2018—513, 2019—501. 2020—488 Not so good.

Average Attendance: 2018—105, 2019—109, 2020—290 (with online presence) More than we could imagine.

Total new members in the last three years: 13 This is the best sign of church health.

Condition of the Parsonage: Excellent and constantly improving.

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Put each clue inside a plastic egg and hide it in the appropriate spot so you make a trail from egg one to an Easter basket!

1. The people said HOSANNA! The next clue is by a BANANA.
2. Jesus washed the disciples' FEET. Look underneath the kitchen SINK.
3. Jesus prayed in a garden at NIGHT. Check by a lamp that give you LIGHT.
4. Our sins were removed when Jesus DIED. Hurry to find your next clue OUTSIDE!
5. Jesus loves YOU! Go look in a SHOE.
6. The stone was rolled away from the TOMB. Find the next clue in the BATHROOM.
7. The angels said that Jesus AROSE. Check were you dry your CLOTHES.
8. He is risen! He is no longer DEAD! Run real quick to look under the BED.
9. God has all the strength and POWER. Your next clue is in the SHOWER.
10. Jesus' love brings our hearts great JOY! Find the last clue by a TOY!
11. Happy Easter. This Easter Hunt is over, but Jesus' love never ends. What wonderful news to tell all of your friends! Trust in him, believe, and pray; then you will be with Jesus in heaven one day. Your Easter basket is \_\_\_\_\_ (fill this in).

Camp in the Community 2021

- Camp is ON! When is it? July 19-23, 9-3 daily.
- Where is it? Two locations: Narrows First UMC or Sheffey Memorial Campground
  - Cost? Zero; fully paid for by gifts from our community.
  - Who can sign up? Anyone rising Kindergarten through rising 8th grade. Yep, ANYONE. There is a limit of 80 kids total between the two sites for 2021.
  - How do I sign up? Contact the church office for a form, or email Rev. Doug Armstrong at [revdougarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:revdougarmstrong@gmail.com)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
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