

F i r s t   U n i t e d   M e t h o d i s t   C h u r c h

# NEWSLETTER

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Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

May 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## ***We Love to Share Meals***

May 5: A supper of baked spaghetti and salad will be delivered to some of our senior citizens who are staying inside. Thanks to Tracy Ferguson for providing the spaghetti.

May 12: A LUNCH for the heroes at the Giles County Sheriff's Department and any senior citizen in our church family who requests it. We will be working with Dairy Queen for this meal and are thinking hot dogs or chicken tenders.

May 26: A LUNCH for the heroes who provide our communities' medical care at Giles Carilion Hospital and any senior citizen in our church family who signs up. The meal is tentatively set to be tacos from La Barranca.

To make these meals possible, donations, prayers and volunteers are appreciated. Make your donation to "Young at Heart." To ask for a meal, contact the church 921-1021 at least a day before. To be a part of the gloved and masked team of delivery drivers contact Sandy Peters at nanapete1227@yahoo.com or (434) 219-9913.

## ***Luminary Service***

Annually seeing those one hundred plus luminaries in our sanctuary is a moving experience. Relay for Life continues their three-pronged mission of research for a cure, celebrating survivors and supporting those during the battle. This year, a different proposal is being developed. Imagine it is between 8:30 & 10 pm on Saturday May 16 or Sunday May 17. You enter the church parking lot and are given a bag of popcorn and a choice of sodas or water by masked and gloved volunteers. You turn your car radio to the correct station and slowly move forward. The luminaries are lit, over the radio you hear the names of those being honored and remembered. As you finish you leave a donation. Yes, rain & wind plans are being made. Thanks to Diane Haynie and the Eternal Flame team for organizing this.

## ***Mother's Day 2020***

The Easter Music Video was a Pearisburg Viral Hit. According to Facebook, that video reached 2,500 people. Our Good Friday video reached 1,700. This does not include the number of people who watched us on YouTube. If you like it, we will do it again. Mother's Day morning, May 10 get ready for another music video. This episode will feature at least 11 different musicians. Please be ready to enjoy, "like" and share it on your own Facebook page.

## ***Giving***

All our projections were wrong. Your habit of being extraordinary givers has only increased. Your donations in March and April were higher than those in January or February. With our expenses decreased—our electric usage was half of what it was a year ago; we have more money for ministry and mission.

One of our new givers used our online giving system. They said it was easy to use. They liked it so much that they are setting it up to give the same amount each month. They talked to another family member about supporting the church. This member who was not a regular giver decided to set up monthly automated payments to the church. Thank you.

## ***Changes We Know About***

### Camp-In-The-Community

The program for 2020 is canceled. The problem is that since the counselors travel, they could be infected in a community one week and not know about it. Then they could carry it to another whole group of children the following week.

### Holston Annual Conference

The annual meeting of this group is going virtual! Yes, on Saturday June 27 the one thousand plus delegates will gather online to meet and make decisions to guide our conference for the coming year. One side benefit is that this saves our congregation money! Money that can be used for ministry and mission.

## ***Transforming Apple Butter and Fried Pies***

Thank you for the hours you invest each year into the Lord's Acre work. The funds from 2017 & 2018 Apple Butter allowed the church to replace the heating for the second floor of the education wing and add air conditioning. The 2019 income including all those fried pies has been invested into the church parsonage. The result is a 2nd floor bathroom that is laid out in a manner that uses the space in a more efficient manner. While this was taking place, a crew of volunteers used the quarantine to paint all four bedrooms upstairs, including the closets and ceilings. In early May, the solid wood floors will be sanded and varnished. When the work is complete, you will be invited to a "virtual" open house to see the results. Thank you to everyone who has helped eat the pies, stir the apple butter and been committed to see this job completed.

**Stewardship Report-Budget**

Received April a year ago.....	\$ 19,973.35
Received April ..	\$ 20,154.81
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 76,856.15
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 72,722.66

***Who Moved My Classroom?***

When you return, you will discover that a few of our classes are in new locations. The Disciples who are led by Carl Adams is now on the first floor in one of the old preschool rooms. The Wesley Fellowship class taught by Barbara Scheid is moving across the hall, so they won't have to listen to the furnace turn on and off. The Macy Backpack ministry is moving downstairs to save so many trips up and down the elevator. The preschool will have three dedicated rooms upstairs.

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS®** By Bil Keane



"Heaven is a great big hug that lasts forever."

***Plans for Reopening***

For now, we are focusing on continuing to improve each week on our online worship services. March saw the launch of our online worship services on Facebook and YouTube. April saw the addition of a Zoom Sunday School for Adults and then a Zoom class for our children. By the way, we have more children in Zoom Sunday School now than adults. One major dream for May is to offer short studies online for persons to use as a means of spiritual growth.

Yet, we do know that this war against coronavirus will end. Thanks to the leaders of your church, we will have a church to return to and it will be better than ever. Why, because we will continue to offer online worship as an option. For our members unable to attend worship they feel so blessed to be a part of weekly worship again. With the reduction in expenses these last two months, our church is in a better financial shape than it was at the end of February. Because of your wiliness to share the worship videos with your friends and relatives; evangelism is taking place. One of those new folks are already joining our Zoom Sunday School classes.

What will regular worship look like when we return to the building. Your leaders are remaining flexible. One priority is the creation of a safe and clean atmosphere for all. Most of all, we want you to worship the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and all your might.



**All information in this newsletter is flexible as we determine what's next. God bless.**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
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