

First United Methodist Church
NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

June 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

June Dreams

- Can we find new ways to reach out to others and help them grow in their faith through small group discipleship programs?
- Could it be possible for us to put the entire new member class online so visitors can answer many of their questions and be ready to make an informed choice as they declare their faith when they join our church family?
- Can we finish up rearranging the classrooms on the 2nd floor of the education wing and have most of the classroom floors looking brand new?

May Attendance Numbers

	YouTube Views	Facebook Encounters	Sunday School
May 3	68	235	36
May 10	144	406	35
May 17	63	375	16
May 24	21	427	20
May 31	24*	266*	27

*Many of our views come later in the week; our ministry is not limited to Sunday mornings. God is using this time for evangelism.

Floors, Walls, and Ceilings

The work on the 2nd floor parsonage bathroom by Darrin Light and his team is complete. Thanks again to Debbie Taylor for managing this project. The four upstairs bedrooms all have a new coat of paint. The wood floors are restored thanks to Ratcliffe and Sons. All outlets are now updated thanks to Howard Kanter. Jan Houck and Debbie Taylor encourage you to start working now on what you will provide for the 2020 Lord's Acre Sale. It is because of that project so much in our church can be transformed.

Youth Yard Sale

"One man's trash is another man's treasure" is a saying that goes back to at least the Civil War era. It is still true in our time of war with a virus today. First, you created "trash." You took advantage of that time at home and cleaned house. Your attic, basement and closets all look wonderful. You brought and are still bringing those unwanted items to the church. Thank you. Already, you are coming back to the church and finding "treasurers." It is a win-win-win solution. You get rid of the items accumulated in your home. That includes weed-eaters, gun cabinets, desks and so much more. You have taken home chairs, couches, and clothes as new-found treasures. In the meantime, the money goes to help our Youth as they plan for another year of growth in their faith.

Tailgate Sunday - Let's Celebrate!

Let's enjoy the summer weather. Let's listen to soul-moving worship and declare our faith by our presence at the church.

At 11 a.m., gather in our spacious parking lot. Depending on the weather you can bring chairs or blankets and sit as a family and listen through the speakers. Or, you can sit in your car and tune your radio to our own PFUMC station. Final details and safety measures will be announced through our calling teams, by Church email and on Facebook. Yes, online worship will also be an option for those unable to come in person.

Please Note this is TENTATIVE: Bishop Taylor has given permission for us to apply to hold worship in the parking lot on Sunday, June 14. Your church leaders and our District Superintendent Kim Goddard will be making the final decision.

Sanctuary Worship

First desire: worship the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Come together in united prayer in the name of Jesus the Messiah; empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Second desire: Do this in a manner that provides protection against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Your church leaders are right now determining how to apply the guidelines from the CDC, the State of Virginia, and the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. All the guidelines agree on one aspect: do not spread the disease. They are united that wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, and practicing social distancing are effective in stopping the spread of disease. For the sake of others, we are willing to take these measures. Online worship will continue to be offered.

Once our church leadership is confident that we can meet all three groups of standards, we will apply to District Superintendent Kim Goddard for permission to gather inside our church. No one wants to be "that church where the outbreak occurred." Your prayers and patience are genuinely appreciated as we seek to be a safe space where bold, risk-taking faith is lived out.

Relay for Life

The "Eternal Flame" Relay Team would like to thank everyone that helped with our Drive-Thru Luminaria Service. With team and drive thru donations we collected \$400.00 for the American Cancer Society.

If public gatherings are permitted, the following dates are set for the Giles County Relay Events. Tuesday, July 28th will be the survivor dinner at Giles High School Cafeteria and Friday, July 31st will be the Relay event.

If public gatherings are not permitted by those dates, plans are in the works for social distancing events.

Stewardship Report-Budget

Received May a year ago.....\$	18,107.74
Received May	\$ 17,184.52
Received Y-T-D a year ago	\$ 94,963.89
Received Y-T-D	\$ 89,907.18

Willow or Marion

Oh, the Places You'll Go! By Dr. Seuss is a traditional graduation gift. And in terms of missions, our group of Methodist Churches are heading out the door. Going to Alaska with a group is irresponsible in the next six weeks. So, instead we sent \$2,000 because the need is immediate for them. Now that winter is over, rebuilding needs to go into action quickly. Where did that money come from? The original team made most of that donation. We are invited to still make the Alaska mission trip sometime between June 25 - July 17. The final date will be decided later this year. If you are interested your \$200 deposit by Christmas will get your spot reserved.

For this summer we just made a little change in plans. Instead of traveling 8,346 miles this summer; we are going 456 miles. Project Crossroads is the ministry formed by Rev. Harry Howe in 1982. They do medical mission work, firewood ministry, volunteer construction projects and more. To avoid the complications of the virus, we are proposing three one-day trips the week of August 3-7. We will leave around 6 a.m. each morning and return each night after dark. By July 15 we do need to know if you are interested and which days you can join us. If you would like to support the trip, the team is going to need food and would love to have homemade meals for hungry workers.



May Heroes

In May you told some heroes in our community thank you. The Giles County Sherriff's Department, the staff at Giles County Carilion Hospital and the Carilion Clinic all ate a free lunch on us. In addition, the seniors in our church family got three meals too. No telling what all we will do in June. Thank you for expanding our ministry. Huge thanks to Sandy Peters for providing the organization for this process and her team of volunteers who deliver the food all over Giles County. An additional thank you goes to the number of you who made an extra contribution this month to help fund the meals. Those donations came from a variety of sources including Rick Witt the owner of Dairy Queen, the Giles County Public Schools, the Giles County Gift Voucher Program, and most of all individuals like you who want to say "Thank You" to our heroes.

Doubled Your Dollars

"Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked." ~ Warren Buffett. The concept is that when the tide is in and waves are fun no one looks. But when the tide goes out you see all the problems in a company. A handful of our key leaders here at PFUMC are looking ahead, and because of that our church is blessed. Seeing that the economic impact of the Coronavirus is far more deadly than the actual virus; they looked at our church finances. A big "oops" moment was about to become visible to the public. Our savings is pitiful. Compared to the other "First United Methodist Churches" in the county, we were in last place in terms of cash savings for emergencies. In some ways that is healthy, because it means that we are using your gifts for ministry and trusting fully upon God. However, the Lord's wisdom says even ants know to put away for winter. So, our leaders were able to use special offerings this month to double our savings. It is enough that we could survive a whole month without an offering. The real dream would be that instead of using those emergency funds to pay church bills, we can use these funds to help those in need when the tide goes out.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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