

First United Methodist Church
NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

July 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

Dale Returns

Rev. Dale Wyrick is coming for Worship on Sunday, August 9. That Sunday he is going to be our guest preacher. Dale is a former pastor of our church who moved from here in 2006. He is excited about returning, preaching, and getting caught up with each of you. His recent retirement allows him to spend more time traveling to Israel.

Welcome & Goodbye

Suzanne Whitaker is putting her faith into action in huge steps. During the quarantine, she discovered our church and learned that in her heart she is a United Methodist. Our first Sunday with live worship in the parking lot she transferred her membership. You may not get to see this Pearisburg resident often in worship. Starting in August she will be serving as the pastor for three United Methodist churches in a neighboring county. Suzanne's husband is Malcolm who has a deep love for history. Her youngest daughter Aly is active in our children's programs.

One Room Left

Richard is almost done. This month he his helpers were Ellen Salmon, Cheryl Kingrea, DJ Johnston, Cole Snidow and Joey Williams. By mid-July he can see the end in sight. EVERY room on the second floor of the education wing, plus three of rooms on the first floor; except for the church library, has had the "wow experience." That means that each room has been completely emptied, the floor stripped and waxed and an overall good cleaning.

The Lord Provides!

Our June income may have set a record. Perhaps you were the lady who came by the church and gave the Pastor an envelope with four months of offering. Maybe you were the family who dropped off five offering envelopes off at the office. These were joined by another family that mailed two months of their tithe to the church. Others made significant online contributions. In addition to this historic level of giving, following our June Church Council meeting the church applied for a Payroll Protection Plan loan/grant. Already this enabled us to end June by paying Sherry Fleeman and Pastor Brian \$3,300 in back pay. Nick Clark, our finance chair, has a dream that we can end 2020 being a source of help to others in our community who are hurting as the economic fall-out from COVID-19 continues to affect Giles County.

Four Rules for Now

The good news is that the Virus is decreasing state-wide. The concerning news is that in Southwest Virginia from June 7-21 the number of cases in Southwest Virginia DOUBLED from 35 to 73. So, to protect YOU and as an act of service to OTHERS these guidelines are in effect:

Masks: granted these are not perfect, but the CDC has a list of 20 studies that show make a difference. So, if you are inside the church around anyone else; wearing a mask is the standard. If you forget yours, it happens, the church has one for you.

Social Distancing: Whether you are at the grocery store or the church, the 6' rule makes sense.

Attendance: We take a written attendance for each event. This way in case an outbreak occurs, rapid testing can take place to stop the spread.

Cleaning: Richard Trenar cleans our sanctuary weekly with bleach wipes and disinfectant. If you use a section of the church, you are expected to do the same before you leave.

Sunday School

We hear you. The message is clear and consistent: you miss your class. Barbara, Alan, Debbie, Wat, Andy, Carl, DeAnne, Renee, Amy & Caroline as your class leaders are each seeking to find what is best for you. At this point, inside groups are limited in size and must follow the four rules. If you have a suggestion on how your group can safely gather please talk with your class leader. Until a healthy solution is found you have two options:

"Miss DeAnne" is filming a weekly Children's Sunday School class that is available each Sunday on YouTube and Facebook. Adults you are "allowed" to watch as well (smile).

Adult Zoom class: This group adjusted their time to 10:00-10:40 so that participants can attend one of the live worship services. Alan & Debbie Leet are the primary teachers.

Stewardship Report-Budget

Received June a year ago.....	\$ 20,090.61
Received June	\$ 22,356.83
Received Y-T-D a year ago	\$ 115,054.50
Received Y-T-D	\$ 112,264.01

Worship Choices

Grow in your faith and stay safe.

Online (Posted each Sunday on Facebook and YouTube) is still by far the popular choice: Wat Hopkins shares why he faithfully worships this way. "Roselynn and I enjoy the online services for several reasons. First, we appreciate Brian's messages, as always, and those members of the church who provide music and other parts of the sermon. It's also a way we keep connected with our friends in Pearisburg. Even though we aren't able to see them and talk to them, we know that the services have a large audience, and that helps us stay connected. Finally, we need the services for our own spiritual lives."

Sanctuary (11 a.m.) Evelyn Kanter shared this, "I attended worship today at the 11:00 service. It was so good to be back in our beautiful sanctuary. Initially I hesitated to see where I should sit, but I tucked into a pew close to the front and felt totally at ease. I noticed all in attendance were sitting close to the spot they always sit! In spite of sitting alone, I did not feel alone, and before worship began, I was able to chat with some folks I had not seen in a long time. That was so sweet. I realized how much I miss my church family. The service began, the music played, and as we prayed together. I could feel the presence of God. He is here, He is not under quarantine, and it was almost like He was waiting for us. We all must worship according to our individual comfort levels, but the new normal inside FUMC Pearisburg feels very much like the old normal in all the ways that matter."

Parking Lot (9 a.m.) Emily Moye shares after being at all three of our parking lot services, "We have enjoyed attending the parking lot service because it seems easier to manage the kids and hold their attention to worshipping and not have the distraction of masks (because honestly they fiddle with them the whole time they're on!). The first time we went I felt a sense of calm and connection that had been missing. It is very peaceful to sit together, listening to the birds chirping all around us and worship." Special thanks to our staff particularly Bryan Stafford and Rhonda Frazier who are going the extra mile to make three services possible each week for you. Your church staff is going the extra mile so that your faith can continue to grow stronger.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

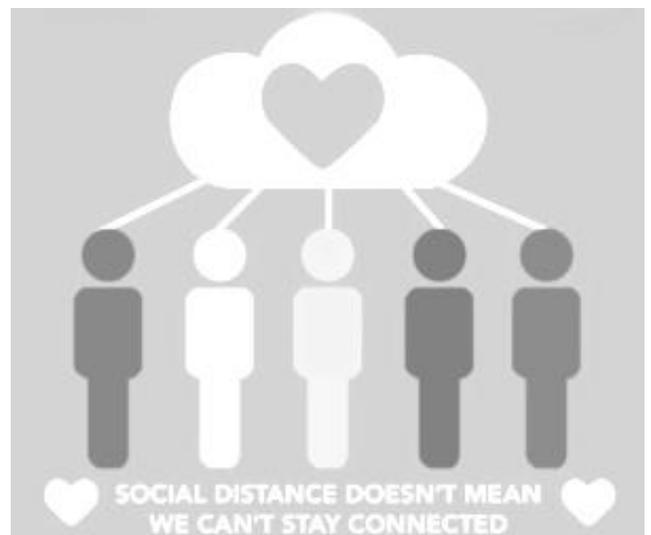
*Ronald Lane French
Kenny Yost*

Evelyn's Report

"I'm proud to be a United Methodist." Evelyn Kanter is in her first year in her leadership role as Lay Member to the Annual Conference. The joy of going to Lake Junaluska for four days of meetings and worship was replaced by a three hour live-broadcast. Evelyn took 7 pages of notes from this session. She quickly realized that our regional leadership is committed to supporting those in need. This year also marked the official retirement of former pastor Dale Wyrick. Previous pastor Brad Scott & Tammie are now serving First UMC in Sweetwater, Tennessee. In our county we welcome Ed Blair and his wife Kathy as the new pastor at Rich Creek UMC.

August Mission Trip

August 3-7 Let's Help our Neighbors! Three days that week we will travel to Marion, Virginia. You are a people who love to help. Rev. Harry Howe will meet us there and enable us to be successful. His connections with the community and organizational skills mean that you will be helping those who need help and doing it in a way that blesses them. If you are not able to help, our team is going to need three meals a day and lots of prayer; plus a little financial help.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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