

First United Methodist Church

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

October 2020

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## ***Tale of Two Stores***

*The following is a true account. The names of the stores have been changed to “Joe’s” and “Pop’s” because our goal is not to recommend one store over another. The point is to ask you, “How is our church doing?” The present opportunity allows us to focus on making improvements. We know that each week, you make a choice how to worship, where to worship and about your giving.*

Pop’s blesses my soul and takes up residence in my wallet. Years ago, a sister United Methodist congregation was in the middle of an expansion, and Pop’s went out of their way to allow a financial miracle to take place so that this church could thrive. Yes, a national store said supporting the community was more important than making their stockholders a dollar richer. So, for years, Pop’s has counted me among their loyal customers. How loyal? Why, in the midst of the Dave Ramsey class when we were cutting up credit cards, their card found a new hiding place in the depths of my wallet. Before Dave starts his rant, Pop’s is not making money off my late purchases. But Pop’s was getting the vast majority of my business.

Now, Pop’s is not perfect. The biggest issue for me was their website. I found myself going to Joe’s website to find exactly what I wanted. Then I would go and search Pop’s for the same thing. I was loyal to Pop’s, so I did not mind the extra work, but it did make me think this was foolish.

Then it happened. Joe’s carried an item that I did not see at Pop’s. So, I did the unthinkable. I placed a curbside pickup order for a couple of items with Joe’s. Out of loyalty, at the same time, I place a curbside pickup order with Pop’s. Which store sent me a text first saying that the order was ready? Joe’s. Which store brought the items out to the car? Joe’s. Curbside at Pop’s meant going in and waiting in line. Pop’s employees did assist in getting the 5-gallon drums in the car after my wife put on her, “I’m too weak for this” face.

Now I feel completely torn. My heart says, “Pop’s is preferred.” My mind says, “Joe’s is jamming.” So, today I went to both stores. Why, to make returns. Both stores made this incredibly easy. The one downside of Joe’s is that while I had the store layout of Pop’s memorized, I was lost at Joe’s; it was unfamiliar. I want to go back to Pop’s.

If I were truly loyal to Pop’s I would at least let someone in charge know that they need to improve. **How about you? Would you be willing to let your church know where we are hitting homeruns and where we are making errors? One role of the Staff-Parish Relations committee is to listen to these comments and get them to the right person. So, share your feedback with Roger Houck, Amy Westmoreland, Wat Hopkins, Debbie Morris, Andy French, Lanse Carpenter, and Catherine Ballard.**

## ***Back in Action***

September got four of our church committees together for in-person meetings. Staff-Parish Relations chair Roger Houck gathered his group together to discuss salaries for 2021. In agreement with Nick Clark and the Finance Committee, they are proposing no changes for now. The idea is to wait until mid-January and see what our situation is like then. With this information, the Finance committee developed a budget that is \$43 less than 2020. One hundred percent of the Trustees showed up for their meeting. They developed a list of 50+ items in the church property that could be fixed, repaired, or replaced. Some of these items were new, some have been on the list for over a decade. The prices range from \$5 to \$12,000 per item. It is with great joy that the trustees can say that in the last three weeks 8 of the items have been resolved. Your donations to the capital fund can help other items to be completed as well. The nominations team has also been at work and most of our 2021 officers are ready to be elected.



## ***Halloween Fun***

Costume Contest: Kids, 7th grade and younger, send Pastor Brian a quality picture before 5 pm October 31. We will add them to a short video and post it that night. Votes will be taken on Facebook and during both in-person worship events on All Saints Day, November 1.

Reverse Halloween: It is simple—instead of having children come to your door; let’s go to their place. On Thursday, October 15 we are going to pack up bags of candy that afternoon from 1-4 pm. Yes, your help would be a blessing. Yes, you can donate candy. Any candy with peanuts will go to the church staff; the rest go to the kids. On Thursday, October 29, our youth are going to spread throughout Giles County and deliver the treat bags. If you want to help you can. It takes longer than you might imagine getting to all the 80-100 children who are involved in our church ministries.

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Shirley Oakley Craig*

### Stewardship Report-Budget

Received September a year ago.....\$	22,660.50
Received September.....\$	14,663.30
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 172,208.94
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 163,732.15

Dear Church Family,

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Howard and I will be saying goodbye to beautiful Giles County to move closer to our children. Our new address is 117 Stonecrest Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980. First UMC has been an important part of our lives here, and we will miss our church family very much. Keep the light of the Lord Jesus Christ shining at FUMC!

Grace be with you all,  
Evelyn Kanter

### **The Big Meeting**

Annually the District Superintendent meets with our church. The official purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and set the pastor's salary. That takes less than five minutes if we are moving slow because Church Council has already approved both reports before the big meeting. The vital purpose of the meeting is for us as a congregation to reflect on the last 12 months and dream about the next 12 months. It is a chance for an outside voice to celebrate with us; and to push us on towards being active disciples of Christ. The good news is that this year, the event takes place virtually. You can listen in from your own home. Rev. Kim Goddard will meet with us on Sunday, October 25 at 3 pm. Note, if you would like help in connecting to this meeting, please contact Pastor Brian. We can easily set up three social-distant viewing stations at the church.

## Youth News

The youth had a very successful rummage sale. A total of \$2,600 was raised to help fund their trip to Resurrection. Since Resurrection will be virtual for 2021, they plan to use the funds for improvements to the youth room.

The youth will be helping with the reverse Trunk-or-Treat. Meetings will be starting back soon.

## Survey Says

The Parking Lot survey in September made some facts clear. You come to the service because you like the time, you like being in your car, and you feel safe. Seventy-five percent of the surveys shared you preferred the radio (88.1 FM) over the loudspeakers. Some of you can hear better in your car than you can in the sanctuary. Removing the loudspeakers saves a half-hour of set up and take down for the church staff. What was also clear is that you love the music; you just do not get thrilled with singing along in your car. We will continue to listen to you. Surveys for those taking part in our sanctuary and online services are coming. Cannot wait to see how these results help us provide the best possible worship experience for you.

## Collecting for Preschool

The preschool will be doing a fun craft project for Thanksgiving. This project requires coffee creamer bottles. If you have any you can donate, please drop them off at the church. See picture for type needed.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 37
Pearisburg, VA
24134

401 Hale Street
PO Box 400
Pearisburg, VA 24134

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