

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

December 2018

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## **Family Advent Night**

A beloved treasure from the past continues. For those who are new to this joy here is the plan for the evening. We start at 5 pm. This gives you time to go to the Pearisburg parade. When you arrive hot chocolate and other delicious foods mysteriously appear. Yes, you are welcome to bring an item to share as well. Then the children are invited to circle through the room making craft items. Some of these are ornaments that you can add to your own tree. Others are gifts that you can share with others. Usually around ten families step up and prepare the items for the crafts. The ones that are the most child-friendly are the best. Yes you can invite friends and family to join in the festivities.

## **Our Problem**

Would you pray? We have a choice. We can either pray that the Lord will send fewer children to our church, or we can pray for more volunteers. On Sunday mornings, our children gather in one large group for Sunday school. During worship an even larger group of joyful souls gather for Children's church. Praying that in our next newsletter we can share the names of those volunteers who agreed to serve Christ to help us provide two children's classes and two children's church groups.

## **Hire the Youth**

They can wrap your Christmas packages, rake leaves, babysit, do minor house cleaning, or help put up your Christmas decorations. For a \$50 or more donation a couple of youth will show up at your home ready to help. Your donation goes to help them raise funds for the spiritual retreat, Resurrection, in January. Call Renee Williams 540-921-2644 during the day or 540-787-0145 in the evening. Their goal is to raise \$500 in December.

## **To Our House**

Would a ministry that keeps homeless men and women out of the winter cold be worth your time? Would a ministry that assists these folks to get jobs, transportation and housing be worth your help? To Our House does this work with excellence. On Friday, December 7 at 5:45 pm Jo Ann Zimmerman (540-632-9802) is ecstatically gathering 10-12 volunteers to feed and talk with these temporary homeless individuals at Pembroke UMC.

## **Evidence of Your Faith**

Your financial support of this church and its various ministries is one way in which you give evidence to your faith. Thank you for completing your 2019 Faith Commitment cards. This practice allows you to reflect on what is important in your life. Which matters more, stuff or Jesus? It allows you to be intentional. It encourages you to aim high. It encourages you to pray about your giving. It allows you to make progress towards tithing. Please place your completed cards in the offering plate; or turn them into the church office.

## **Poinsettias**

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please turn in by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$15.



- Dec 1 –Breakfast with Santa - 8am
- Dec 2 – Family Advent Night – 5pm
- Dec 5 – Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8am
- Dec 8 – Lion's Club Shopping Tour – 8am
- Dec 11 – Lydia-Susanna – 10am
- Dec 11 – Old Orchard UMW Party – 1-3pm
- Dec 11 – Prime Timers Program – 6pm
- Dec 13 – New Friendship Circle – 7pm
- Dec 15 – Older Adults to Wohlfahrt Haus
- Dec 16 – Community Chorus Concert – 7pm
- Dec 19 – Preschool Christmas Party
- Dec 20 – Young at Heart Lunch – 12pm
- Dec 24 – Christmas Eve service – 6pm
- Dec 21-26 – OFFICE CLOSED

## **Every Wednesday:**

Take TWO–3:30-6:00pm      Amahl Rehearsal–6:45pm  
 Handbell Ringers–6pm      Choir Rehearsal–7:10pm

## **Worship in December**

**December 16:** Preschool Christmas Sunday: "Little Brown Donkey," the manger scene and your favorite preschool moments are coming your way. Rejoicing that we can allow our children present the gospel in such a delightful manner to us. By the way, our Preschool children are collecting new stuffed toys to give to the Sheriff's Department to help children in distress. If you would like to bring a stuffed animal to church that Sunday and leave it on the altar that would be a blessing to others.

**December 16:** Take TWO children will be sharing some of their musical talents with us. One of the songs is in Spanish being taught to them by fellow students from Guatemala.

**December 23:** Two guests are preparing to bless us. Andy Houck is coming home for a visit and will be singing a solo. During Children's Time, new mother Sara Smith will be singing to our children about the birth of the holy child.

**December 24:** On Christmas Eve our choir has a collection of four songs to share as we prepare for communion and candle-light. Pondering the Carols: Our December sermons come out of the pages of our hymnal. Be prepared to sing, "O Little Town of Bethlehem, Angels We Have Heard on High, What Child is This, and Away in a Manger." These songs that you sing by heart because they touch your heart discuss the joy and heartbreak of this holy season.

## **Save the Date**

Amahl and the Night Visitors in 1951 was the first Hallmark Hall of Fame Production. Our children, adult choir and students from Giles High School are bringing this production to life in our sanctuary on two performances between January 11-13.

## **Young Adult Class Party**

Andy French and his classmates are hosting a class party on Sunday, December 16. This class continues to grow. Childcare will be provided. Two years ago this group had a similar event and it transformed the group. RSVP to Andy at 540.599.3238.

# MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Dr. Erma McGuire*

### Stewardship Report-Budget

Received November a year ago.....	\$ 17,287.83
Received November .....	\$ 19,209.50
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 209,434.44
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 206,348.55

### **Christmas Eve Offering**

Could we raise another \$500? Last summer, our church with our sister congregations hosted a five-day summer day-camp for sixty children. The majority of these had no experience in finding Bible verses or taking communion. They were great kids who come from our county. During that week they got to realize that Jesus loved them. Our dream for the summer of 2019 is to host TWO summer camps and reach 160 kids. As we pray about this and its impact, our next step is to seek \$6,000 in funding. \$1,000 is in the bank, and another \$1,000 grant application was submitted. Could we raise another \$600 this Christmas Eve? If you would like your offering that evening to go to another fund in our church, please clearly mark your offering. As normal 100% of your gift goes as you designate.

### **You did it for Jesus!**

63 shoeboxes sent in to Operation Christmas Child, you provided the supplies and the funding.

80 Thanksgiving food boxes distributed by the Giles Mission, you provided valuable assistance to this project.

350 children signed up for Angel Tree in Giles County. Our church is directly providing help for 16 of them.

10% of our income from the Lord's Acre sale was donated to missions in our community.

30 Residents at Old Orchard Place are receiving Christmas Gifts from our United Methodist Women.

### **Where are a few areas we see God already working?**

Cantata, Handbells on Tour, and an Opera: All of this takes place over three weeks

Take TWO: Continues to reach over more kids

Wild Bunch, Prime Timers, Young at Heart,

Jubilation: All ministry to our senior adults

Sunday School continues to show growth

Plans in place for TWO Camp-in-the-Community Events this summer

### **What is our church dreaming about in 2019?**

Start a 5th grade youth: With the growth in our youth group, it is time to expand

Take a trip to Lancaster, PA to see the "Jesus" Production

Giles Christian Mission has a 600 sq. ft. section that needs walls, a ceiling and lights

Hold a Giles Rez Kids: Saturday event for children and their parents

Willow, Alaska: Support our missionaries there and envision a mission trip in 2021

### **Powerful Christmas Gifts**

Camp-In-The-Community: Last summer, our church with our sister congregations hosted a five-day summer day-camp for sixty children. The majority of these had no experience in finding Bible verses or taking communion. They were great kids who come from our county. During that week they got to realize that Jesus loved them. Our dream for the summer of 2019 is to host TWO summer camps and reach 160 kids. As we pray about this and its impact, our next step is to seek \$6,000 in funding. \$1,000 is in the bank, and another \$1,000 grant application was submitted.

Macy Backpacks: Yes, the \$1,164 grant did come through last month. Yet, that only covers the costs for 1-2 months. We rejoice that this is a ministry supported by several churches and are so honored to take part in it as well. Teresa Fields is the director of this ministry. The local Lions Club helps in the major unpacking, and our Take TWO kids fill the backpacks each week.

Common Ground 2019: This year's event takes place Saturday, April 13. The primary speakers are a group of three that have a ninety-minute presentation. They use the skills of illusion to get the interest of the crowd. One of the common connections between the speakers is that they are cancer survivors. So, the local Relay for Life group will assist in advertising and promotion. To make this free for every student most of the local churches give. Would you like to help our church give more?

Giles County Christian Service Mission: This Christmas they are giving out 75 food boxes that contain a full Christmas meal. Usually a few items will need to be purchased at the last minute to make each box ready to go. Your donations to their food bank are truly a blessing during this time of year.

*In Memoriam*

**Dr. Erma McGuire**  
November 11, 2018

Our condolences go out to the family of Dr. Erma McGuire at her passing. Dr. Erma was a member of Pearisburg First UMC since February 20, 1955.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

401 Hale Street  
PO Box 400  
Pearisburg, VA 24134

First United Methodist Church