

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

December 2021

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## ***Being A Multi-Worship Church***

Thank you for being a church that is willing to do whatever for the kingdom of God.

Our parking lot service came inside for the winter. After two weeks of surveys this group clearly stated wanted to have a 9 a.m. worship service. This group is meeting in the small fellowship hall. Two advantages of moving inside are that this will allow both services now to be blessed by video technology, and Joy and W.R. Johnston are willing to be our primary musicians for this service. And yes, the radio service will no longer be dominated by the sounds of cold winds blowing across the microphone.

Yes, it would be easier for our pastor and our church to have one service.

Yes, it does continue to split our church into three worshipping communities: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and online. Please note national studies are showing that 90% of all US churches declined in attendance during the pandemic. The 10% that stayed stable or grew had the common characteristic of offering multiple worship options.

Yes, the sanctuary is a fit place for worship; so why is the 9 a.m. service in the small fellowship hall? First, because it is the right size for the group. Second, because by using the small hall no other paid staff is required to run sound or play musical instruments.

Yes, 80% of our County is not taking part in any worship service this weekend. That is where the Lord would have us put our focus. Please pray that we might be a church that truly invites others to worship and makes disciples. Finally, we know this. If it is of God, we cannot stop it. If it is simply human origin, it will not last.

## ***2022 Reading Together***

Rev. Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett who is the bishop of our conference invites you to read the whole Bible together with her in 2022. The readings will be broken up: Sunday – Gospel, Monday – Law, Tuesday – History, Wednesday – Psalms, Thursday – Poetry, Friday – Prophets, and Saturday – Epistles. Want to have the scripture readings arrive by email daily? Sign up at <http://holston-email.brtapp.com/subscribe>

## ***Christmas Eve!***

A solo from Andy Houck, handbells playing, taking Holy Communion, and holding your candle as we sing “Silent Night” are all a part of our 6 p.m. Friday 12/24 Traditional Christmas Eve worship service. Yes, this is open to your extended family and to all the community around us.

## ***Trustee Dreams***

None of these are new dreams. Yet each of them is reaching the first requirement: funding is almost in place

Bell Tower: The need is simple. From ground to the roof line this needs a coat of paint. A few boards need to be replaced. A longer-lasting light system is needed so that the bulbs will stay burning for years not months. As of the first of December, \$4,315 is in this fund.

The triangle shaped stained glass window in our sanctuary is gorgeous. In 2004, the outside woodwork around it was painted. Three years ago, during a big storm. While the large cherry tree was falling beside the playground, rainwater was coming in around the frames. \$1,400 has already been donated to caulk and paint the outside frame of this precious window again.

The parsonage carport was built in the 1960's. A lot of salt has come off cars over the years, and the concrete carport floor needs some care. \$2,995 is in a fund for this job.

In addition, the Lord's Acre team has set aside \$5,000, and the Trustees have an additional \$6,000 in funds for improvements. Would you pray that if the Lord wills these jobs could be completed in 2022?

## ***Summer Camp 2022***

July 18-22 are the days you want to put on your calendar. This is the fourth year Camp-in-the-Community is coming to Narrows! Our church missions team believes so much in this program that they are committing \$1,500 to bless the children of our community. This is for ANY child who will be going into the kindergarten through 8th grade. The cost is free. All you must do is sign up and meet daily from 9-3 at Narrows UMC.

## ***Together Again***

Resurrection Youth invites us to be “Together Again” January 21-23. Speaker: Paul Epperson has a passion and a call to speak to youth and others about the power of God. Paul and his wife have 5 children and live in South Carolina. Music: Roger Williams and the All Mixed Up Quartet. Yes, this is the same group that came to our church years ago for our one-day Giles County Resurrection event. Keep talking to Grace Trent and Renee Williams about how you can participate.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Alice Dowdy  
Tommy & Evelyn Johnston  
Pat Laughlin  
Ralph D. Lucas*

### Stewardship Report-Budget

Received November a year ago .....	\$ 23,163.78
Received November .....	\$ 15,112.86
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 203,652.45
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 195,104.19

### **Our Investment Banker**

On January 30, Paul Bowman the director of the Holston Conference Foundation is coming to speak for worship. There are thirty-nine thousand reasons you might want to listen to him. That is the how much our church has in our endowments and long-term savings. The endowment fund was started by Alec and Love Witten to support seminary students and our youth program. Annually this fund creates well over \$1,000 for these ministries. All because of a dream. If you would like to talk with Paul 865-690-8124 privately about how you can make an endowment gift or set up a Charitable Gift Annuity. The Foundation has blessed our congregation with grants for our playground and support for our senior ministries.

### **Let's Jubilate**

What do we know so far? This is the 20th anniversary of Jubilation, and the celebration is scheduled for May 2-4, 2022, at The Black Fox Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN. More details will be available in January. Ellen Salmon is interested in attending.

## *A Note of Thanks*

Thank you to all who prepared food and helped in any way with the Thanksgiving meal delivery and potluck supper! Your help was greatly appreciated!

Rita Palmer

## **Words from Outside the Walls**

On separate occasions in the last several months, folks from the Giles County Administration, who know that we are members of Pearisburg First UMC, have mentioned to me that they love our church! They have noted how involved our members and our church are in serving the community, whether it be helping at the mission, distributing food and meals, or providing space for expanded day-care services during the pandemic. They said that they love the way that Brian Burch responds when the County calls our church asking for help. "We know when we call Brian, he is going to say YES when we are looking for help."

We often discuss in our Sunday School class how it is sometime difficult to share the Gospel with others, as we do not want to appear pushy. This feedback assures me that our church is providing a strong witness for the love of Christ in our community. This should make us all proud to be associated with FUMC Pearisburg.  
Alan & Debbie Leet

### **Poinsettias 2021**



Thank you to those that sponsored Poinsettias this Christmas at \$15 each. The last time we had live flowers in worship was at Easter. What a joy to see these plants brighten up our sanctuary this Christmas.

### **Poinsettias are given:**

In honor of Ann Mulheren by Kim & Ray Norton

In honor of Mark & Nancy Haynie by Mark, Diane, Brooks, Marcus, & Frenda

In memory of Mullie Mulheren by Kim & Ray Norton

In memory of Harvey & Trudie Gillespie by George, Stewart, & Warren

In memory of Jacob Roe by Dianne and Ethan

\* You may pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Pearisburg, VA 24134  
PO Box 400  
401 Hale Street

First United Methodist Church

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