



Life @ 1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020

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Rambling Thoughts of a Pastor by Pastor Paul

"He is not Here: For He is risen." -Matthew 28:6

In the Gospel of Matthew we read how an angel appeared to the women at the tomb early that first Easter morning. The angel explained to them that Jesus was not there because he had been raised from the dead, just as he said! Matthew tells us that the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy.

That's what the resurrection does. It takes our fear, our worry, our hurt, our sadness...and puts it all into perspective.

The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead, that he was victorious over death and sin, is reason to celebrate. It's that fact that gives us joy despite our circumstances and through whatever we may face. What happened on that first Easter day still brings us joy and it still changes lives today.

Easter is an excellent time for a "do over" for our life as well. Perhaps we have gotten lazy in our attendance (Corona Virus notwithstanding); involvement or giving, so why not wipe the slate clean and start again? Make that commitment to be a more faithful disciple during the rest of 2020 and every year thereafter. You can be a part of the outreach of our church through this special gift.

I hope you will join us online Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, that you will be filled with joy no matter what your circumstances, no matter what you face. Rejoice and sing as we celebrate how Jesus still changes lives today.

In Christ,

Rev. Paul M. Helmick, OP
 First United Methodist Church
 905 Glendale Ave.
 South Charleston, WV 25303

Please send prayer requests for the worship service to Pastor Paul ahead of the service if possible. wvpastorpaul@gmail.com or (304) 695-0013.

Online Order of Service will be distributed weekly on Thursday via email and will be posted on website (bulletins).
<http://southcharlestonfirstumc.org/about-us>

Online service can be viewed at
<https://www.facebook.com/1stumcsc>

Change in Church Office Hours

Due to the **COVID-19** virus, changes have been made to the days and hours the church office is open. Linda will be in the office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Offerings may be dropped off during these times. **BEFORE** dropping off your offering, please call the church for instructions as to where to place it. You may also mail your offering to the church at 905 Glendale Ave., So. Charleston, WV 25303.

Heart + Hand Needs Our Help!

They are in desperate need of canned and boxed food. If you can safely donate, all you need to do is drive up to the drop-off area (in the back) and they will get the food from your car. You can still practice social distancing. Food can be dropped off Monday—Thursday from 10:00 –3:00 p.m.

Need Help During COVID-19 Pause in Place?

Please contact the church office at 304-744-3211 if you need assistance with grocery items, picking up prescriptions, etc. We will do our best to meet your needs during this crisis.

April Prayer by David Biondi

Most gracious and ever-giving, ever-living

Lord: As we enter into the month of April, we find ourselves in the closing days of Lent. Holy Week will be soon upon us; and so we pray that, as we recount all that transpired on that week long ago when you made your journey to Calvary, we would be deeply touched and moved by your great

sacrificial love for us: That, although you were guiltless and without sin, you willingly bore the enormous pain of the Cross in order to take the sins of the whole world upon yourself so that we might be blessed with redemption and salvation. May we, most loving Savior, never forget or trivialize just what you did

for us; and, by virtue of your wondrous sacrifice touching our hearts and lives, may we be willing to avail ourselves more fully and completely for the world for which you came, died and rose again. May we have a most blessed and meaningful Easter, ever proclaiming the great and glorious Good News that: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Amen.

You are invited to the Methodist Men meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 4

The Methodist Men of First Church are meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday and you are invited! Because of the coronavirus, we will meet online and by phone.

If you have a computer or phone with a camera and Internet access, you can join the meeting in two easy steps:

* Download the Zoom app, which is free. You'll find it in the app store.

* Join the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday by clicking on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/865754436?pwd=YWx5dmc5SmlSUW8yMXNEd29JWHhRdz09>

If you don't have a computer or phone with the Internet or camera, no problem! You can join the meeting by calling one of these phone numbers:

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,865754436# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,865754436# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

You probably won't need these, but in case you do:

Our meeting ID is: 865 754 436

Our meeting password is: 004777



WOW
Mac 'n Cheese
Challenge

Neff Wins First Annual Mac 'n Cheese Challenge

by George Hohmann

David Neff was declared winner of the First Annual Mac 'n Cheese Challenge at the conclusion of the event, which was held March 4 during W.O.W. (Way Out Wednesday).

Five mac 'n cheese dishes were prepared by Methodist Men. Neff's winning recipe featured mac 'n cheese topped with pepperoni.

Only WOW children were allowed to vote. Each child was given the opportunity to taste-test one, two, three, four or all five dishes. After all of the taste-

testing concluded, each child was given five pennies and asked to cast their votes (pennies) for their favorite dish or dishes. Children could use all of their pennies to vote for one dish or they could distribute their coins among their favorites.

Neff's mac 'n cheese earned 51 votes. Second place — a classic creamy mac 'n cheese dish prepared by George Hohmann — earned 41 pennies. A dish by Dave Biondi earned 36 pennies. Several dishes were pre-

pared by Mike Warwick.

Neff's first-place prize, in addition to bragging rights, included a bowl with some leftover steamed broccoli.

Contest organizers announced that they plan to upgrade next year's contest to include a prize consisting of a necklace made of dry macaroni elbows.

Following the First Annual Challenge, there were unconfirmed rumors that the United Methodist Men are considering challenging the United Methodist Women to a church-wide mac 'n cheese contest.

Spring Heights Work Day Re-scheduled for May 16 by George Hohmann

The March 20 work day at Spring Heights has been rescheduled for May 16.

Men from First Church and Elizabeth Memorial will join with other men around the conference to re-build the deck to Spring Heights' office. Many other opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers will be available (Spring Heights is a 1,000-acre camp and education center with lots of buildings and outdoor equipment!).

First Church men will carpool from the First Church parking lot at 8 a.m. We expect to be back around 5 p.m. For more information e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.

Remember
you can send
your prayer
requests to
Kathy Judge at
corljudge@aol.com or call
304-550-2172.

Upper Room Prayer Wall Can Help Us Stay Connected

by George Hohmann,
President, WV UM Men

What can we do during this time of social distancing to become closer to Christ?

Please consider visiting The Upper Room Prayer Wall (online at <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/prayer-wall>).

For many years, The Upper Room operated a toll-free phone number. Last year this service was moved to the Internet.

When you go to the Prayer Wall, you may request prayer — or pray for someone who has already made a request. Both may be done anonymously.

Here is a link to a video that explains how to use the Prayer Wall:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFI12BVh7jk>

Please consider visiting the Prayer Wall daily. Leave a request for prayer. Scroll through the requests left by others and reply to one or more that touch your heart.

Retired Pastor Monty Brown said he has a plaque in his home that says, “Prayer is the best wireless connection.”

Amen!

Sign Up Now for Garden Plot

To sign up for a plot in the Community Garden, please e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.

The organizational meeting scheduled March 29 has been postponed. A new date will be announced in the May newsletter.

Back Door March 2020



On Stage: Ella Hamilton, Trey Bennett, Emily Chittenden, Emily Barnard, Paul Helmick (behind Trey) and Jenny Schenck on piano.



What a wonderful kick-off to our new Alternative Worship Service held the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the Wesley Hall.



Staying Connected

by Jeri Whitten

President, United Methodist Women

One of my favorite hymns seems more appropriate now than ever before.

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

(Refrain) I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! We are the church together!

I miss my church, not the building, but the people. I miss the choir and Pat's beautiful music; I miss coming a little early and chatting with those who sit around me; I miss the children; I miss the prayers; I miss sharing your joys and concerns. We should be very thankful that today's technology allows us to join Sunday services via Facebook until we can resume our normal routine. In the

meantime, let us continue to pray for each other, our families, our friends, and those who are hurting.

Even though being forced into "social distancing," curtailing shopping unless absolutely necessary, refraining from eating out, gathering in groups, etc., has forced us into a type of isolation, it also lets us focus on the goodness all around us. People step up to help their friends and neighbors without prompting. We can all call someone to make sure they have all their needs met, to chat a while and help with the loneliness.

For fifty years I was involved in the health care arena – not as a nurse, lab tech, radiology tech or physician, nursing assistant or housekeeping aid, but a training program coordinator. These are remarkable, caring

people during normal times, but now they are today's heroes. The stockers and check-out men and women at the local grocery stores are heroes, as are the truck drivers, men and women who drive the trains and buses, the farmers and dairy farmers. Let us keep them in our prayers for their good health and their amazing commitment to this great country.

We, the church, can call on our God to get us through this crisis. Perhaps in the end, we will all have learned a valuable lesson. Connecting with our family, friends and neighbors is a powerful thing.



Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

April 2020



God equips and enables us through the working of the Holy Spirit to use our time doing his will. We demonstrate God's grace at work within us as we do his will by serving him through serving others. With the words of the psalmist we pray,

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

God's wisdom enables us to use well the time he has given us. As Paul wrote,

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

By wisely using our time to the glory and honor of God, we can live this life abundantly.

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

Will Rogers

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. and if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Ronald Reagan

Using our Time Wisely

In order to live as God-pleasing stewards, we will want to use the time that God entrusts to us wisely. We can start by asking the question: "Lord, what can I do with my time that will please you and give you the glory you deserve?" First and foremost, God wants us to spend our time in serving and glorifying him. In speaking to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote,

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

We can give God glory by dedicating our daily tasks to him. Our hands and feet can be doing routine and mundane things, but our hearts and minds can be focused on the Lord. To the Colossians Paul wrote,

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

In all that we do, God is to be part of our activities.

Good Works

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, we have been equipped for every good work. *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). God places within us a

desire to do his work, and he equips us to do it. We are the channels through which God seeks the lost and helps those in need. We are blessed to be a blessing. *“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Some Bony Observations

It has been said that the “body” of a church has four kinds of bones:

- 1. The Wishbones ... who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do all the work.**
- 2. The Jawbones ... who do all the talking, and very little else.**
- 3. The Knucklebones ... who know everything anyone else tries to do.**
- 4. The Backbones ... who get under the load and get the work done.**

What kind of bone are you?

The Grace of Giving

Through our own personal efforts, we are not going to be able to increase our level of giving. We grow in the grace of giving as the Holy Spirit, working through God’s Word, instructs and empowers us to be more generous. As we spend time reading and studying God’s Word, we will grow in faith and, as a result, grow also in our generosity. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2

Corinthians 9:8).

It is only by God’s grace that we have money to give, and it is only by God’s grace that we have the desire to give.

Giving Is an Act of Worship

A little boy was fidgeting in church one Sunday morning during the pastor’s sermon. Finally, he leaned over to his mother and asked, “Mom, if we give the money now, do you think he’ll let us go?” If this boy expresses our idea of stewardship, we are missing the true meaning, purpose, and joy that are associated with giving. Our giving should express our thankfulness for who God is and what God does for us. Through our giving, we worship and honor our heavenly Father. We give not because God needs our gifts, but because we have a need to give. God in his sovereignty chooses to bless us as we give (Acts 20:35).



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

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Do you have an event you want to advertise on our church website, southcharlestonfirstumc.org? Send your information and a picture, drawing, cartoon, etc. to Barbara Brown at cbpnuts@aol.com. We can post information on the Home page and Event page. Just let us know what you would like to highlight and we will make it happen.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

01 William Bare	23 Barney Lilly, Hope Altman
02 Jean Young	24 Barbara Reveal, Michael McCarty
06 Kendyl Bostic, Greg Whitten	25 Eleanor McClung, Sandy Warwick
08 Don Barnard	27 Diana Jones, Rachel Bostic
09 Nancy Altman, Michael Cidor	29 Diane Wood
10 Betty Hurd, Linda Nehr	
14 Michael Deardorff	

Anniversaries

04 George Russell and Jane Duffy	25 Art and Nancy Altman
08 Greg and Megan Young	30 Paul and Kathy Helmick
19 Charley and Barbara Brown	

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Due to COVID-19 upcoming events are subject to change please confirm meeting is being held before attending.

Saturday, April 4—UM Men Meeting via Zoom (page 3)

April WV UMW Spring Retreat has been cancelled.

Saturday, May 2—UM Men's Fundraiser 9:00 a.m. at Applebees

Thursday, May 16—Spring Heights Rescheduled

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