



Life @ 1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

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Rambling Thoughts of a Pastor by Pastor Paul

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are all probably tired of hearing about COVID-19. This pandemic was unexpected but whether we like it or not this is our new reality. However, one positive change we have seen is an increase in churches who are offering services online. There is a lot of good that can come from having an online presence for your church.

One positive thing in particular is the ability to reach younger generations, including millennials (26- to 40-year-olds) and Gen Z (8- to 25-year-olds). Many people from previous generations may feel they have little to nothing in common with the Gen Z population, but they might actually have more in common than you think. We want to reach out to Gen Zers. Because there are not many people in that age range in FUMC, being online is essential. Reaching out can be easy and practical even if you are not super tech savvy.

Here are 3 practical ways that you can grow your Gen Z ministry online.

1. Set Up Online Services That Last Past COVID.

Gen Z is the first generation to have never known life without the internet and social media. The way that Gen Z “does” church is different than any generation before them.

2. Connect on Social Media

Another way to connect with Gen Z beyond streaming is through social media. Instagram specifically is the social media platform where most Gen Zers hang out. This is the place to have a presence to attract Gen Z to your church.

3. Have Authentic Conversations Online

The more you can be “real” on social media and give people something to relate to, the more likely they will want to attend FUMC online and be encouraged by the hope found in Jesus. These are all great ideas but at the end of the day authenticity looks different for each church and that is what makes church special.

This is a unique time for us all, but the transition to the online environment opens up doors to connection if the church knows how to reach Gen Z. This generation has so much potential and fire for the Lord that is so exciting to see, and it is important that your church knows how to engage with them and reach them with the message of Jesus. Invest in the younger generation, pour into them, and encourage them in their faith. That is what they crave and the internet is a great place to do that. The future of the church can be found when we do our part to reach them.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Peace, Love and Books August 2020

by Teresa Matheny

Broken & Blessed: God changes the world one person and one family at a time by Jessica LaGrone

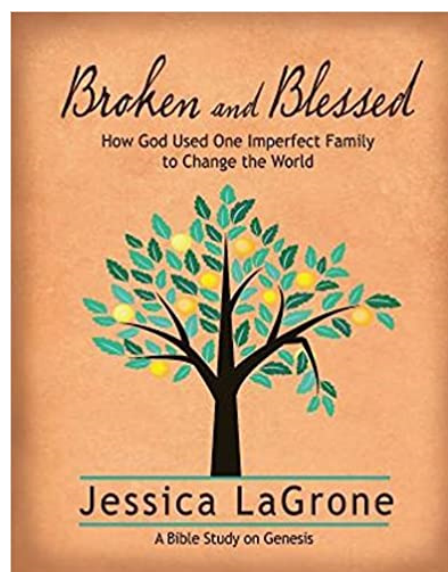
God wants to change the world. He starts with a family. When God wants to change a family, he starts with one person. The first family in Genesis was a mess by anyone's standards, but God chose them for his purpose—just as God chooses every one of us and our families today. When God wants to create the remarkable, God chooses to work with the less-than-perfect. Popular speaker and teacher Jessica LaGrone explores Genesis as the book of beginnings, a book deeply concerned with the origins of things: of the universe, of relationships, of families, and of one special family chosen by God to be the instrument through which God would bless the world. That family is our family—yours and mine. Like all good family stories, it starts with not just a something or somewhere, but a someone. In *Broken & Blessed*—part memoir, part biblical inspiration story—Jessica LaGrone unpacks how change begins when one person decides to believe God's promises and how that decision makes profound changes in a whole family, like ripples on water.

“With abundant tenderness and humor, Jessica LaGrone paints an insightful—and often unexpected—portrait of God's family. *Broken & Blessed* is essential reading for believers, seekers, and anyone who's ever felt like she didn't belong.” —David McGlynn, author of *A Door in the Ocean*.

“*Broken & Blessed* is exciting for its depth of insight into Genesis, the loving way it examines the book, and the humanity with which it relates the timeless passages to life today. It made me both laugh and cry, and with it all, to love God and life still more.” —J. Ellsworth Kalas, author and former president of Asbury Theological Seminary.

“In *Broken & Blessed*, Jessica LaGrone carefully weaves together the families of the Genesis stories with her own observations to help us understand God's unwavering love. No matter the condition of your family, LaGrone's book invites you to see it with generosity and compassion, the way God intended.” —Laura Lapins Willis, author of *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*

This book is located on the United Methodist Women reading cart in the church library. NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY/2017



Church-wide picnic canceled; men works on service project

The church-wide picnic originally scheduled Aug. 22 has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

On July 11 the men assisted with the furniture ministry organized by Heart+Hand and First Presbyterian Church. Heart+Hand verifies requests for furniture; First Presbyterian rents a U-Haul truck and schedules pick-ups and drop-offs. Men from congregations in the area volunteer their time to perform the service throughout the summer months.

President Mike Warwick, Rev. Dave Biondi and Roy and Taylor Fultineer formed the volunteer crew on July 11. “We made six pickups and filled the U-Haul twice,” Mike said.

The men have a goal of doing at least one community outreach project every month. Their next project: Distributing a personal letter of appreciation and a bookmark with an appropriate scripture passage to all 100 members of the South Charleston Police and Fire departments.

You can help finance the Men’s projects by sending a check to First Church, 905 Glendale Ave., South Charleston, WV 25303. Please write “UM Men” on the memo line.

The next meeting of the First Church men will be via Zoom at 9 a.m. on Aug. 8.

State men plan to meet online

The West Virginia United Methodist Men are planning to meet online Sept. 12 — the date the annual gathering and Scout Circuit Rider was scheduled at WVU Jackson’s Mill.

This year’s in-person events at the Mill were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

For updates as plans unfold, visit the state Men’s website at <http://wvcummen.org>.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down by Kathy Judge

COVID -19 has cancelled some events, however, the Homeless Veterans Stand Down is still scheduled for Sept 16 in Huntington, WV. In the event it would get cancelled the veterans will still need items. Angela Miller, the homeless programs coordinator, she said she would love to continue the partnership with our church.

Angela said they could use T-shirts, underwear and socks in sizes medium, large, extra-large and 2X. The most popular sizes are large and extra-large. However, they are totally out of medium sizes.

They also could use deodorant, cleaning products, toilet paper and paper towels. Boxed cakes and individually wrapped treats would also be appreciated.

I would like to set aside two days for collection of these items.

Monday, Aug 31, from 12:00 – 2:00

Monday, Sept 14, from 12:00 – 2:00

The drop off will be “TOUCHLESS” at the church parking lot (parsonage side). Monetary donations will be accepted as well. These donations may be made to FUMC and noted for VA Stand Down. From the funds we receive we will purchase the needed items.

Thanks again for supporting the Homeless Veterans.



Community Garden by George Hohmann

Garden plots available for fall growing season

Community Garden plots remain available for the fall growing season. For more information e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.

August Prayer by David Biondi

Almighty and eternal God, as we enter into the month of August, we still find ourselves being seriously impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Whereas we had been hopeful that the warm, dry weather of the summer months would serve to abate the spread of the virus, we find that such is not the case, for the incidences of new cases are increasing in numerous parts of our country rather than diminishing -- with such also being the case right here in our own West Virginia communities. This leaves us in a particular quandary with regard to the proposed opening of our schools being right around the corner, thus leaving us con-

cerned for the safety of the students, their teachers and other employees associated with the school system. O God, we beseech you to impress upon everyone the need to be attentive and vigilant in taking necessary actions so as to help prevent any further spreading of the virus. And while mask-wearing and social-distancing are inconvenient and frustrating, such precautions are so very important for the safety and well-being of us all; so please inspire us to make the necessary adaptations willingly, recognizing that our actions in this regard do have their consequences.

Please guide all those who are in positions of leadership, that they would set

forth measures which are wise and prudent so as to stem the tide of the pandemic's spread. Please be with those who have been infected with the virus, bringing healing and wholeness to them. Please keep the medical personnel who are treating the afflicted safe and strong so that they will be able to attend to their work without incident. And please continue to bring knowledge and enlightenment to the scientists and researchers who are working to find suitable treatments to subdue the coronavirus once and for all. May your watchful eye and mighty hand be over us all in these trying times, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Church Website:
southcharlestonfirstumc.org

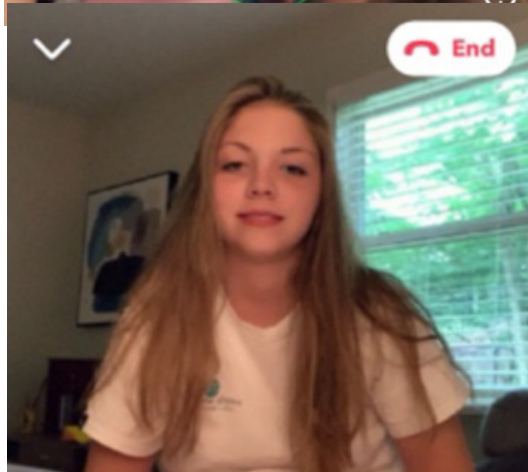
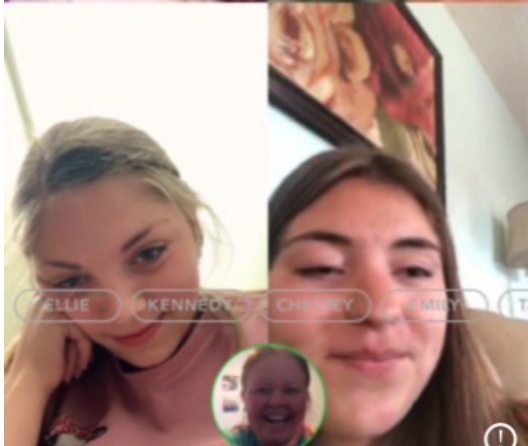
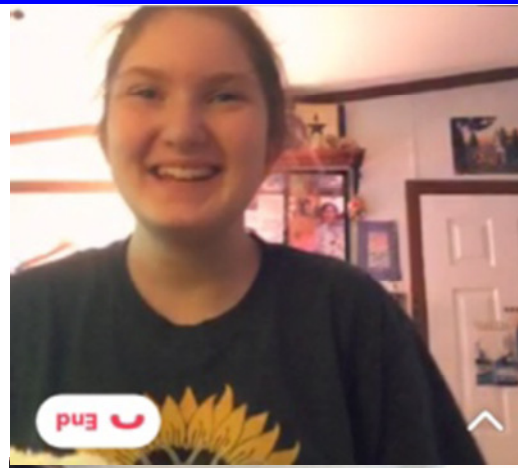
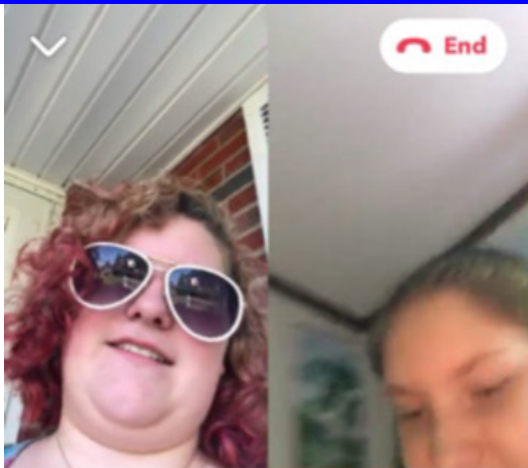
Listen to sermons and read bulletins, newsletters on First Church's website

Did you miss a sermon? Need to check something in the Sunday Worship Bulletin or monthly newsletter? Want to know what Pastor Paul will be preaching about in upcoming services? You can find the answer to these questions and more on the church's website!

Go to southcharlestonfirstumc.org. Click on "Sermons" to find the message you want to hear. Click on "About Us" to read bulletins and newsletters. **Stay Connected!**

Youth Still Connecting

Sara Hampton has shared with us some pictures of the youth. Don't you miss seeing these lovely faces! Sara says the youth continue to meet via Snapchat. Hoping to resume Zoom meetings for the fall. Thanks Sara for sharing these pictures!



CANCELLED

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in our conference area and dire warnings of another resurgence in the fall, the WV Conference United Methodist Women Leadership Team has unanimously voted to cancel the **ANNUAL MEETING** that was scheduled for **October 22-23, at Alpine Lake Resort.**

Happy Summer West Virginia Conference United Methodist Women!

God wants us to enjoy the Promised Land. After wandering in the wilderness so long, our joy muscles can get a little weak. Give yourself permission to celebrate where God has brought you and what he has entrusted to you.

Grace and peace to you as we continue to struggle with the surprises COVID-19 has given us. We are all affected by the circumstances of this virus and through the grace of God, we will prevail. We have been forced to cancel meetings, events and activities throughout this past spring and summer. We continue to cancel meetings and events as the summer progresses into fall. Please know that it has been through much prayer and consideration that we opted to make these choices.

I have recommended that all Fall District Meetings be cancelled to follow the guidelines of the CDC, Governor Justice and the United Methodist Church and to keep our ladies safe and healthy. I believe each district will follow these guidelines. We will assist any district with ideas and plans for future meetings.

Your Conference Team has been meeting via Zoom trying to make plans for the near future. We are currently working on pulling ideas together to make sure we are able to complete the necessary business that is normally taken care of at Annual Meeting. The same ideas can be used for district fall meetings as well. As soon as we have some concrete plans, we will share them with the district leadership teams so elections, budgets/pledges and other business can be finalized. Please keep in mind that tenure will still be in order so your committees on nominations should continue searching for new officers.

In a time such as this, we have to find a new normal. What used to be is no longer. Please wash your hands often, socially distance yourself whenever possible, wear a mask even though they are uncomfortable, wave at your friends instead of hugging them and wash your hands some more. Stay safe and healthy.

Peace,

Sue Dostal

WV Conference United Methodist Women President



Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Lakie McMillion:

Jean Young

First United Methodist wishes to thank all who have honored our loved ones with a donation to our church Memorial Fund.

Memorial gifts are often given at the time of a person's death instead of flowers. It is a way to say that the person was important and will be missed. But memorial gifts do not always have to come at a person's death. Some people also like to make memorial gifts on the anniversary of someone's death or at other times in remembrance of someone close.

Some gifts can be given to honor someone who is still alive. It is a celebration of one's life at an anniversary, birthday, or just to say thanks.

Donations can be mailed to the church advising if the donation is in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone.

Find the latest updates in news and information on our WV Conference United Methodist Women Website at <https://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/umw/>

WV United Methodist Women Facebook Page @ <https://www.facebook.com/umwwwv/>

WV UMW Facebook Group @ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1841116975921529/>

Graceful Generosity

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

Purpose for Giving

It is always a sad thing to hear members of a church, brothers and sisters in Christ, talk about "we" and "they" when speaking of fellow church members. These words are often heard in phrases such as, "**They** are always asking **us** for money. Why should **we** give just so that **they** can spend it where **they** want?"

It's an attitude that brings puzzlement to many minds. Why the division into these camps? Who is it that asks us to give anyway? For what purpose do we give? Of course, we know it's scripturally-based. From the beginning, God has asked for our firstfruits. We also know that God could accomplish his work without any help from us, just as he created the world out of nothing, but he gives us the joy of being his partners. Perhaps we should consider those two thoughts when we think about our giving.

For what should our money be used? For the Lord's work, which is done through the church. What is the main task of the church, but to preach the Word? And is it not the task of the church members, then, to support that preacher of the Word?

"Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:13-14).

So spoke St. Paul.

"Feed my lambs" (John 21:15), Jesus said. Having received our spiritual sustenance, we, his lambs, now go out into the world to feed the lost sheep who need both spiritual and physical food. "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17). Having experienced the love of God through his children, the lost sheep are then receptive to the spiritual food



which is offered – offered over back yard fences, offered through homeless shelters, offered in faraway lands where our missionaries minister.

Do you still feel as if **you** are giving to **them**? Actually, you're not even giving to God, only returning to him what is his to begin with. Let us pray that we might find joy and excitement that he chooses to use the gifts, the time, the financial resources he has entrusted to us so that his people might be cared for and the Gospel may be preached to the ends of the earth.

A Sermon to Remember

While watching a little TV on Sunday before going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church would even bother to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

“When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all the trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me ... the only thing that would comfort me was this verse...

*“Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
We are weak but he is strong . . .
Yes, Jesus loves me . . .
The Bible tells me so.”*

That was a sermon to remember!

On the Lighter Side

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Reverend,” said the young man, “I’m so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The minister chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”



People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention!



Three Kinds of Givers

It has been said, “There are three kinds of givers: the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb.”

To get everything out of a flint, you must hammer it and then you get only chips and sparks.

To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze, the more you will get.

But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness.

Some people are stingy and hard; they give nothing away if they can help it. Others are good natured; they yield to pressure and the more they are pressed the more they will give. A few delight in giving, without being asked at all; and of these the Bible says: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Rick Johnston Memorial Bike Ride was held on July 4th.



Pictured: Jim Snyder, George Russell and Ed King.

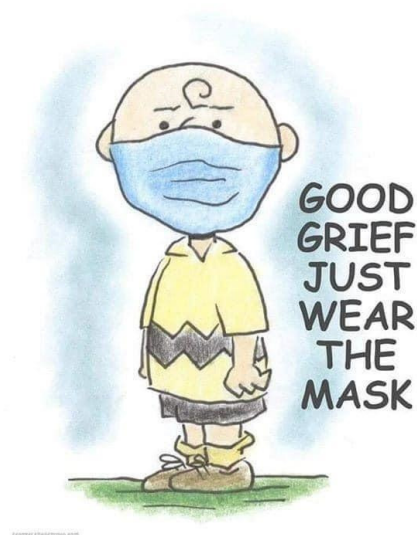


Pictured: Jim Snyder, George Russell and Peggy King.

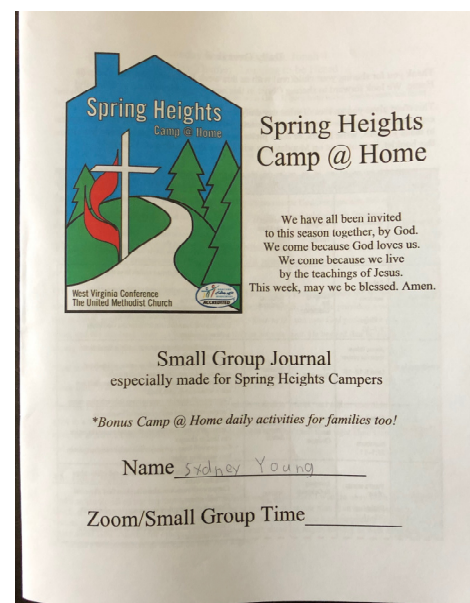
Each year a group of bicyclist of all ages get together to ride their bikes in memory of Rick Johnston. This year the group stayed close to home and rode around in Kanawha City on the city trail. They started early that morning to beat the heat.

If you are interested in joining the group for a leisurely ride, please contact Jim Snyder or George Russell. Perhaps they will schedule another ride in the fall. The more the merrier!

“When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought on anything but the ride you are taking.” — *Arthur Conan Doyle, British author*



Spring Heights Camp @ Home



There were several opportunities in July to participate in the Spring Heights Camp @ home. We hope you and your family were able to participate in some of them. Pictured above is our very own Sydney Young. Peggy King stated, "It was hard to do things remotely, but she did learn some things and we had some laughs."

August Celebrations

Birthdays

01 June Bumgarner	14 Emma Crouch
02 Nancy Wolfe	16 Christina Byrd
03 Karen Saunders	17 Nathan Altman
07 Ed King	18 Donna Haynes, Tim Brown, Teresa Matheny, Ken Bostic
09 Angela Young	20 J. D. Pauley
10 Emily Barnard, Elisha Holleron	22 Patty Lake
11 Sue Warden	28 George Russell, III
	31 Barbara Good

Anniversaries

01 Gary and Barbara Good	11 Brent and Tanya Kesner
05 Tim and Toni Brown	12 John and Lorrie Mottesheard
09 Andrew and Hope Altman	24 Zeke and Sara Hampton
10 Michael and Kim Deardorff	

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Aug 8 UM Men Zoom Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
 Aug 22 Churchwide Picnic (**Cancelled**)
 Aug 31 Collection of Veteran Stand Down Items 12 - 2 pm
 Sept 5 UM Men Zoom Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
 Sept 12 WV UM Men to meet online
 Sept 14 Collection of Veteran Stand Down Items 12 - 2 pm
 Sept 16 Homeless Veterans Stand Down

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.

Prayer Request Guidelines

New guidelines for prayer requests: Any prayer requests that are to be mentioned during the upcoming online Sunday service must be sent to corljudge@aol.com by Wednesday evening. Prayer requests made after Wednesday will be read the following week. Additional prayer requests can be sent to corljudge@aol.com at any time. Also, all prayer requests will be read for two weeks unless we are notified otherwise.

life @ 1st Church

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