



Life @ 1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

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Rambling Thoughts of a Pastor by Pastor Paul

Dear First Church Family

It is hard to image that we would be this long without face-to-face worship and fellowship at 905 Glendale Ave. 2020 has been a year like no other that our church or society can remember. Keeping Wesley's charge to "Do no harm" has become the focal point of our evangelistic movement. The phrase, "We have never done this before" has changed from a lament to a rally cry. We are tired and worn yet anxious and eager all at the same time. So where do we go from here (picture Guns and Roses)?

So many have raised the question of when do we get back to normal? I do not believe that we will ever get back to the normal you might think you want, nor do I really want to do that. Our normal was a denomination that is in a fifty percent decline in membership, a denomination split over the issue of sexuality, a denomination of separate political camps with no view of bipartisanship and a denomination that constantly wrestles with our view of racism. Perhaps this is our opportunity for a new reformation movement thus defining a new normal.

We have ventured into new ways of reaching people with the Gospel message and I do not see us going back but rather looking for even new avenues of encountering those who need to hear the message of good news. At the same time this is a time to be looking for new and innovating ways of financing the very mission of the church to guarantee the forward growth and direction of First United Methodist of South Charleston, WV. I am looking forward to gathering again as soon as safe and possible and more details will be coming in the next week or so. I believe this is a time to rally to the call of the Gospel and not lament the loss of what we had.

I'm Pastor Paul

Grace and peace.





United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Peace, Love and Books September 2020

by Teresa Matheny

I hope during this unusual time of Corona and quarantine that some of you have taken the time to direct your thoughts inwardly and focused on taking some time for yourself – one way to do that is to read a few UMW Reading Program books. Our books are in the church library and Linda is in the office Monday through Wednesday and will be happy to let you in to choose a book or two.

The purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God's mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and to enhance and act on self-knowledge. When you read these UMW books you are making yourself more aware of the community and world around you.

I would like to remind all the participants of our United Methodist Women Reading Program that your completed book lists will be due to me by Sunday, December 6th.

Some of the books that have been highlighted this year are:

Which Way Lord? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul
by Rob Fuquay,

Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography: The Faith of the 20th Century's Most
Influential Woman by Harold Ivan Smith,

House of Purple Cedar by Tim Tingle, and

Writings of John Wesley by John Wesley.

These are just a few of the books available for you to read. If you need to come in to select a book at a time when Linda is not there I will be happy to meet you at the church library so you can browse and choose a few books. Just give me a call at 304 744 1903.



FUMC received a Thank You from Heart + Hand for our donation of food to their pantry.

Heart + Hand to hold a back to school bash on Friday, September 4th 10 am to 2 pm.

Thank you for your recent donation to the food Pantry. Generosity like yours help us feed the community on a daily basis. Your continued support is a blessing to those who come to us in need.

Sincerely,
Keshia Neal
Social Services



Your volunteer time is valuable

According to the organization, Independent Sector, volunteers help their neighbors, serve their communities and provide their expertise in invaluable ways. The organization acknowledges that putting a value on volunteer hours doesn't do them justice but feels it is one way to show the contributions individuals and organizations have made in our communities. In West Virginia, Independent Sector values a volunteer hour at **\$23.01**.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down by Kathy Judge

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Our many generous members contributed so well to the homeless veterans stand down, my Yukon was filled to the top with 142 pairs of socks, 100 t-shirts, 144 pairs of underwear, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items plus many goodies. I believe this was our best year ever. A big “THANK YOU” to all of those who helped make the life of a homeless veteran more bearable. Our lives are enriched by having helped make this possible.



**Pictured: (Left to Right)
Linda Nehr, Ann Gieseke, Karen
Saunders, Susie Brewer, Kathy
Judge and Jeri Whitten.**

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!**

September Prayer by David Biondi

Almighty and eternal God, we come to you here in this month of September with on-going concerns as to what the future may hold due to the impact of the coronavirus upon ourselves and our families, friends and loved ones. We had hoped that by now things would be returning to some semblance of normality, but such is indeed not the case. Consequently, we are left with lingering questions as to just what is safe to do so as not to put anyone in harm's way. Should students and teachers return to the

classroom, or not? Should we chance eating out in restaurants, or simply avoid such settings so as to play it safe? And importantly for us as your followers: Should we return to worshipping together in person (while maintaining safe-distancing practices when we would be together), or should we just continue to stay at home and participate in the online worship services? These and so many other questions fill our minds to the point that we find our heads spinning. O God, please instill your wisdom, guidance and insight within us so that we might make good and wise deci-

sions amid our confusion. We continue to pray for those who are on the front lines of the pandemic -- those who are considered to be essential workers such as our first responders, medical personnel, educators, service persons, along with all others who put themselves at risk day in and day out so as to attend to people's needs. And please continue to be with us all so that we would maintain a spirit of patience, forbearance and endurance as well as a positive attitude as we live through this crisis. This we pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen

Church Website:
southcharlestonfirstumc.org

First Church men honor first responders

The First Church men are planning to give a personal letter of appreciation and a book of devotions for first responders titled "Strength for Service" to all 100 members of the South Charleston Police and Fire departments.

The presentations are tentatively scheduled to take place at South Charleston City Hall on Sept. 14.

The First Church men have a goal of doing at least one community outreach project every month. 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.

First Church men will meet at 9 a.m. Sept. 5 online via Zoom. For more information e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.

Outside Show and Sale
Original OIL PAINTINGS by
Nancy Altman

1406 Village Dr, So. Chas.

Rain or shine. Yard and carport for "distancing"

Sat., Aug 29, 1:00-6:00 and Sun, Aug 30, 1:00-6:00

Think Christmas! Original gifts! Prices \$25 - \$150

Please spread the word! Proceeds to 1st UMC. So. Chas.

Call 304-766-6369 for appointment at a different time

**Your help is needed
to build ramp to food pantry**

The Buffalo United Methodist Church needs a ramp built for their community food pantry. Our Midland South district has partnered with Rebuilding Together but WE NEED YOU to make this happen!

Project: Ramp build for Buffalo UMC

Dates: Sept. 14-19; Sept. 21-25(if needed)

Times: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily (any time during that time span)

Who: Anyone who likes construction. Note: youth under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

COVID safety practices will be in place. We will work in small, staggered teams.

If you will help, please e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916. Please be clear on the days and times you can help. Thank you!

Unity In Caring for Others by Barbara Brown

Covid-19 has affected us all and sometimes it is taking over our every thought. In an effort to look beyond Covid-19 and reconnecting to our community, the DIVAS wondered if there was a need we could focus on. We contacted Heart + Hand and they said they would like help with building 80 backpacks with school supplies.

Knowing that the DIVAS could not accomplish this alone, we contacted friends on UM Men and UM Women and asked for their assistance.

UM Men quickly decided it was a worthy cause and they contributed \$250 directly to Heart + Hand for the project.

UM Women swiftly rallied to the call and committed to building 30 backpacks with supplies. Their members surprised them with their generosity and were able to build a total of 35 backpacks with supplies.

The DIVAS then took the excess supplies and funds and were able to build 28 additional backpacks. That brings our total to 63 plus \$250 in direct contribution.

Thank you all for your contribution in time and money for this worthy cause. United together for a common good we were able to accomplish great things!



UMW Leadership Pictured: Karen Johnston, Sharen Deitz, Donna Haynes, Jeanne Murphy, Jeri Whitten and Nancy Wolfe. Teresa Matheny is taking the picture.



Graceful Generosity

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

The Deceitfulness of Money

From beginning to end, the Bible emphasizes God's ownership of all things. *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). God is the creator and owner of the universe. He has created us and owns us. Not only has he created us, he has also redeemed us from our sins. Because of whom God is and what God has done and continues to do, he deserves to be honored and glorified. Even though he is almighty God, he seeks a loving relationship with each one of us.

That relationship is greatly jeopardized by a common attitude toward money: greed. Wanting more money and possessions and holding on to them tightly can become such an obsession that life exists only for the purpose of acquiring more and more. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus described the various kinds of people who respond to the Gospel. Jesus stated that some *"seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants"* (Matthew 13:7). He explained, *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"* (Matthew 13:22).



Money and possessions can deceive us into believing that nothing is more important than to own things and to enjoy the things money can buy. Of all the things that Satan can use to separate us from our relationship with Jesus, money may be his most effective tool.

The fact that Jesus referred to money and possessions in more than 2,100 Bible verses indicates that he is very concerned about our attitudes toward and our relationships with money. Jesus spoke often about money and possessions because he knew the influence and power money can have over our lives. He was very interested in helping people understand that money can never provide us with real satisfaction in life. Richard Halverson wrote, "Jesus Christ said more about money than any other single thing because money is of first importance when it comes to a person's real nature. Money is an exact index to our true character. Throughout Scripture we find an intimate correlation between the development of a person's character and how he or she handles money."

"Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where his heart is."

Billy Graham

The Joy of Contentment

In contrast to materialism, contentment is a state of mind that does not desire more than what one has. A contented person is satisfied with what he has. The goal of a Christian is to be content regardless of his financial condition. Discontentment is a spiritual problem. It affects rich and poor and everyone in between. Discontentment can eat away at our souls and rob us of the joy the Lord wants us to have in Christ. A contented

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person sees the world from a different perspective than a materialistic person views it.

In the “have it now and enjoy life” society in which we live, contentment is no longer a goal. In this culture, the goal in life is self-gratification. Our society strives after material things that provide temporary happiness. Comfort is more of a goal than is contentment. Unfortunately, when all we care about is ourselves, we are never satisfied, because we keep telling ourselves we need and deserve more. We convince ourselves we should have more cars, bigger houses, better clothes, a classier neighborhood, a higher salary.

The writer of Hebrews wrote, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’ ” (Hebrews 13:5). If we love money and the things of this world, we will never be content. Money and possessions can’t buy contentment. Only in Christ can we find lasting contentment. The Apostle Paul’s contentment came from knowing and trusting in Jesus. “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13).

Paul had learned the secret of contentment. Paul was in prison when he wrote those words in Philippians, and he had been at the point of death several times. If anyone could have said he was in need or want, it was Paul. In fact, Paul’s message on contentment should make many of us uncomfortable.

How could our circumstances be as bleak as his? We know that Paul suffered from a physical problem, was stoned, beaten, and went without food.

Yet he gave God thanks for everything. He was content whether he had abundance or nothing. Because Paul was content regardless of his circumstances, he is a magnificent example of contentment. Through Paul, we see that, when we depend on Christ for everything, we can accept any situation here on earth, knowing that God won’t abandon us.



What was Paul’s secret? How did he find contentment in all those circumstances? His contentment came from Christ Jesus himself. He found contentment in the fact that he was forgiven all of his sins and sinful behavior. He was assured that Christ was with him constantly. He knew that God was always there to see him through and that God would never give him more than he could handle. He knew that Christ Jesus died on the cross for him to give him life every day on earth and eternal life in heaven. He knew that Christ would rescue him from every trouble and sustain him in every trial along the way. He experienced Christ’s promise, “*My grace is sufficient for you!*” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Hike for Hunger

If you are interested in walking with the walkers beginning at Heart + Hand and following that route, or virtual walking on your own, please contact Teresa Matheny at 304-545-6587. When you register with Teresa, please give her your T-shirt size. Please register prior to Sept 30.

You are welcome to support the walk with a monetary donation. Just make your check out to FUMC and in the memo write Hike for Hunger. Please mail your check to the church by Friday, September 25th so we can get a check to Heart and Hand before the actual walk.



Heart + Hand
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Celebrating 55 Years!

Virtual Event Starts
October 4, 2020 at 2:00pm
www.facebook.com/KayHallHike

Join us for our annual Kay Hall Hike for Hunger! Heart + Hand helps 5,000 individuals each year with food, clothing, household items, work shoes, home medical equipment, diapers, formula, utility assistance, and more! Low income families residing in South Charleston, St. Albans, Tornado, Dunbar, Institute, and Alum Creek. Putnam County and Riverside High School area residents benefit from the convenience of our remote offices. We provide weekend food bags for South Charleston Middle School students who might not have enough to eat on weekends and thanks to your participation last year we were able to serve seniors in the community with food delivery through the Covid-19 crisis. Our doors were able to remain open to the community thanks to your participation! This year you may choose to Hike remotely and join us virtually as we go Live! On Facebook.

FOLLOW us on Facebook at Kay Hall Hike for Hunger and VISIT our website at hhomwv.org to read our virtual hike FAQ and download additional registration forms.

We need your help. Create a team, get sponsors, walk the track-anywhere, HELP FEED THE NEED!

Pre-Registration Requested

Name _____ Team / Church Name (optional) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Include a \$20 Individual Registration Fee _____ Shirt Size _____

For Virtual Packet Mailing Include \$5
Shipping Fee

☐ Check this box to receive packet by mail.

For Participating Dog Include \$10 for
Event Bandana

Dog's name _____

State Methodist Men to gather online Sept. 12

West Virginia United Methodist Men will hold their annual gathering again this year — on Sept. 12 — but instead of gathering at WVU Jackson's Mill, the men will meet online, via Zoom.

This means you can attend from the comfort of your home!

The gathering will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Speakers:

- * Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, *The importance and value of connection.*
- * Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball, *An opioid update and "Developing the Next Generation," a new program for scouting, foster care and the church.*
- * William Deel, Milton UMC, *A Roy Blessing Moment.*
- * Rev. George Webb, W.Va. Men's Prayer Advocate, *Holding fast to faith*
- * Steven Scheid, director, Center for Scouting Ministries, General Commission on UM Men, *Internet safety is critical for protecting youth*

We also will have a brief business meeting plus awards, including the "Man of the Year" Award. You won't want to miss it!

Starting at 9:30 a.m., Enter this code in your browser and click to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82617862852>

If you prefer to join the meeting by phone, dial +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) OR +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Meeting ID: 826 1786 2852

The mission of the West Virginia United Methodist Men is to help men grow in Christ, so others may know Christ.

September Celebrations

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 Neal Anderson | 15 Sally Adkins |
| 02 Taylor Fultineer | 19 Pat Burchett |
| 04 Mark Lambert | 21 Nancy White, Janice Pauley |
| 05 Kennedy Richo | 24 Mark Altman, Greg Young |
| 07 Nila Fisher, Ashlie Rawlings | 26 Andrew Altman |
| 08 Joyce French | 27 Ed Altizer |
| 09 Tom Bumgarner, Cricket Skeen | 28 Jo Ann Steele |
| 12 Ann Gieseke | 29 David Snyder |
| 13 Deborah Lovely, Addison Ratliff | 30 Brian Christian |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 06 Bennie and Sue Warden | 15 Clark and Donna Haynes |
| 09 Bill and Margie Spence | 19 Larry and Nancy Wolfe Ed and Peggy King |
| 10 James and Kathryn Holloran | 21 Jim and Caryle Snyder |

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Aug 29 –30 Art Show at Nancy Altman's 1-6 both days (page 6)
 Sept 5 UM Men Zoom Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
 Sept 12 WV UM Men to meet online (page 11)
 Oct 4 Hike for Hunger at 2:00 p.m. (page 10)

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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