



Life @ 1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

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October 2020

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Rambling Thoughts of a Pastor by Pastor Paul

Greetings First Church Family

In the last week or so I had a conversation with a close pastor friend in which he revealed a situation in his church. It seems he had received a rather lengthy e-mail from one of his church members. The e-mail was abusive and uncalled for, stating that the pastor was the worst pastor their church had ever had. Many insults and nonpolitically right words were hurled in the direction of the pastor. At the end of the e-mail the member stated that they would no longer attend the church until the Bishop sent a preacher who was Biblically based and more in line with true Christian values. All of this just a few days before Pastor's Appreciation Month.

I was appalled and asked what the pastor did. He said, "I fumed and stewed and sat down and wrote an e-mail response that fussed at the member for fussing at me with equal verbosity. I proofed the letter and my grammar. Then I pushed the button, the DELETE button." The pastor went on to say a few days later the member sent another e-mail to say she was having a bad day and was really upset with her life situation when the first e-mail was sent and somewhat apologized. I know that this was a time that non comment was the best course of action.

This is a prime example of the frustrating times we are living through causing disconnect. The mouth opens and the brain disconnects. Fortunately my pastor friend kept his cool, he ain't no fool. This was the right course of action though sometimes very difficult to adhere to. Being a pastor is truly a calling and special vocation but many times under-appreciated by the people being served. When you have the chance, give words of encouragement and support to those who have been called into the ministry, especially those in their early years. We do not want to lose them by burnout or disillusionment. Remember October is Pastor Appreciation Month for all pastors.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul



"When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restraints his lips is prudent"

Proverbs 10:19



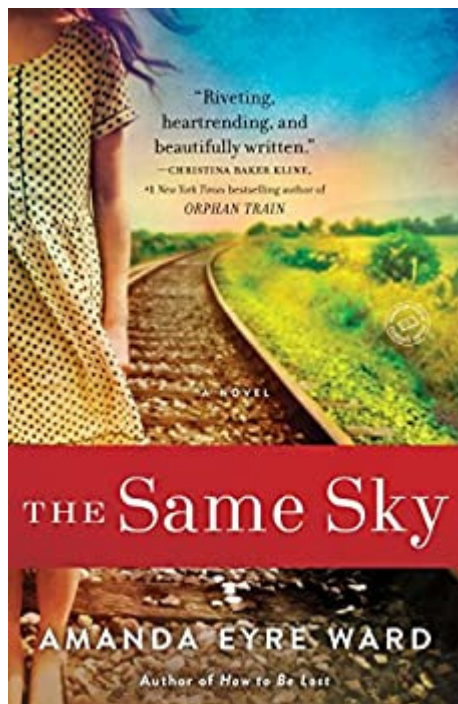


United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Peace, Love and Books October 2020

by Teresa Matheny

The Same Sky: A Novel by Amanda Eyre Ward



From the acclaimed author of *How to Be Lost* and *Close Your Eyes* comes a beautiful and heartrending novel about motherhood, resilience, and faith—a ripped-from-the-headlines story of two families on both sides of the American border.

Alice and her husband, Jake, own a barbecue restaurant in Austin, Texas. Hardworking and popular in their community, they have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing, lying just beyond reach.

Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother Junior. Years ago, her mother left the family behind in Honduras to make the arduous, illegal journey to Texas. But when Carla's grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes

fate into her own hands—and with Junior, she joins the thousands of children making their way across Mexico to America, facing great peril for the chance at a better life.

In this elegant novel, the lives of Alice and Carla will intersect in a profound and surprising way. Poignant and arresting, *The Same Sky* is about finding courage through struggle, hope amid heartache, and summoning the strength—no matter what dangers await—to find the place where you belong.

Told In alternating chapters by Alice and Carla.

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY

This book is located on the United Methodist Women reading cart in the church library.



OCTOBER IS NOW 'SOCK' TOBER!

A sock drive to benefit Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries

A clean, dry, warm pair of socks can make a huge difference to the families in our neighborhood. If you are not ready to attend in-person services, socks can be dropped at the church Mon-Wed 9 am to 3 pm. A box will be located just inside the door closest to Linda's office.

Please donate:



Socks of any style or color
Sizes infant to adults
NEW socks only please



Sponsored by FUMC SC United Methodist Women

Men to meet online Oct. 3

First Church's men will meet at 9 a.m. Oct. 3 online, via Zoom.

We'll have a devotional, approve the September meeting minutes, have a treasurer's report, and discuss our next community outreach project.

All First Church men are automatically members of the United Methodist Men!

If you have not received an e-mail with an invitation to the meeting, call George Hohmann at 304 419-1916 or e-mail him at g.hohmann48@gmail.com

Church presents first responders with ‘Strength for Service’ books by George Hohmann



First United Methodist Church of South Charleston Pastor Paul Helmick, center, hands a letter of appreciation and book of devotions to South Charleston Police Chief Brad Rinehart. To the left of Pastor Paul, wearing a mask, is First Church United Methodist Men's President Michael Warwick. Next to Warwick is Fire Chief Virgil C. White.

The First United Methodist Church of South Charleston and First Church's United Methodist Men presented a letter of appreciation and a book with 365 devotions titled "Strength for Service" to representatives of South Charleston's first responders during a ceremony at South Charleston City Hall.

The letters and books were to be distributed to all 93 of the city's police officers and firefighters as well as the city's humane officer.

Copies also were to be presented to Mayor Frank Mullens and City Manager Rick Atkinson.

The United Methodist Men meet via Zoom at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

For more information email Pastor Paul Helmick at

wvpastorpaul@gmail.com or Mike Warwick at warwickm@suddenlink.net

Kroger Rewards

If you have a customer account with Kroger, have you named First Church to receive your "Community Rewards" points? After you sign in to your account, you can go to "My Account" then to "community rewards" and see if you are signed up and who gets your rewards. The church is organization JK383-First UMC of South Charleston, WV. If you have previously signed up, please check to make sure it is still current. So far as I know, they contribute 5 cents of every dollar you spend with them. That can be a big help for our church!

Food Pantry Ramp Built by George Hohmann

In conjunction with Rebuilding Together, men from across the Midland South District — including First Church — gathered in Buffalo, W.Va., on Sept. 11, Sept. 14 and Sept. 15 to construct a ramp that improves access to the Buffalo United Methodist Church's food pantry.



Church Website: southcharlestonfirstumc.org

Did you miss an online service? Want to see the service again or share with family and friends? Visit: <https://www.youtube.com> and enter FUMC South Charleston into the search bar to locate the recorded sermons. We have over 22 recorded sermons to view.

Know someone who would like to follow our service, but doesn't have Facebook or internet service? Try our Sermon by phone option. Sermons are uploaded and available all week at anytime . **Call 1-304-223-3080** to hear our latest sermon.

October Prayer by David Biondi

Almighty and eternal God, as we move into the month of October we give you thanks for the coming of autumn. The cooler days and the wondrous beauty found in the changing colors of the foliage fills our senses with delight. This year, in particular, the turning of the leaves is most welcome, for it provides us with a much-needed diversion from the on-going woes of the coronavirus pandemic. Beholding nature's grandeur allows us to step back from our worries and to appreciate just how glorious you

and all of your Creation is. And taking a drive out in the country or up through the mountains in order to behold the gorgeous scenery also gives us a safe activity in which to participate amid the social-distancing precautions of these days.

We do give you thanks, O God, for your abiding presence with us in these and in all times. Even so, we are still faced with many grave concerns as to what tomorrow may bring. The uncertainty and anxiety that we face has taken and is taking a toll. So we pray that, de-

spite the fact that what the future may hold is not clear, you would remind us that it is you who holds the future in your loving, sustaining hands. Help us to place our trust in you continually such that we would wholeheartedly commend ourselves to your care. Ease our worries and fears, replacing them with a sense of assurance that you are always there for us come what may and that you will never, ever forsake us. This we ask in your most holy and precious name. Amen.

Recycling Cans by Nancy Altman

Art is recovering amazingly well and we will continue to recycle cans. It would be appreciated if the drink cans could be flattened. We flatten to get a heavier load when making the trip to Nitro. Since the city is not currently recycling, we feel it is more important than ever to get the cans recycled, and not in the landfill! Currently, the cans are to be left in or on the recycle bins in the outside garbage area. To date, \$1,088 has gone into the Trustees' account from recycling.

Recap of State Men's Annual Meeting by George Hohmann



Rayman P. Richardson has been named the 2020 “United Methodist Man of the Year” by the West Virginia United Methodist Men.

Richardson is a member of LIFE United Methodist Church, Fairmont.

The Man of the Year Award is the highest honor bestowed by the West Virginia United Methodist Men.

To be considered for the honor, a United Methodist man must have a lifetime of continuous service to the United Methodist Church and the community through the United Methodist Men. Other criteria include a Christian character, leadership in the church and community, and the faithful fulfillment of church membership vows with prayers, gifts, service and witness.

The West Virginia United Methodist Man of the Year Award was created in 1953. Members of First Church who have received the award: 2019, Danny Murphy; 2015, James Snyder; and 1983, E.M. “Mel” Gammage. A list of all previous award recipients is posted on the state men’s website, <http://wvcummen.org>

Richardson was named the 2020 honoree during the state men’s Annual Gathering, held on Sept. 12 via Zoom. Also during the Annual Gathering:

- * First Church and First Church Administrative Assistant Linda Nehr were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their administrative support throughout the year.

- * First Church was one of four churches to receive the 2020 Palmer Award, an honor bestowed on the church or churches with the most Annual Gathering attendees.

- * George Hohmann was re-elected president of the state organization and Ed Altizer was re-elected secretary.

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, write Hike for Hunger in the memo line, and mail your check to First Church.



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 _____

Graceful Generosity

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

Make Your Choice

Joshua had faithfully served the nation Israel after the death of Moses. He was faithful both to his God and to his people. At the end of his life, as the nation is taking its place in the Promised Land, he offers them a choice:

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness... But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served ... or the gods of the Amorites... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15).

As Christian stewards, we, too, have a choice to make. Maybe we're not tempted to serve the gods of the Amorites, but there is another god that vies for our worship: the god of wealth. That god promises that, if we put our trust in him, he will make us powerful, envied by others, satisfied by all the possessions he can obtain for us, and bring us status and prestige among our peers. This god, of course, is just as false as the idol the Amorites worshiped. He may bring temporary good fortune, but we find no lasting value, only disappointment and disillusionment, in following him.

The Israelites' answer to Joshua was, *"We will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:21). Let us "serve the Lord" as he has enabled us to do.

The Garden

There once was a woman who longed to have a flower garden. Each year she would visit her neighbor, who had the most beautiful garden she had ever seen, and he would give her cuttings and seeds for her garden.

But when she would return home, she would change her mind at the last minute saying: "But my neighbor's garden is so much lovelier than anything I could hope to grow. And he knows so

much more about gardening ... I could never hope to grow a garden half so lovely as that. Why should I even try?"

One day her neighbor stopped by her home and saw that she had not one flower growing anywhere around her house.

"I've provided you with so much," he said, "and yet you have done nothing at all with what I have given you!"

And so it is with each of us. The Lord gives us talents and expects us to develop them. We cannot judge our worth by comparing ourselves to others but must bloom and grow the best we can with what we have been given.

On the Lighter Side

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway and even a cruise to the Caribbean."



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“Wow!” said the one-dollar bill. You’ve really had an exciting life!” “So tell me,” said the twenty, “Where have you been throughout your lifetime?”

The one-dollar bill replied, “Oh I’ve been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church...”

The twenty-dollar bill interrupted. “What’s a church?”

Christ’s Ambassadors

“...God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ ... has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Being an ambassador is a badge of honor and a great responsibility as well. Often the opinions held about a country are those formed by what is known about its ambassador. How critical, then, is our "ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). As ambassadors, we are not presenting ourselves; we are making Christ known.

The first sight of Christ that some may get is their view of Christ in us. We are called to let the light of his love, faith, and forgiveness shine in our lives that others might see and give glory to God (Matthew 5:16). As stewards of the Gospel, compelled by compassion for the lost, we desire to carry out our ministry of reconciliation. As ambassadors representing the one who has sent us, we declare to the world how God has reconciled us to himself through his Son. God makes his appeal to the unbeliever through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we, as stewards of the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth, preach

and teach that word of God. We choose to be among those workers in the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38) who share our testimonies of faith, always pointing others to Christ and his Gospel.

God Works through Us

J. Hudson Taylor wrote, “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.” The message from this statement is that God has given his people all the material and spiritual resources needed to accomplish his purposes. When we do God’s will, he will supply, through us, all the resources that are needed for his church (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). He wants us to be his channels through which the gifts needed for his work will flow. By God’s grace, we can be faithful stewards who willingly share our gifts for God’s work.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

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UNDIES SUNDAY

OCTOBER 18, 2020

Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries proudly distributes the annual Undies Sunday collection for the Midland South District. Over 300 children receive underwear and socks with their Christmas toys from Heart + Hand. Throughout the year, we provide underwear and socks to recipients of our food pantry, utility assistance, clothing vouchers, and school partners.



We need your help to provide new underwear for children at back to school and Christmas time. Your collection allows us to provide for folks of all ages throughout the year. Thank you!

Please include the name of your church and deliver to one of the following:

Heart + Hand	The District Superintendent's Office
Attn: Vicki Ballengee	United Methodist Conference Center
212 D Street	900 Washington Street East
South Charleston, WV 25303	Charleston, WV 25301

Thank you for supporting the Midland South District Mission Project!

Contact Vicki Ballengee, Executive Director at
 304.342.0029 Office • 304.552.8427 Cell • executivedirector@hhomwv.org
 Visit us soon at 212 D Street, South Charleston, WV 25303
www.hhomwv.org • <https://www.facebook.com/hearthandoutreach>



Heart + Hand
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Celebrating 55 Years!

October Celebrations

Birthdays

04 Margie Spence, Sue Hawkinberry	19 Norma McDowell, Don Ryan, Jeri Whitten, John Mottesheard, III
05 Helen Chapman	21 Richard Holleron, Jr
06 Adam Moore	22 Jane Duffy, Michael Warwick
12 Colton Holleron	24 Dick Booten
13 Crystal Crouch	26 Lorena Castleberry, Jody Pauley
14 Bruce Conrad	27 Bill Spence
15 Connor Byrd	30 Connie Rollins
18 Bud Anderson	31 Kathy Helmick

Anniversaries

05 Dick and Arlen Booten	16 Marcus and Lisa Workman Adam and Kathy Moore
14 Roy and Kathy Fultineer	

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Sept 30 Hike for Hunger Registration Deadline
 Oct 3 UM Men meet online via ZOOM at 9:00 a.m.
 Oct 4 Hike for Hunger at 2:00 p.m.
 Oct 18 Undies Sunday

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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www.wvumc.org

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Suggested articles, questions, comments regarding the newsletter should be directed to Barbara Brown at 304-542-6197 or via email at cbpnuts@aol.com.