



Life @1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

April 2021

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A Note from Pastor Paul

Dear FUMC Family

It is a feeling of excitement as I write this, as Easter Sunday is just days away and we are able to celebrate once again face to face live and in person in our beautiful sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of South Charleston. After more than a year of closed worship services we are now able to say the devil did not win, we did not go away and we did not lose our resolve. The church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ with resurrection of our church and her mission to a world desperately searching for hope.

Easter for Christians is not just one day - it's a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2). This continued celebration through the season of Eastertide is why we call ourselves Easter people with the firm believe in the power of the Holy Spirit living large among us.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how, through this sacrament, we are "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

Living faithfully as disciples takes all of us praying for one another and giving the ever-needed corporate support that comes from collective worship and celebration. I look forward with anticipation to seeing your smiling faces in worship during this Easter Rebirth and all the weeks to follow.

Our journey continues unharmed and unafraid,

Pastor Paul

Men to meet via Zoom April 3 by George Hohmann

The next meeting of the First Church Men will be at 9 a.m. April 3 via Zoom.

Agenda items will include an update on the women's shelter painting project, the Little Free Library project, the Community Garden work day and other opportunities for service.

For a Zoom invitation e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.



Volunteers contribute 175 hours to women's shelter painting project by George Hohmann

Mike Warwick, his wife Sandy, Rev. David Biondi, Teresa Matheny, Nancy Altman and George Hohmann have volunteered a total of 175 hours to paint the women's shelter that is under construction at the former Rock Lake Pool property.

A call for volunteer painters was issued after it was learned a contractor wanted more than \$10,000 to paint the facility.

According to a study by the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute and Michael Sousane, a recent graduate of the School of Public Policy, the value of a volunteer hour is \$23.01. Using that figure, the value of the volunteer painters' labor so far amounts to \$4,026.75.

Painting at the women's shelter continues. To volunteer, call First Church Men's President Mike Warwick at 304 744-3697.

April Prayer by David Biondi

Almighty and eternal God, with the arrival of April, we find ourselves in the midst of Holy Week. This is a time in which we are called to give thanks and to reflect deeply upon the gracious, self-sacrificing character of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ -- how he willingly undertook the cruel and bitter journey to Calvary and endured the agony of the Cross for the sake of our sin and our salvation. As we ponder all that Jesus went through, may his example serve to motivate us to be ever more willing to avail ourselves in his

name for the sake of your holy Church and its mission and ministry in our community and throughout all the world. And we pray, O God, in heartfelt gratitude for all that Jesus did, that you will enable us to be an "Easter People": A family of brothers and sisters in the Lord who share his joy and love everywhere we go, and who live all of life as a testimony to and celebration of his glorious Resurrection. This we pray in your Son's most holy and precious name. Amen.



Youth Out and About by Emma Crouch



After doing just video calls for a year, the FUMC Youth group was able to finally come together for a hike at Little Creek on February 24th. We hiked to the Devil's Tea Table and enjoyed one of the first warm days together in 2021. Then, we had a corn-hole tournament on March 7th and a cookout at Little Creek on March 14th. We are thankful for the warm spring weather that has brought us back together this past month. Our next big activity is **Youth Sunday, which is April 25th!**





UM Women Update by Jeri Whitten



THANKS SO MUCH! The United Methodist Women of First Church would like to thank our amazing congregation for the outpouring of love and care you showed as we collected food items for Heart + Hand during the first quarter of 2021.

Taking care of our community is so important, and First Church stepped up as always. On March 15, we were able to take another car full of food to Heart + Hand, along with \$360 in donations to the food bank.

In addition to our donations to Heart + Hand, the UMW also made a donation to the Navajo Indian Reservation to purchase masks for our Native-American brothers and sisters. We also sent a donation to New Vision Depot to purchase items for flood buckets they so desperately need due to the catastrophic flooding in February.

In April, May and June we will shift our mission focus to other important needs in the community. We hope you will join with us as we continue to address needs.



Help Us Fill the Birthday Box

On April 25, our beloved church member, Eleanor McClung, will celebrate her 100th birthday.

Since she can't be with us so we can honor her on her special day, the United Methodist Women of First Church are preparing a birthday box to send to Eleanor. We ask that you add a card, and/or a small gift if you wish, and we will surprise her on her birthday. The Birthday Box will be located inside the door next to Linda's office (under the TV). The box will be mailed on April 17, so please have your cards or gifts in by then. Let's show our love to this wonderful lady.

1ST & 3RD
SUNDAY



BACK DOOR
@ FIRST CHURCH

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
EVENING WORSHIP**

FIRST CHURCH | 905 GLENDALE AVE | S. CHARLESTON
RELAUNCHING APRIL 18 | 7 PM | PASTOR PAUL HELMICK
FOR MORE INFO CALL 304-744-3211.

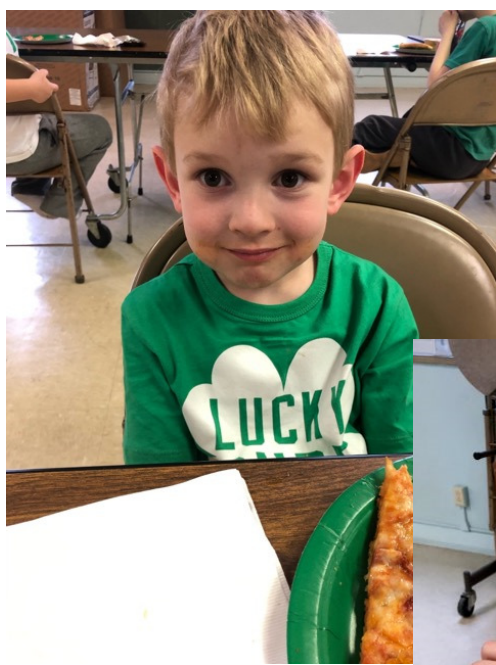
WOW Kicks Off With St. Patrick's Day Party



WOW (Way Out Wednesday) children's program kicked off the return to church with a St. Patrick's Day Party! WOW has started back with a huge success. Ms. Carrie welcomed 28 the first Wednesday and 18 the next. She said she had lots of new faces.

She is looking for story tellers and food preparers. If you can help give the office a call 304-744-3211.

(No WOW on Wednesday, 3/31)



WOW is every Wednesday in our Social Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of Wednesday, 3/31 when there will be no WOW)

Join us and have some fun and make new friends!



Men to pick up litter on April 24

The Cross Lanes United Methodist Men invite First Church men to help pick up litter on Saturday, April 24.

Men will meet at the Cross Lanes United Methodist Church (5320 Frontier Dr., Cross Lanes, WV 25313) at 8 a.m. for a word of prayer and biscuits and doughnuts. Then they will pick up litter on both sides of Big Tyler Road (Route 622 North) from Frontier Drive, which is in front of the church, for one mile to Koontz Drive. If there are enough volunteers, the pick-up will be extended to the Point Harmony Elementary School.

Participants should expect to work a total of about 2 1/2 hours.

All supplies will be furnished by the state Division of Highways.

Pre-registering is suggested but not required. To pre-register e-mail Jerry Meadows at jwmead@frontier.com

Free bi-weekly newsletter features UM men's news from across W.Va.

Keep up with United Methodist Men's news from across the state by signing up to receive The West Virginia United Methodist Men's Journal.

The Journal, a free publication, is delivered by e-mail every other Friday. To subscribe, send a request to Jerry Meadows at jwmead@frontier.com.

Seeking a creative person to take over the monthly newsletter. Is it you? Barbara Brown has decided to pass the creation and distribution of the monthly church newsletter over to a new person. Are you interested in creating the monthly newsletter? If you are, please contact Pastor Paul or Linda at 304-744-3211.

Troop 195 Scouts will assist Gardeners during work day

The First Church Community Gardeners are planning a work day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 10. Our primary focus will be on repairing the fence.

We expect at least three girls and four boys from First Church's Scout Troop 195 who are in need of hours for service projects will participate. There also will be two adult scout leaders in attendance.

The Community Gardeners welcome Rev. Deborah Coble and Kara Wise to the 2021 garden!

Plots for the 2021 season remain available. For more information e-mail George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or call him at 304 419-1916.

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 **1stumcsc@gmail.com** by Wednesday evening. Prayer requests made after Wednesday will be read the following week. Additional prayer requests can be sent to **1stumcsc@gmail.com** at any time. Also, all prayer requests will be read for two weeks unless we are notified otherwise.

Spring Cleaning is just around the corner. A new shipment of **Brooms** has arrived. Be sure to get a new broom to sweep out the cobwebs and dust bunnies. At \$10 a broom, you could pick one up for your next door neighbor, bff, or daughter-in-law. Check with the office or the UM Women to make a purchase.





United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Peace, Love and Books April 2021

by Teresa Matheny



We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead

by Emily Peck-McClain, Danyelle Trexler, Shannon Sullivan, J. Paige Boyer, and Shannon Sullivan

Leading while female—whether in business, politics, the home, local communities, or the church—can be incredibly life-giving and spiritually fulfilling, yet lonely and difficult. “We Pray with Her” means supporting all the hers, both established and just starting up the ladder, who are leading the charge in today’s culture. It is a commitment to let them know that they are not alone, and that we are praying along with them.

In a world of glass ceilings, harassment and “boy’s clubs,” women often encounter obstacles when they seek to forge ahead in their work to leave a positive mark through their labor, personal efforts, and causes. Women business leaders, political candidates, clergy, and trailblazers of all kinds need the support and encouragement of their fellow women. We are not intended to walk through life alone, and by raising each other up in prayer we will in turn be inspired in our own efforts, grow in our faith, be understanding of shortfalls, and celebrate successes along with our fellow women.

This inspiring devotional is a collection of 100 entries written by the women of We Pray with Her, a grassroots movement turned online collective of women faith leaders. It explores themes such as call, vocation, persistence, resistance, and struggle. Whether you are a woman leader looking for personal inspiration, in a supportive role to a leader, an aspiring leader, or a woman who wants to support her sisters in Christ, you will find a home within these pages.

Join the movement with your prayers, by mentoring, and through daily acts of solidarity with the women in your life and community. In these readings you will be emboldened to support one another as we strive to live the life to which God has called us.

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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Graceful Generosity

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

A Stewardship Thought

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us a very important principle for the handling of our material possessions which include any kind of financial assets and income. He taught the "God first" principle. *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33). When we give first priority to God with our time and treasures, he is honored, and he will provide us with what we need. Are you using your time in reading God's Word and serving others? Is God receiving the firstfruits of your income? God wants us to seek him first, and he promises that he will be found (Jeremiah 29:13).

The Joy of Giving

A pastor of a small, rural congregation was visiting a shut-in widow who lived in a run-down house at the end of a dirt road. Bedridden, sick and weak, she looked forward to the pastor's visit. On the occasion of his first call, she handed him her offering envelope with her tithe enclosed. He tried to refuse. She said, "Pastor, this is one of the only joys I have left. I can no longer attend church or be part of the fellowship. But I can give." The joy in her countenance demonstrated a spirit that loved to give.

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify what people the following image may represent in Scripture?

If you said Noah and his wife, you were right. Do you remember what Noah did after the flood was over, and he left the ark? In Genesis 8 and 9, we read of Noah's sacrifice. As a first act of worship for the protection he and his family received, Noah built an altar and sacrificed some of the clean animals as burnt offerings. Noah made the sacrifice to thank God for saving them from the flood, and he trusted that God would continue to provide for him.



"Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you ... the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you ... every living creature on earth: Never again will all life be cut off by waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.'" (Genesis 9:8-11).

Making Choices

Each of us makes hundreds of choices a day, perhaps beginning with the sound of the alarm clock when we choose whether or not to get out of bed. Many of our choices are made unconsciously. We choose what we'll wear and what we'll eat and whether we'll spend our leisure time reading or watching TV. We choose our friends and our pets but not our families.

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Those we're born into without our having a voice in the matter. It is similar with the family of God, for it is our heavenly Father who has chosen to adopt us into his family. We were dead in sin, but God speaking through Hosea said, *"I will redeem them from death"* (Hosea 13:14). That is God's choice. Paul wrote to Timothy that *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . ."* (1 Timothy 1:15). That is his choice. Matthew recorded Jesus' words: *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). We are, as Peter wrote, *"A chosen people"* (1 Peter 2:9).

As the redeemed and chosen people of God we now can choose to respond by declaring *"the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light"* (1 Peter 2:9). We can choose to follow Paul's directive to *"serve one another in love"* (Galatians 5:13).

We can choose to follow the example of Joshua who counseled those headstrong Israelites:



"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 . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15).

Living the Proper Lifestyle

Scripture does not dictate that we are to live in a certain way. God does not tell us what we can or can't own. He does not list the specifics on the type of home, the number of cars, or clothes we are to have, but there are attitudes that God wants us to develop within the area of financial responsibility. First of all, God wants us to have an eternal perspective. With an eternal perspective we act and live differently:

- ♦ We are called to store up for ourselves treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:20).
- ♦ Our lifestyles will reflect our relationship with Christ.
- ♦ We will be good stewards by using our gifts and financial blessings in God-pleasing ways.
- ♦ We will live moderately and share generously for the work of the Lord.
- ♦ Our financial decisions will be spiritual decisions. Jesus said, *"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"* (Luke 16:11).
- ♦ What we do, how we handle the stuff of life, will be done with an eye on eternity.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

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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. They contribute 5 cents of every dollar you spend with them. That can be a big help for our church!

April Celebrations

Birthdays

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

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

April 3	UM Men Zoom meeting at 9:00 a.m.
April 4	Easter In-Person Service at 11:00 a.m.
April 10	Garden Workday starts at 10:00 a.m.
April 18	Relaunch of Back Door at 7:00 p.m.
April 24	Litter Pickup Day start at 8:00 a.m.
April 25	Youth Sunday

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 several 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.

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