



Life @1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

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A Note from Pastor Paul

Greetings FUMC Family:

June: the beginning of summer, WV UMC annual conference, pastors packing and moving to new appointments. It is a time of changes that all churches go through from time to time. Today I wish to share an insightful article from Thom Rainer. Currently I am enrolled in continuing education classes through Church Answers where Thom is the founder and CEO. So enjoy the following.

I'm Pastor Paul.

The transition is moving forward. Every week more churches are beginning the process and stages of opening the doors of the church facilities for in-person services.

We are back.

I get it. The church never closed. The church is the people, not the building. Someone reminds me of those points daily.

But the doors to the church facilities closed. The opportunity to gather for worship in-person closed. A lot has transpired over the past few months.

Now it is time to return to in-person gathered worship. Though this statement is admittedly not theologically precise, it is time to "return to church." Why is it important to get back in the habit

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of regular and faithful attendance? Why should those connected to a local congregation make a new commitment to attend as regularly as possible? Here are five reasons.

- 1. The Bible mandates we gather for worship.** The writer of Hebrews is unequivocal: “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25, NLT). Gathering for worship is not an optional activity. It is not an occasional activity. It is an on-going and regular commitment.
- 2. The Bible emphasizes the importance of the local church.** Think about it. After the four gospels, almost all of the New Testament is about the local church or directed to the local church. Throughout the New Testament, different local congregations met together and worshipped together. It is simply what believers do.
- 3. When we gather together, we encourage each other.** I am a classic introvert. Admittedly, I adjusted well to streaming services and Zoom community groups. But I readily admit I did not get or give the same level of encouragement as those times when we were physically present with each other. Look at Hebrews 10:25 again. The act of gathering is an act of encouragement.
- 4. When we gather together, we encourage our pastors.** The encouragement of one another includes the encouragement of our pastors. They desperately need it. You cannot know the challenges of a pastor unless you have been one or are one. The stress and responsibilities they have had during the pandemic have been especially challenging. The world acts surprised when a pastor takes his life. Sadly, I know the depths of pain many pastors feel. There are plenty of critics and discouragers for pastors. I pray that many people will return to the in-person gatherings with new levels of commitment. Our pastors will be greatly encouraged.

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5. We grow spiritually when we commit to faithful attendance. We grow as a believer in Christ when we have a committed prayer life. We grow when we are committed to read Scripture daily. We grow when we share our faith regularly. We grow when we serve in ministry. And we grow when we commit to attend worship services faithfully. That attendance is a spiritual discipline. It is a vital and necessary act toward greater spiritual maturity.

The pandemic and quarantine have been transformational moments for our world and our churches. We now have the incredible opportunity to hit the reset button in our own lives. For many Christians, committed church attendance was waning before the pandemic. God has reminded us, perhaps even given us a major wake-up call, how really important the gathered church is. Get ready to return to the gathered church. But do so this time with a new enthusiasm and faithful commitment every week.

It's a habit we cannot and should not neglect.



**Good News FUMC Family
Sunday Morning Small
Groups (aka Sunday School)
resumed May 2, 2021.**

**Back Door Services continue
with a schedule
of 1st and 3rd Sundays
at 7:00 PM.**

**I hope to see you at one or
both of these services.
Pastor Paul**



Congratulations to Eleanor McClung who celebrated her **100th** birthday on April 25th.

May Memorials and Honorariums

First United Methodist received memorials or honorariums in the amount of \$150 during May. The gifts were given in memory or honor of:

Eleanor McClung's 100th Birthday

Janice Snyder



June Prayer by David Biondi

Dear Lord, with the coming of June we find ourselves in the season of the Christian Year known as Pentecost - a season commemorating the birthday of your Holy Church in the world. Long ago your followers were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth and share the Good News of the gospel in a effort to draw others closer to you. May we likewise, we pray, experience such a spiritual empowerment so that we would make an intentional effort to be about the mission and ministry of your church wherever we may find ourselves in and throughout our lives.

With the effects of the dreaded coronavirus pandemic slowly beginning to dissi-

pate, the need to be about your mission and ministry takes on an even greater significance, especially in the midst of our congregation's relaunching efforts. Our participation and involvement, while maintaining safe practices, is essential to the on-going service of our church to the larger community so that others may come to experience your saving grace and goodness for themselves. And so, O Lord, help us always to exude warmth, love and hospitality to all whom we should encounter, to the end that we would be more fully able to identify and to meet the needs which exist in people's lives. This we pray in your most precious and holy name. Amen.

New Freezer Purchased by UMW

by Joyce French, Chairman of Trustees

The church has a new freezer in the storage room. It was purchased by the United Methodist Women. We thank them for their gift to the church.

It has been decided in order to keep this freezer from being packed with food that is never used, please just put food that you know is going to be used in two months. Please use the markers and labels on the side of the freezer to put the date that food was put in the freezer and what it is in the package. This will save a lot of time and money. It will be routinely cleaned out of old food.

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!

IRA Gift Transfers by George Russell

Interested in making a financial donation to the church and saving on your taxes at the same time? Then think about making a gift distribution from your IRA directly to the church. This is particularly valuable for those of us who are required to take a “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) and are typically required to pay income taxes on that distribution. However, if you make some or all of your distribution directly to the church, this will count toward your RMD and no taxes will be owed on the donated amount.

For more information see the attached link:

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/how-to-donate-to-charity-from-your-ira#:~:text=IRA%20owners%20must%20be%20age,income%20tax%20on%20the%20transaction.>

Also, you may want to consult your financial advisor and/or tax advisor to see if this the correct move for you. The Church Treasurer (Mike Warwick) can provide details if you have questions.

Treasurer's Report by Mike Warwick

The following represents a financial summary for our church through April 30, 2021:

Pledge income received	\$71,504	
Other income received	\$ 6,755	
Total income (4/30/21)	\$78,259	
 Total Expenses (4/30/21)	 \$83,672 (20%)	 \$92,062 (33%)
 Deficit for 2021	 \$ 5,413 (20%)	 \$13,803 (33%)

The actual total expenses include 20% payment of apportions to the Conference. If we had paid 33% apportions, equal to the elapsed time of the calendar year, the deficit would be \$13,803.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to improve the financial situation at our church. Thank you.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
905 GLENDALE AVENUE
SOUTH CHARLESTON**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**INDOOR FLEA MARKET
AND BAKE SALE**

GLASSWARE

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

TOOLS

TOYS

DVDS

BAKED GOODS

CLOTHING

ELECTRONICS

BOOKS

HOMEMADE SOUP MIX

AND MUCH MORE!

Sponsored by FUMC United Methodist Women

Men to meet June 5 in person and via Zoom



Photo by Charlie McLane

Men from First Church and Cross Lanes picked up 19 bags of litter along Big Tyler Road on May 1. Not pictured: Tom Kuhn and Jay Ripley

First Church's United Methodist Men will meet at 9 a.m. June 5.

For the second consecutive month, the men will meet simultaneously in person at Wesley Social Hall and on Zoom via the internet.

Fifteen men attended the May meeting. Ten were at the social hall and five attended via the internet. The internet attendees were in Man, Fairmont, Huntington, and South Charleston. Mike Cidor provided the technical expertise that allowed everyone to participate.

For a Zoom invitation to the June 5 meeting call George Hohmann at 304 419-1916.

On May 1, Rev. Dave Biondi, George Russell and George Hohmann joined with Cross Lanes United Methodist Men to pick up litter along Big Tyler Road from Frontier Drive to Point Harmony Elementary School.

The men picked up 19 bags of litter.

The activity was part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program co-sponsored by the state Division of Highways and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Another litter pickup in Cross Lanes is scheduled July 31.

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



George Russell is among the First Church volunteers who helped paint the new women's shelter at the site of the former Rock Lake Pool. Volunteers have donated more than 516 hours to paint the shelter.

Ribbon cutting slated June 1 at women's shelter

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on June 1 to mark the completion of the women's shelter, officially known as the Appalachian Behavioral Health Care Facility, at the site of the former Rock Lake Pool.

Following the ceremony, there will be public tours of the structure and grounds.

First Church volunteers and others contributed more than 516 hours to paint the shelter.

According to a study by the Do Good Institute at the University of Maryland, the value of volunteer time in West Virginia in 2020 was \$23.97 an hour. Using that figure, the value of the volunteer painters' labor amounts to more than \$12,368.



Pastor Paul Helmick (left) and Mike Warwick help prepare a plot in the Community Garden for a potato patch that will benefit Heart+Hand.

Community Garden potatoes will benefit Heart+Hand

Thirteen rows of potatoes were planted in the Community Garden on May 15. The harvest will benefit Heart+Hand, the United Methodist mission in South Charleston.

The potatoes were planted a day after the plot, along with other Community Garden plots, was tilled using a machine rented from F.M. Pile Hardware Co. Pastor Paul Helmick donated the potatoes; the gardeners donated the use of the tiller and bags of topsoil.

Pastor Paul, Rev. David Biondi, George Russell and Mike Warwick helped George Hohmann and other Community Gardeners with the work.

Additional space is available in the Heart+Hand plot. If you would like to donate tomato or pepper plants or other plants to benefit Heart+Hand, contact garden administrator George Hohmann at 304 419-1916.

The Community Garden welcomes Bob Bragg, who has two plots this season. Bob is a friend of Donnie Lively, who became a community gardener last season. If you see Bob in the garden, stop by and say "hello."

The water to the garden was turned on by West Virginia American Water Co. on May 18.

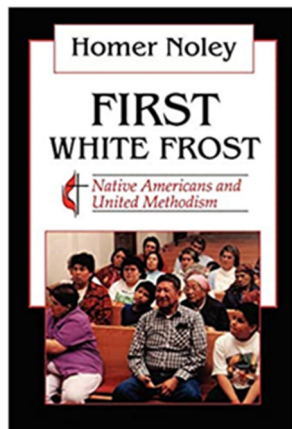
A few garden plots remain available. For information, contact Hohmann.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Peace, Love and Books June 2021

by Teresa Matheny



First White Frost by Homer Noley

The history of the Methodist attempt to evangelize Native Americans is riddled with spectacular failures as well as dramatic successes. In this balanced yet forthright account, Homer Noley helps you gain new insights and a richer understanding of Methodist missionary activities with native Americans from the 1600s to today.

*Although Native American Ministries Sunday was in April this year, anytime is appropriate to read this book.

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

EDUCATION FOR MISSION 2018

State men to meet via Zoom on Sept. 11

The West Virginia United Methodist Men's annual gathering will take place online via Zoom Sept. 11.

Please save the date. Program details will be announced soon.

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.

Graceful Generosity

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

Worshipping God through Giving

We worship God through our worship services as we pray, sing, and give him praise. We can live lives that give him honor and glory; however, in some ways, the money that we give to God is one of the most special ways that we can worship him. It is difficult to give money because there are many things that can be purchased with our money to make our lives easier and more comfortable. The giving of our money is a testimony of our praise and gratitude to God. Is there anything more worshipful than honoring God with our money?

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

What parable could the following picture refer to?



If you said the Parable of the Two Builders, you were right. *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Matthew 7:24-27).

The wise builder selects a site on a rock. Then he will not need to worry about heavy rains or strong winds. A house built upon rock has a foundation that lasts. A foolish builder constructs his house as though he is pitching a tent.

Through this parable, Jesus is telling us that a person who hears his words and puts them into practice is like the wise builder. It is foolish to hear the words of Jesus and not obey them. Such a person may be compared to a builder who builds his house on the sand without a foundation. Jesus wants us to hear his words and obey them.

The Pump Needs to be Primed

If you've ever been on a farm, you may be familiar with old-fashioned water pumps. When pumps have been out of use for a time, they can often be pumped fruitlessly. The problem can be solved by priming the pump with water, which expands the cork, bringing up water, rather than just air.

Life can be compared to that pump. In order to receive, one may need to give first. We have to put something into life to get something out of it. Paul stated this principle in Galatians 6:7: *“A man reaps what he sows.”* Rewards and successes in life are earned; they result from hard work and time.

This principle of priming the pump, of sowing and reaping, applies to our giving as well. It is true that God provides for all. Jesus himself said, *“He [God] causes his sun to rise on the*

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evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:45). However, he also promised a special blessing on those who are generous in their giving: “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25).

As redeemed children of God, our main motivation for giving is our desire to respond with grateful hearts to him for his marvelous gifts to us, especially the gift of his Son, Jesus, who brought us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. We will desire to give, not for reward, but to honor him with our lives and our time, our talents and our treasures. We will find that we cannot out-give God. Speaking through the prophet Malachi, God challenged, “‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’” (Malachi 3:10). Accept God’s challenge: put him to the test. Prime the pump.

Your Final Message

Most people want to put off thinking about and preparing for the time when the Lord will take them to his eternal home. You should be prepared because only God knows each person’s timetable. Whether you are given a short or long life, you can have a final opportunity, through a will or trust, to share a message of your love for Christ and a gift to continue your faithful stewardship.

Your last will and testament can proclaim your love of the Lord and provide an encouragement to your families and friends to grow in their faith. Through a Christian Preamble, which is the way you can begin a will or trust, you have your last opportunity to witness to your loved ones.

If your will or trust gives a final testimony of your trust in the Lord, it will be a real source of encouragement to those you leave behind. It will comfort your family and friends to know that you believed

and trusted in the promise that Jesus gave in John 11:25-26, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*” If your Christian preamble is in a will, your message will go beyond your family and friends, because a will is filed in probate court which is public record.



A will or trust is also a wonderful time to put your love for the Lord into action with a gift for the Lord’s work through your church. For many Christians, this may be the biggest gift they make. A bequest in your will gives the message of Christ’s importance to you. A gift for the Lord’s work acknowledges God’s ownership of your life and things and that you are simply returning them to God who provided them for your use. As J. Gregory Pope said, “Planning an enduring gift that supports and perpetuates the Gospel message is a significant ... sometimes final ... witness of a faithful and maturing disciple in response to the grace of a loving God.”

May God grant us all an abundant measure of his grace so our final messages will bring glory to him.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

June Celebrations

Birthdays

01 Sue Settle	20 Kylie Richo
03 Jerry Gieseke	21 Linda Eggleton
05 Michael Bumgarner	27 Natalie Price
06 Lillie Mayes, Lisa Wojcieszak	29 Julie Miller
09 Beverly Neff	

Anniversaries

01 Alva and Page Deardorff, David and Angela Young	19 Ken and Catherine Bostic
02 Sean and Nancy Harter	21 Jack and Helen Chapman
06 Harry and Laura Richo	22 Andrew and Christina Byrd
07 Bill and Linda Nehr, John and Sarah Ratliff, Greg and Jeri Whitten	25 Mike and Sandy Warwick

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Saturday, June 5 9:00 a.m.	UM Men meet at Wesley Social Hall and online via Zoom
Sunday, June 6 9:30 a.m. (2hrs)	Livestream viewing of WV Annual Confer- ence
Saturday, June 19 9:00 to 3:00 pm	Bake Sale and Flea Market
Saturday, July 31	Litter Pickup Scheduled for Cross Lanes
Saturday, Sept 11	State UM Men to meet via Zoom

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 any time. **Call 1-304-223-3080** to hear our latest sermon.

life @ 1st Church

Publisher: Rev. Paul Helmick
Cell phone: 304 695-0013
Office phone: 304 744-3211
E-mail: wvpastorpaul@gmail.com

Editor: Barbara Brown
Cell phone: 304 542-6197
E-mail: cbpnuts@aol.com

Photographer: Kathy Parsons
E-mail: kp_moharv70@yahoo.com

Monthly prayer: Rev. David Biondi
E-mail: dbiondi0107@cs.com

Peace, Love and Books:
Teresa Matheny
E-mail: mathenyteresa@gmail.com

Calendar: Linda Nehr
Office phone: 304 744-3211
E-mail: 1stumcsc@gmail.com

Proofreader: George Hohmann
Cell phone: 304 419-1916
E-mail: g.hohmann48@gmail.com

Church E-mail:
1stumcsc@gmail.com

Church Website:
southcharlestonfirstumc.org

Online Service:
www.facebook.com/1stumcsc

WV Conference UMC:
www.wvumc.org

Address: 905 Glendale Avenue,
South Charleston, WV 25303
304 744-3211

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