



Life @1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7

JULY 2021

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A Note from Pastor Paul

Summer is officially here - according to the calendar and also according to the annual exodus from church to the Lake, vacation, pool, golf course etc.... When I first began pastoring it was something that really troubled me. You see, I can only speak from my experience, but I'm pretty sure that the Holy Spirit desires to move in your life and the lives of others just as much in the summer as any other time of the calendar year. After years of experiencing the same summertime conditions, it doesn't bother me as much as it used to. However, it is still a source of regret and a feeling that something is wrong. And since it has become an annual ritual, I thought as I write this, we might as well have a good time with it and see if we can get a laugh.

Here are my top ten reasons to skip church in the summer.

10. I know I need to be baptized so I'll practice at the pool until I get good at it.

9. There isn't enough room in the parking lot for our bass boat.

8. I prayed that I would catch fish today. That ought to count for something.

7. If I paid a tithe there wouldn't be enough money for gas for the boat.

6. Hey, I'm sending the kids to VBS.

5. If God had wanted us to be in church during the summer, He would have given us grilled steaks for communion.

4. Saturday nights in summer are party nights and I need my beauty rest on Sunday.

3. What the preacher says on Sunday makes me feel bad about what I did on Saturday.

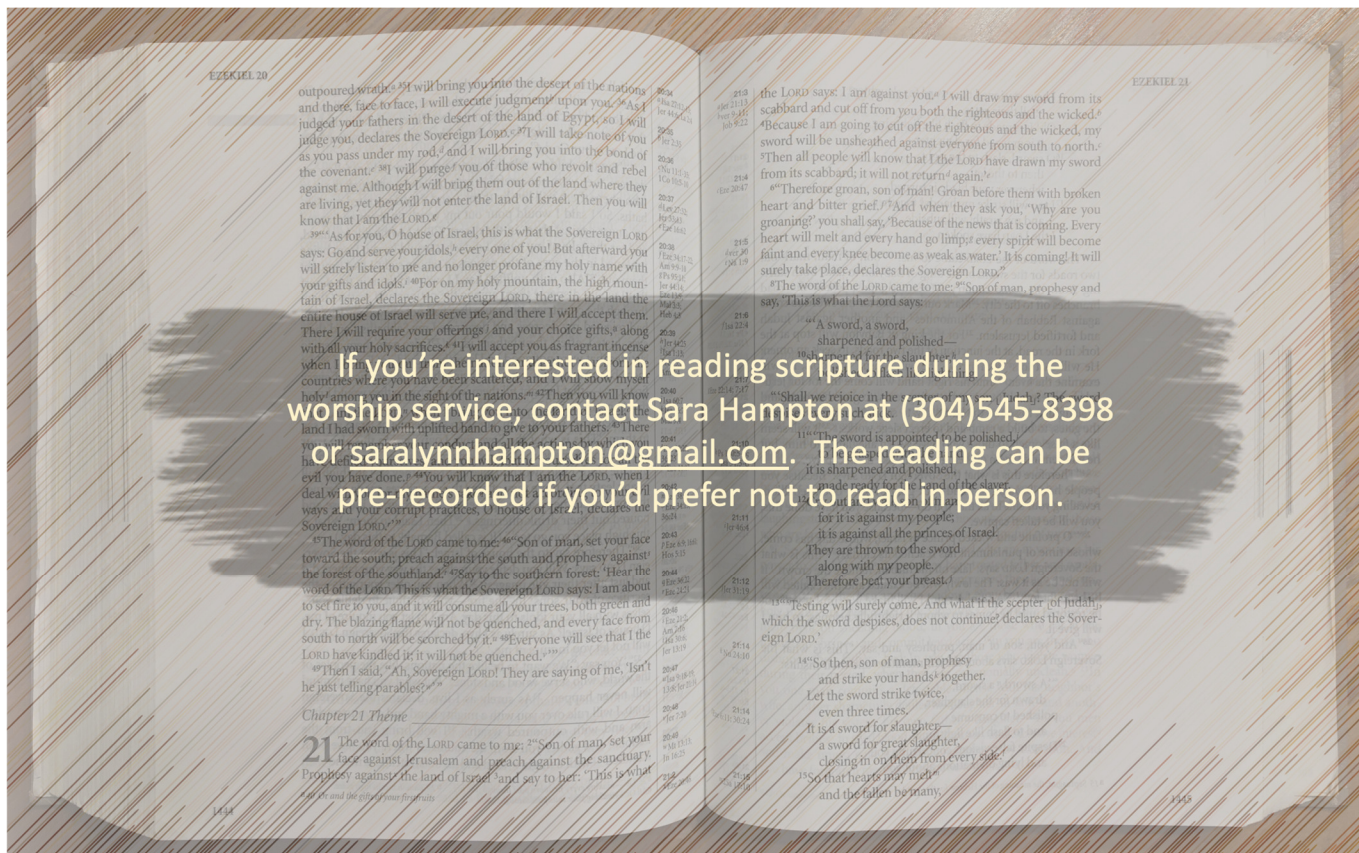
2. My kids get all the moral values they need from cable TV.

And the number one reason for skipping church in summer...

You mean they have church in the summer?

So, giggle and laugh and toss the newsletter aside and then understand you have run out of excuses. Make the effort and be in church on Sunday mornings all through the year.

I'm Pastor Paul.



All-Church picnic slated Aug. 21 at Little Creek Park

The annual All-Church Picnic will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 21 at Area 1 in Little Creek Park.

As the date draws nearer, decisions about food service will be announced that will comply with all health protocols.

Everyone is invited to the picnic, which is sponsored by the United Methodist Men.

State United Methodist Men to meet via Zoom on Sept. 11

Once again, the West Virginia United Methodist Men will have an annual gathering via Zoom in September. This year's gathering will be on Saturday morning, Sept. 11.

An agenda will be published in the August issue of this newsletter.

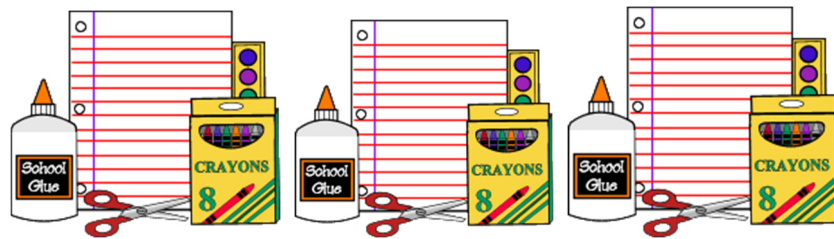
Summer issue of UM Men magazine is available online

The summer issue of *UM Men*, an electronic quarterly magazine published by the General Commission on United Methodist Men (our national office), is now available.

The magazine contains many uplifting stories that will warm your heart.

Read the summer issue online at: www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/Summer2021.pdf

Keep up with news for and about West Virginia United Methodist Men by visiting the state men's website, <https://wvcummen.org>



HEART + HAND SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-AWAY

Join the United Methodist Women as we assist Heart + Hand in collecting school supplies for children in need for this upcoming school year. Heart + Hand will be distributing these supplies on Friday, July 15.

Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 14, 2021

You can bring your donations as you attend Sunday services, or drop your donation at the church Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Suggested items

Notebook paper, pens, #2 pencils, crayons and glue sticks.

This is a United Methodist Women Third Quarter Social Action Project for



Heart + Hand Outreach Ministry



**First United Methodist Church
905 Glendale Avenue
South Charleston 25303**

Memorial Gifts

When making a donation in the form of a memorial or honorarium to First United Methodist Church, the family will be notified about your gift. No names or amounts of gifts are to be published.

The donor of funds “in memory of” or “in honor of” may designate where they want the money to go: to the budget, to one of the funds listed below, or for another use.

Undesignated funds become the responsibility of the Trustees who may spend or deposit such monies into the established funds:

1. The Gladys Duncan Fund.
2. The Nila Monk Fund, to be used to benefit the youth of the church.
3. The Wesley Ryan Fund, to provide some scholarships to our graduating high school seniors.
4. The Mel Gammage Helping Hands Fund. A portion of the income from this fund is to be used each year for cases of need or scholarship funds for ministerial students. Each year any unused portion of the available income is to go to Heart + Hand.

A few Community Garden plots remain available



It's not too late to garden, and a few plots remain available in the First Church Community Garden.

There is a \$30 annual fee for each plot. The fee pays for water service, fence repairs and other materials.

For more information contact George Hohmann at 304 419-1916.

Pictured to the left: A portion of the potato patch in the Community Garden, before straw was applied. All potatoes harvested from the patch will benefit Heart + Hand, the United Methodist mission in South Charleston.

July Prayer by David Biondi

Almighty and most gracious God, we give you thanks for the coming of July and, with it, the celebration of our nation's birth. Long ago brave individuals sought to assert and insure the fundamental principle that, in your divine and holy sight, all persons are created equal, deserving of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We thank you for our forebears' dedication to promoting and defending these inalienable rights, and we pray that here in these modern times we all would do our part to safeguard and protect their visionary aspirations for our country.

Dear God, we also give you thanks that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the grave dangers associated with it seem to be waning -- at least here in the United States. But we are well aware that in other parts of the world such is not the case, especially with the new "delta variant" of covid

being on the rise in so many places. And so we pray for these other countries which are being sorely affected by the pandemic. We pray that vaccines would be made readily available for all in need of them, both abroad as well as here at home; and that you would continue to watch over and bring your healing touch upon all who are afflicted with the virus.

Thank you again, O God, for your loving care and concern for all your beloved children. Help us to share that love with which you have so generously blessed us more fully with everyone whom we should encounter in our lives, to the end that your goodness and grace may be experienced all the more everywhere in and throughout your world. This we pray in the name of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.



Beginning with July 2021, flowers will be placed on the altar again. If you are interested in placing flowers in memory, in honor of, or in celebration of someone, please call Linda in the church office, 304-744-3211. Cost for flowers on the altar is \$30.00.

In Memoriam: Artist Kenneth Wyatt

Kenneth Wyatt, 90, an artist who gifted a painting to First Church in 2003, died on May 24.

According to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, the Texas native “spent 30 years as an ordained Methodist minister, preaching at small churches around the region, before he said he felt called to take on painting full-time.”

Wyatt is quoted on his art gallery’s website as saying his talent with brush and paint “is strictly a gift from God.”

“Some people hear music in their souls and, in inspiration, they write it down,” he said. “As for me, I see paintings in my soul, and I just push the paint around until it looks like what I see inside.”

In 2003, Wyatt stopped by First Church — unannounced — and gave the church a painting titled, “Walking on the Water.” The painting has hung in the Narthex ever since.

In addition to Wyatt’s painting, a print of one of Wyatt’s most famous works — “Offer them Christ” — also hangs in the Narthex. “Offer them Christ” depicts John Wesley giving a sendoff to Thomas Coke and his party as they prepare to sail to North America.

Over the decades, Wyatt received many honors for his art. For example, in 2012, the Tulia, Texas, City Council proclaimed July 17 as Kenneth Wyatt Day.

According to the council’s resolution, “Wyatt is known as one of the nation’s premier Western artists, while also excelling as a Christian artist, sculptor, author, poet and illustrator, having created more than 9,000 works of art which are featured in more than 91 countries throughout the world, including paintings owned by President George W. Bush, Queen Elizabeth II of England and the king of Dubai.”



THE TREVOR PROJECT

Saving Young LGBTQ Lives

Join the FUMC Youth in our 5k fundraiser for the Trevor Project this July!

The Youth has decided to take part in a 5k at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 17. We are raising money for The Trevor Project - the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ young people.

Why? As youth, we are aware of the increasing mental health issues among our generation. It is worrying as we watch our peers struggle with depression and anxiety, and these issues are more prevalent in the LGBTQ community. For example: LGBTQ+ teens are 6 times more likely to experience symptoms of depression than non-LGBTQ+ identifying teens. Also, as a Christian youth group, we want to let the community know that we are accepting of all LGBTQ people and they are welcome here. If you want to learn more about the LGBTQ community and mental health, check out this website: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/lgbtq-communities-and-mental-health>

What is The Trevor Project? The organization works to save young lives by providing support through free and confidential suicide prevention and crisis intervention programs. Their mission is to end suicide among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth.

So, what are we doing? The FUMC Youth is hosting a 5k on Saturday, July 17th to raise money for The Trevor Project. It will take place at Joplin Park in South Charleston. We invite the church to come out at 9:00 a.m., support LGBTQ youth with us, and help reach our goal of \$150!

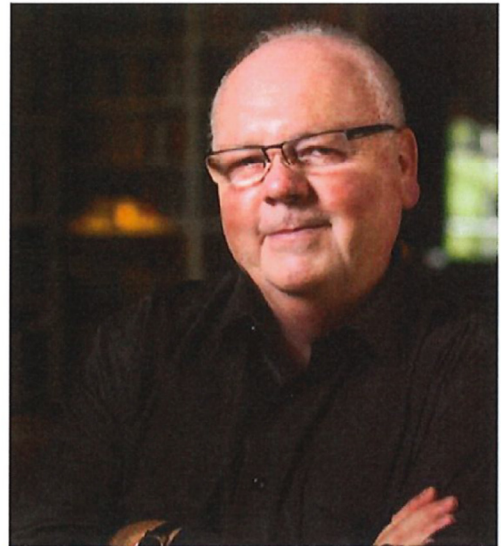
Article submitted by Emma Crouch.



Missions Workshop with Reggie McNeal

August 18-19, 2021

Days Inn Conference Center, Sutton, WV



Contact

West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

Registration Questions:

Chris Ridgway
304-344-8331, ext 30
crdgway@wvumc.org

Event Questions:

Mike Linger
MLinger@houseofthecarpenter.com

When

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM EDT
-to-

Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 1:30 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

Days Inn Conference Center
350 Days Drive
Sutton, WV 26601



[Driving Directions](#)

SCHEDULE

Day One – Wednesday, August 18th:

1:00 pm	Registration
1:30 - 3:00 pm	Session (Devotional, Kingdom/Church Alignment, team exercise)
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Session (Shifting Church Culture, team exercise)
5:15 - 6:45 pm	Dinner break*
6:45 - 7:30 pm	Session (Start with Why? Sinek TED Talk)
7:30 - 8:30 pm	Team exercise

Day Two – Thursday, August 19th:

9:00 - 10:15 am	Session (Leading Change and Transition)
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	Team exercise related to change
11:30 - 1:00 pm	What's Next? planning time (includes working lunch) *
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Debrief/closing remarks
1:30 pm	Adjourn

Cost \$50.00 and includes materials, dinner on the Wednesday August 18th and a boxed lunch on Thursday August 19th.

Register at: (cut and paste)

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ei2tywrt27b51f12&llr=q7ry5rcab>

Scouts receive merit badges, recognized for rank advancement



Scouts conduct the Troop 195 Court of Honor at Little Creek Park while other scouts, scout leaders and parents look on.

Sixteen scouts from BSA Scout Troop 195 were awarded merit badges and 13 were recognized for rank advancement during a Court of Honor on June 14 at Little Creek Park.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was the Troop's first Court of Honor since April 8, 2019.

Two scouts were recognized for having earned 14 merit badges since the 2019 Court of Honor. One scout earned 13 merit badges during the period. Four scouts earned nine merit badges.

Three Scouts were recognized for earning three merit badges. Six scouts earned one merit badge during the period.

In addition, scouts were honored who progressed through ranks ranging from Scout to Eagle.

The Court of Honor was opened by Scoutmaster Rick Atkinson following a cookout/picnic at Little Creek Park's Shelter 6.

Many members of Troop 195 are planning on participating in summer day camps in July.

Troop 195 is sponsored by First Church's United Methodist Men.



UM Women Update by Jeri Whitten

A big thank you from the United Methodist Women for everyone's help with our flea market and bake sale. We had so many treasures and delicious baked goods to please our customers. A portion of the proceeds was used to buy personal care kits for the residents of the new women's addiction recovery center in the old Rock Lake Pool property.

The UMW will be collecting school supplies from June 28 through July 14, to be given to Heart + Hand. They will be distributing the supplies to children in need on Thursday, July 15. Requested items are pens, #2 pencils, notebook paper, glue sticks and crayons.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

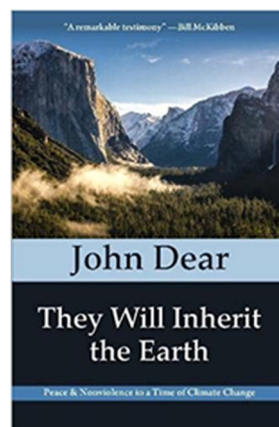
Peace, Love and Books July 2021

by Teresa Matheny

They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change by John Dear

In the Beatitudes, Jesus says of the meek, "they will inherit the earth." Meekness, John Dear argues, is the biblical word for nonviolence. He makes the connection Jesus makes at the start of his Sermon on the Mount between our practice of nonviolence and our unity with creation: our rejection of nonviolence is inevitably linked to the catastrophic effects of climate change and environmental ruin.

Drawing on personal stories of his life in the desert of New Mexico, his time as a chaplain at Yosemite, his friendship with indigenous and environmental leaders, his experience at the Standing Rock protests, as well as his work with the Vatican on a new stance on nonviolence, John Dear invites us to return to nonviolence as a way of life and a living solidarity with Mother Earth and her creatures.



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

SOCIAL ACTION 2020

Methodist Men start work on Chapel July 10



Cheryl Laws (standing), founder and chief executive officer of Pollen8, talks about the women's shelter at the former Rock Lake Pool property during a June 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony. From left: Michael Browning, a representative of Sen. Joe Manchin, [D-W.Va.](#); Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, [R-W.Va.](#); Cheryl Laws; South Charleston Mayor Frank Mullens; and Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin.

The United Methodist Men will meet at 9 a.m. July 10 to move pews in the Chapel and to begin painting the room.

The meeting will be in-person only, and will serve as our July get-together.

During the June meeting, President Mike Warwick reported that First Church volunteers and others had contributed more than 530 hours painting the women's shelter, which is at the site of the former Rock Lake Pool.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the shelter on June 1.

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 \$12,700.

Also during the June meeting, it was agreed that the men will pick up litter on streets around the church at a date to be announced. In addition, the men are invited to join with the Cross Lanes United Methodist Church men on July 31 to pick up litter along Big Tyler Road.

Graceful Generosity

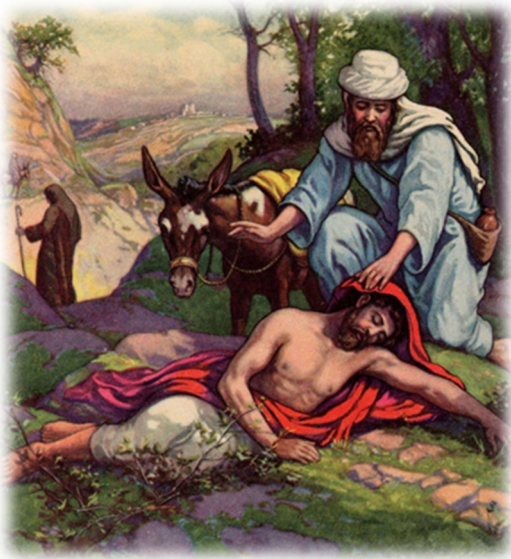
Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Understanding Stewardship

- ♦ The motive for Christian stewardship is love and gratitude.
- ♦ The purpose is to glorify God.
- ♦ The guide is the revealed will of God.
- ♦ The efficiency is the power of God's grace.

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify who the following person may represent in Scripture?



If you said the Good Samaritan, you were right. In the story of the Good Samaritan found in the tenth chapter of Luke, the Good Samaritan not only helped an injured person, he took him to an inn where he paid for his room and care. The Samaritan sacrificed money, time, and possessions for the wounded person, and he risked his own health and safety. He fulfilled the Golden Rule. By putting no limits on how far he was willing to go to help this stranger, the Samaritan demonstrated the love we should have for our neighbors. He followed Jesus' command to *"Go and do likewise."* Helping others may mean more than calling 911.

We may need to get involved, get our hands dirty, and go the extra mile.

A Stewardship Thought

The God-pleasing steward is motivated by God's love to "surrender" his stubborn, independent, vain, selfish will and begin to conform to God's will. Living for self becomes secondary because Christ who died for him and rose again is now in control. *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will"* (Romans 12:2). The Lord's will becomes our will.

On the Lighter Side

The day the church treasurer resigned, the church asked the local grain elevator manager to take the position. He agreed under two conditions:

- ♦ That no treasurer's report would be given for the first year.
- ♦ That no questions be asked about finances during that year.

The people were surprised but finally agreed, since most of them did business with him and he was a trusted man. At the end of the year he gave his report:

- ♦ The church indebtedness of \$228,000 has been paid.
- ♦ The minister's salary has been increased by 8%.
- ♦ The Cooperative Program gifts (\$200) have been paid.

Continued on Page 13

Continued from page 12

- ♦ There are no outstanding bills.
- ♦ There is a cash balance of \$11,252!

Immediately the shocked congregation asked, “How did you do it? Where did the money come from?”

He quietly answered, “Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. Throughout the year, I simply withheld ten percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You didn’t even miss it!”

“Do you see what we could do for the Lord if we were all willing to give at least the tithe to God, who really owns it?” he asked. And so the new treasurer had made his point.

Giving an Opportunity or Obligation

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians’ love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they “urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the

saints” (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give that the Macedonians had. As God’s people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said:

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, he changes us so our attitude toward giving can change from being an obligation to an opportunity. As renewed and changed people, our attitude toward giving changes from a “got to” to a “get to” attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for who he is and what he does for us.

The more we give of ourselves and our gifts, the closer our relationship with Christ becomes, and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us which enables our continued giving. “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11). We thank God that he fills us daily with his love so that we as members of his Church here on earth see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank him.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

July Celebrations

Birthdays

07 Carol Good	18 Pattie Helmick
09 Jim Snyder, Corene Mundy	21 Ginger Triplett
12 Toni Brown	22 Roy Fultineer
14 Robert Deitz, Sandy Horton	23 Gary Anderson
15 Andrew Byrd, Bill Nehr	27 Peggy Kourey, Barbara Warwick
16 Dorothy Harrison	30 Page Deardorff
	31 Emma Jean Thomas

Anniversaries

17 Danny and Jeanne Murphy	30 Pat and Cheryl Holbrook
19 Tom and June Bumgarner	

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Saturday, July 10	UM Men meeting at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 17	Trevor Project 5K at 9:00 a.m. at Joplin Park
Saturday, July 31	Litter Pickup Scheduled for Cross Lanes
Saturday, August 21	All-Church Picnic 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Area 1 Little Creek Park
Saturday, Sept 11	9-11:30 a.m. 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.

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