



Life @ 1st Church

905 Glendale Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

June 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UMM Picnic for SC Public Works 2

UMM June 6 Meeting 2

June Prayer 3

Prayer Line 4

Community Garden Welcomes 4

Peace, Love and Books 5

Kroger Reminder 5

UM Women 1st Q Goals 6

Poems by Paula Lepp 7

Share Your Pantry 8

Memorial Gifts 9

Graceful Generosity 10-11

June Celebrations 12

Rambling Thoughts of a Pastor by Pastor Paul

Dear friends,

From a poem entitled 'God knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

King George VI used these words for his Christmas broadcast in 1939.

Our country is facing very uncertain times at this moment. Very different of course from 1939 as our 'war' is not against a human enemy but against a virus. However, I think these words are very relevant because the future is not just unknown but also uncertain and for many there is only darkness out there, only darkness ahead. These words remind us that however uncertain the times are, we can trust God to strengthen and sustain us throughout anything and everything that happens. We are not immune from challenges and difficulties just because we trust in God. I know that I really need to remind myself constantly that I can face them and go through them with confidence if I rely, not on human strength but on God's strength and power. You might need the same reminder that he is our anchor, our fortress, our rock. Totally dependable and all powerful.

The other side of the coin is opportunities: with God, every challenge is also an opportunity. I'm sure each of us has had our challenges, small or large, over these last few months yet when I chat with people I discover that many of them have had opportunities to show God's love or to share their faith and have been surprised with the joy it has given them to do so. It's really encouraging!

We don't know what is going to happen in the next few months but we do know that in the present God knows everything that is troubling our hearts and minds and he is currently lovingly restoring us, like masterpieces, so that we can live according to his original design, sharing the wonders of his love with others. (Ephesians 2:10)

Lord may I look at the past with thanksgiving, at the present with faith and at the future with hope.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with joy, peace and hope,

Pastor Paul

UM Men Sponsor Picnic for SC Public Works Employees

by Mike Warwick

The Methodist Men sponsored a picnic for the South Charleston Public Works Department on Friday, May 8th. Hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, and potato salad were enjoyed by approximately 100 employees. The event was held at the City garage on Jefferson Road to show our appreciation for the great work that these employees do in our fine City. Whether it is picking up garbage/recycling, cutting grass, plowing snow, maintaining Little Creek Park, or a host of other maintenance tasks, these folks do a great job providing the best services around. Additionally, they are always willing to help us out when we have a special need at our church.

A future event for other City departments will be planned soon.

UM Men meet June 6 online via Zoon

by George Hohmann

The United Methodist Men will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 6, online via Zoom.

President Mike Warwick will review the South Charleston Department of Public Works picnic, which the men hosted.

Vice President George Hohmann will discuss plans for a meal giveaway for our King Street neighbors.

Invitations to the meeting will be e-mailed on Wednesday, June 3. If you do not receive an invitation, please contact George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or 304 419-1916.



June Prayer by David Biondi

Most gracious and loving Lord, as we enter into the month of June, we still find ourselves in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic. We are grateful that there appears to be a slow-down in the number of cases of people being hospitalized with this dreaded disease, and we pray that those who have been afflicted will make a full recovery from it. Help and guide us all, O Lord, in our re-opening and re-launching efforts so that we would not take any risks which could prolong the pandemic. Grant us wisdom in knowing how to maintain safe practices as we begin to adjust to the new normal, and show us

the way to make the adaptations necessary so that our businesses, services, schools and churches may resume their activities.

We ask you, Lord, to be with those who find themselves under financial duress due to their inability to go to work as the result of the coronavirus; and we pray for those individuals who have essential jobs which may potentially cause them to be in harm's way as the result of coming into contact with persons with the virus -- the police, medical personnel, EMTs, store workers and others.

Also, Lord, we again

ask you to guide our leaders so that they will continue to make wise and informed decisions as to what courses of action need to be taken, that you will be with all medical personnel as they minister to those who are afflicted, that you will bring knowledge and enlightenment to the scientists and researchers who are working to find a treatment for the coronavirus, and that you would continue to be with us all in these fearsome and troubling times, granting us a special sense of your love, your peace and your presence. We ask all these things in your most holy and precious name. Amen.

Kroger Community Rewards is one of First Church's most important fundraising programs, generating thousands of dollars each year. To participate, all you have to do is register, shop at Kroger and swipe your Kroger Plus Card. The program doesn't cost you a cent and the church earns a rebate on your purchases. To register call Kroger at 1-800-853-3033. A customer service representative will request your Kroger Plus Card number and verify your address and phone number. You also will need to give the reward number for First Church: **JK383** (THIS IS A NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER). You can also register online at: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>.

Prayer helps us stay connected

by George Hohmann

Even though we continue to practice social distancing, we can pray for others.

One way is to send prayer requests to Kathy Judge. E-mail her at corljudge@aol.com or call her at 304 550-2172.

Also, the West Virginia United Methodist Men urge you to consider visiting The Upper Room Prayer Wall (online at <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/prayer-wall>).

When you go to the Prayer Wall, you may request prayer or pray for someone who already made a request. Both may be done anonymously.

The Prayer Wall is available seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

Community Gardeners welcome Donnie Lively

by George Hohmann

The Community Gardeners welcome Staunton Avenue resident Donnie Lively to the garden.

Other 2020 summer gardeners are: David and Holly Biondi, Caryle Snyder, George and Malissa Hohmann, Nancy Brumley, and Jenny Schenck.

Seven spaces remain available. There is a charge of \$30 per space for a summer season, to defray the cost of water. Community Gardeners also are expected to share at least 10 percent of their harvest with folks in need.

On May 18, West Virginia American Water turned on the garden water.

Among the items already planted by this year's gardeners: Lettuce, onions, scallions, radishes, peppers, tomatoes and asparagus.

Stop by when you're near the church and see what's up! For more information contact George Hohmann at g.hohmann48@gmail.com or 304 419-1916.

Peace, Love and Books by Teresa Matheny

United Methodist Women Reading Program

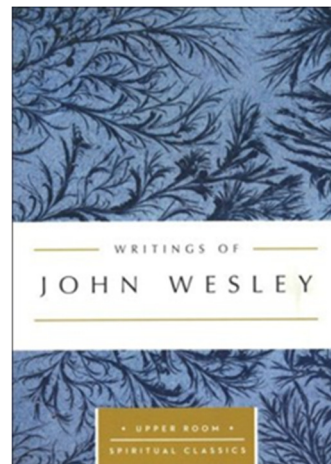
Writings of John Wesley (Upper Room Spiritual Classics)

by John Wesley (Author),
Keith Beasley-Topliffe
(Editor)

For nearly 2,000 years, Christian mystics, martyrs, and sages have documented their search for the divine. Their writings have bestowed boundless wisdom upon subsequent generations. But they have also burdened many spiritual seekers. The sheer volume of available material creates a seemingly insurmountable ob-

stacle. Enter the Upper Room Spiritual Classics series, a collection of authoritative texts on Christian spirituality curated for the everyday reader. Designed to introduce 15 spiritual giants and the range of their works, these volumes are a first-rate resource for beginner and expert alike. Writings of John Wesley presents excerpts from the hugely influential 18th-century preacher, writer, and founder of Methodism. This volume includes selections from Wesley's journals, sermons, and books, offering a clear picture not only of Wesley but also of the spiritual vitality that ignited a movement and continues to transform lives today.

*Short and sweet at only 80 pages!



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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Kroger Rewards reminder by Nancy Altman, Finance Chair

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!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF FIRST CHURCH
FIRST QUARTER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Jeri Whitten

The first quarter mission project (Giving 100) for the United Methodist Women at First Church has been completed. Our goals were: Log a minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service in the community; reach 100% of membership pledging to mission for 2020; and donating \$100 to a mission project chosen by a member of the United Methodist Women.

We are excited to report that the United Methodist Women logged a total of 169 hours in January, February and through mid-March. More hours would have been logged had the coronavirus pandemic not forced shut down of community service projects, suspending volunteers at our local hospitals, nursing homes, etc. We are proud of all the women who contribute, not only to the needs of First Church, but to our community at large.

Although we did not reach our goal of 100% of members pledging to mission, a healthy 82% have given or are currently meeting their pledges. Those who have not yet made a pledge can still do so, either to Sharen Deitz in the Mary Jane Van Camp Circle or to Kathy Judge in the Anna King Circle.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the \$100 donation to mission will go to Shadow of his Wings Children's Home in Guatemala, submitted by Nancy Wolfe. This mission project is directed by the daughter of one of Nancy's oldest friends.

Shadow of His Wings Orphanage currently houses and cares for the needs of approximately 80 children, as well as house parents and their families. Several children are daughters of prostitutes, with one of them being forced into her mother's profession at the tender age of six. Others have come to the home badly beaten, tortured, and raped. Most of the children have received little or no education, and lack the basics including food, clothing, shelter, and love. The orphanage has its own school, trained teachers, psychologists and counselors to help these children face the problems of life and learn to walk in the success of their future.

SHARE YOUR PANTRY SECOND QUARTER MISSION

Many thanks to all of you who have taken the time to drop off non-perishable food items to us for the food pantry at Heart and Hand. From April 27 to May 18, we have taken 6 loads of food and collected \$545.00 in monetary donations.

Remember that this project will continue in June, with collection dates on June 8 from 10 a.m.-noon and June 22 from 10 a.m. -noon and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. We hope that you will continue to share from your pantry.

With love from "the church ladies."

Jeri Whitten

Notions by Paula Lepp

Look at the silver lining they say.
 But what if, instead,
 I pluck it off
 and use that tensile strand to bind
 myself to those things I do not
 want to lose sight of...

Families knit together by evening walks, board games, laughter.
 The filament fixing us to friends
 no matter the distance apart.
 A braid of gratitude for small kindnesses.
 The thin gauge wire of loss.

Let me twist that lining
 around my finger,
 it's silvery glint a reminder
 of just how quickly life can change.
 I will remember to love more.
 I will remember to give more.

I will remember to be still

I will knot the string tightly.
 So it won't slip away.
 So I won't forget.

Bit by bit by Paula Lepp

Once again, the twin stonemasons,
 Fear and Despondency,
 have plied their trade well.

Their sturdy gray edifice,
 erected, it seems, almost overnight,
 stands stoic as if to say
 "I will last forever."

My arms are so weary,
 hammer and chisel
 almost insurmountably heavy.

Yet once again
 I pick up the only tools I have
 and slowly,
 slowly
 begin to chip away.



SHARE YOUR PANTRY

Join the United Methodist Women as we help fill the Heart + Hand Food Pantry by sharing your food pantry. We are asking you to help us support the Heart + Hand Food Pantry by donating some extra food from your food pantry.

During this time of danger from Covid 19 Heart + Hand Food Pantry needs our support to keep their pantry filled for our community in need.

If you would like to help by donating nonperishable food items, we will have a donation site set up at the church parking lot near the parsonage. You may drop off your donations on:

Monday, June 8th from 10:00 a.m. – noon
Monday, June 22nd from 10:00 a.m. – noon
Monday, June 22nd from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Suggested food items:

macaroni and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, rice, dried beans, canned green beans, canned corn, canned soup, crackers, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta, jiffy mix, canned tuna, and canned chicken

First United Methodist Church
905 Glendale Avenue
South Charleston 25303



Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Harry Warwick:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Karen Johnston | The Keene Family |
| Patty Lake | Mike's Co workers |
| Bill and Linda Nehr | Benita Murphy |
| George Russell | Tom and June Bumgarner |
| Judith Smith | Hazel Childress |
| Barbara Reveal | Bill Bare |
| Bob and Jean Warner | Drew and Jennifer Waggener |
| Bennie and Sue Warden | Art and Nancy Altman |
| Mr. & Mrs. Sam Femia | Doris Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tom Caceci | |
| Janina Syms | |
| Jean Young | |
| Ed and Peggy King | |
| Kathy Parsons | |
| Charles and Linda Jackson | |
| Elizabeth Keene | |
| Ted and Helen Berry | |

First United Methodist wishes to thank all who have honored our loved ones with a donation to our church Memorial Fund.

Memorial gifts are often given at the time of a person's death instead of flowers. It is a way to say that the person was important and will be missed. But memorial gifts do not always have to come at a person's death. Some people also like to make memorial gifts on the anniversary of someone's death or at other times in remembrance of someone close.

Some gifts can be given to honor someone who is still alive. It is a celebration of one's life at an anniversary, birthday, or just to say thanks.

Donations can be mailed to the church advising if the donation is in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone.

In Memory of Donna Stewart:

- Bob and Jean Warner
- Karen Johnston
- Barbara Reveal
- Jean Young
- Dr. Donald and Janet Stewart
- Butch and Janet Stewart Simon
- Hazel Childress
- Art and Nancy Altman
- Doris Smith

In Memory of Myrna Baumgartel:

- Karen Johnston
- George Russell
- Marge and Jim Brickley
- Kathleen and Doug Brickley
- Pat and Deb Campbell
- Dick and Arleen Booten
- David Snyder
- Paul and Earline Meadows
- Hazel Childress
- Pamela Barr and Jeffrey Slater
- Doris Smith

In Memory of Frances Neff:

- Brian and Bette Loudermilk
- Lewis and Norma Collins
- Bill and Linda Nehr
- Cecil and Vicki Samples
- Gladys Howard
- Neva Haddy
- Jean Canipe
- Ken Pyles, Realtor
- George Russell

Graceful Generosity

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

June 2020



Either/Or or Both?

“The Rich Young Man” asked Jesus, *“Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”* People have been asking this question since the beginning of time. Jesus’ answered, *“Obey the commandments.”* Some, like “The Rich Young Man,” feel confident they’ve fulfilled the commandments, but nagging doubts remain. They ask, along with the man, *“What do I still lack?”* (Matthew 19:16-26)

What is lacking is our ability to keep every law perfectly. Within the heart of every one of us lies our dread enemy: sin. We cannot do enough good things to defeat sin and gain eternal life. Paul tells us how we have been saved: *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Grace through faith saves us. Then is there any room for works in our lives? Paul addresses that question as well: *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10).

Why did Jesus ask the young man to give away his possessions? It was because those things so filled his heart there was no room for God’s love. Therefore the good life he led and the good things

he did were to no avail because they were not done for God and for his glory.

It’s not “either/or”; it is “both.” While we are saved by grace through faith alone and we rely solely on Christ and his redeeming work, our faith is evidenced through the works we do in his name and for his glory.

God Will Supply

We go to work based on the promise of a wage for our labor. We enter into marriage covenants promising to be faithful to our spouses for life. We get on planes, trusting the pilots are well trained and the aircraft safe so that we can get to our destinations. We drive our cars on the right side of the road (in the US, anyway!), confident that oncoming traffic will stay in their proper lanes.

If we put so much faith in fallible humans who are prone to error and misjudgment, how much more can we live as stewards who give first to God, trusting him to supply all our needs! *“Praise be to the Lord,”* prayed Solomon. *“Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses”* (1 Kings 8:56).

God’s stewards throughout history have praised God for his faithfulness: Elijah, fed by ravens beside the brook (1 Kings 17:2-4); Daniel in the lion’s den (Daniel 6); Paul preaching the Word of God even while imprisoned (Acts 28:17-31).

How about the Macedonians who gave generously even out of their poverty to share with others they felt were even more needy (2 Corinthians 8)? All these attest to the faithfulness of God. Surely God has blessed us, too, so that we can bless others with our gifts. David, the psalmist, wrote from experience:

(continued on page 11)

“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed” (Psalm 37:25-26).

A pig and a chicken were walking down a village street. They stopped outside a church to read a notice advertising a bazaar and tea, in support of the church’s program. At the bottom of the sign they read: HAM AND EGGS WILL BE SERVED.

The chicken was heard to say, “See! Even we can help with the work of the church!”

“Yes,” said the pig, “but yours is only a contribution. MINE IS A SACRIFICE.”

Gratitude

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9) was a disliked tax collector who gathered money from his own Jewish people for the Roman government. Hearing that Jesus was coming, Zacchaeus had a strong desire to see this man everyone had been

talking about. Unfortunately, Zacchaeus, being short in stature, couldn’t see over the crowds, but, also being resourceful, he climbed a tree for a perfect view.

When the Spirit of the Lord calls us, as he called Zacchaeus, we would do well to respond as Zacchaeus did. His hunger and thirst were great, and, sensing Jesus could satisfy it, he had no thoughts of pride or position. His focus was on Christ. Jesus said, *“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today”* (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus was overwhelmed with gratitude, which showed in the words he spoke.

“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount” (Luke 19:8).

Gratitude shows itself in thankful words and benevolent actions. As evidence of his gratitude Zacchaeus gave up what had, until that day, been all his joy ... his monetary wealth.

“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost’ ” (Luke 19:9-10).

There are three kinds of workers in church today: tired, retired, and tireless.

Service is love in work clothes.

Work follows worship as the day the night!

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 Beverley Neff	

Anniversaries

01 Alva and Page Deardorff David and Angela Young	08 Mark and Carrie Hamilton
02 Sean and Nancy Harter	19 Ken and Catherine Bostic
06 Harry and Laura Richo	21 Jack and Helen Chapman
07 Bill and Linda Nehr John and Sarah Ratliff Greg and Jeri Whitten	22 Andrew and Christina Byrd 25 Mike and Sandy Warwick

Special Upcoming Events To Remember

Saturday, June 6—UM Men Zoom Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, June 8—Share Your Pantry from 10:00 am – noon

Monday, June 22—Share Your Pantry from 10:00 am – noon

Monday, June 22—Share Your Pantry from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Please send prayer requests for the worship service to Pastor Paul ahead of the service if possible. wvpastorpaul@gmail.com or (304) 695-0013.

Online Order of Service will be distributed weekly via email and will be posted on website (bulletins).

<http://southcharlestonfirstumc.org/about-us>

Online service can be viewed at
<https://www.facebook.com/1stumcsc>

**TEXT your
FUMC
offering to
833-907-2245**

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.

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: tamatheny219@suddenlink.net

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.