

THE GOOD NEWS



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Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are moving towards the final weeks of Lent and throughout Lent we have been studying Adam Hamilton's book The Message of Jesus. In one chapter, Hamilton examines the Sermon on the Mount, which begins in Matthew, Chapter 5. Verse 14 of Chapter 5 says, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

The final days of Lent can feel dark as we move towards Jesus' crucifixion. Indeed, there is much darkness in the world around us, and sometimes in our lives too. As we watch folks chasing pleasures that will not satisfy, running in competition for rewards that fade and laboring to collect great piles of things that will not fulfill their lives; Jesus is calling us to be light in this dark world.

A story is told about a boy who visited a cathedral for the first time. "Who are those people in the windows there?" he asked. "They are the saints," his mother told him. "Oh, I see," he replied. "Saints are people the light shines through."

We are God's saints in a dark world. We shine because the light of Christ shines through us and reaches those lost in the gloom of this struggling world. We stand in the light of Christ and let his light shine through us, reaching God's children around us and offering them life in the Savior who died for them and rose to give new life.



St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

As we continue through the final weeks of our Lenten journey, may we allow the Holy Spirit to set us afire so we can shine with the light of Christ.

Blessings & Love,

Clare

MISSION IN MOTION...

Mission in Motion is a dynamic initiative of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church (WVUMC) that reimagines and revitalizes the former “Celebration of Mission Event.” This initiative is dedicated to supporting conference-affiliated mission projects, outreach efforts, fundraising, and storytelling that highlight the transformative impact of mission work within the Conference.

Mission in Motion embodies the call to be the hands and feet of Christ, making a tangible difference in lives across West Virginia and beyond.

Those receiving funds through **Mission in Motion** include our conference-affiliated mission projects:

- Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries
- Ebenezer Community Outreach Center
- Heart and Hand House
- Tyrand Cooperative Ministries
- House of the Carpenter
- Scott’s Run Settlement House
- Upshur Parish House & Crosslines
- Burlington United Methodist Family Services
- Volunteers in Mission (VIM)
- New Vision Depot
- Clarksburg Parish

In addition, 10% of undesignated funds go to the Mission Projects Trust Fund, administered by the UM Foundation of West Virginia.

Our conference-affiliated mission projects are the heart of mission work, providing food, shelter, disaster response, community outreach, and support for children and families. The funds raised through **Mission in Motion** directly impact their ability to serve, heal, and bring hope.

MATTHEW 25 OPPORTUNITIES:

SNACK PACKS FOR SCHOOLS

We have some educators in the church that are worried about the quantity of food that goes home in the snack packs on weekends for kids in need at SMES, BES and PCMS. They are requesting we consider collecting pop tarts, granola bars, cereal bars. They can go in the bins on the first floor of the educational wing and will be added to the snack packs weekly. Thank you.

WV FLOODING

Recent flooding has done enormous damage to southern WV, especially McDowell County. Our WV Conference Disaster Relief Response Team is on the ground helping now. If you'd like to support them, you can by giving through our church. Individuals should make their check out to SMUMC and indicate "Flood Relief" in the memo line or on an envelope. Churches will then send one check with their church remittance form, earmarked for the fund. Thank you.

KAIROS COOKIES

Cookies need to be at church by April 8th. Please package 12 cookies per bag. Anyone wishing to attend closing needs to be at front entrance on Sunday, April 13th at 1:15 PM, with drivers license. You must contact Rick McCullough at 304-966-1231 to be added to list. It is a very inspirational ceremony.



The church office will be closed:
Friday, April 18th for Good Friday
and
Easter Monday, April 21st



United Methodist Men

Meet on the 3rd Sunday morning for breakfast
at 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

All men are welcome



Next breakfast meeting is May 18th at 8 AM

The UMM still has apple butter for sale.

The price is \$7 per pint and they make a great gifts. Thank you!



Easter Lilies are **\$12** each, and money must be received for the order to be placed. The form and payment may be put in a pew envelope, in the offering plate, or mailed to PO Box 100, St. Marys, WV 26170. You may also drop them off in the office. You can also call the Office and place your order with Deb. Checks should be made out to St. Marys United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Charmel Radcliff at 304-684-2133. **THE DEADLINE TO ORDER IS APRIL 11th.**





United
Women
in Faith

APRIL

Bible Study: Luke 15:11-23

Circle & General Meeting

April 7, 2025 at 6 PM

Program: *Changes in Faith*

Program Book: *Pages 37-40*

Program: Grace Circle

Flowers & Greeters: Peace Circle (No flowers in Lent)

MAY

Bible Study: 2 Timothy 1:5-7

Circle & General Meeting

May 5, 2025 at 6 PM

Program: *Define Faith*

Program Book: *Pages 43-45*

Program: Peace Circle

Mother's Day Tea

Flowers & Greeters: Grace Circle

Donation

Tyrand Cooperative Parish, Mill Creek, WV
Makayla Mayle, Director

A SHARED VISION FOR FOSTER CARE

The 4th annual All in Foster Care Summit equips and inspires individuals, churches, and organizations to take meaningful action.

Hear from national leaders in foster care and faith-based advocacy, engage in breakout sessions with hands-on strategies for churches and child welfare professionals, and connect with others transforming foster care.

Featured Speakers:

- **Jason Johnson** - Director of Church Engagement at CAFO, speaker, author, and foster care advocate.
- **Jamie Finn** - Director of Foster the Family, author, and advocate.
- **Brian Mavis** - Founder of America's Kids Belong, author, speaker, and foster care leader.

Whether you're a church leader, foster or adoptive parent, child welfare professional, or community member, this Summit provides the tools and inspiration to act.

Together, we can build a shared vision where every child and family is supported. Register now at cmvww.org.

- **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**
- **River Ridge Church**
- **Charleston, West Virginia**
- **8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**



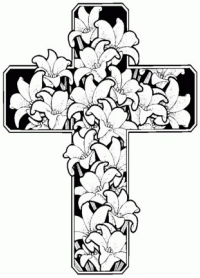
Dear Clare,

Thank you so much for the recent donations of potatoes from the UM Men, and for the monetary donation from the Women's Group. Faithful partners are hard to come by these days, and I am so thankful to have your church alongside us in our mission. I will soon begin my 19th year here at Nutrition and consider myself blessed beyond belief to have had this opportunity to serve seniors. Thank you and your congregation for making it easier.

Sincerely, David Hoyt, Director

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 17th
at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary
(Online service will be available at noon.)

The Chapel will be
open
9 AM - 5 PM
on Good Friday
for prayer.



On Easter Sunday we will have a **LIVE** flowering Easter cross in the Sanctuary. We will cover the wooden cross with chicken wire and you are invited to bring **LIVE** flowers or flowering bushes to decorate it. The cross will be in the Sanctuary this Easter and we'll move it outside after worship for the community to enjoy. Please bring your flowers at least 15 minutes before worship begins so our cross can be completed as we move into worship at 10:45 AM.

Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday

8 AM in the Chapel

Breakfast following Sunrise Service
in Fellowship Hall

Sunday School at 9:30 AM - Worship at 10:45



GIVING

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

March 2	\$8,946.27
March 9	\$8,249.92
March 16	\$1,961.10
March 23	\$1,828.00

ATTENDANCE

IN PERSON ONLINE

March 2	72	105
March 9	66	91
March 16	81	134
March 23	72	136

YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$37,961.92
YTD needed for our Budget - \$46,638.44

Dear Members of St. Marys United Methodist Church Women's Group. THANK YOU!



On behalf of Belmont Elementary School, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of food to our school's Pack-A-Snack program. Your thoughtfulness and support help us provide nutritious snacks that are essential for

fueling our students' learning and growth. Thanks to your contribution, we can ensure that no child goes hungry, and every student has the opportunity to thrive. We gruly appreciate your commitment to our community and look forward to continuing this partnership to support our young learners.

*Warm regards,
Mara Eisenbarth
Communities in Schools site coordinator (BES)*

Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of February

Total Donations: 223

Total Customers: 654

Total Families receiving services: 97

(Baby Blessings Services - 10, total of 11 children)

(food - 241 individuals)

(utility assistance - 8 families)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$ 7,894.93

Total Donations to NN: \$16,326.24

Total Expenses: \$17,850.79

Number of Volunteers this month: 33

**Volunteers are
always needed,
please call the store
at 304-684-3990 if
you can help.**

NEIGHBOR NETWORK FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Our Neighbor Network partners with Mountaineer Food Bank for a monthly food giveaway. It is held at the Marina beginning around 10:30 AM. Volunteers are always need and ask to be at the Marina by 9:45 AM. You may also know someone who would benefit from the distribution. Pleasants County residents only please.

*Our next giveaway is
April 11th, May 9th, June 13th, July 11th,
August 8th, September 12th, October 10th,
November 14th, December 12th*

The March - April Upper Rooms

are available at the church.

Want one mailed to you? Just let us know.

Birthdays

APRIL

Victor Bills	4/2
Avry Bennett	4/3
Cady Dutil	4/3
Billy Maiden	4/3
Elizabeth Miller	4/7
Rachel Jeffers	4/9
Pam Hamilton	4/10
Nick Morgan	4/11
Emme McKnight	4/12
Ayden Powell	4/12
Adam McKnight	4/13
Diane Lanham	4/15
Jay Conaway	4/15
Liz Loughner	4/15
Jennifer Hupp	4/16
Emme McKnight	4/16
Lydia Watson-Richards	4/17
Alice (Nichols) Holmes	4/17
Tucker Dalrymple	4/20
Rick Hupp	4/20
Russell Loughner	4/20
Catie (Wells) Hamilton	4/20
David Hamilton	4/23
Inez Wilson	4/23
Doug Poling	4/24
Mindy Hadley	4/25
Emily Carpenter	4/30

MAY

Corbin Bussey	5/1
Wendy Loughner	5/3
Paula Corbin	5/4
Marci Davis	5/8
Marcia McCullough	5/11
Adam Carpenter	5/11
Cayla Stephens	5/14
Jan Brewer	5/15
Beckie Barton	5/16
Ethel Ross	5/19
Carla Conaway	5/19
Lily McKnight	5/20
Paul Ingram	5/20
David Braun	5/21
Mike McGee	5/21
Todd Lewis	5/22
Jenny Brewer	5/23
Dick Reed	5/23
Derek Johnson	5/24
Jessy Moore	5/25
Sarah Holt	5/26
Nina Ogdin	5/29
Charlotte Lamp	5/30
Mae Lewis	5/31
Mary Frances Park	5/31

MEETINGS

APRIL

29 Finance - 6 PM

MAY

6 SPRC - 6 PM

13 Church Council - 6 PM

18 Trustees - 5 PM

EVERY MONTH

First Mon. - UWF - 6 PM

Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM

OTHER GROUPS MEETING AT OUR CHURCH

2nd Monday Raising Hope to Purpose
6 PM

& Middle Island Ramblers 4-H 7 PM

Every Tuesday Boy Scouts 7 PM

Every Thursday AA / Al-Anon 8 PM



Do we have your
birthday listed?

Please call Deb at

304-684-3018

if we do not have it!

PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Moorhead
Caroline Hill
Joe & Thomasine Troisi
Benny & Ruth Wagner
Mike & Sharon McGee
Dale & Stephanie Colvin
Terry & Becki Wilson
Philip Starks
Gerald May
Maddie Collins
Duane Larsen
Dwayne Barnes
Martha Poling

Webb Carpenter
Greg Hill
Mary Brewer
Eleanor Pierce
Kohner Loughner
Liam Loughner
Debbie Bailey
Matthew Beard
Martha Hoyt
Jim McLaughlin
Destinee Gray
Terrie Gelner Huls
Denny Venderlic

Al Glatfelter
Rick Adams
Marie Farly
Lil Dillion
Jeremy Rhodes
Janet Matheny
Will Poling
Deanna Fleming
Phil Shingleton
Karson Elrod
Gary Boley
Jeri Smith Williams
Carol Carder

Bill Gellner
Parker Miley
Linda Birkhimer
Charlotte Parker
Gretchen Himmeger
Joe Faller
Pam Hamilton
Georgia Powell



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Mary "Joyce" Barnhart*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Dwight Davis*

**KINDNESS CIRCLE WILL MEET
AT THE PARSONAGE
ON MONDAY APRIL 14th AT 6 PM**

Outreach Ministry Opportunities

- Neighbor Network food pantry needs:
Boxed Mac. & Cheese, small pkgs. of Hamburger & Hot Dogs, Soup Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Syrup, Soup, Instant Potatoes, Crackers, Pork & Beans, Canned Milk, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, oil for cooking
- Size 5 diapers for Neighbor Network

St. Marys UMC
104 Washington Street
PO Box 100
St. Marys, WV 26170
(304) 684-3018
www.smwvumc.com
smumcwgw@outlook.com



Upcoming Dates

- April 1* **Mindy's Lenten Study Small Group at 6:30 PM**
- April 2* **Mark's Lenten Study Small Group at 7 PM**
Choir at 7 PM
- April 3* **Clare's Lenten Study Small Group at 11 AM**
- April 6* **Clare's Lenten Study Small Group at 2 PM**
- April 7* **UWF Team Leadership at 5 PM**
UWF General Meeting / Circles at 6 PM
- April 8* **Mindy's Lenten Study Small Group at 6:30 PM**
- April 9* **Mark's Lenten Study Small Group at 7 PM**
Choir at 7 PM
- April 10* **Clare's Lenten Study Small Group at 11 AM**
- April 11* **NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM**
Kairos Weekend (4/11 - 4/13)
Easter Lilies are due
- April 13* **Newport Community Easter Cantata at 7 PM**
(Newport Baptist Church)
- April 14* **Kindness Circle (Parsonage) at 6 PM**
- April 15* **Ministerial Association at 10 AM**
- April 16* **Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM**
- April 18* **Good Friday (Church Office Closed)**
- April 20* **Sunrise Service at 8 AM**
- April 21* **Easter Monday (Church Office Closed)**
- April 23* **Choir at 7 PM**
- April 26* **SMHS Prom**
- April 29* **Finance at 6 PM**
- April 30* **Choir at 7 PM**

