

THE GOOD NEWS



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How's your New Year's resolutions going? Since this is the first newsletter since we moved into a new calendar year, I'm wondering how those commitments you made to change your life in 2025 are going. Luckily, I didn't really make any significant resolutions, but historically, by this point in the New Year, those are long forgotten. However, I invite you to pause for a moment and look back at the year that has recently concluded. I don't know about you, but I have mixed feelings. My blessings have been abundant; my sense of God's grace has been constant, but I have also experienced things that I would not have chosen. There have been losses in my family as well as my circle of friends; there have been sicknesses and challenges in my life and the lives of those I love; tensions have run high at some points; and uneasiness at our national and global situations has occasionally threatened to put my sense of hope and trust in the One to whom we belong in doubt.

In the midst of all that, I work to remember that while I am called to serve and be fully involved in this world—indeed to love it as Christ loves it—my ultimate citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. This world is not my final destination! I know there is a destiny for us all beyond this life.

While the Bible gives us tantalizing clues as to what that will be like, it can't really paint a complete picture, because there is no human vocabulary for that which exceeds our human ability to understand. Someone once said that for the Christian, death does

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St. Marys UMC
 Northern District
 West Virginia Conference
 Northeastern Jurisdiction

(Continued from page 1)

not extinguish the light. It puts out the lamp because the dawn has come.

The Scriptures give us glimpses of what the next life will be like. Want to know more? Look up and consider these references to at least seven heavenly activities that will keep us busy forever:

1. We will worship God (Revelation 19:1-8; 22:8-9)
2. We will serve God (Revelation 22:3)
3. We will know God perfectly (Revelation 21:3; 22:4)
4. We will fellowship with others (Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 19:7-9; 22:14)
5. We will enjoy God and our heavenly home (Revelation 19:7; 22:14)
6. We will reign with God (Matthew 25:21, 23; Revelation 22:5)
7. We will rest (Revelation 14:13)

Perhaps you will want to join me in considering these seven activities, and in asking God how we can begin doing some of them now — certainly fellowship, service, worship are possible every Sunday. We can enjoy a foretaste of heaven right now!

Blessings & Love,

Clare

Did you know that our weekly radio broadcast airs on Sunday mornings at 9 AM on 93.9 FM. Our weekly worship video posts at 10:30 AM Sundays on our 2 Facebook pages and on YouTube. These are outreach ministries the church supports through its budget. Please share this information!

MATTHEW 25 OPPORTUNITIES:

BACKPACKS

As you are out and about this winter, you may see backpacks at deep discounts. We are always looking for sturdy backpacks and will store them for giveaway in August. You are welcome to bring them to the church and leave them in the plastic tubs. Thank you!

NEEDED

We are looking for 1 gently used or new booster seat for use in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a donation, please see either Andy Hickman or Pastor Clare. Thank you.

Swiffer Sweeper Wet Mopping Refills are also needed for the janitor's supplies.



When Snow Falls

Just a reminder about our
Church Inclement weather policy:

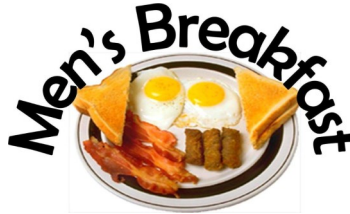
When the weather is bad on Sundays in St. Marys, Clare will be at church if at all possible. However, please only travel to church if you can **SAFELY!** The Trustees will make sure the parking lot and sidewalks are passable. A message will be sent by the One-Call Now system if we need to announce cancellations during the week such as United Women in Faith, Choir practice, etc...



United Methodist Men

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

All men are welcome



January meeting is the 19th

*The UMM still has apple butter for sale.
The price is \$7 per pint and they make a great gifts. Thank you!*



United
Women
in Faith

United Women In Faith News

JANUARY

There is no meeting in January

Planning Meeting January 14th at 10 AM

FEBRUARY

February meeting is the 3rd



Tickets now available for *the third annual
Pleasants County Neighbor Network Charity Gala*

WINTER *Wonderland*

15 February 2025

Pleasants County Neighbor Network

2025 PCNN Gala
Tickets
\$50.00 - \$90.00



Scan to Pay

Doors open at 6:00 pm
(use the back entrance)

St. Marys High School Commons

www.pleasantcountynetwork.org

United Women in Faith - Circles

Grace Circle

Bailey, Wilma
Carder, Carol
Carl, Barbara
Conaway, Carla
Ennis, Melissa
Hamilton, Pam
Ingram, Becky
Lewis, Mae
Little, Eleanor
Mayfield, Dodie
McLaughlin, Louise
Nichols, Sandra
Nutter, Judy
Park, Mary Frances
Radcliff, Charmel
Rouse, Suzanne
Scadden, Angie
Thomas, Debbie
White, Margaret

Honored

Collins, Janet
Davis, Donna
Troisi, Thomasine

Peace Circle

Blauser, Ruth
Boley, Donna
Braun, Diane
Campbell, Liz
Carpenter-Eddy, Liz
Conaway, Karen
Conaway, Linda
Gellner, Roberta
Himmeger, Gretchen
Mankins, Beth
Mays, Pat
McGee, Sharon
Morgan, Sue
Nichols, Tammi
Powell, JoAnn
Smith, Sheila
Stutzman, Beverly
Wilson, Karen

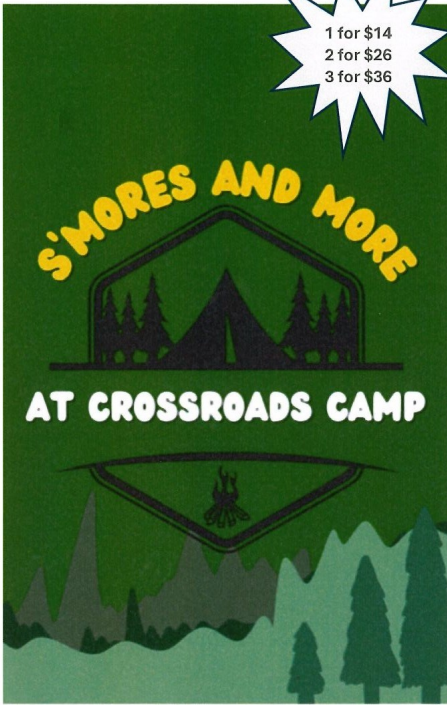
Honored

Hupp, Sharon
Neely, Evelyn
Roden, Judy
Simonton, Sue

Kindness Circle

Ashley, Alyson
Barnhart, Lori
Bennett, Whitney
Carder, Melissa
Carpenter, Kristi
Cronin, Addie
Fetty, Joette
Hadley, Mindy
Hupp, Jennifer
Jones, Kristi
Lewis, Dianna
Snyder, Mary (Hooper)
Sulgit, Clare
Wells, Helen
Westfall, Leslie

1 for \$14
2 for \$26
3 for \$36



Yum!



Prices:

1 for \$14
2 for \$26
3 for \$36

(\$12 each for 3+)

Plus, recipe contributors will receive a \$2 discount off their total order!

Name: _____

Cookbooks: # _____

Shipping: _____

For shipping, 1-2 books = \$5 shipping and handling;
3-4 books = \$6 shipping and handling. For
quantities greater than 4, contact the Little
Kanawha District Office:

office@lkduc.org
304-428-6461*

*Email or call to arrange pick up time.

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Davina Bell 5, 17, 19, 21, 22, 28		Rev. Charles May 30
..... 35, 38		Juanita Mills 12, 14, 31
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Rev. Rod Blanchard 2, 7, 11, 13, 14		
..... 15, 20, 24, 38, 39	- P -	Stephanie Parsons 1, 15, 16, 27
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	- D -	Eva Patterson 5, 6, 16, 17, 29, 35
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Alice Farr 35		Tina Salmans 24
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	- H -	Camp mascot Scout, the bluebird 1, 2, 3, 11, 28, 31, 37
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	- I -	Rev. Shari Stigenbauer 6
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Eileen Krimmel 22		Shawna Umpleby 21
	- M -	
Steve Mahaffey 6, 28		Virginia Wilson 5
		Toby Wines 29

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous donation of the bread and peanut butter. We appreciate your kindness!

*Love,
The Staff at Belmont Elementary*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous gift of money. Your thoughtfulness means much to me and I really appreciate it. I can never thank you enough, though, for your great kindness and every-present support. It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve as organist for this congregation, and I hope to continue as long as I am able.

Wishing you good health, much happiness, and many blessings in 2025.

Barb Maston

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and the kindness you continue to shower on David and myself. We are humbled and blessed to be with you and share this journey of faith. Thank you again.

*Blessings & Love,
Clare*

I pray these words convey my deep appreciation for the sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Marys UMC and their generous 100% support of the apportionment covenant for 2024! The efforts and sacrificial giving of everyone supports mission and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and touches more lives than you can imagine. Thank You!

*Peace,
Rev. Neil Leftwich*

Church Family,

Thank you so much for allowing our family to congregare at the church after our loved one's (Ginger Poling) service. We would also like to express our gratitude to those church members that have shown us love and care during our difficult time.

*Love,
Doug & Rachel*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for my generous Christmas gift. I am continually blessed to be working here and also now going to church here. I feel so at home here and I treasure the friendship of each and everyone of you. It is my honor to serve you. Once again thanks for your gift and for all your kindness.

Love always, Deb

GIVING

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

December 1	\$7,363.00
December 8	\$2,123.00
December 15	\$10,255.00
December 22	\$3,838.00
December 29	\$8,382.00

ATTENDANCE

IN PERSON ONLINE

December 1	70	114
December 8	73	58
December 15	75	157
December 22	109	135
December 24	64	255
December 29	68	378

YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$189,286.92

YTD needed for our Budget - \$197,050.00

As we come to the close of 2024, thank you for your generous support of ministry at St. Marys United Methodist Church. The response to our Christmas special offering was over \$6,000! The giving for clean water in Southern WV on Christmas Eve was \$1,000! You rose to the occasion and supported both your church and missions in substantial ways.

As we move into 2025, our budget has only increased a modest 3% from 2024. In our household, David & I are increasing our tithe to make sure it reflects that 3% change. I want to encourage you to do likewise. If you are not yet at a 10% tithe, consider increasing your giving to bring you closer to a true tithe. Together we can help keep our church strong by supporting her ministries in 2025.

Thank you!

Blessings & Love,

Clare

Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of November

Total Donations: 142

Total Customers: 893

Total Families receiving services: 140

(Baby Blessings Services - 10, total of 14 children)

(food - 316 individuals)

(utility assistance - 9 families)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$10,639.77

Total Donations to NN: \$13,536.77

Total Expenses: \$13,244.66

Number of Volunteers this month: 38

**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
January 10*

The January-February Upper Room

Is available at the church.

Want one mailed to you? Just let us know.

St. Marys United Methodist Church

Leaders – 2025

Members of the Church Council

Pastor	Rev. Clare J. Sulgit	684-7256	claresulgit@aol.com
Church Council Chairperson	Diane Braun	684-1842	tdbraun@suddenlink.net
Lay Leader	Keith White	684-3827	markei22@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Randy Nutter	684-7581	randynutter@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Gary Loughner	305-0386	galoughner@gmail.com
Lay Member to A. Conf.	Beverly Stutzman	684-1136	bsoct11@windstream.net
Alt Lay member to AC	TBA		
Sec. to Charge Conference	Karen Conaway	684-2496	dkconaway6@gmail.com
SS Superintendent	Andy Hickman	684-0901	wahick@suddenlink.net
Church Council Secretary	Pam Hamilton	299-0334	davepamh@suddenlink.net
Membership Secretary	Louise McLaughlin	684-3202	
Chairperson – SPRC	Melissa Carder	684-3250	cardermj@hotmail.com
Finance Chairperson	Gary Loughner	305-0386	galoughner@gmail.com
Trustees Chairperson	Al Thacker	684-7598	althacker@ymail.com
UMW President	Liz Loughner	305-0292	eloughner@yahoo.com
UMM President	Bill Carder	684-3250	carderwml@yahoo.com
Youth Leaders	Randy & Judy Nutter	684-7581	randynutter@gmail.com
District Conf. Delegates	Beverly Stutzman & TBA	665-1136	bsoct11@windstream.net
Church Business Admin.	Debbie Thomas	740-473-1472	smumcwv@outlook.com

Church Council Members at Large

2025	2026	2027
Linda Birkhimer	Pat Mays	Pam Hamilton
David Conaway	Robbie Evans	Mike McGee
Diane Braun		Sheila Hickman

Committee on Staff-Parish Relations

2025	2026	2027
Lori Barnhart	Brian Westfall	Frank Ennis, Vice-Chair
Libby Watson	Richard Conaway	Beverly Stutzman
Mindy Hadley	Melissa Carder, Chair	

Keith White, Lay Leader

Finance Committee

2025	2026	2027
Melissa Ennis	John Fitzpatrick	Jim Hooper
Carol McFadden	Gary Loughner, Chair	Beth Mankin

Keith White, Lay Leader

Diane Braun, Church Council Chair

Randy Nutter, Treasurer

Debbie Thomas, Church Business Adm.

Beverly Stutzman, Annual Conf. Delegate

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit

Melissa Carder, SPRC Chair

Gary Loughner, Financial Secretary

Al Thacker, Trustee President

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

2025	2026	2027
Suzanne Evans	Karen Conaway	Gretchen Himmeger
	Karen Wilson	

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit, Chairperson

Board of Trustees

2025	2026	2027
Al Thacker	Leslie Westfall	Mae Lewis
Doug Poling	Andy Hickman	Tim Ambrose
Wayne Birkhimer	Vernon (Louie) Lewis	Liz Campbell

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit

Youth Coordinator

Judy Nutter

Child Protection Coordinator

Dianna Lewis

Health and Welfare Committee

Pat Mays, Chair
Teresa Davies

Rachel Powell
Eleanor Little

Libby Watson

Birthdays

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Eleanor Little	1/8	Debbie Thomas	2/1
Marshall Norman	1/12	Donna Barksdale	2/2
Joe Fleegle	1/13	Sharon McGee	2/4
Morgan Poling	1/13	Andrew Simonton	2/5
David Fetty	1/15	Steve Pickens	2/7
Natalie Ferrell	1/16	Maya Morrison	2/9
Liz Carpenter-Eddy	1/16	Frank Ennis	2/9
Reece Westfall	1/16	Andrea Watson	2/10
John Lanham	1/22	Charmel Radcliff	2/11
Patricia Moore	1/23	Drew Wells	2/12
Thomas Thacker	1/23	Asa Nichols	2/12
Cooper Nutter	1/24	Mildred Harden	2/13
Judy Nutter	1/24	Katee McVey	2/14
Angela Scadden	1/26	Samantha Eisenman	2/14
Ty Flower	1/27	Nancy Main	2/15
Chris Lewis	1/29	Kacie Estep	2/16
Darla Carpenter	1/29	Tim Ambrose	2/18
Treasa Davies	1/29	Tammy Poling	2/19
		John Davies	2/20
		Maureen Maiden	2/20
		Betsy Metz	2/20
		James Poling	2/20
		Angie Dalrymple	2/21
		Karen Carpenter	2/21
		Brian Westfall	2/21
		Joe Conaway	2/22
		Melissa Carder	2/22
		Kathy Elder	2/26



MEETINGS

JANUARY

14 Church Council - 6 PM

19 Trustees - 5 PM

EVERY MONTH

First Mon. - UWF - 6 PM

Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM

OTHER GROUPS MEETING AT OUR CHURCH

2nd Mon. Habitat for Humanity 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!

Congratulations to Josh & Mallory Jacks on the birth of their son Owen Jacks born on December 9, 2024. He weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. Proud Great Grandma is Ruth Blausler.

Congratulations to Matt & Cassie Hickman on the birth of their son Philip Joseph born on December 9, 2024. He weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. Proud Grandparents are Andy & Sheila Hickman.

It's a boy!

PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Moorhead
Caroline Hill
Joe & Thomasine Troisi
Benny & Ruth Wagner
Mike & Sharon McGee
Philip Starks
Dwight Davis
Gerald May
Maddie Collins
Evelyn Neely
Duane Larsen
Dwayne Barnes
Martha Poling
Sheila Scadden

Jennifer Furr
Webb Carpenter
Greg Hill
Mary Brewer
Eleanor Pierce
Kohner Loughner
Liam Loughner
Debbie Bailey
Matthew Beard
Martha Hoyt
Ruth Blausen
Jim McLaughlin
Destinee Gray
Matthew Clovis

Terrie Gelner Huls
Teresa Davies
Denny Venderlic
Al Glatfelter
Rick Adams
Marie Farly
Lil Dillion
Jeremy Rhodes
Janet Matheny
Suzanne Rouse
Carmen Barron
Will Poling
Deanna Fleming
Phil Shingleton

Ben Himmeger
Karson Elrod
Jeri Smith Williams
John Fitzpatrick
Sandra Nichols
Gary Boley
Judy Nutter
Carol Carder
Bill Gellner
Michael Powell
Parker Miley



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Rebecca McLaughlin
Daughter of Jim McLaughlin*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Rod Neely
Son of Evelyn Neely
Brother of Sue Morgan*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Audra "Babe" Dennis*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Robert Clifford Drinko
Father of Joette Fetty*

The beautiful Christmas arrangement located as you enter from the parking lot has been given to the church by Gretchen Himmeger in memory of her late husband, Tom Wright.

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

Upcoming Dates

- January 8* **Choir at 7 PM**
- January 10* **NN Food Distribution at 9:45 AM**
- January 12* **Trustees at 5 PM**
- January 14* **UWF Planning Meeting at 10 AM**
Church Council at 6 PM
- January 15* **Choir at 7 PM**
- January 19* **UMM Breakfast Meeting at 8 AM**
- January 21* **Ministerial Association at 10 AM**
- January 22* **Choir at 7 PM**
- January 29* **Choir at 7 PM**

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St. Marys, WV 26170
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www.smwvumc.com
smumcww@outlook.com

