



THE GOOD NEWS

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As state and local governments ease restrictions concerning social distancing, we are taking a phase by phase approach to reopening for in-person worship at St Marys UMC.

Every Sunday at 10:30 AM we will continue to have online worship available. You can participate on either of our Facebook pages: St Marys United Methodist Church and St Marys WV UMC; or on our YouTube Channel: St Marys WV UMC. Services will continue to be played on 93R from 9-9:30.

Beginning Sunday, June 14th we will have in-person worship in the Chapel at 9:30 AM with several safety protocols in place.

You are welcome to attend worship, provided you: 1) Wear a mask at all times 2) Stay 6 ft from anyone not in your household 3) Reserve your seat in advance 4) Follow the instructions from the Greeters and Pastor about where to sit and when to enter and leave the Chapel.

There will be no Sunday School Classes for the time being. The office is opening back up on a limited basis. This is simply an opportunity to enter the chapel for worship. I understand that some of you are excited and happy for the opportunity to gather again while others are anxious and concerned about coming back together too soon.

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St. Marys UMC
Little Kanawha District
West Virginia Conference
Northeastern Jurisdiction

I encourage you to use your own best judgment. Online worship will remain available.

We need to know how many people plan to attend worship in the Chapel each Sunday so that we can determine how many worship services are needed to maintain social distancing. Therefore, if you plan to attend worship June 14th, you must reserve your seat sometime between June 6th and June 9th. I will do a One Call Now closer to those dates to remind you.

Either call the Church office, (304) 684-3018, or email smumcwv@outlook.com before Noon, June 9th, and tell us how many in your household will be in attendance. We will plan the number of services based on the number of people who wish to attend. If we are adding an additional Sunday morning in-person worship, we will let you know using One Call Now. Plan to wear your own mask or let us know if you need one provided for you. Take time to pray and watch for God to work good out of this strange and difficult time (Romans 8:28). I look forward to worshipping with you again, whether in person or online.

Blessings and Love to you all,

Clare

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Did you know that our weekly radio broadcast airs on Sunday mornings at 9 AM on 93.9 FM. This is an outreach ministry the church supports through its budget. Please share this information!

GIVING

Total gifts received:

April 5	\$3,830.00
April 12	\$3,825.00
April 19	\$1,295.00
April 26	\$5,260.00
May 3	\$4,470.00
May 10	\$2,310.00
May 17	\$2,310.00
May 25	\$4,135.00
May 31	\$4,635.00



As you look at the above numbers, you can see the wonderful demonstration of faithful giving our church has been engaged in. Thank you for consistently supporting the ministries of the church, even when we haven't been meeting in person. Your giving to God through the church makes ministry possible in our community and far beyond. I am grateful beyond words and give thanks to God for each of you.

You can continue to give in a variety of ways: mail to the church at PO Box 100, drop off at the church office, set up bill pay from your personal banking account, or use the "give" button on the church's web page that will connect you securely to Tithe.ly.

When we resume in-person worship, we will not be passing offering plates, but baskets will be available at the doors for you to leave your offering. Thank you again!

Alone together: The 2020 Pentecost paradox



The Pentecost story begins with a sentence that in previous years was easily overlooked: “When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1 CEB). After weeks of separation due to stay-at-home orders, social distancing and quarantine, those seven words, “they were all together in one place,” have

renewed significance.

While the thought of being together for Pentecost worship on May 31, 2020, *sounds* good, for many of us it will be impossible. We’ll have to settle instead for celebrating online, using Zoom, Facebook, YouTube or some other remote option as we have since March.

We won’t see the red paraments in person, join the kids in singing “Happy Birthday” to the church during children’s time, or see our friends all dressed up in red for the day. Instead, we’ll worship from home, longing for the day when in-person worship will resume and we can again be together in one place.

Pentecost 2020 reminds us that the Holy Spirit, who draws us together, is present with us while we remain apart.

Overcoming barriers

In Acts 2, we read the Pentecost story. With the rush of a mighty wind and individual flames of fire (the reason for all the red), the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples in a powerful way. They then “speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak” (vs. 4).

Language barriers between the disciples and those who gathered from all over the world to celebrate *Shavuot*, a harvest festival also known as *Pentecost*, are overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. Each person hears the disciples speak in his or her native language.

The disciples' invitation to join them in following Jesus is well received. "God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day," the Bible tells us. *They went from small group to megachurch in a moment!*

At the end of the story, the Holy Spirit's power to bring people together is evident. The "community of believers" worshiped, prayed, studied, and ate *together*. United Methodists are missing all of those things during these days of social distancing.

Alone together

The paradox of Pentecost 2020 is that we're giving up our together time because we recognize our connectedness. Yes, we're apart. But because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are not alone. Pentecost reminds us of our connection to God and one another.

Acts 2:47 tells us that the first church "praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone." Online worship and social distancing are a couple of ways we are following their example today.

Pentecost 2020 reminds us of how good it is when we are "all together in one place." It also highlights that even when being together isn't possible, the Holy Spirit overcomes barriers like language and social distance to connect us with one another.

While we're apart, we continue to be the church for one another, because the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we are.

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino

JUNE

Judy Roden	6/1
Terry Carpenter	6/4
Sue Morgan	6/4
Brett Colyer	6/4
Bill Maiden	6/5
Mary Hooper	6/7
David Henline	6/7
Pat Mays	6/7
Donald Dearth	6/8
Evelyn Neely	6/10
Merle Rouse	6/11
Tammi Nichols	6/13
Adam Bennett	6/14
Blakelyn Mote	6/15
Jim Henegar	6/15
Gregory Arnott	6/17
Randy Nutter	6/18
Rick McCullough	6/22
David Robey	6/23
Becky Arnott	6/23
Ashleigh Bonner	6/23
Wilma Bailey	6/24
Deena Hatcher	6/27
Casey Barron	6/28

JULY

Justin Scadden	7/2
Josh Pickens	7/5
Michelle Maiden	7/6
Tom Braun	7/8
Addie Cronin	7/9
Randy Shingleton	7/11
Sharon Hupp	7/11
Jean Smith	7/11
Taylor Pickens	7/12
Matt Hickman	7/13
Sheila Smith	7/18
Anne McKnight	7/19
Andrew Hooper	7/19
Lori Barnhart	7/20
Max Powell	7/22
David Carpenter	7/24
Tyler Johnson	7/27
Yvette Kiggans	7/27
Terry Wilson	7/30

MEETINGS

June

- 9 Re-Launch Team - 6 PM
- 10 SPRC - 6 PM
- 23 Re-Launch Team - 6 PM
- TBA Matthew 25

July

- 12 Trustees - 5 PM
- 14 Lay Leadership - 6 PM
- 14 Church Council - 7 PM

EVERY MONTH

- First Mon. - UMW Circles- 6 PM
- Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM
- Fourth Wed. - UMW - 6:30 PM
- Every Wed. - Choir - 7 PM

Other groups meeting at our church

- 2nd Mon. Habitat for Humanity 6 PM
- Every Thursday AA 8 PM



Happy July Birthdays!



PRAYERS FOR:

Paul Tallman
Betty Moorhead
Brent Payne
John Cox
Kenadee Antill
Ginger Poling
Joan Robey

Joan Robey
Stella Hickman
David Rouse
Suellen Simonton
Mike Poling
Caroline Hill
Eva Mae Hill

Robyn (Rankin) Facemire
Dave & Martha Hockenberry
Joe & Thomasine Troisi
Johnna Cochran
Margo Ingram
Benny & Ruth Wagner
Carolyn Ashkar

Margaret Spears
Sarah Mees
Lila Hart
Shirley Seaboy
Deloris Hendrickson
Hazel Flower
Mark Smith



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Dortha (Dotte) White*

Active Military Members:

Derek Carpenter
Nate McHenry



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Wesley Riggs*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Teri Offutt*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Joanne Wince*

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
- Size 5 diapers for Neighbor Network

Upcoming Dates

June 9 Re-Launch Team at 6 PM

June 10 SPRC at 6 PM

June 23 Re-Launch Team at 6 PM

TBA Matthew 25

July 12 Trustees at 5 PM

July 14 Lay Leadership at 6 PM

July 14 Church Council at 7 PM

We will keep you updated of any changes!

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