

# THE GOOD NEWS



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ...

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Lent is just around the corner, and one of the major themes is repentance and reconciliation. Pastor Mark Mayfield wrote a great article about reconciliation and it's reprinted with permission here.

According to the dictionary, reconciliation is the action of making one view or belief compatible with another. Reconciliation therefore, is something Margie and I do every month when our bank statements arrive in the mail. Since we do have a couple of different bank accounts to our name, we each take care of one of them. I must admit that my reconciliation is much easier than hers, as the account I take care of is not used nearly as much as the account she takes care of. Regardless of the difficulty of reconciling accounts however, the method of doing that reconciliation is the same. We both check off each transaction that has been charged to our account and make certain that the amounts in our accounts match the amounts shown in our check books. A difference of even a few cents between our statements and our check books cause us to search, add, subtract, and research the payments we have made until the issue has been identified and our view of our bank accounts matches the bank's view.



St. Marys UMC

Little Kanawha District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

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I believe that reconciliation is something we often do without thinking about it. Before mowing our lawn, I usually make certain that the amount of fuel I think I have is the same the amount of fuel my gas cans actually contain. And who bakes cookies without first making certain they have all of the ingredients that are required? Any project requires that all of the parts needed are available before it can be successfully completed.

Reconciliation of beliefs however, may be much more difficult than the reconciliation of parts required or bank account amounts. While the amounts written in a check book are static, or unchanging, individual beliefs are constantly changing and evolving. The process of making one belief compatible with another often requires slight adjustments to both beliefs, which can be a difficult undertaking.

The dictionary also defines reconciliation as the restoration of friendly relations, such as people who become angry over a disagreement but decide to put that disagreement in the past so they can regain a close relationship with each other again. One of my favorite Holy Scriptures about that reconciliation is found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians chapter 5, verses 17 and 18. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” (KJV)

How marvelous and wonderful the reconciliation spoken of in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians is!!! The restoration of our relationship with our Lord, what could be more important in our lives? And that relationship does not come about by our own effort, but by the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is the relationship which is the most valuable thing in our lives, yet it does not need to be purchased, it is a free gift from God. And this gift from God also gives us our most important Christian responsibility, which is the ministry of reconciliation.

Sometimes as Christians, as we walk through this world, we attempt to change peoples’ views and beliefs by using material things.

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# **St. Marys United Methodist Church**

## **Leaders – 2022**

### **Members of the Church Council**

Max Powell, Chair	Clare Sulgit	Keith White
Randy Nutter	Gary Loughner	Beverly Stutzman
Pat Mays	Karen Conaway	Judy Nutter
Carla Conaway	Louise McLaughlin	Melissa Carder
Diane Braun	George Little	Bill Carder
Al Thacker	Suzanne Rouse	Margaret White
Rick McCullough	Jim McKnight	Pam Hamilton
Mice McGee	Sheila Hickman	

### **Members of Staff-Parish Relations:**

Melissa Carter, Chair	Lori Barnhart	Brian Westfall
Richard Conaway	Tim Ambrose	Keith White
Frank Ennis, Vice-Chair	Beverly Stutzman	Bryan Poling

### **Finance Committee:**

Diane Braun, Chair	Carol Carder	Mindy Hadley
Danny Davis	Robbie Evans	Al Thacker
Sherie Poling	Keith White	Max Powell
Randy Nutter	Beverly Stutzman	Clare Sulgit
Melissa Carder	Liz Loughner, Vice-Chair	Gary Loughner
George Little		

### **Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development:**

Clare Sulgit, Chair	Gretchen Himmeger	Karen Conaway
Jim McKnight	Karen Carpenter	Sharon McGee

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## United Methodist Men

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

All men are welcome



## UPCOMING BREAKFAST MEETING March 20<sup>th</sup>

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## 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER

### **Church Council - 7 PM**

March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8

### **Trustees - 5 PM**

March 13, May 15, July 10, September 11, November 13

### **Finance Committee - 6 PM**

April 12, July 13, October 11

### **Lay Leadership and Nominations - 6 PM**

May 25, July 20, August 10

### **Staff-Parish Relations - 6 PM**

March 9, June 15, September 14, November 9

# United Methodist Women News



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The unit meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6 PM  
in the Chapel  
(executive committee meets at 5 PM).

## **MARCH**

Executive Committee - Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM

Circles - Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6

Program: ***Nehemiah Throws a Party***

## **APRIL**

Executive Committee - Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM

Circles - Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

Program: ***The Land Shall Observe a Sabbath***

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## **AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES**

You may have noticed new intercom systems on both the Educational Wing doors. We have installed an Access Control system that keeps folks in the church safer. On normal weekdays, during office hours, you can press the intercom by the door to talk to Debbie or Clare. They can then let you in by releasing the door. If you have a key, you can still gain access using it at the Parking Lot door. Please re-lock the door when you enter. The Washington St. door will no longer be accessible with your key. You can, however, enter with your key using the stairwell door. Please re-lock the door when you enter.

The Washington St. Sanctuary door and the alleyway Chapel door will not be affected by this. They are not open during normal office hours. On Sundays, all doors will be open and accessible.

The Trustees have also upgraded the security system.

These are exciting upgrades to our building that will keep us and the building more secure. If you have questions, or want to know more, feel free to ask Gary Loughner (304-305-0386) or George Little (304-684-2272).

# GIVING

## TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

February 6	\$3,887.00
February 13	\$1,690.00
February 20	\$3,125.00
February 27	\$3,097.93

# ATTENDANCE

## IN PERSON    ONLINE

February 6	59	104
February 13	48	125
February 20	54	163
February 27	65	No Video

**YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$28,912.95**  
**YTD needed for our Budget - \$30,994.65**

## WHAT DOES YOUR GIVING DO?

Thank you for the way you support ministry at St. Marys UMC. Your faithful giving allows ministry to happen here. One of the important ministries we have is allowing community groups to use our facilities. We don't charge rent (though 2 groups pay rent by choice) and we fund the increase in utilities and wear and tear on the building. Groups that regularly meet here include: Habitat for Humanity, Middle Island Ramblers 4-H, Boy Scouts, Al-Anon and AA. We also use the building for the ministry of feeding sports teams. Thank to Judy & Randy Nutter who head-up this ministry. As you can see, your giving is important and make a difference! Keep watching for more information about your tithes and offerings at work.

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### Board of Trustees:

George Little, Chair	Sue Morgan	Mae Lewis
Andy Hickman, Vice-Chair	Doug Poling	Gary Loughner
Liz Campbell, Secretary	John Davies	Tim Ambrose
Clare Sulgit		

## Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of January

Total Donations: 148

Total Customers: 529

Total Families receiving services: 91

(Gabriel Project— 9, total of 9 children)

(food - 132 individuals)

(utility assistance-9)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$5,356.98

Total Donations to NN: \$5,751.60

Total Expenses: \$10,335.94

Number of Volunteers this month: 9

**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 at noon. 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.

*Upcoming dates are:*

*March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>,  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>,  
November 16<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday), & December 9<sup>th</sup>*

## **THANK YOU**

Wow! Thank you for your generosity! Every bit counts and this donation will go straight to our kids. On behalf of my staff and myself we want to thank you and your congregation at St. Marys UMC.

Morgan Najjar  
Boys & Girls Club of Pleasants County CEO

If I may start this on a personal note: I was fortunate to be raised in a Christian home by Godly parents. I was baptized at the age of 8 and have seen many miracles, small & large, in the 58 years since. Having said all that, I am still amazed by His Grace. He watches over our program & sends us friends & partners like your congregation. Thank you so much for thinking of us. These have been hard times for many of our seniors, & I am truly grateful that we have been able to serve so many, thanks to donations such as this one. We are blessed beyond measure.

Sincerely,  
David Hoyt, Director  
Pleasants Senior Nutrition

We appreciate your very generous donation for our outreach program. With contributions like yours, we are able to continue aid for many families in need of shelter and security. Thank you for helping us make positive life changes in the community.

With many thanks,  
Pleasants Christian Outreach Center

Thank you for your donation in the amount of \$800. We at Tyrand are most appreciative of your support. Because of friends such as you, we will be able to help many in our area. On behalf of everyone here at Tyrand we wish you God's Blessings.

Belinda Toms  
Executive Director

Thank you for your generous donation to Neighbor Network. We are honored to serve at this ministry of St. Marys UMC.

God Bless You,  
Jennifer & Staff



# **A QUICK GUIDE TO CHURCH SAFETY PROTOCOLS DURING COVID-19**

**Green** - All activities resume without restrictions, masks are strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated.

**Yellow** - All activities resume without restrictions, masks are strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated.

**Gold** - All activities resume without restrictions, masks are strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated. Choir can sing in worship.

**Orange** - Masks and social distancing required inside the church. Singing during worship with masks on. Choir can practice in the Chapel while socially distanced, but will not singing on Sunday mornings. Bulletins will resume. No meals.

**Red** - Masks and Social Distancing required inside the church. No singing during worship. No Choir practice or singing on Sundays. No bulletins. No meals.

***We remind folks who are using the church for any gathering regardless of the COVID map, please clean and disinfect the space you were in. Thank you.***

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We attempt to teach people into a close relationship with God by our own methods and ideas. We demand that people think and act in a particular way to gain the relationship with God that we have. We chasten and correct and depend upon rites and ceremonies to reconcile people to God. But all of these things fail to bring about the reconciliation that people need.

So why do our efforts to help others receive the reconciliation with God so often fail? Perhaps because we forget to KISS them. KISS is an acronym for “keep it simple, stupid.” We tend to make things far more complicated than they actually are. What we really need to do is impart the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how easy it is for anyone to be reconciled to God. All they have to do is ask God to do it. No works, no money, just accept the FREE gift which God will so readily give, if only He is asked. *Pastor Mark*



## MARCH

Russell Ferrell	3/3
Emma Holt	3/3
Brian Bailey	3/4
Cali Masters	3/6
Matt Nichols	3/16
Sandra Nichols	3/17
Linda Birkhimer	3/17
Jim McLaughlin	3/19
Sandra Locke	3/21
Derek Carpenter	3/22
Bud Moore	3/23
Cara Masters	3/24
John McKnight	3/24
Becky Ingram	3/25
Barbara Maston	3/26
Greg Arnott	3/27
Gretchen Himmeger	3/27
Lara Fetty	3/28
Mike Wells	3/29
Sue Simonton	3/29
Carla Masters	3/30
Lois Beard	3/30
Alice Rolston	3/31

## APRIL

Victor Bills	4/2
Avry Bennett	4/3
Cady Radcliff	4/3
Billy Maiden	4/3
Elizabeth Miller	4/7
Rachel Jeffers	4/9
Nick Morgan	4/11
Emme McKnight	4/12
Adam McKnight	4/13
Diane Lanham	4/15
Jay Conaway	4/15
Jennifer Hupp	4/16
Steven Knight	4/16
Lydia Watson	4/17
Alice Nichols	4/17
Catie Wells	4/20
Rick Hupp	4/20
Tucker Dalrymple	4/20
Susan Eisenman	4/21
Inez Wilson	4/23
Doug Poling	4/24
Emily Carpenter	4/30

## MEETINGS

### MARCH

- 8 CHURCH COUNCIL - 7 PM
- 9 SPRC - 6 PM
- 13 TRUSTEES - 5 PM

### APRIL

- 12 FINANCE - 6 PM

### EVERY MONTH

First Mon. - UMW - 6 PM

Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM

### Other Groups Meeting at our Church

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## CONGRATUATIONS!

Alice Nichols & Cooper Holmes  
are engaged to be married

April 1, 2023

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and especially the prayers this past month. I am recovering and doing well. All of the prayers and well wishes are very much appreciated.

John Trunk

## PRAYERS FOR:

Paul Tallman  
Betty Moorhead  
Brent Payne  
Kenadee Antill  
Ginger Poling  
Joan Robey  
Suellen Simonton  
Caroline Hill  
Margo Ingram  
Shirley Seaboy  
Carolyn Ashkar

Martha Hockenberry  
Joe & Thomasine Troisi  
Benny & Ruth Wagner  
Larry Dew  
Emma Jean Dobbins  
Avery Clickenger  
Pat Hawkins  
Debbie Bailey  
Philip Starks  
Dwight Davis  
Bev Fitzpatrick

Campbell Barnhart  
Maddie Collins  
Dave Taylor  
Art Smith  
Terri Gellner Hulls  
Eddie Nutter  
Mike Davis  
Jennifer Furr  
Amy Stemple  
Johnna Cochran  
JD Williamson

Kym Holdren  
Larry & Deloris Butcher  
Evelyn Neely  
Duane Larsen  
Dwayne Barnes  
John Trunk  
John Hess  
Smitty Smith  
Debbie Thomas  
Sara McKnight  
Bob Archer



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
William Harrison  
(Brother of Martha Poling)*



### **Active Military**

Nate McHenry

Vanessa Reese

*(Daughter of David Reese)*

Evelyn Neely has moved to the Heritage. Why don't you send her a card or give her a call to welcome her to her new place.

304-684-1510

The Heritage, 1809 N.  
Pleasants Hwy, Apt. 9, St.  
Marys, WV 26170

The 2022 Church Information Guide is available at the church.

The March/April Upper Room is available at the church.

The Sanctuary for Lent 22 is available at the church.

Want one mailed to you? Just let us know.

## 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

<i>March 2</i>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM</b>
<i>March 7</i>	<b>UMW Exec. Committee at 5 PM UMW at 6 PM</b>
<i>March 8</i>	<b>Church Council at 7 PM</b>
<i>March 9</i>	<b>SPRC at 7 PM</b>
<i>March 11</i>	<b>NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM</b>
<i>March 13</i>	<b>Trustees at 5 PM</b>
<i>March 20</i>	<b>UMM at 8 AM</b>
<i>April 4</i>	<b>UMW Exec. Committee at 5 PM UMW at 6 PM</b>
<i>April 8</i>	<b>NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM</b>
<i>April 12</i>	<b>Finance at 6 PM</b>
<i>April 14</i>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 PM</b>
<i>April 15</i>	<b>Good Friday (Church Office Closed)</b>
<i>April 21</i>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>

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