

# THE GOOD NEWS



## Inside this Issue:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the season of Lent, preparing for Easter. I am hopeful that you are doing some spiritual preparation for that day – it is the most important event in our faith. Perhaps you are taking advantage of some opportunities that the church is offering by participating in our Lenten Study classes or reading “The Sanctuary for Lent” or “The Upper Room.” Maybe you are renewing your commitment to attending worship or doing some other activity to help get ready for the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection. If this hasn’t happened for you yet, it’s not too late and it will make a difference in how you experience Easter!

But think with me for a moment about Easter Sunday and the season that follows. We do many things at Easter to proclaim our faith and our joy. We dress up. We decorate. We go to church. We sing. And we hear the resurrection stories: Mary Magdalene in the garden, Peter and John and the empty tomb, the folded grave clothes. We know these stories well, but we want to hear them again. Jesus has conquered death and shown us the resurrected life!

One striking detail in many of the Resurrection stories is that Jesus came, but at first the disciples did not recognize him. No one fully understands what this means, but at the very least it means Jesus was changed in some way. And even if we don’t understand everything that happened on that first Easter, we can say this: Jesus was raised from death, and points us toward a next step, a transformation. He is transformed. And in him, we are also being transformed. Every day,

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St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

our faith tells us that our lives are being changed. We are becoming like Jesus, moment by moment, day by day.

In the meantime, as we journey through Lent, let us each be deliberate about how we will spend this season. Let it not be “business as usual,” lest Easter Sunday be just another day. Choose right now how you observe the weeks of Lent. And may each of us be granted a holy Lent, as we deepen our friendship with the Crucified Christ, and prepare to celebrate his resurrection.

Blessings & Love,  
Clare

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SOME LENTEN DISCIPLINES**

These mostly have to do with personal lifestyle. Why would these be appropriate for this season? It's because our faith tells us that Lent is a set-apart season, to prepare us to celebrate Easter. Observing these small disciplines helps us to remember that. They all require us to pay attention and exercise self-denial, and help us to think about the One whom we seek to follow and honor, and who denied himself for our sake.

- ♦ During Lent, if you don't need it, don't buy it.
- ♦ Throw or give away 40 bags of unneeded “stuff” for the 40 days of Lent.
- ♦ Do 40 days of home organization.
- ♦ No gossiping.
- ♦ No eating after dinner.
- ♦ No soda.
- ♦ Don't eat out.
- ♦ Don't complain.
- ♦ Replace 30 minutes of TV with 30 extra minutes of prayer/devotional time.
- ♦ Say 3 nice things to 3 people each day.
- ♦ Send a note of appreciation or encouragement to someone.
- ♦ Sit in silence for 10 minutes each day.
- ♦ Pay anonymously for someone's coffee or meal.
- ♦ Fast for one meal a week and donate the cost to the Food Pantry.
- ♦ “Fast” from the notion that nothing you do makes any difference.

Try one or more! See if it makes a difference as you journey through Lent.

## UMCOR

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude.

Please join UMCOR in prayer for the many people affected by these devastating earthquakes, including the rescue crews seeking survivors and those caring for the injured and displaced.

Support relief and recovery efforts for this and other international disasters by donating to Advance # 982450.



The Easter Lilies are \$11 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 forms are located in this newsletter and on the tables in the Sanctuary.**

**THE DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**



March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8 AM - 3 PM

March 4<sup>th</sup> - 9 AM - 3 PM

Wayside UMC  
3001 Grand Central Avenue  
Vienna, WV 26105

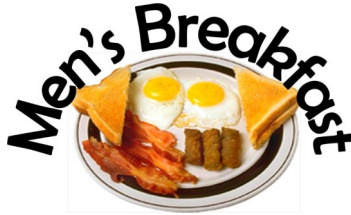
**Proceeds benefit Women's Missions**



## 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



**Next Breakfast meeting - March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM**

*The UMM still has lots of apple butter for sale*

*The price is \$6 per pint. Thank you!*



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## **2023 DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL - 6 PM**

March 14 - May 9 - July 11 - September 12 - November 14

### **TRUSTEES - 5 PM**

March 12 (**4 PM**) - May 14 - July 9 - September 10 - November 12

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE - 6 PM**

April 11 - July 12 - October 10

### **LAY LEADERSHIP & NOMINATIONS - 6 PM**

June 14 - July 12 (7 PM) - August 16

### **SPRC - 6 PM**

April 18 - July 19 - November 15



# United Women In Faith News

## UMW 154<sup>th</sup> Birthday - March 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **MARCH**

Leadership Team - Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM  
General Meeting & Circles - Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

Program: ***Growing Seeds***  
Program Book: Page 69 - 75

**Program:** Peace  
**Flowers & Greeters:** Grace (No flowers during Lent)

### **APRIL**

Leadership Team - Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM  
General Meeting & Circles - Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM

Program: ***Peacemakers and Justice Seekers***  
Program Book: Page 77-82

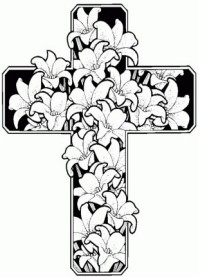
**Program:** Grace Circle  
**Flowers & Greeters:** Peace (Flowers on April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>)

## *Parish-Wide Lenten Services*

We are having our Parish-wide Lenten Services in March on Sunday evenings. The pastors of our local United Methodist Churches will take turn leading the services. The services will be at 6 PM in the Chapel & everyone is invited to attend.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>  
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 AM

Online Worship at 10:30 AM

*Give*  
**THANKS**  
**WITH A GRATEFUL**  
**HEART** *1 Thessalonians, 5:18*

*Dear Church Family,*

*Mom found great comfort in the St. Marys United Methodist Church and the love of her church family. She knew God's love and the gifts of hope and grace through his Son.*

*She believed in the good works of His church and its faithful. Please accept this gift in her memory as she was welcome into God's House to find solace there.*

*Always, Grateful,  
Stephanie & Jim Hooper  
Tom and Sabra Elder*

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*We would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers over the past few years, especially these last few very difficult months. We would also like to thank Rev. Clare for the beautiful and touching memorial service. It was perfect.*

*The family and friends of Margo Ingram*

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*Our church family means so much. Ron and I are so very blessed. Our parents raised us in a church family and it's made us who we are. We love God and our church. Blessings to all!*

*Ron & Kathy McHenry*

# St. Marys United Methodist Church

## Leaders – 2023

### Members of the Church Council

Pastor	Rev. Clare J. Sulgit
Church Council Chairperson	Diane Braun
Lay Leader	Keith White
Treasurer	Randy Nutter
Financial Secretary	Gary Loughner
Lay Member to A. Conf.	Beverly Stutzman
Alt Lay member to AC	Pat Mays
Sec. to Charge Conference	Karen Conaway
SS Superintendent	Andy Hickman
Church Council Secretary	Carla Conaway
Membership Secretary	Louise McLaughlin
Chairperson – SPRC	Melissa Carder
Finance Chairperson	Gary Loughner
Trustees Chairperson	Al Thacker
UWF President	Liz Loughner
UMM President	Bill Carder
Youth Leaders	Randy & Judy Nutter
District Conf. Delegates	Beverly Stutzman & Pat Mays
Church Business Admin.	Debbie Thomas

### Church Council Members at Large

2023	2024	2025
Rick McCullough	Pam Hamilton	Linda Birkhimer
Max Powell	Mike McGee	David Conaway
Jim McKnight	Sheila Hickman	Diane Braun

**Committee on Staff-Parish Relations**

2023	2024	2025
Brian Westfall	Frank Ennis, Vice-Chair	Lori Barnhart
Richard Conaway	Beverly Stutzman	Libby Watson
Melissa Carder, Chair	Bryan Poling	Mindy Hadley

Keith White, Lay Leader

**Finance Committee**

2023	2024	2025
Robbie Evans	Al Thacker	Melissa Ennis
Gary Loughner, Chair	Sherrie Poling	Carol McFadden

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**

2023	2024	2025
Karen Conaway	Gretchen Himmeger	Mark Barnhart
Sharon McGee		

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit, Chairperson

**Trustees Committee**

2023	2024	2025
Sue Morgan	Mae Lewis	Al Thacker
Andy Hickman	Tim Ambrose	Doug Poling
John Davies	Liz Campbell	Wayne Birkhimer

Rev. Clare J. Sulgit

## GIVING

### TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

February 5	\$7,328.00
February 12	\$2,666.00
February 19	\$2,572.00
February 26	\$2,866.00

## ATTENDANCE

### IN PERSON

### ONLINE

February 5	65	95
February 12	67	101
February 19	60	102
February 26	69	

**YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$29,194.35**

**YTD needed for our Budget - \$30,888.00**

**Custodial Account Balance - \$1,643.00**

## Year-End Financial Report

Thank you to everyone who made sure we finished strong financially in 2022. We ended the year considerably ahead of our budget needs. Your faithful support of the church's ministries is appreciated and makes a difference in our community and beyond. Please keep it up!

Through our Christmas Eve offering, you also gave \$1,283.00 to the WVU Children's Hospital in Morgantown, WV. Lives will be touched because of your generosity.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Daylight savings times begins on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> so don't forget to "Spring Ahead" 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed!

## Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of January

Total Donations: 142

Total Customers: 630

Total Families receiving services: 216

(Gabriel Project - 10, total of 12 children)

(food - 170 individuals)

(utility assistance - 4)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$6,609.91

Total Donations to NN: \$15,081.91

Total Expenses: \$10,293.71

Number of Volunteers this month: 23

**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.

*Our next giveaways are March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>,  
June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup>,  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>*

**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 on our 2 Facebook pages and on YouTube. These are outreach ministries the church supports through its budget. Please share this information!**

# Birthdays

## 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
Barbara Carl	3/28
Mike Wells	3/29
Sue Simonton	3/29
Carla Masters	3/30
Lois Beard	3/30

## 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
Pam Hamilton	4/10
Nick Morgan	4/11
Emme McKnight	4/12
Diane Lanham	4/15
Jay Conaway	4/15
Liz Loughner	4/15
Jennifer Hupp	4/16
Steven Knight	4/16
Lydia Watson Richards	4/17
Alice Nichols	4/17
Tucker Dalrymple	4/20
Rick Hupp	4/20
Russell Loughner	4/20
Catie (Wells) Hamilton	4/20
Susan Eisenman	4/21
David Hamilton	4/23
Inez Wilson	4/23
Doug Poling	4/24
Emily Carpenter	4/30

## MEETINGS

### MARCH

12 Trustees - 4 PM

14 Church Council - 6 PM

### APRIL

11 Finance - 6 PM

18 SPRC - 6 PM

### EVERY MONTH

First Mon. - UWF - 6 P

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



Do we have your birthday listed?  
Please call Debbie at 304-684-3018  
if we do not have it!

The church office will be closed on:

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday

and

Easter Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>



## PRAYERS FOR:

Paul Tallman  
Betty Moorhead  
Ginger Poling  
Suellen Simonton  
Caroline Hill  
Shirley Seaboy  
Carolyn Ashkar  
Avery Clickenger  
Debbie Bailey  
Matthew Beard  
Joe & Thomasine Troisi  
Benny & Ruth Wagner

Emma Jean Dobbins  
Philip Starks  
Dwight Davis  
Maddie Collins  
Dave Taylor  
Art Smith  
Terri Gellner-Hulls  
Mike Davis  
Johnna Cochran  
JD Williamson  
Evelyn Neely  
Duane Larsen

Dwaine Barnes  
Smitty Smith  
Sheila Scadden  
Jennifer Furr  
Webb Carpenter  
Greg Hill  
Mary Brewer  
Rob Wilson  
Denise Vandenberg  
Nancy Forrester  
Eleanor Pierce  
Kenneth Carder

Merle Rouse  
Bev Fitzpatrick  
Kohner Loughner  
Betty Wilson  
Martha Hoyt  
Janet Nutter Matheny  
Gayle Hakki  
Rick McCullough  
Larry Barnhart



### **Active Military**

Nate McHenry



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
Michael R. Trunk  
(John Trunk's son)*



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
Margo Ingram*



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
A. Bertram Conaway  
(Diane Braun's Father)*



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
Anerl Leggett*

The Sanctuary for Lent 2023 is available at the church.

Want one mailed to you? Just let us know.

# **Jim McCune**

## **Appointed Conference Disaster Response Coordinator**

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Global Ministries Chair, Judy Raines, are please to announce the appointment of Rev. Jim McCune (Retired) to the position of West Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator.

In making the announcement, Bishop Steiner Ball shared, “Jim has been an excellent pastor and leader with the West Virginia Conference for a number of years. I am thrilled that he is willing and will lend his gifts to the ministry of Disaster relief and recovery for the Conference. Jim values all God’s people. He will be faithful to serving Christ and ministering to people of all ages, nations, races and economic condition.”

While in full time ministry, Jim McCune served in local churches in the West Virginia Conference and was also campus pastor at Marshall University and Community Service Coordinator at Potomac State College of WVU.

“Jim’s experience and his gifts for building leadership will be a great blessing to individuals and congregations across the Conference as we prepare for future disasters, and respond to emergencies,” said Bonnie MacDonald, Director of Spiritual Formation.

Throughout his ministry, Jim has led dozens of work teams to serve in places across the West Virginia Conference, the United States, and in Puerto Rico following natural disasters.

Under his leadership, Elizabeth Memorial UMC partnered with other churches in the Nine Rivers District to build a home in the Clendenin area following the 2016 flood.

Judy Raines said, “We are very happy to have Jim join the Global Ministries team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Disaster Response and I feel he is an answer to prayer.”

With the assistance of the District Disaster Response teams, the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing a conference-wide disaster response plan, which includes the effective utilization of the human and material resources of the conference and the local church congregations, to meet the immediate and long-term needs (physical, emotional, and spiritual) of persons impacted by a disaster.

We welcome Jim to this new work!

To reach Jim via email: [DisasterResponse@wvumc.org](mailto:DisasterResponse@wvumc.org) or via text: (304) 813-1274.



## Hang It On The Cross

If you have a secret sorrow,  
a burden or a loss,  
An aching need for healing...

**Hang It On The Cross.**

If worry steals your sleep  
and makes you turn and toss,  
If your heart is feeling heavy...

**Hang It On The Cross.**

Every obstacle to faith  
or doubt you come across,  
Every prayer unanswered...

**Hang It On The Cross.**

For Christ has borne our brokenness  
and dearly paid the cost  
To turn our trials to triumph...

**Hanging On The Cross.**

—Lisa O. Engelhardt

## 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**  
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St. Marys, WV 26170  
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[www.smwvumc.com](http://www.smwvumc.com)  
[smumcwv@outlook.com](mailto:smumcwv@outlook.com)



## Upcoming Dates

- March 5*    **Lenten Parish Service (Chapel) at 6 PM**
- March 6*    **UWF Leadership Team at 5 PM**  
**UWF at 6 PM**
- March 7*    **Bible Study at 11 AM**  
**Bible Study at 7 PM**
- March 8*    **Choir at 7 PM**
- March 10*   **NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM**  
**UWF at 6 PM**
- March 11*   **Turn clocks ahead 1 hour before bed**
- March 12*   **Trustees at 4 PM**  
**Lenten Parish Service (Chapel) at 6 PM**
- March 14*   **Bible Study at 11 AM**  
**Church Council at 6 PM**  
**Bible Study at 7 PM**
- March 15*   **UWF Cleaning the Kitchens at 10 AM**  
**Choir at 7 PM**
- March 19*   **UMM Breakfast Meeting at 8 AM**  
**Lenten Parish Service (Chapel) at 6 PM**
- March 21*   **Parish Meeting at 9 AM**  
**Ministerial Association at 10 AM**  
**Bible Study at 11 AM**  
**Bible Study at 7 PM**
- March 22*   **Choir at 7 PM**
- March 26*   **Lenten Parish Service (Chapel) at 6 PM**
- March 28*   **Bible Study at 11 AM**  
**Bible Study at 7 PM**
- March 29*   **Choir at 7 PM**
- March 31*   **Rehearsal Dinner**