

THE GOOD NEWS



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St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100)

During this season of thankfulness I am reminded of a hymn found in *The Faith We Sing* that begins with these words – “Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.”

One of the things I have always appreciated about Thanksgiving is how it is less commercial than many other holidays. We prepare our homes for the wonderful sights and smells of that good ol’ traditional Thanksgiving meal followed by the annual football game, and possibly a good nap!

This can be a significant time for us gathered with our families to celebrate the marvelous blessings of God. In fact, have you noticed how God has blessed you lately? Have you seen the glory of God’s grace at work in your life and that of your family? The meal table of Thanksgiving can be a place for us to see, share, and shout for joy the tender loving care of God.

(Continued on the next page —>)

Thanksgiving a special day of remembrance of the complete work of God through Christ in us. Thus, Thanksgiving Day should be a day for Christians to remember the green pastures and the still waters God has provided; for *the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Finally, Christians have an advantage at Thanksgiving because we know who to thank – *the one who has made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.* As you offer thanks to God on this day set apart, may the joy of God's grace flood your soul!

Blessings & Love,

Clare

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH IS BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

**We will be welcoming 7 of our
teens with Baptism and
Confirmation into the church.
There will be a meal after church.**

**Please plan to join us for this special Sunday and stay for
the meal after.**



Help us welcome:

**Adam Bennett, Anna Bennett, Avry Bennett,
Brooklyn Davis, Makinsey Jeffers,
Morgan Poling, Ayden Powell**

ADVENT IS COMING!

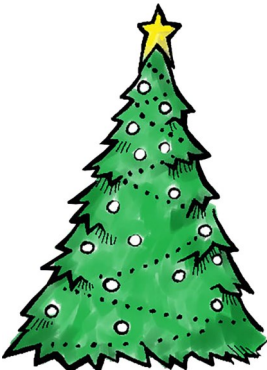
ADVENT STUDY

Advent will be upon us before we know it! The first Sunday of Advent will be December 3rd. Our Advent study this year will be All the Good, A Wesleyan Way of Christmas. Mark your calendars to take an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. This study includes Methodist history and its connection to the message of Christmas.

Classes are in person and meet on Tuesdays at 7 PM and Wednesdays at 11 AM at the church, beginning November 28th. Guests are more than welcome. Books are available downstairs in the Educational Wing and upstairs in the Sanctuary. They are \$13 each and \$9 for the devotional companion. You are welcome to purchase a book even if you can't attend a class.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias can be ordered in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate the Sanctuary beginning this month. An order form is in this newsletter and also available at the church. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each and order forms are due 12/11/23. Questions can be directed to Charmel Radcliff.



SINGING CHRISTMAS

The Community Signing Christmas Tree performance will be Friday, December 8th at 7pm in the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. The public is invited to attend.



United Methodist Men

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

All men are welcome



Sunday, November 19th at 8 AM

*The UMM still has apple butter for sale
The price is \$6 per pint. Thank you!*



HELP NEEDED

The Trustees are wanted to update the main entrance to the Sanctuary from Washington St. (also called the Narthex). Some funding has been secured, and they are looking for ideas. If you'd be interested in sharing your thoughts, please pass those on to a member of the Board of Trustees. Members are: Al Thacker, Andy Hickman, Liz Campbell, Sue Morgan, Mae Lewis, Tim Ambrose, Doug Poling and Wayne Birkhimer. Thank you.

United Methodist Women News



United
Women
in Faith

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

NOVEMBER

Leadership Committee - Monday, November 6th at 5 PM

Circles - Monday, November 6th at 6 PM

Program: *World Thank Offering: Embracing Change, Sharing Grace*
and *Pledge Service*

DECEMBER

Tureen Dinner

December 4th at 6 PM

Bring a covered dish

Program: Christmas Program

New Member Recognition

Special Mission Recognition

50 Year Member Recognition

Reminder: Bring baby gifts for the House of the Carpenter to the Dinner

The UWF still has bags of nuts available for sale. They're on a table across from Clare's office. The price is \$14 per bag.

SIGN BOARD

Have you noticed the beautiful new signboard by the front door of the church? Many thanks to Karen Mahone who made provisions in her will that funded this project. Her bequest also allowed us to repair and upgrade the organ and put a new roof on the parsonage. Thanks also to the Board of Trustees and the students at MOVTI who worked with Trustees Chairperson Al Thacker to create the signboard. A great effort all around!



Monday, November 13th
(5 PM - 7 PM)

This is a dinner designed for the community with an opportunity for each of us to

invite friends, family, those who may not enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal, youth and children. This is a great opportunity to invite someone who does not have a church family. We will need lots of volunteers to make this happen. You are welcome to invite someone from outside the church family to come as a volunteer too. It gives them a change to see our congregation in action as we are for others. Sign-up sheets for food and volunteer help are being circulated now. As you plan your dishes you might consider bringing them in a disposable aluminum pan. This will benefit the kitchen staff and you won't have to worry about getting your dish/pan returned.

ANGEL TREE & WHITE GIFTS

White gift bags will be distributed on November 19th for members to put their non-perishable items in for the Christmas Baskets. The white gifts should be returned by December 11th and placed in the first floor classroom nearest Washington Street. (**Non-perishable items include:** canned foods, household paper products, cleaning items, & toiletry items).

The Angel Tree will also be ready on November 19th. Please select an angel (write your name on the provided sheet) and purchase gifts for the person. Plan to have gifts at the church by December 11th and put them in the first floor classroom nearest Washington Street.

In the Spirit of Christmas, the Finance Team is recommending the entirety of the Christmas Eve offering to go to missions.
More information will be coming soon.



As I sit here on Sunday afternoon, looking out the window at the beautiful fall colors and bright blue sky, I am thankful for all the blessings God has given to me. The one I am most grateful for was the privilege of having George in my life for so many years. I was given a poem which says to “remember the best times, the laughter, the song; the good life I lived while I was still strong Continue my heritage, I’m counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.” (And the sun is still shining.)

My family, Mark and Barbie, Susan and Dale, and all the grandchildren, want to thank you for the food, the many cards, the flowers, the chimes and the lovely funeral and dinner afterwards. It all came together so well. I would like to thank the following: the Pleasants County Emergency Squad for their thoughtful attendance in George’s time of need, and the doctors and nurses who took care of him at the hospital. They could not have done a better job. Jeremy Ingram and the Ingram Funeral Home, The AmVets Post #40 with their walk thru and last military rites, The Greenhouse for all the floral arrangements, Rev. Clare Sulgit and the Methodist Church Choir for their kind words, and the Grace Circle for the funeral dinner afterwards.

A special Thank you to Al Thacker and Dan Boley for the ramp and Rick Beck, Andy Hickman, Jim Hooper, and Randy Nutter for driving George and me to Belpre, Ohio each day for treatments. The Poem continues saying “Continue my heritage, I’m counting on you, keep smiling and surely the sun will Shine through.” He truly was a great husband, father, friend and life time travel companion. He will be missed! Thanks again for everything.

-Eleanor Little and Family

“I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers in the loss of my husband Floyd (Smitty) Smith. All is very much appreciated” - *Sheila Smith*

PUBLIC FORUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Tuesday, November 7th there will be a public forum in the auditorium at St. Marys High School on the issue of human trafficking on a local level. Secretary of State Mac Warner will be the keynote speaker, followed by a panel discussion. Clare will be participating in the panel discussion and would welcome seeing your friendly face in the audience. This is a serious issue on which we should all better educate ourselves. The public is invited to attend.

GIVING

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

October 1	\$7,011.00
October 8	\$2,978.00
October 15	\$2,711.00
October 22	\$4,478.00
October 29	\$3,876.00

ATTENDANCE

IN PERSON

ONLINE

October 1	64	100
October 8	72	113
October 15	64	91
October 22	101	116
October 29	74	104

INFORMATION FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

Through your giving this year, we are above our budget requirements for the year, we have paid 100% of our Annual Conference Apportionment share and have given \$7300.00 to selected mission projects. With your continued support, we expect to end 2023 in excellent financial condition. Not many churches in the conference have been as fortunate to share God's love as our church.

We have put great effort into developing the 2024 budget which was approved at our recent charge conference. The 2024 budget of \$196,372.00 is an 8% increase from the 2023 budget. This increase is necessary to support increases in conference apportionments, pastor health insurance costs, and rising utility costs. And this budget reflects as accurately as possible our projected expenses for 2024. We are presenting this information in hope that you will consider this budget increase as you prepare your personal plan for 2024 charitable giving.

Some contributors have found it beneficial for varied reasons to tithe by making considerable donations to the church only a few times during the year, rather than making traditional regular periodic donations. In some situations, such as IRA minimum distributions, there is a significant tax advantage to this type of charitable giving. Tithes of large amounts will be distributed uniformly according to instructions of the donor, so that we may continue to support mission projects, and maintain our General Fund to operate the church. If you have an interest in this form of giving, and would like additional information, contact your financial advisor, Pastor Clare or Gary Loughner.

Thanks again for your financial support to share God's love in our community through our church.

The Finance Team

Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of September

Total Donations: 168

Total Customers: 730

Total Families receiving services: 122

(Gabriel Project - 11, total of 14 children)

(food - 254 individuals)

(utility assistance - 3)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$8,062.68

Total Donations to NN: \$4,238.00

Total Expenses: \$15,213.72

Number of Volunteers this month: 30+

**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:

November 9th (Thursday), & December 9th

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

NOVEMBER

Erika Lewis	11/1
Paul Tallman, Jr.	11/2
Michael Powell	11/3
Mia Braun	11/5
Paul Bills	11/9
Martha Poling	11/10
Trent Barnhart	11/12
Allen Thacker	11/12
Sharon Estep	11/13
Audra Dennis	11/15
Bob Beard	11/18
Tom Yoho	11/18
Leslie Westfall	11/18
Danny Davis	11/18
John Armstrong	11/21
Dylan Hupp	11/24
Bristol Sajdak-Lapan	11/24
Alaina Duty	11/25
JoAnn Powell	11/25
Melissa Ennis	11/25
Vincent Elder	11/27
Louise McLaughlin	11/27
Derek Poling	11/29
Andrea Brugnoli	11/30

DECEMBER

Carol Carder	12/4
Rachel Willis	12/4
LeeAnn Carpenter	12/5
Jean Henline	12/5
Andy Hickman	12/5
Chris Simonton	12/7
Brett Holt	12/9
Donna Boley	12/9
Thad Ennis	12/10
Jenifer Trunk	12/12
Richard Conaway	12/14
David Conaway	12/15
Matthew Powell	12/17
Bryan Poling	12/18
Lauren Shafer	12/18
Helen Wells	12/20
Ryan Powell	12/22
Sonya Bailey	12/25
Jennifer Wince	12/25
Chris Masters	12/27
Dianna Lewis	12/27
Eric Phair	12/27
Mya Hatcher	12/29
Wayne Birkhimer	12/29
Keith White	12/29
John Fitzpatrick	12/30



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

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

- 12 TRUSTEES - 5 PM
- 14 CHURCH COUNCIL - 7 PM
- 15 SPRC - 6 PM
- 21 PARISH MEETING - 9 AM
- 21 MINISTERIAL - 10 AM

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

**Clare will be out of town Decem-
ber 1-3 and January 2-10. If you
need assistance during that time,
please contact Keith White at 304
-684-3827. Many thanks to Keith
for being available during that
time.**

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
Philip Starks
Dwight Davis
Maddie Collins
Dave Taylor
JD Williamson
Evelyn Neely
Duane Larsen
Dwayne Barnes

Sheila Scadden
Jennifer Furr
Webb Carpenter
Greg Hill
Mary Brewer
Eleanor Pierce
Kohner Loughner
Marth Hoyt
Janet Nutter Matheny
Adam Mallett
Martha Poling
Dan McSpadden

Carol McSpadden
Mike McGee
Mary Alice Shafer
Jim West
Cherle West



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
George Little*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Smitty Smith*



Prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Gayle Haiki, wife of Abraham Haiki, (Carl David Mays), and daughter in law of Patricia Mays. Gayle Passed away on October 29th, 2023, in the Cleveland Hospital ICU. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

November 6 - UWF Leadership at 5 PM

-UWF at 6 PM

- 4-H at 7 PM

November 7 - Boy Scouts Planning Mtg. at 5:30 PM

Boy Scouts at 7 PM

Cross Country Banquet at 6 PM

Human Trafficking Forum at 7 PM

November 8 - Choir Practice at 7 PM

November 9 - NN Food Distribution at 9:45 AM

November 11 - Cline Baby Shower at 12 PM

November 12 - Trustees at 5 PM

November 13 - Habitat for humanity at 6 PM

Community Thanksgiving Dinner from 5 PM to 7 PM

November 14 - Church Council at 6 PM

-Boy Scouts at 7 PM

November 15 - SPRC at 6 PM

Choir Practice at 7 PM

November 19 - UMM at 8 AM

November 21 - Parish Meeting at 9 AM

Ministerial Assc. at 10 AM

Boy Scouts at 7 PM

November 22 - Choir Practice at 7 PM

November 23 - Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

November 24 - Office Closed

November 28 - Advent Study at 7 PM

Boy Scouts at 7 PM

November 29 - Advent Study at 11 AM

- Choir Practice at 7 PM

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