



THE GOOD NEWS

Inside this Issue:

Pastor's Post	1-2
UMM	4
UWF	5
Thank Yous	7/8
Upcoming Dates ..	10-11
Giving/Attendance	12
Neighbor Network	13
Birthdays	14
Prayer List	15



St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sunday, August 27th was our annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. Neil Leftwich. We had a wonderful worship service celebrating the work and ministries of the church. Part of the reporting for Charge Conference is a summary of the past year written by me. I wanted to include that information for you.

What a pleasure it is to celebrate ministry at St. Marys United Methodist Church, and there is much to celebrate! We are a congregation who feel called to care for “the least of these” in Jesus’ name and find joy in that work.

Due to COVID, we have missed many of the 15 special offerings we have annually, and once again are having an October “Mission Month”. Folks are asked to give a special gift to missions and those funds will be split between the special offerings. The Trustees have committed a tithe of a bequest to missions and are matching those funds. Last year, we were able to give each mission \$485. That is far more than we ever gave when we made those offerings separately. We are hoping to do something similar this year.

Additionally, our Church Council and Finance Committee created a policy that at the midpoint and end of each year we would see what we had in excess of

\$18,000 in our general checking and split that money between missions and savings. This year, we gave away \$7,300 and placed \$2,300 in savings. I also must thank the United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men who continue to support mission unfailingly. I celebrate that the total money we have recorded giving away since October 2022 is \$19,785!

For the second year in a row, we sent kids to camp at Spring Heights, our WV Conference Camping Center at no cost to their families. It was with joy that we invested in their spiritual development and growth. They all had a great time and are looking forward to next year.

SMUMC sees the use of the building by community groups as a ministry. We continue to host AA, Al Anon, Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, 4-H, and meals for our local Cross-Country Team, Wrestling Team and Basketball Team. We are a strong church and an important presence in the community. However, we do have struggles. We also have concerns about the future of the church with the declining membership. Families with children and a new generation of disciples seem scarce and thinking outside of the way we have historically done church is a challenge. But one we are willing to explore.

I am pleased to report we are working to enact some of the items we discussed during the retreat we had together last year. We have a member eager to facilitate a partnership with St. Marys Elementary School. We have a confirmation class for our youth this fall that will run for 8 weeks. We have tee shirts being ordered for us to wear together when we are doing ministry.

We continue to think the mission work we do is important and should stay a priority. We are working on ways to using that work to building relationships that might lead others to Christ or stronger discipleship. We are working on better publicizing our work as a way to let others know we are a congregation that is mission minded.

Finally, there has been a shift this summer that I am having difficulty fully naming. Our average summer attendance has gone from 39 to 52, September – May attendance has gone from 49 to 63. The total amount of money we have given to missions has increased and we are ahead of our budget. But it's much more than that. There is a Spirit of community and joy that is inspiring.

People are volunteering more than ever. They also are supporting each other and those outside the church in amazing ways. I don't know what the Holy Spirit has in mind, but I am thrilled to be along for the ride!

St. Marys United Methodist is a thriving congregation who loves supporting others through missions. We feel our future has its challenges, but trust in God's vision for our church and the opportunity to live into it.

Blessings and Love,

Clare

MEDICAL FOSTER HOME

The Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center, Clarksburg, WV is currently seeking compassionate Caregivers and Veterans to enroll in our new **Medical Foster Home Program (MFH)**. Medical Foster Homes are located in private residences where a trained caregiver provides 24/7 care and assistance to Veterans. Medical Foster Homes offer a warmer alternative option to long-term care facilities for Veterans who require nursing home level care but prefer a non - institutional setting in a private home with fewer residents.

To learn more about the program please call **304-476-9903** or Clare has a Brochure available if you'd like more information.

UMCOR NEWS:

United Methodist Committee on Relief U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery works in partnership with annual conferences, local partners and national agencies, like FEMA, to prepare for disasters, provide immediate relief following a disaster and extend long-term support, such as case management, for those lacking the resources for full recovery. Many of you have asked about how you can help. Here's a update from UMCOR: *Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. Gifts can be made in the following ways:*

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-roject/901670>

✦ By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174

✦ By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068

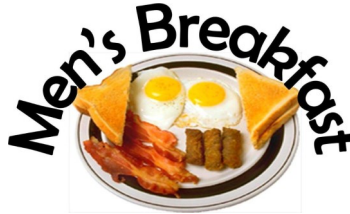
By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.



United Methodist Men

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

All men are welcome



Sunday, September 17th at 8 AM

The UMW will be making apple butter in October.

*If anyone has any extra pint jars, please
bring them in to the church. Thank you!*

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Church Council - 6 PM

November 14

Trustees - 5 PM

September 10 (AT 4:00 PM), November 12

Finance Committee - 6 PM

October 10

Staff-Parish Relations - 6 PM

November 15

United Women In Faith 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).

OCTOBER

Executive Committee - Monday, October 2nd at 5 PM

Circles - Monday, October 2nd at 6 PM

Program: **God Is Not Neutral Towards Injustice**

NOVEMBER

Executive Committee - Monday, November 6th at 5 PM

Circles - Monday, November 6th at 6 PM

Program: *World Thank Offering: Life-Giving Creation & Transformation*
and *Pledge Service*

***Begin saving personal size toiletries for EVE Women's Shelter.
(Bring them to the October meeting.)***

- **Saturday, September 10th - Fall Meeting**
Little Kanawha District UMW
(First Ravenswood UMC, Ravenswood, WV)
- **Saturday, October 14th - Bazaar (9 AM - 1 PM)**
 - **Sunday, October 22nd - Undie Sunday**
 - **October 21st - 22nd - Annual Meeting**
(First UMC - South Charleston)

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
IN OBSERVATION OF LABOR DAY.**

Ministry Opportunity...

We have an opportunity to partner with St. John's Catholic Church by providing items for St. Marys Correctional Center inmates who have recently been released and do not have any resources. The program is called Reachback Reentry Navigator and you can find out more information at: www.wvreentry.org. It is designed to help those reentering society and prevent recidivism.

We are looking for one or two people who would work with St. John's to coordinate the collection of items that would then be delivered to the chaplain at SMCC who is working directly with the inmates. If you'd be willing to help in this way, please see Clare. A list of items we are collecting will be in the bulletin soon.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS!

After many years of service, Debbie Thomas, our Administrative Assistant, has decided to retire. She is looking forward to traveling more and spending time with her grandchildren. The Staff Parish Relations Committee recently hired Lillian Blouir to fill the position. Lillian has been with us this summer while Debbie was recovering from surgery. If you haven't had a chance to meet her, please stop by the office and introduce yourself.

Both Debbie and Lillian will be with us in worship on Sunday, September 24th so we can express our appreciation.

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!

THANK YOU

2023 Spring Heights Camp Sponsors

Mike & Sharon McGee Gary & Liz Loughner Beverly Stutzman
Ruth Blauser Mary Frances Park Liz Campbell
Max Powell & JoAnn Powell
Many Other Contributors Anonymous and Bake Sale

"Thank you all so much for the graduation gift! I appreciate your support and encouragement! Many thanks & best wishes, Kyle" - Kyle Jones, Class of SMHS, 2023

"We would like to thank each and every one of you for the prayers and well wishes these past few weeks. It was a very stressful time, and it was a great comfort to know how many people were praying for our dear girl." -The family of Sophee Starr Dilling

We asked for backpacks, and you delivered! Thank you for making sure the kids of Pleasants County go back to school with backpacks and supplies aplenty. Your participation in this important ministry is appreciated! We served **over 200 kids** Tuesday, in partnership with George St. Church of Christ.

"Thank you very much for your generous donation, it will certainly come in handy. We greatly appreciate it! Thanks again" "thank you for your thoughtful and generous donation. We are very blessed to have such wonderful supporters!" - Pleasants County Cat Shelter

“Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - Thank you!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,” - Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

“Dear Friend in Christ, thank you for your recent donation. Your generosity and support help make a difference to our neighbors in need while providing hope for a better tomorrow. It is heartwarming to experience the kindness and spirit of sharing in our community. Without your active engagement and support, we would not be able to care for our hungry neighbors. For many years “Faith and Action joined in Love” has been Tyrand Cooperative Ministries motto. This comes largely from the commitment of each group or individual that helps in any way to support Tyrand’s ministry. The love that you care for the children of God and the help you Provide to alleviate their needs, is a strong demonstration of that motto”

- from Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc.

I have never known more than fifteen minutes of anxiety or fear. Whenever I feel fearful emotions overtaking me, I just close my eyes and thank God that he is still on the throne reigning over everything and I take comfort in His control over the affairs of my life.

--John Wesley

The Singing Christmas Tree

COME JOIN THE CHOIR!!!



Rehearsals begin September 7th from 6-8 pm

Family Life Center – First Baptist Church, St. Marys

For Further Information Please Contact:

Susan Bailey – 304/665-2987

Or

Sherry Maston – 304/684-3170

Upcoming Dates

September 3rd

Service will now start at 10:45 AM

September 4th

Office Closed (Labor Day)

September 5th

UWF Leadership at 5 PM

UWF at 6 PM

Choir Practice at 7 PM

September 8th

**Neighbor Network Food Distribution
at 9:45 AM (Marina)**

September 10th

Trustees at 4 PM

September 11th

Habitat for Humanity at 6 PM

September 13th

Choir Practice at 7 PM

September 15th

Ag Fair (The 15th- 17th)

September 17th

UMM at 8 AM

September 20th

Choir Practice at 7 PM

September 25th

**Clare at the academy of Faith & Generosity
(The 25th - 27th)**

September 27th

Choir Practice at 7 PM

October

October 1st

World Communion

October 2nd

UWF Leadership at 5 PM

UWF at 6 PM

October 4th

Cross Country Meal at 4 PM

October 9th

Habitat for Humanity at 6 PM

Cross Country Banquet (Chapel) at 7 PM

October 10th

Neighbor Network Board Meeting at 1 PM

Finance at 6 PM

Upcoming Dates (continued)

October 11 th	Cross Country Meal at 4 PM Choir Practice at 7 PM
October 13 th	UWF Making Soup at 8:30 AM NN Food Distribution at 9:45 (Marina)
October 14 th	UWF Bazaar at 9 AM - 1 PM
October 15 th	UMM Breakfast at 8 AM
October 18 th	Cross County Meal at 4 PM Choir Practice at 7 PM
October 20 th	Wedding Rehearsal
October 21 st	Wedding at 2:30 PM (Mary Hooper & Jourdon Snyder)
October 22 nd	Undie Sunday
October 25 th	Choir Practice at 7 PM
October 30 th	UWF Tea Party at 6 PM

Labor Day...celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement. Labor Day has been a nationally celebrated holiday in the U.S. since 1894. There used to be a tradition of not wearing seersucker or white clothing after Labor Day. Labor Day is called the "unofficial end of summer" because it marks the end of the cultural summer season.

GIVING

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

August 6	\$5,118.00
August 13	\$2,432.00
August 20	\$3,130.00
August 27	\$1,637.00

ATTENDANCE

IN PERSON ONLINE

August 6	65	108
August 13	58	126
August 20	47	97
August 27	54	82

YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$120,230.04

YTD needed for our Budget - \$120,120.00

Custodial Account Balance - \$2,194.00

MISSION MONTH

October will be Missions Month again this year. It's a time where folks are invited to make a special offering (above and beyond your normal offering) to missions and it will be split between the special offerings that have been missed. The Trustees will match all offerings collected. Special offerings are listed on pages 23 & 24 of your 2023 information guide. Please note on your offering that it's to be directed to Missions. If you would prefer your offering be directed to a specific mission, please note that as well. We will also be having Undie Sunday October 22nd, but you can bring in new underwear, socks, bras and undershirts anytime. They are distributed to our conference mission projects.

Your support of Mission Month is appreciated and especially helpful because while we have been able to keep up with our apportionments, many churches have not, and that shortfall directly affects our mission projects in WV. As you can guess, our mission projects are meeting extra needs because of inflation and need our help. Thank you again for your service to God through support of missions. It is appreciated. Thank you!

Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of July

Total Donations: 182

Total Customers: 698

Total Families receiving services: 105

(Gabriel Project -11, total of children -12)

(food -86, 215 individuals)

(utility assistance - 6)

Total Thrift Store Transactions: \$7,012.50

Total Donations to NN: \$9,753.50

Total Expenses: \$11,430.54

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:

***September 9th, October 14th,
November 16th (Wednesday), & December 9th***

Neighbor Network is getting a lot of demand for the Food Pantry and is running low on supplies. If you can provide any of the following items, they can be delivered directly to Neighbor Network or brought to the church. Thank you for helping. Items needed are:

Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Bag Noodles, Instant Potatoes or scallop, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Rice-a-Roni, Canned Meats like: tuna - Chicken - Treat - Ham, Gravy Mix, Chicken Noodle Soup, Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal, Cereal, Broths, Jelly, Canned milk - evaporated, Peanut Butter, Corn Bread Mix, Small Bags of Sugar, flour, salt, and pepper, and applesauce

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Delores Davis	9/3
Beverly Meadows	9/4
Tami Elder	9/4
Tina Barron	9/6
Ethan Davis	9/9
Kristi Carpenter	9/11
Patrick Hooper	9/12
Sara Fetty	9/14
Michael Arnott	9/16
Erin Norman	9/17
Steve Poling	9/18
Ruth Blauser	9/18
Bryan Carpenter	9/19
Harry Scadden	9/19
LeAnne Westbrook	9/20
Susan Moore	9/20
Kristen Maiden	9/21
Steven Nutter	9/25
Cyndi Rasic	9/25
Kim Thomas	9/26
Whitney Bennett	9/27
Amber Mayfield	9/29
Christopher Bailey	9/29
Gary Loughner	9/30

OCTOBER

Donna Davis	10/4
Mark Radcliff	10/4
Carolyn Ashkar	10/8
Chris Metz	10/16
Janlin Thacker	10/16
Kari Conaway	10/17
Abigail Metz	10/20
Rosalind Allman	10/21
Barbara Adams	10/21
Ashley Ferrell	10/23
Stephen Bullman	10/24
Nate McHenry	10/24
Troy Poling	10/24
Melissa Glasser	10/26
Josey Moore	10/26
Waylon Moore	10/26
Beth Ann Mankins	10/26
Debbie Metz	10/27
Bill Metz	10/27
Ruth Wagner	10/28
Jeannette Johnson	10/29
Vicki Reed	10/31
Joyce Summers	10/31
Anna Bennett	10/31
Libby Watson	10/31

MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

1 NN BOARD MEETING - 1 PM

5 UWF LEADERSHIP - 5 PM

UWF - 6 PM

10 TRUSTEES - 4 PM

OCTOBER

2 UWF LEADERSHIP - 5 PM

UWF - 6 PM

10 NN BOARD MEETING - 1 PM

10 FINANCE - 6 PM

NOVEMBER

13 TRUSTEES - 5 PM

14 CHURCH COUNCIL - 7 PM

15 SPRC - 6 PM

EVERY MONTH

First Mon. - UMW - 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
the office if we
don't have it!

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
Art Smith
Terri Gellner-Hulls
Mike Davis
JD Williamson

Evelyn Neely
Duane Larsen
Dwaine Barnes
Smitty Smith
Sheila Scadden
Jennifer Furr
Webb Carpenter
Greg Hill
Mary Brewer
Nancy Forrester
Eleanor Pierce
Kohner Loughner

Betty Wilson
Marth Hoyt
Janet Nutter Matheny
Gayle Hakki
Adam Mallett
Martha Poling
Dan McSpadden
Carol McSpadden
George Little



*Christian Sympathy is
extended to the
friends & family of Chris Poling
(Son of Terry Poling
and grandson of Martha Poling)*



Active Military
Nate McHenry



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Johnna Cochran*



*Christian Sympathy
is extended to the
friends & family of
Janet Baughman*

The 2023 Church Information Guide is available at the church.
The September/October Upper Room 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

ST. MARYS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAZAAR

CRAFTS
BAKED GOODS

October 14th
9 AM - 1 PM

Vegetable Soup
\$8 per quart
(Soup may be ordered
in plastic containers
for freezing)

PRE-ORDER
SOUP
304-684-3018

St. Marys UMC
104 Washington Street
PO Box 100
St. Marys, WV 26170
(304) 684-3018
www.smwvumc.com
smumcwv@outlook.com

