

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

A Place to Trust ♦ A Place to Become ♦ Church in the Heart of Princeton

MARCH – APRIL 2017

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2

Journey TO Jerusalem AND Journey Through Holy Week

During the season of Lent, Pastor Scott will preach a series of sermons that focus on the journey Jesus made to Jerusalem and how people he met along the way had a profound effect on the mission and ministry of Christ and Christ's Church. Please join us each Sunday for this special series that ties directly into our 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service which is a "Journey Through Holy Week" Reenactment that will take place in the Family Ministries Center. Tom Bay and many others are looking forward to putting on a great dramatic telling of Jesus' last week before the Resurrection!

The Return of Ask Almost Anything...

Pastor Scott will again be taking your anonymous questions to answer during worship in the three weeks immediately following Easter. Please start thinking about any theological or denominational questions you may have and watch the bulletin for how to submit them. (Remember, don't ask any question that may embarrass someone...that's where the "almost" gets its power!)

New Member Sundays

Pastor Scott invites anyone who is interested in joining First UMC, Princeton to contact him at their convenience to set up a time to join. We may be receiving new members on: March 19th, April 16th (Easter Sunday), May 14th, June 4th.

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NOT QUITE HOME

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

Recently, I ran across a quote in book I am reading on “pastoral health” titled “The Myth of the *Shiska*” by Edwin Friedman. (You may recall that I used one of Friedman's Fables in a previous edition of this newsletter.) Just so you know, a *Shiska* is a derogatory Yiddish term for a Gentile woman who seduces a Jewish man into marrying her so that she can take him away from the Jewish faith. Friedman shows that not only is this idea a myth within the Jewish community, it is a myth across all cultures and religions. Marriages happen for lots of reasons, but seldom do United Methodists marry just to get their spouse to give up being a Baptist – or vice versa. Friedman shows that family dynamics have more to say about interracial and interfaith marriages than anything else.

The quote that caught my eye was this one:

"The world would be far better off if, instead of being concerned about our own bodies and other people's souls, we watched over other people's bodies and our own souls."

That is a truly deep thought. I couldn't help but think of a parable told by another Jewish Rabbi that goes like this:

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,¹ you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was

Not Quite Home (continued)

thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus speaking.)

In a very real and concise way Jesus is telling his followers that they **MUST** pay attention to the condition of the fellow traveler's "body" in order to be able to minister to Jesus. Looking out for one another is looking out for Jesus.

In our world today, there is a whole lot of discussion going on about caring for some of the least and last in the world. We live in a time when there are more people displaced by war and turmoil in their own countries than any other time in modern history. And we don't know what to do in order to balance caring for those in need with "safety."

I just hope and pray that we don't lose sight of what Jesus and this other rabbi are telling us. Looking after the bodies (caring for the safety of others) is a very important indicator of how much we trust Jesus with our own lives and care – in this world and in the world to come.

I know these thoughts aren't totally complete, and I hope they give us all something to think about since we are all "Not Quite Home" yet.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott Sears



What is JumpStart?

JumpStart is a new worship experience being offered in the Family Ministries Center once a month by our Young Adults and others. This worship experience is NOT meant to replace the traditional service at 10:50 am and speakers from JumpStart won't be speaking at the traditional service. (Well, technically, that's not true...Pastor Scott has spoken at JumpStart and Brandon Roland has also filled in at the 10:50 service as well.) But, typically, even when we have a JumpStart to Worship Experience, Pastor Scott will be preaching at 10:50. **The JumpStart Worship Experience is just a really good way for the entire congregation to show their support of our young adult leaders – come and join them one Sunday!!**

College News

(Submitted by Patty Flanagan)

On Saturday, March 18th at 10:30 in Schell Hall, some members of the church who have been faithfully ministering to our college students this year will come together to package a shoe box surprise package for the students. We have almost 30 college students affiliated with our church and members of the congregation have been praying for and sending cards to specific students throughout the school year. Students who might be in town and available on that date, have been invited to come by at noon for their boxes, some pizza, and conversation. You are invited to join us for a chance to meet students and the wonderful congregational members who have been caring for them this year. Thank you, Church!

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The Children's Choir will be sharing their 2nd Annual Mother's Day program during worship on May 14th. This year's program challenges all of us as we live in a self-absorbed selfie culture.



UNSELFIE

#SelflessInASelfieWorld



Created by:
Sue Smith, Gina Boe, & Brian Hitt

Thread Loving Crafters (Submitted By Kathy Tucker)



TLC recently delivered 37 hats and snacks to the VA.

Mary's Cradle and The Children's Home Society were lucky recipients to almost 50 quilts and fleece tied blankets. We continue to make newborn and preemie hats for the Greenbier, Princeton, Welsh, and Bluefield hospitals. We also send preemie hats to the Ronald McDonald House in Charleston. We even sent a few cute octopuses.

We are getting ready to begin a new project to make bears for Victory Junction. This is a summer camp for special needs children and children with illnesses. It is sponsored by Nascar Driver Kyle Petty.

Due to many needs, our prayer shawl stack has dwindled. We are making more to replenish that supply and to send to those that need reminders that God's love surrounds them as they wear the shawl.

We were very busy making boot cuffs and messy bun hats that we sold to raise additional support to Feeding the Hungry Children. Many students and staff from Concord bought these popular items.

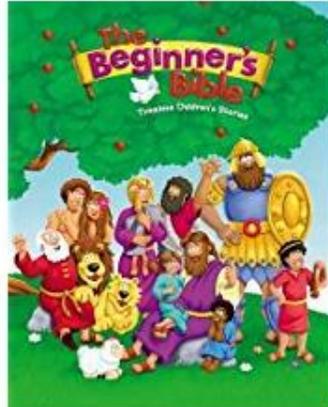
We have been working on several quilt projects for the Quilt of Valor initiative and also for special individuals needing warmth and comfort from the lap quilts.

Congratulations to Sarah Johnson, church member, and Heather Denise, friend and relative of a TLC member, were the winners of the recent "Guess how many lives were touched by the handiwork of TLC in 2016?" contest. The answer was 1,050!



Library News (Submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian)

The children of the church want to thank all who give to our church's budget. Without your contributions, there would not be a children's library on the second floor with hundreds of books and videos!



Attendance for January-February 2017

ATTENDANCE – January 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
01.01.2017	53	99	27	126
01.08.2017	61	130	55	185
01.15.2017	70	162	19	181
01.22.2017	66	156	24	180
01.29.2017	71	154	27	181

ATTENDANCE – February 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
02.05.2017	62	158	31	189
02.12.2017	82	187	24	211
02.19.2017	71	167	NA	167
02.26.2017	76	191	1	192

News
From the
3rd floor



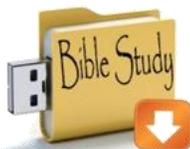
Rebecca Rowe
Director of Youth
rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com
(304) 425-0064 - Office
(276) 245-9455 - Cell

Office Hours
Sunday 1:00 – 8:00 PM
Monday 3:30 – 8:30 PM
Tuesday 3:30 – 8:30 PM
Wednesday 2:30 – 8:30 PM
Thursday 2:30 – 8:30 PM



Youth Night
Sunday's 4:00 -5:30 pm

Bible Study
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm



MARCH & APRIL YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Bible Study Dates:

March 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12

SNL Dates:

March 5, 12, 26

April 2, 9, 23,30



HEGF Fundraiser Luncheon

It's your "LUCKY" day!!!!

Please join us after church on Sunday, March 19th, for a wonderful Irish spread of all your favorites – back by popular demand. All proceeds support the Youth Higher Education Grant Fund.



30 for 70
March 31 – April 1

Once again the youth are coming together for a fun-filled

two day event to raise awareness, food, and funds to support the Feeding Hungry Children ministry, and other local ministries. Please consider being a part of this amazing opportunity. We would love to have you join us, sponsor a youth or even better - both!

Refreshment Cart



Dates: March 12 & 26 / April 9 & 23

I want to share a touching card we received in response to the ministry.

It read as follows:

"I want to thank you as individuals – as well as a team – for joining our efforts in ministering on Mercer Street. Your constant cheerful faithfulness has deeply impacted me as I have observed your kind interaction with those who gather – you exalt Christ!"



Youth Prayer Breakfast

will be held on Sunday March 12 & April 2 @ 8:30 AM. Be sure to join us for a great time of food, fellowship and prayer! Followed by an awesome time at Jumpstart.

**SIDEWALK
PROPHETS**

April 6 @ 7 PM
Tickets only \$10.00



Barbara Ballard, Director of Children's Ministries
Office Hours: Mon. 9-10 AM, 11:30 -12:30 PM, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2
Cell (320-920-8186); office (304-425-0064)
Email: funcdce@suddenlinkmail.com

Children's Fellowship Time Wednesdays at 6:00 PM "The Dream Team": Close Encounters with the Disciples

continues through March 22nd, when we have a closing celebration "Show Off night" in Schell Hall with a snack supper. Parents, extended family, and adult Bible study members are invited to hear what the kids have learned from Miss Martha and her cast of disciples, and see the creative crafts that Miss Marcia has come up with, to go with each disciple.



Children's Choir, led by Miss Sherrie, will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings to prepare for their Mother's Day service.



VBS 2017

"Rome": Paul and the Underground Church
Coming July 9th—13th (Sunday—Thurs.)
6:00—8:00 PM

Come be part of this exciting outreach!!

Opportunities for involvement with skits, games, crafts, decorating, co-leading or assisting with crews, and more are available. See Barb with your area of interest.

The gym will be set up as a Roman marketplace, where kids will work on crafts, visit the food shop, and enjoy skits.

We are offering a VBS funshop training by Group publishing on Sat. AM, March 25th. This will be a fun time with VBS giveaways, and will give us all a head-start on our preparations. *Register by March 11th for a group discount, that the church is covering.



March & April 2017

Easter Party and Egg Hunt FMC Gym and (hopefully) outside

Saturday, April 8th 2017
11:00 AM—12:15 PM

Egg Hunt, fun activities (cookie decorating, face painting,
snacks, games...)

Children: Preschool - 5th Grade
Come and bring your friends!!!

We welcome any adult or youth who is interested in leading an
activity, helping with hiding eggs or supervising kids as they find eggs.

Empty eggs will soon be available in the office wing lobby to fill.

Thanks so much for your generous candy donations that make this fun
community event affordable!!!



March Anniversaries and Birthdays



March 14 – Jim & Janie Sarver
March 15 – Jamey & Raegan Biggs
March 20 – Greg and Jane Jessee
March 21 – Bob & Jackie Davis

March 01 – Anna Johnson
March 02 – Janet Winfrey
March 03 – Jim Burks
March 03 – Mary Davis
March 04 – David Johnson
March 04 – Bob Lohr
March 05 – Keri Johnson
March 05 – Bryce Veneri
March 06 – Wayne Barth
March 06 – Martha Cook
March 07 – Meg Hersman
March 07 – Emma Johnston
March 08 – Abigail Pack
March 08 – John White
March 08 – Stephen Wynne
March 09 – Kathy Clemons
March 10 – Jordan Stadvec
March 11 – Ed Horton (98)
March 11 – Brenda Lohr
March 13 – Rachel Johnson
March 13 – Mary Frances Morris
March 14 – Evan Bay
March 14 – Neil Lohr (92)
March 15 – Austin Walker Smith
March 16 – Becky Kidwell
March 20 – Charity Spring Bailey



March 20 – Patricia Holland
March 21 – Megan Damewood
March 21 – Lucille Reynolds (95)
March 22 – Melissa Forbes
March 22 – Tex Kennedy
March 23 – Debbie Griffith
March 24 – Joe Bowling
March 24 – Mona Lester
March 25 – Sue Backus
March 26 – Jerry Jenkins
March 26 – Naomi Raines
March 27 – Alston Sarver
March 27 – Richard Steenson
March 30 – Lela McCormick
March 31 – John Flemikng
March 31 – Jeff Hollifield
March 31 – Cindy Kelly
March 31 – Betty L. Robertson
March 31 – Connie Scott

April Anniversaries and Birthdays

April 01 – David & Ann Graham
April 10 – Jeff & Ginny Boyles
April 14 – Randall & Sandy Veneri (47)
April 15 – Lynn & Pat Veneri (52)
April 21 – John Mark & Leah Mendez
April 26 – Nathan & Lee Elmore (60)



April 01 – Stephanie Bowling
April 01 – Jeff Boyles
April 01 – Otis Earls
April 01 – Robert East
April 01 – Suzy Fry
April 01 – Roland Munique
April 01 – Shari Steenson
April 03 – Sydney Ben Chaabane
April 03 – Jakob Haway
April 04 – Anna Coulbourne Lyon
April 04 – Candace Haynes
April 04 – Anthony Veneri
April 06 – Barb Hampton
April 06 – Laura Suroski
April 07 – Greg Jessee
April 08 – Jane Dingus
April 09 – Betty Branche
April 10 – Lynda Munique
April 10 – Kayla Thomas
April 11 – Erin Mendez Rimbach
April 11 – Brandon Roland
April 12 – Corbin Fredeking

April 12 – Don Stanley
April 12 – Ella Veneri
April 13 – Rachel Smith
April 14 – Jean Bailes (93)
April 14 – Carol Bailey
April 14 – Ott Fredeking
April 15 – Logan Chapman
April 15 – Michael Chapman
April 15 – Ted Billespie
April 15 – Bruce Smith
April 16 – Jordan Henry
April 17 – Carol Ann Cook
April 17 – Paige Price
April 14 – Becky Veneri
April 18 – Brooke Henkes
April 18 – Carol Johnson
April 18 – Kathryn Tucker
April 19 – Jack Stafford
April 21 – Jerry Childress
April 21 – Twyla Hersman
April 22 – Jasper Pritchett
April 22 – Jersey Pritchett
April 22 – Jillian Pritchett
April 22 – Kathryn Vaughn
April 22 – Jan Wilson
April 24 – Betty Costoplos
April 26 – Joe Damewood
April 26 – Rick Dooley
April 29 – Nancy Duncan
April 29 – Ryan Shreve
April 30 – Isaac Mick
April 30 – Bob Robinson

THANK YOU NOTES

Chris and I would like to thank the Middle and High School Sunday School classes for the beautiful ornament given to us to honor the memory of our son, Aaron. Several times during the holiday season I found myself taking it from the tree to read the message again. It was such a comforting reminder of the love so freely shown us by our church family during our time of great sorrow.

With prayers and gratitude,
Chris and Twyla Hersman

Thank you for your uplifting prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during my time of rehab from heart surgery. With the help of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and your prayers I am getting stronger each day and look forward to being in church with you within a month. Thanks again for your concerns. I appreciate them greatly. Carol is doing a good job taking care of her big baby.

Love,
JJ (John Johnson)

The Ronald McDonald House in Charleston would like to thank you (Tender Loving Crafters) for supporting us by donating premie Christmas hats on December 15, 2016.

Many thanks for the beautiful memorial volume you sent us. Your thoughtfulness and kindness is very much appreciated.

The Family of Ethel Hylton

I want to thank 90-N-Better Club and First United Methodist Church for the pretty plaque on my 90th birthday. I was really surprised and I will cherish the plaque the rest of my life.

Thanks again,
Evayne Chambers

THANK YOU NOTES (*continued*)

Thank you all for the lovely book. We will treasure it always. Keep us in your prayers always. We all are seeing a hard time right now...

The sisters of Jerry B. White

Thank you very much for the book. I have enjoyed reading it.

Mrs. Richard Clemons

The book--and the art work inside--that you sent for my daughter Susan is beautiful. Much appreciation to you and the others that are so thoughtful.

Thank you,
Clara Bailey

Dear Rev. Sears and church family,

Our father....died on Father's Day at age 89. We recently received the book Come Unto Me and have been reading it. It is a very nice book, and comforting. Thank you for helping to make this ministry possible.

Thank you,
The Akers Family



MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Gifts have been designated
IN MEMORY OF

Elmer Hall Bay, Jr.

by Judith E. and Michael T. Wood

to The Memorial Fund

Elmer Hall Bay, Jr.

by Jerry and Patty Flanagan

to Feeding Hungry Children

Hylah Lehr

by Jerry and Patty Flanagan

to Feeding Hungry Children

Betty Jean Moody

by Jerry and Patty Flanagan
to Arthur Moody Scholarship Fund

Michael Burkes

by Jerry and Patty Flanagan
to Upward Basketball

Gifts have been designated
IN HONOR OF

Rebecca Sue Helmick

by Debra and Jerry Hickman

to Feeding Hungry Children



**Click the image below to view the
First United Methodist Church Calendar.**

