

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

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

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1

Give Thanks!

How do we even begin to say thank you to everyone who did so much to make our Advent and Christmas Celebration this past month a wonderful time? We can thank the Altar Guild for wonderful decorations and worship centers on the Altar. We can thank the Madrigals for their part in the Hanging of the Greens Service. We can thank Jordan Stadvec and the choir as well as Tom Bay and the fantastic Drama Team for our blessed Cantata. We can thank all those who decorated tables for our Christmas Dinner but especially thank the Thread Loving Crafters for overseeing it all. We can certainly thank Sherrie Price and the children for the great children's program. We can also thank Anthony Veneri and everyone who helped with the Live Nativity this year – there are so many souls involved in that endeavor I can't even begin to name them all! We can thank Brenda Larue for keeping our facilities in tip top shape. And Christmas Eve...we can thank everyone for their presence on this special night of worship!! And let's not forget our special New Year's Eve Love Feast – Thank you for your participation!!!

Thank you...one and all!!

Apportionment Celebration

Princeton First UMC met its goal of paying 80% of our apportionment figure for 2017 thanks to your generous end of the year gifts! This year, our goal is to pay 100% of a slightly reduced apportionment amount - \$120,000 - and with the continued faithfulness of this congregation, there is no way we will miss this goal!!

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UPCOMING SERVICES

What is Jumpstart?

Jumpstart is a worship experience being offered in the Family Ministries Center once a month by our Young Adults Sunday School Class 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 to Worship Experience is just a good way for the entire congregation to show their support of our young adult leaders – come and join them one Sunday!! Our next Jumpstart dates are January 14th and February 11th.**

Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th – yep, Valentine's Day!! We will have a worship service in our sanctuary at 6:30 pm that evening to mark the start of the season of Lent. Worship will include a service of "Imposition of Ashes" where the pastor places ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of those who so desire to receive it. This mark is a reminder to the person wearing it that because we are people of the Cross we understand that God will make something new of our lives. (And no, just because it's Valentine's Day, Pastor Scott will NOT be making "heart signs" on your foreheads!)

Special Preacher

On Sunday, February 11, the WV Annual Conference Director of Youth and Outdoor Ministries, Rev. Shea James will be with us at First UMC, Princeton, to bring the morning message. Pastor Scott hopes and prays that we will have a great turnout (and great weather) for this guest preacher from our Annual Conference Staff. Rev. James attended Drew and Louisville Presbyterian Seminaries and served in the Kentucky Annual Conference before joining our staff at the WVAC. She currently is also serving as the sole staff person of a two-dog (Chaplain and Sunday) household.

NOT QUITE HOME

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

In the decade before I was born – the 1950's – it was assumed that if a person moved into a town like Princeton and found gainful employment, someone in their circle of friends or co-workers would bring that person to church with them. These persons, the ones doing the inviting, were trained, developed and deployed as disciples in their community.

Today we cannot make the above assumption.

First of all, we live in a culture that has begun to idolize the idea that a person has the right to be left alone when it comes to religion. Don't get me wrong, here. I do not believe for a moment that we should live in a place where you don't have religious freedom – even if the dominant religion were to be Christianity. Forced Christianity is an oxymoron. However, what we have become is a culture that values people who keep their mouths shut about their religious beliefs. I do not believe a person should be bullied into going to church. Nor do I think anyone should be subjected to hearing about religion when they don't want to hear about it. (In other words, if someone tells you they are not interested, take a hint and don't be a bother.) However, what this has created is a "reluctance" among Christians to talk about their faith AND we have lost the skill set of doing so without being seen as religious nuts. (There are many other cultural changes that have had some effect on making disciples, but this is one of the main ones. People don't want to BE disciples and that is perfectly accepted in the church.)

Secondly, we have given up on making disciples and instead just worry about "getting members." Even those people who bemoan the falling membership among mainline denominations such as the United Methodist Church complain about just that – membership. We do not even worry about making disciples as long as our attendance and offerings are headed in the right direction.

Last November, I challenged our Church Council with these changes in church culture and invited them to allow us to create a team of people who would look at our current system of "disciple making" and explore what needs to be done in our particular setting to make more disciples of Jesus for the transformation of our world. An invitation to join this group was offered both at the Council meeting and during worship at First UMC, Princeton. Several people have answered the call.

This group will begin meeting on January 14. They are committing to meeting 2½ hours every other Sunday until we come up with a workable plan and the implementation of that plan to develop disciples at First UMC, Princeton, rather than just settle for members.

I am telling you about this for two reasons. First and foremost, be in prayer for this group. They have a heavy burden to carry for all of us. Secondly, pray for the church as it goes through this transition. Many people would like to think that the greatest crisis facing our denomination today is our infighting about certain social issues. *Nothing could be further from the truth.* Should we make a move (back) toward a disciple-making church, membership will suddenly be less about “what I deserve to get from MY church” to “what I need to do in order to be considered a disciple.”

That will make far more people uncomfortable than any discussion about any social issue. So, don't just pray for the group, pray for us all.

Recently, I saw a commercial for the YMCA that basically claimed that as long as a community had a “Y” in their midst, it was the greatest hope for unity in that community. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that. The greatest hope this world has is in the power that Jesus gives us through his life, death, and resurrection. Making disciples of Jesus will change our community in powerful ways, and I could not be more excited about this group and the work they will lead us all to do.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Library News & Stuff (Submitted By Jerry Flanagan, Librarian)

“2017 Christy Award Winner”

General Fiction

“THE PROMISE of JESSE WOODS”, by Chris Fabry



“In this book we are presented with an unlikely trio in Matt Plumley, an overweight preacher's kid; Jesse Woods, considered ‘white trash’

by the good people of Dogwood; Dickie Darrel Lee Hancock, a mixed-race youth whose father is serving in Vietnam. They're all social outcasts, bullied and discriminated against because they're different, mostly by the town's self-professed ‘Christians’, who use their religion to justify their bigotry. Told from Matt's viewpoint, the chapters alternate between his arrival in Dogwood in 1972 and his return in 1984, when he tries to rescue Jesse from what he considers a disastrous wedding.”

(Library, continued)

“Christian Book Award – 2017”

Faith and Culture

“75 MASTERPIECES EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW”, by Terry Glaspey

Some of the greatest painters, musicians, architects, writers, filmmakers, and poets have taken their inspiration from their faith. Now you can discover the stories behind 75 masterpieces and the artists who created them. From the Roman catacombs to Rembrandt, from Bach to U2, from John Bunyan to Frederick Buechner, author and historian Terry Glaspey unveils the absorbing true stories behind these masterpieces and shares the faith-filled details you might have missed.

These books can be found in the Family Ministries Center Library.

Thread Loving Crafters

TLC has been busy as usual. We completed our quota needed for hat and scarf sets for Feeding Hungry Children. We are making hats now for the Veterans.

Our newest project, woven mats made of plastic trash bags, has just completed their first delivery. Six mats were delivered to the homeless. This is a great way to repurpose plastic bags to make mats that help the homeless as they sleep on the cold ground. We could use more weavers and more people to cut the “Plarn.” If you have bags, it would be very helpful if these were cut first. We can show you how.

The blankets from Blanket Day have been delivered to Mary’s Cradle and the Children’s Home Society. Six afghans were sent to Nursing Home Residents for Christmas via the UNW.

We continue to make baby hats for PRMC, BRMC, GRMC, and the Ronald McDonald House. We are also making purple newborn hats that will be shipped in April to the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome contact in Charleston.

Prayers shawls, quilts and more afghans are being created for a variety of needs for church members. 2018 will no doubt be another productive year for TLC.

We invite anyone and everyone to join us every Friday from 10-2 or the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:30-7:30. We also accept items from people who prefer working from home.

Feeding Hungry Children (Submitted by Patty Flanagan)

HUGE THANKS! A short time ago, Rachel Johnson expressed that the Student Council at Pikeview High School was seeking a service project and suggested they could collect food for the Feeding Hungry Children Project. She was provided with a list of foods used in the weekend food bags, and within a few weeks she, the Student Council sponsor, Kristin Neal, and several other students dropped off their donation. This group brought and unloaded an entire pickup truck bed of food! These hard working, friendly, and polite young people unloaded the food and put it in the appropriate cabinets. Their kindness and spirit of giving is appreciated more than they realize. Young people are the BEST!

The Feeding Hungry Children team prepares and packages food once a month. Contact Patty Flanagan (contact church office for phone number) if you would like to get involved!

Christmas Dinner Tables

If you attended the Children's Christmas program and the dinner afterwards then you were treated to a vast array of table decorations. Here are a few highlights.

- Exploring Faith, with the aid of Kathy Quesenberry, did a whimsical table with the theme from the book "The Legend of the Candy Cane." The 3 tables were festive and creative with red and white.
- The Children decorated 4 tables with the help of Karen Thorn. Christmas trees complete with candied mints and fairy lights adorned the elementary-aged children's table. The pre-school children's table complete with snow and fairy lights were adorned with sparkly winter Christmas Trees.
- The Youth reminded everyone of the true meaning of the Christmas Season with a birthday theme for the Baby Jesus. Led by the Youth, everyone joined in with the Happy Birthday song to Jesus.
- The Thread Loving Crafters (TLC) decorated their tables with handmade snowflakes and other handmade ornaments. The sparkling colors of blue and silver completed their Winter Wonderland theme.
- The office staff followed suit with a Pinterest-inspired look. Did you notice the origami doves that were created with church bulletins? It was a beautiful and original design.
- The choir decorated 2 tables with dramatic black and gold with red accents. Music notes were interspersed, to compliment the music theme.
- The most original table went to the Williams and Bowling Tables. Over-sized hand-painted books which tiered to reveal the "Greatest Story Ever Told", the birth of the baby Jesus, adorned their tables.

(Christmas tables, continued)

Extra tables were covered with evergreens, dried fruit, pinecones, mason jar candles, and rustic table runners. The highlight was the paintings donated by Amy Williams that were used as door prizes. The final surprise for the evening was the arrival of Santa.

Attendance For November-December 2017

November 2017			
Date	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
11.5.17	161	17	178
11.12.17	152	23	175
11.19.17	168	21	189
11.26.17	149	17	166
December 2017			
Date	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
12.3.17	191	19	210
12.10.17	166	29	195
12.17.17	144	21	165
12.24.17 AM	159	21	180
12.24.17 PM			199
12.31.17	103	30	133
12.31.17 PM			31

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Gifts have been given:

In memory of Wanda Bradley to Feeding Hungry Children by David and Ann Graham.

In memory of Robert East to Feeding Hungry Children by David and Ann Graham.

In memory of Wanda Farmer to Feeding Hungry Children by David and Ann Graham.

In memory of Edward Horton to Feeding Hungry Children by David and Ann Graham.

In memory of Homer Stewart to Feeding Hungry Children by Glenna Belcher.

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

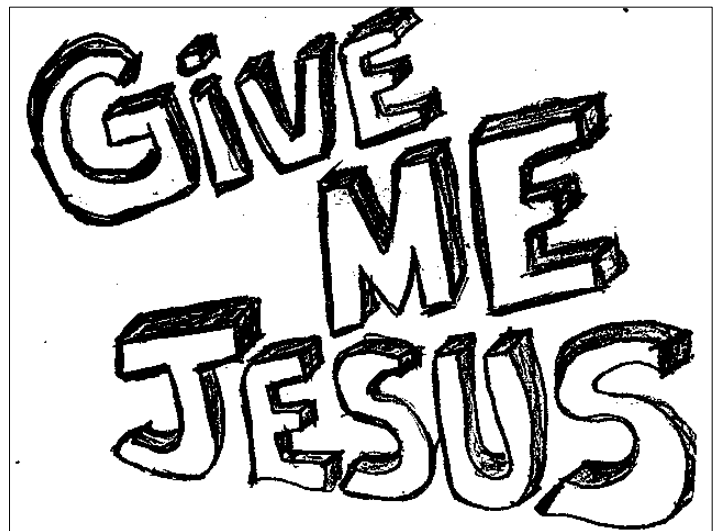
Brandon Roland

Office: 304-425-0064

Email: bgroland@gmail.com

Hello Church family! Upward basketball is in full swing. We hosted the first week of basketball games on January 6th. The basketball players and cheerleaders have been excited for the season to start and it is finally here, and if you were to watch the games and be present you could see their excitement was still overflowing. I want to express a huge thank you to all of my volunteers – coaches, referees, concession stand workers, announcer, clock operator, score keepers, and for those who have been praying for Upward from day one. If you would like to be a part of this outreach opportunity and service project for our community, please let me know. I am always looking for help, whether it be any of those positions listed previously or to give a short devotion at halftime during the games. Also, please continue to pray for our Upward Sports program and that we will continue to share the love of Christ in all that we do within that program.

Our youth program has seen a jump from about 6 consistent students to averaging around 12 on Sunday and Wednesday evenings for our Bible Study times. We painted the third floor youth room and are continuing to improve that space for our young people to gather and grow together. On January 19th through January 21st we will be going to Resurrection, our retreat in Pigeon Forge, TN. I ask for your prayers for this weekend – save travels, safe traveling weather, that God will speak to the students and leaders through the speakers and band, and that our youth group will grow closer together.



CONNECT CARD ART - BAY FAMILY

I thank you for all of your love and support that you show our youth group and Upward program. I am excited for the new year for both programs and all that is happening in the life of First United Methodist Church.

THANK YOU NOTES & LETTERS

Dear Family and Friends of First United Methodist Church-Princeton,

We regret being so tardy with our notes of appreciation, but they are sincere, nevertheless.

You have helped us through the past six months in so many ways. It is with great love and sincerity that we thank you for your many acts of kindness at the time of Ed's/Dad's/Granddaddy's illness and death. Prayers, cards and phone calls, notes and visits, and an outpouring of gifts to the Feeding Hungry Children Fund – along with gifts to other funds, have shown us your depth of love and compassion. It has been difficult adjusting to his absence, but we try to lift up wonderful memories of all he meant to each of us...he was a wonderful man and was so very precious to us. The notes and phone calls from across this country and around the world have been amazing. Thank you in so many ways for the encouragement and strength you have provided by your generous love. Eddie Horton loved his family, his church and church family, and most of all – his Lord Jesus Christ!

With Love,

Margaret, Will, Vicki, Taylor and Betsy
Bob, Ginger, Steve, Carol and Will
Victor and Jessica

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful love and gifts you shared with me at the time of my retirement. It has been quite an adjustment not being at the church after serving there for so long...it was more than a job to me...it was a ministry filled with many blessings. The reception was beautiful, and I thank the SPRC for all they did to make the day so special. The gifts were overwhelming...I have been truly blessed by so many wonderful friends and co-workers; thank you each and every one. There just aren't enough words to tell you how much each of you means to me. Thank you, too, for continuing to lift up me and my family in your prayers and for remembering me with cards and notes...it is unbelievable how precious those remembrances are as I work through this new phase of my life's journey. As far as the recipes go...Granny and I are enjoying trying new recipes and adding to the recipe box with recipes handed down through generations of her family! See what you started?!

In Christ's Love,

Vicki

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/2 – Darryl & Mary Frances Morris
1/5 – Mike & Kathy Quesenberry
1/7 – Mike & Ronda Clark
1/15 – Terry & Peggy Wells
1/18 – Tom & Kim Bay

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2 – Brent Veneri
1/3 – Brad Veneri
1/4 – Anna Burger (93)
1/8 – Owen Biggs
1/9 – Jordie Veneri
1/10 – Ashley Vaughn
1/11 – Sahara Stanley
1/14 – Lynsey Artrip
1/16 – Will Stafford, II
1/18 – BJ Roland
1/18 – Bill Wilson
1/19 – Brandon Beachler
1/19 – Kelly Beachler
1/20 – Chris Knight
1/20 – Erin Sears
1/23 – Rhonda Clark
1/24 – Glenna Belcher
1/24 – Jonathan Williams
1/25 – Barbara Phillips
1/26 – Nancy Moore
1/26 – Harold Russell
1/26 – Ramona Stanley
1/27 – Debbie Massie
1/27 – Becky Rowe
1/28 – Lee Elmore
1/29 – Alex Bay
1/29 – Allison Beachler
1/29 – Kay Presley
1/30 – Madison Knight
1/31 – Gail Burks
1/31 – Christa Fama

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/2 – Chris & Twyla Hersman
2/24 – Tim & Cheryl Merritt
2/26 – Alden & Kay Presley

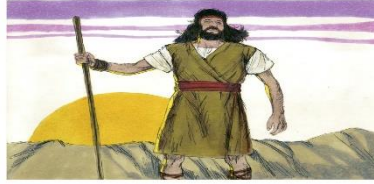
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 – Bob Davis
2/3 – Karen Thorn
2/4 – Vicky Bradley
2/5 – Ann Graham
2/6 – Savannah Knight
2/7 – Heather Austin
2/7 – Debbie Gillespie
2/7 – Ellen Knight
2/8 – Wilma Bowling
2/8 – Peggy Edmunds
2/9 – Dan Farley
2/9 – Jerry Linkous
2/10 – Alice Smith
2/11 – James Biggs
2/11 – Danny McNamara
2/18 – Mike Clark
2/18 – Cambel Fix
2/18 – Rodney Smith
2/19 – Madison Austin
2/20 – Norman Jones
2/22 – Sandy Gay
2/23 – Eva Gates (98)
2/23 – Jaycee Pritchett
2/26 – Jeremy Wenisch
2/28 – Betty Costello





Director Of Children's Ministries, Barbara Ballard
Office Hours: Mon. 9-10 AM, 11:00 -12:00 PM, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2
Cell (304-920-8186); office (304-425-0064)
Email: fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com



Close Encounters with "The Jesus People"

Our winter session of Children's Fellowship Time resumes Jan. 3rd, when children from Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00, as we learn more about a variety of Bible characters whose lives were profoundly affected by their personal encounters with Jesus.

We'll begin with storyteller Bob Davis portraying John the Baptist and sharing his story that "One Head is Better than None". Other special guests to look forward to are craft helper Kathy Quesenberry, David Graham as "Nick at Night" (Nicodemus), and Becky Kidwell as the woman at the well, being interviewed by her husband, Roger Topping. Other talented and fun members of our church family will be joining us during the session to share stories, help with crafts, or lead a game.

Try to arrive by 6:00 to meet with Miss Martha, when she hears your weekly verse and keeps up with your points for the ticket store.

Children in grades 1-5 are encouraged to stay for choir with Miss Sherrie from 7:00 - 7:30 to prepare for singing in worship and participating in the special Mother's Day musical.



Thank you for your faithful Sunday School Offering

Just wanted to thank all of the Sunday School classes for their weekly giving, which allows us to provide curriculum for all classes from preschool through older adult, as well as the Mother's Day brunch, and other fellowship breakfasts during the year.

We work with the young children to develop a lifelong habit of giving as well as saving, and it helps them so see this modeled by their parents and older siblings.

CALENDAR

Click the image below to access our online calendar.

