

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

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

JULY – AUGUST 2018

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 4

New Member Class

Pastor Scott will be offering a class for new members starting Sunday, July 1, and going through July 22. The class will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am) and will be held in Schell Hall.

If you are interested in attending, whether you are a regular attendee who is thinking about making First UMC your Discipleship home, a new member, or just someone who wants more information on United Methodism and First UMC Princeton, please call the church office to reserve your spot.

Great Videos from Annual Conference

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball on the “Lamps” - <https://youtu.be/932Hbe3rpFQ>

Junius Dotson Friday Teaching Session - <https://youtu.be/DUsnd2-baP4>

Junius Dotson Saturday Teaching Session - <https://youtu.be/hksk9PeLsKo>

“Unlikely Allies” – A video about the “Way Forward” process - <https://youtu.be/0epT6TbGtoM>

We've been drawing religious lines in the sand for hundreds of years, using varying standards to determine who's "in" and who's "out." How can Christians work for peace within culture if we can't get it right amongst ourselves? Ted Trimpa, gay rights activist, and Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, provide a model for peace-making, as two very different people working together to advance good. They recently worked on anti-human-trafficking laws in Colorado, and they'll share wisdom on working with people that differ greatly from us.

In This Issue

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Discipleship Classes | 2 |
| Fear Of The Other | 2 |
| The Gospel Of Mark | 2 |
| From The Bishop | 3 |
| From The Pastor | 5 |
| Children's Ministries | 7 |
| Youth Ministries | 9 |
| Ministry Updates..... | 10 |
| Children's Choir | 10 |
| Thread Loving Crafters..... | 10 |
| Church Library..... | 10 |
| College News..... | 11 |
| Parish News..... | 11 |
| Attendance | 12 |
| Thank You Notes & Letters | 13 |
| Transitions | 13 |
| Birthdays And Anniversaries ... | 14 |

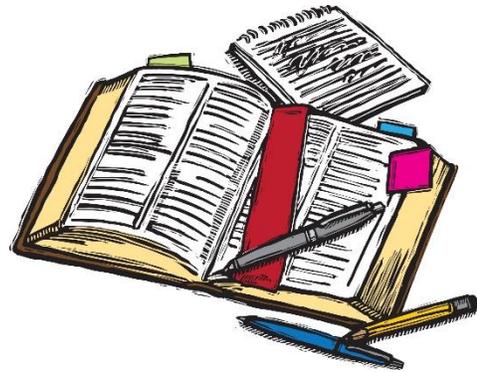
UPCOMING DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Fear of the Other

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates a brother or sister, he is a liar, because the person who doesn't love a brother or sister who can be seen can't love God, who can't be seen. This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

1 John 4:18-21 (CEB)

Pastor Scott will be offering a Discipleship Class that addresses overcoming the divided nature of relationships in the church and world today and based on the book *Fear of the Other* by Bishop William Willimon. This is a five-week study that encourages participants, who may be anywhere in their growth as disciples, to explore whom they consider the "Other" to be in their lives and communities and begin regarding the Other from a Christian perspective. By the end of this Discipleship Class, those who participate will hopefully find that they are able to:



- identify the Other in their midst;
- train their fears by seeking additional information and relationships with those they fear;
- renew their commitment to embracing the Other in obedience to God's instruction;
- and work to make their local church more welcoming of the Other.

This five-week study will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm in Schell Hall starting August 15 and running each week until September 12. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to sign up as early as possible by calling or emailing the church office so that resources can be available for them to take the course.

The Gospel of Mark – First among the Synoptics

The Wednesday evening Discipleship Study will focus on the Gospel of Mark starting Wednesday, September 26, and running through November 14. We begin at 6:00 pm and end at 7:30 pm.

This particular study will look at the whole Gospel, find ways to relate different portions of the Gospel to our everyday lives, and also offer help to people who might want to lead discussions on the Gospel in other small group settings. No special book is required for this study – just show up!! (Pastor Scott does want you to know that the class will be reading the entire Gospel EACH week between classes.)

FROM THE BISHOP

Lamps to Remind Us that We're Connected

Posted June 9, 2018

By Sandra Steiner Ball

"I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one." -Psalm 132: 17b

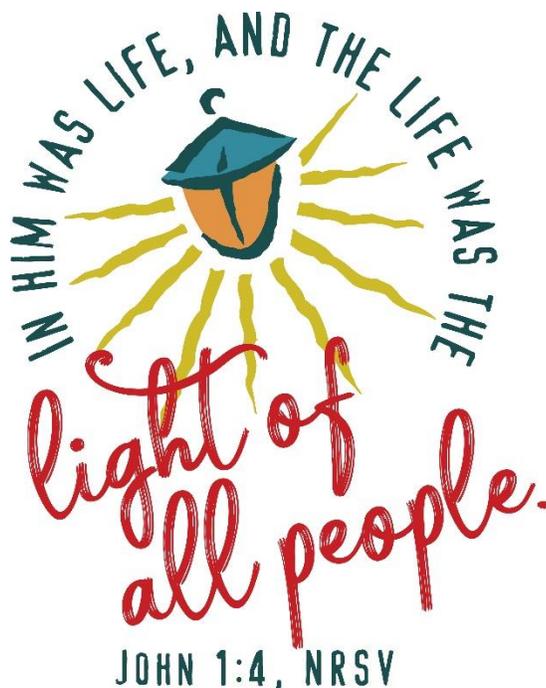
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." - John 1: 1-5.

Lamps will be a symbol seen throughout our annual conference this year. The lamp is a symbol of enduring and unbroken succession. Lamps denote faith and wisdom, the faith and wisdom that come from the Lord alone.

Many years ago, I went on a mission of peace to the eastern block of Europe. As a part of that experience I made a presentation in a Church in Germany about peace.

That congregation gave me a candle, a peace candle, that I was to take back to my congregation as a reminder to pray for peace among the nations, and specifically to remind our congregations – one in Germany and one in the United States – of our connection with one another and that we had a Christian responsibility to build relationships with each other, learn about each other, and to pray for each other as part of our commitment to building peace around the world.

This year I went back to Germany. As I entered into one congregation after another, I saw the same candle sitting on the altar or communion table. I came to find out that at the annual conference in Germany, each congregation was given the same candle and each congregation was asked to place this candle on their altar or communion table and use it as a part of their



commitment to praying for and with each congregation in the annual conference in every worship service. The candles bound the churches of the German conference together in prayer and hope for their future mission and ministry throughout the world.

What a powerful witness for being one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. What a powerful witness this could be for the congregations of the West Virginia Conference in the midst of these anxious times we are in as The United Methodist Church.

West Virginia Conference, Christ is among us in these anxious times. Christ came into this world to bring life, and his life is the light of all people, our light, and the light of all people. And, no power of darkness will overcome the light and life of Christ.

Each of us individually and as a congregation are called to prepare the way, to shine the light for our anointed one, Jesus Christ. As a symbol of our commitment to the enduring and unbroken succession of Christ, and our dedication to seek the faith and wisdom that come from Christ, and because we need to remember that we are connected in the ministry of Christ and need one another's prayers to amplify the light that Christ brings, each of the West Virginia Churches will receive the gift of an oil lamp following the Saturday evening prayer service.

The same oil lamp is being given to each church*. I am asking that each congregation place this lamp on their altar or communion table as a call to prayer and as a reminder that we are connected and that we need one another in the West Virginia Conference and around the world to advance the mission and ministry of Christ.

We are better together in sharing the light, hope, and life of Christ than we are separately.

May God bless the lights of these lamps as a reminder that we can trust in the presence of Christ to bring life, hope, light to all people and that we are called to bear testimony and witness to the light and love of Christ in the living of these days.

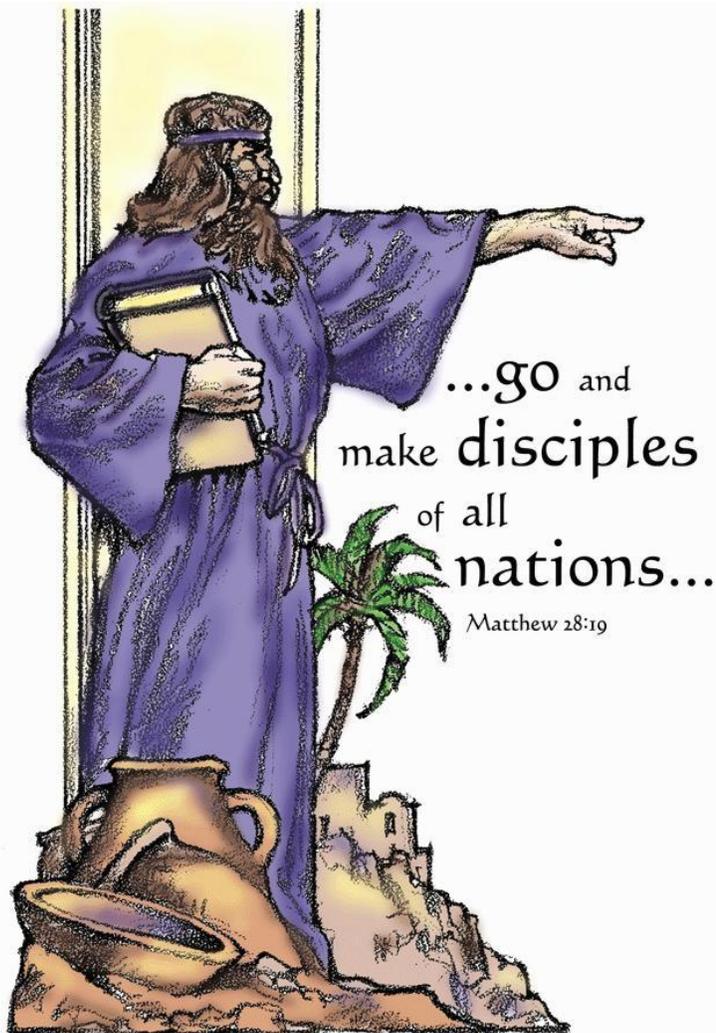
May these lamps also remind us of our connection with each other every time we gather for worship, and that we have a Christian responsibility to build relationships with each other, learn about each other, and to pray for each other as part of our commitment to building peace around the world.

**Note: Look for the oil lamp on our altar each Sunday.*

FROM THE PASTOR

(Jesus said) ¹⁹"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you."

Matthew 28:18-19a



Of all the things I heard at Annual Conference this year, one thing stuck in my mind. Rev. Junius Dotson was preaching and reminding us what was the single most important step we make in the church. To help us understand, he used an illustration from baseball. "If a runner makes it to first base and then never advances beyond that, then nothing is really accomplished. You can't win the game by staying on first base."

He was reminding us that as Christians there is so much more to following Christ than just accepting him as our Savior. We must be ready to move off of "first base" and get in the rest of the game to become a true disciple.

I am sometimes amazed at the number of people who think that being

a Christian is all about their personal salvation. They want to accept the forgiveness that Jesus offers. They want to avoid sin in their own life so that they can be holy like Jesus. But there are some who never want to become disciples.

Mature disciples are those followers of Jesus who know that after salvation there is so much more that can be done. Spiritual practices draw them not only closer to God but those practices pull them out into the world where they can find others looking for meaning and mission.

Mature disciples are those followers of Jesus who know that worship attendance is not only something that they do every week, but it is something that affects the way that they work and play.

Maturing disciples realize that the journey is not over at salvation and the desire that they have to give to the Lord through faithful giving to their church is something that completely reorients their view of resources so that they can free up more and more money to give to God's Kingdom.

Those disciples that leave first base know that being Christ-like is not just learning about the sin they should avoid but more about learning to love people – even difficult people and people who hurt them – just the same way that Christ did.

First UMC Princeton has had a group of people working for some time on ways that we can become more of a disciple-making model church. One of the first things to come from this group is a self-assessment tool that any person can use to help them see where they are in becoming a disciple. Are they just exploring, beginning, growing or maturing in this great call Jesus has placed upon us all? Are they stuck on first base or are they playing the rest of the game?

If you would like to use this self-assessment tool, please let pastor Scott know. It's not perfect yet, but we do not want anyone to miss out on the chance to grow. Give the office a call and we will make sure you get it and the tool to help you see where you are. Hopefully, with your prayers, we will be developing ways that we can help you and those around you grow into stronger disciples of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Anybody interested in being part of a small group? How about a group with the focus on socializing? Yes! Let's go spend a little time with our church's homebound members.



If you hear the call... Contact:

Sherrie Price at 304-922-8785 or during the day at 304-487-8442

or

Brandon Roland at 304-425-0064



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

Backpack Event Scheduled for August 1st



This community outreach event, held at the fountain, has grown to be very popular with our local families. Recently, we have given out about 100 filled backpacks each year, serving kids from Pre-K through High School.

We are very grateful for the donations received so far, which include four preschool, four K-2 (girls'), five K-2 (boys') backpacks, as well as a large assortment of school supplies. We could use backpacks for about 16 preschool age, 16 grades K-2, 30 grades 3-5, and 25 suitable for middle and high school students. Due to the generous donations of the church family, last year was the first year we were able to provide the children with a choice of backpack they would like to take home, and they were so excited! We will share school supply needs in the coming weeks.

Also during this event, snacks and drinks are given to the children, courtesy of the United Methodist Women and the youth. This is a rewarding event to be a part of and, if you'd like to help either with stuffing the backpacks or handing them out, please let Barb or the church office know by the last week in July. Many thanks and blessings to all who help so many children start out their school year well-prepared!



Sunday School Fall Kick-off Celebration and Church Picnic combined!!



This year, we will be combining our annual Sunday School Fall Kick-Off celebration with our church picnic, to be held on Sunday, August 12, at the Bays' house. It is our hope that more families will be able to participate in this combined event, as we recognize students moving up to new classes and highlight the several small group studies which are available for adults of all ages each Sunday morning.

As always, bring a covered dish of your choice, which always results in a very delicious meal.

More details will be available in the bulletin as the date approaches.

Shipwrecked VBS Will Soon Be Here!

We are very excited to host our annual VBS with the fun theme of being lost on a deserted island, where we learn that when we are lonely, worried, struggling, have done wrong, or feel powerless, JESUS RESCUES. This is a wonderful message for the kids to internalize, just before they start their new school year. We have talented storytellers, station and song leaders, caring crew guides, and energetic youth to communicate God's love and power to our young guests. If you have even one evening to be a part of this ministry, please come!!

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Brandon Roland **Office: 304-425-0064** **Email: bgroland@gmail.com**

This past May we took time to honor our graduating seniors: Brooke Henkes, Rachel Johnson, Madison Knight, McKenzie Olonko, Micah Todd, and Stephen Linkous. I know that everyone in our church family who knows these young men and women are very proud of them and their accomplishments. As their youth director, I thank the church for always supporting them, praying for them, and loving these young people. Please remember them as they begin this new chapter in their life as they start college, most of them moving away from home. Pray that God will continue to watch over them, to be ever present in their life and their decisions, and that they will strive to seek God's will for their life. I know that we are all very proud of them, we celebrate this with them, and we look forward to the amazing things that they are going to accomplish.

Our youth program began its summer activities in June. The students and their families have enjoyed events such as a cookout at Bill Lewis's house, spending the day at Pipestem State Park, and also volunteering at our local food bank Tender Mercies. The program will continue events similar to these throughout July until our normal youth program resumes after our Back to School Bash on August 5th. We will continue to have youth Sunday School for middle and high school students in the summer as well as our Jumpstart service.

As we have fun at these summer activities, I am also excited for our upcoming fall season. I am excited to see new 6th grade students and their families join the youth group. Our youth leaders and I have had countless discussions about our future of the youth group and these students. We have been praying for them and their families and we are very excited for what they will bring to this ministry.

Parents, I mailed out a packet that included a letter about the Higher Education Grant Fund, the by-laws, and an enrollment form. The form needs to be filled out and returned to the church office by July 1, 2018, for your student to be eligible for earning points for the HEGF. If you need another form please let us know at the church office, and we can give you another one.

Some important dates to remember:

- **July 12-15** – Rally on the Mount – a youth event from our West Virginia Conference for middle and high school youth. Registration is \$150 which includes a t-shirt, all meals Friday, breakfast on Sunday and all activities.
- **July 16-19** – VBS – This is a great opportunity for our students and parents to volunteer and invest in the children of our church and community. Please see Barb to discuss how you can help that week.
- **July 29th** – Jumpstart at 9:30 AM.
- **July 31st** – Carowinds - \$34.50 per person, if we get the group rate of 15 people. Please RSVP for this by July 16th.
- **August 5th** – Back to School Bash – the first official youth event for our new 6th grade students.
- **August 8th** – First youth meeting from 6 PM to 7:30 PM.
- **August 15th** – Youth Parent & Volunteer Meeting at 5:00 PM before youth group.

Thank you!

MINISTRY UPDATES

Children's Choir (Sherrie Price)

Mark your calendars!

Children's Choir
will resume on
Wednesday,
August 15th



All children in grades 1-5 are invited to join.

This music ministry is a group of committed and dedicated children who love the Lord and share that love with the congregation. They work hard and prepare for their active part in worship. Although they are little, they are a **BIG** blessing to our church!!

Contact person: Sherrie Price, 304-922-8785

Thread Loving Crafters (TLC)

Thank you so much for your donation of plastic bags for our homeless mat projects. We are currently fully stocked and won't need any more for a while. Please let us know if you would like to learn the process of turning the bags into "plarn" or if you would like to do some weaving! This is a project that can be taken home with you as we have looms available for loan.

Some important upcoming dates:

- TLC will be represented at the Mercer County Fair at PikeView High School on August 3rd and 4th. If you visit the fair, look for our display!
- Our 4th Annual Blanket Day will be October 20th. More details to follow!

We also continue to work on our usual projects of hat and scarf sets, prayer shawls, infant items for local hospitals, and more. Have a new project idea? Let us know!

Church Library (Jerry Flanagan)

A Request for Help!

If you have a few minutes, enjoy some time looking through the church history by way of the picture albums located in the church library. In order to complete the collection, we are currently looking for volunteers to arrange remaining old church pictures into photo albums. (Albums and pictures will be provided.) The photo albums will be added to the existing collection in the church library that was compiled by Clem Crowe. Please contact Jerry Flanagan (304-487-1089) if this is a project you would be willing to undertake.

College News (Patty Flanagan)

Several young members of our church family will be spending July perhaps feeling various states of excitement, sadness, fear, and anxiety as they ready themselves to start their first college experience. Please be in prayer for the following students as they make the transition.

Brooke Henkes will be attending Johnson and Wales majoring in Management

Rachel Johnson will be headed to West Virginia University studying Journalism

Madison Knight will be attending Marshall University for a double major in English and International Affairs

Stephen Linkous will be headed to Marshall University majoring in Accounting

McKenzie Olonko will be attending Fairmont State studying Graphic Design

Micah Todd will be attending Concord University majoring in Psychology

Parish News (Janet Painter)

Our partnership with the Parish House is continuing to flourish, thanks to your generous donations of time, food, and clothing. There are items from the shopping list, travel size toiletries, and clothing being transported to the House almost every week. Thank you for keeping this ministry in mind as you shop. And hopefully in your prayers, as well.

There was an informational meeting held last month to discuss First Church becoming more involved with the House. Several people attended. More accurate information was given regarding the opening of the House on Tuesday. To not overwork the volunteers, the Parish House Committee decided to leave the hours as Thursday noon to 2:00. It was not for lack of volunteers, as erroneously stated previously, but due to lack of participation by the clients of the Parish House. I apologize for the confusion.

Anyone interested in volunteering can show up on Thursdays from about 11:00 until 2:00. Someone is there in the main church building at the door under the sign for Kee Street Church and will gladly point you to a place either sorting clothes or bagging food for the clients.

In other Parish News, the United Methodist Women provided the meal for the monthly Community Dinner held at Kee Street Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, June 20. Hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, chips, and cookies were served to a crowd of about 75.

Thanks, Ladies (and gentlemen) for sharing your love of local mission with the community.



FIRST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PREPARED AND SERVED THE JUNE COMMUNITY DINNER AT KEE STREET.

ATTENDANCE FOR MAY-JUNE 2018

| May 2018 | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| Date | Sunday School | 10:50 Worship | Online | Worship Total |
| 5.6.18 | 45 | 131 | 23 | 154 |
| 5.13.18 | 108 | 205 | 21 | 226 |
| 5.20.18 | 61 | 139 | 22 | 161 |
| 5.27.18 | 42 | 101 | 18 | 119 |
| June 2018 | | | | |
| Date | Sunday School | 10:50 Worship | Online | Worship Total |
| 6.3.18 | 38 | 127 | 20 | 147 |
| 6.10.18 | 47 | 92 | 21 | 113 |
| 6.17.18 | 72 | 146 | NA | 146 |
| 6.24.18 | 50 | 101 | 17 | 119 |



CHURCH YOUTH WORKING AT TENDER MERCIES FOOD BANK



VOLUNTEERS WORK ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July Anniversaries

July 01 – Jerry & Patty Flanagan
 July 07 – Timmy & Christa Fama
 July 11 – Jerry & Cathy Linkous
 July 14 – Andy & Kelsey Sarles
 July 16 – Cory & Amy Williams
 July 19 – Jim & Gail Burks
 July 23 – Joe & Lisa Bowling
 July 29 – Will & Pam Stafford

July Birthdays

July 01- Jillian Biggs
 July 02 – Leah Johnson
 July 03 – David Graham
 July 05 – Colton Fix
 July 05 – Jeff McNew
 July 06 – Ethel McColgan
 July 07 – Bridgette Pendleton
 July 09 – Amy Williams
 July 12 – Amanda Wenisch
 July 13 – Ronda Veneri Clark
 July 13 – Krista Fix
 July 14 – Buster Brown
 July 14 – Terry Childress
 July 14 – Peggy Lytton
 July 15 – Doris Bradley
 July 17 – Judi Carter
 July 18 – Lynn Veneri
 July 19 – Larry Cook
 July 21 – Barb Ballard
 July 21 – Tom Bay
 July 22 – Chris Hersman
 July 22 – Scott Sears
 July 25 – Rose Ann Burgess
 July 26 – Faye Pullins
 July 31 – Sandy Veneri

August Anniversaries

August 01 – Brian & Ann Struble
 August 10 – Jamie & Laura Suroski
 August 13 – John & Sue Backus
 August 15 – Tony & Becky Veneri
 August 19 – John & Valeda O'Dell (57)
 August 20 – John & Kathy Clemons
 August 25 – John & Janet Painter
 August 26 – Jerry & Melody Jenkins

August Birthdays

August 01 – Bill Lewis
 August 01 – Randall Veneri
 August 03 – Bill Stafford
 August 04 – Patty Flanagan
 August 04 – Tim Merritt
 August 04 – Stan Tucker
 August 05 – Mary Ella Noel
 August 06 – Jackie Davis
 August 06 – Nancy Jones
 August 06 – Skip Owen (97)
 August 06 – Perry Stafford
 August 07 – Logan Austin
 August 07 – Tammy Hill
 August 07 – Tonya Hill
 August 07 – Brayden Quesenberry
 August 08 – Hattie Price
 August 08 – Joni Veneri
 August 10 – Jerry Evans
 August 13 – Jenna Bowling
 August 14 – Sharon Croy
 August 14 – Shirley Evans
 August 16 – Layne Veneri
 August 18 – Edie Carr (93)
 August 19 – Nancy Clark
 August 19 – Todd Craft
 August 22 – Carson Hamm
 August 23 – Pam Stafford
 August 24 – Carol Lani Arnett
 August 26 – Jamie Suroski
 August 27 – Elliott Bowling
 August 29 – Allie Sears
 August 31 – Betty Sue Bolen

CALENDAR

Click the image below to access our
online calendar.

