

THE REMARKER

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Upcoming Events

Upward Games

January 4, 11, 18 beginning at 9am

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 beginning at 9am

Wednesday LINC (Learn Intentionally. Navigate Connections)

Open Library Hour: 5pm

Children's Fellowship Time (K-5th): 6pm

Children's Choir (1st-5th): 7pm

Youth Bible Study (6th-12th): 6pm

Adult Bible Study: 6pm

All LINC Programming begins January 8th except Open Library Hour which resumes January 15.

Youth to Resurrection 2020 (TN)

January 24-26th

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020 ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
11.3.19	75	174	17	12.1.19	59	164	21
11.10.19	53	170	19	12.8.19	61	172	20
11.17.19	47	154	19	12.15.19	45	156	24
11.24.19	43	146	20	12.22.19	57	201	20
				12.24.19	--	205	16
				12.29.19	48	140	19

TRANSITIONS

New Member - Transfer from Another United Methodist Church

Beverly Carpenter

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

A gift was given to the Odell Huffman Scholarship Fund in loving memory of Eleanor Meadows by Terry and Geraldine Childress.

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Greetings in the Name of the One Who Loves Us with a Mighty Love!

REV. THOMAS MCDOWELL, PASTOR

Office: 304-425-2283 * Email: tdmcdowell1982@gmail.com * Cell: 304-991-1900

A new year has begun and it offers time to reflect on the things we value, especially how we might be even more generous with our tithes, gift offerings, talents, and time. Generosity in the church is a distinctive Christian practice that affords us the opportunity to contribute to a partnership ministry. We are partners in a ministry that reaches people in our local community and the world.

During this new year, I want to invite you to reflect on your gifts to God. The ministries of this church help us to **transform lives. We do not give for institutional survival; we give to support our ministries that foster change.** Our church has been blessed with many faithful people who give generously and I am grateful for every gift! When we give it provides the means to fund ministries, pay operating costs, and maintain our facilities; however, our giving does far more than this.

The ultimate goal is transformed lives - men and women, boys and girls, changed by the truth and power of God's Word. True biblical stewardship leads to the highest level of generosity. Christian generosity brings every aspect of a person's life under the Lordship of Christ.

When we take time to personally read and study God's Word, we discover the joy of giving. A few years ago, I

read an article that quoted statistics from George Barna's national research. In it he revealed that 52% of the people who read their Bible on their own were devoted givers to their church. The less frequently someone read the Bible, the less likely they would be faithful givers at church. The more an individual learns about God's perspective on life - the stewardship of giving and management of material possessions . . . they are more likely to have a heart for giving to God's work.

Christian giving is one of the barometers of our spiritual life. Martin Luther said, "People go through three conversions: their heads, their hearts, and their pocketbook . . . unfortunately, they do not go through these three conversions at the same time."

Our willingness to give to God **FIRST** and **FOREMOST** is a primary indicator of trust and faith in God. As we look to this new year, it is my prayer that you will rediscover what the Bible says about giving, and discern, pray, and experience the joy of Christian generosity.

In God's Mighty Grip!

Pastor Tom



BRANDON ROLAND, YOUTH DIRECTOR

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Sunday: 9:30am-Noon, 3:30pm-6pm

Happy New Year, Church Family!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and holiday season! Since the last *Remarker*, the youth group went to Ripley, WV, for Fall Workshop. We had 5 students go to our WV Conference's youth fall event. We had a great weekend that was full of fellowship, fun, and creating new relationships with students and leaders from across the state.

In December, Youth Bible Study did an Advent series where each week we discovered Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. The series aligned with Pastor Tom's sermons during the Advent season. The themes and history of these weeks were discussed on our students' level.

Bible Study and Youth resume on Sunday, January 5th and Wednesday, January 8th.

January 19th we will have a parents and students meeting for everyone who is going to Resurrection 2020 in Pigeon Forge, TN – January 24-26th.

Upward Basketball is off and running! The first week of games started Saturday, January 4th. Currently, we have about 190 playing basketball and 20 cheerleaders. Upward is a unique opportunity for our church to share the love of Christ through the game of basketball and cheerleading. There are many different ways that you can help and be involved with this ministry! I strongly encourage each of you to pray and consider how God can use you to help with Upward! Also, you can always ask those involved, church staff, or myself on how you can get plugged in!

Thank you for your prayers for the youth and Upward! I do ask that you continue to pray for our students in the Youth Ministry, the Upward Sports program, the volunteers and families associated with Upward Sports.

In Christ's Love,

Brandon Roland

THANK YOU NOTES

I want to graciously thank my church family for your thoughtfulness, kindness, prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and cookies during my illness. I want to especially thank Pastor Tom and the Handchime kids. It is very comforting to know that others care and show concern. I have been truly blessed with so many friends, and a special medical team at Wake Forest Medical Center. My cup runneth over. I greatly appreciate everyone for their concern.

Joe Hampton

Randy and I thank you so much for the beautiful cards and all your words of love for our family. Also, thanks for the goodies we found in the (Leaves of Love) bag! All of you remain in our hearts and our prayers. Such a wonderful and loving group of friends that shall ever remain in our memories of happy times.

Much love,

Randy and Rhonda Adkins



BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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Office Hours: Mon: 9-10am; 10:30-12pm; Tues: 1-2pm; Wed: 12-2pm, 5:30-8pm

Sunday: 9:30am-Noon

CFT Resumes January 8th at 6:00 PM

with a fun, new theme

"Escaping Egypt"!!



This winter's CFT session will take the kids through the trials and victories experienced by Moses as he led the Hebrew people out of Egyptian slavery.

The older students, who are now in the youth group, went through this study several years ago and I decided it was time to revisit these stories when the younger children didn't display a knowledge of this important chapter in Israel's history. Plus, with our wonderful actors who are willing to captivate the kids with their Biblical character portrayals, I knew we could provide many evenings of engaging storytelling.

In addition, we have willing parents and church family members who lead games, and facilitate craft activities while Stephanie Bowling generously uses her music and teaching gifts to lead theme-based music and movement sessions each week.

Miss Sherrie will be meeting with the children on Wednesday evenings following CFT, teaching worship music as well as preparing for the annual Mother's Day children's worship message, when they will be sharing their musical and dramatic gifts. This special morning continues to be an inspiring service for all of the church families, including some extended family.

Amy's House of Hope Mission Fundraiser

We'd like to express our sincere appreciation to the congregation for supporting the December children's bake sale, as it enabled us to exceed our \$100 goal and provide a generous donation to this worthy charity, which the children chose. I am very proud of them for having a heart for local missions!

January Anniversaries

January 2 – Darryl & Mary Frances Morris
 January 5 – Mike & Kathy Quesenberry
 January 15 – Terry & Peggy Wells
 January 18 – Tom & Kim Bay
 January 19 – Bob & Martha Lohr

February Anniversaries

February 2 – Chris & Twyla Hersman
 February 14 – Larry & Jean Rhodes
 February 24 – Tim & Cheryl Merritt
 February 26 – Alden & Kay Presley

January Birthdays

January 2 – Brent Veneri
 January 3 – Brad Veneri
 January 4 – Anna Burger (95)
 January 8 – Owen Biggs
 January 9 – Jordie Veneri
 January 10 – Tom McDowell
 January 11 – Sahara Stanley
 January 14 – Lynsey Artrip
 January 15 – Larry Rhodes
 January 16 – Will Stafford
 January 16 – Janet Thurmer
 January 18 – BJ Roland
 January 18 – Bill Wilson
 January 19 – Brandon Beachler
 January 19 – Kelly Beachler
 January 20 – Dawn Graham
 January 20 – Chris Knight
 January 20 – Erin Sears
 January 23 – Rhonda Clark
 January 24 – Glenna Belcher
 January 24 – Jonathan Williams
 January 25 – Randy Adkins
 January 25 – Barbara Phillips
 January 26 – Nancy Moore
 January 26 – Ramona Stanley
 January 27 – Debbie Massie
 January 28 – Lee Elmore
 January 29 – Alex Bay
 January 29 – Allison Beachler
 January 29 – Kay Presley
 January 30 – Madison Knight
 January 31 – Gail Burks
 January 31 – Christa Fama

February Birthdays

February 1 – Bob Davis
 February 3 – Karen Thorn
 February 4 – Vicky Bradley
 February 5 – Ann Graham
 February 6 – Savannah Knight
 February 7 – Heather Austin
 February 7 – Debbie Gillespie
 February 7 – Ellen Knight
 February 8 – Wilma Bowling
 February 8 – Peggy Edmunds
 February 9 – Dan Farley
 February 9 – Jerry Linkous
 February 11 – James Biggs
 February 11 – Danny McNamara
 February 18 – Mike Clark
 February 18 – Cambel Fix
 February 18 – Rodney Smith
 February 19 – Madison Austin
 February 20 – Norman Jones
 February 22 – Sandy Gay
 February 23 – Eva Gates (100)
 February 23 – Jaycee Pritchett
 February 24 – Terry Graham
 February 26 – Jeremy Wenisch
 February 28 – Betty Costello (93)

*If someone is missing or a correction is needed,
 please accept our apologies and call the church
 office.*