

THE REMARKER

Upcoming Events

Upward Awards

March 7, 11am - Gym

Gym will be CLOSED March 4-7.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

March 15, Following Service - Schell Hall

The youth will host their annual fundraiser for the Higher Education Grant Fund.

30-for-70 Fasting & Service Event

March 27-28, Campus-Wide

The youth will lead us in a 30-hour fast, while completing service projects, raising funds for Feeding Hungry Children, and collecting donations for Bluefield Union Mission and Tender Mercies.

Holy Wednesday Service ft. PSHS Madrigals

April 1, Noon - Sanctuary

FUMC Princeton will host a Holy Wednesday service on behalf of the Greater Princeton Ministerial Association (GPMA). A \$5 lunch will follow in Schell Hall. Proceeds benefit the ministries of the GPMA.

Easter Cantata

April 5, 10:50am - Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir and Drama Team will provide the message during Sunday Morning service.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 9, 7pm - Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

April 11, 11am - Lawn/Gym

Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast

April 12, 7am - Sanctuary/Schell Hall

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Greater Princeton Ministerial Association Lenten Events

Holy Wednesday Services at
Noon, followed by a \$5 lunch at
the host church.

March 18: Immanuel Baptist

March 25: First Christian Church

April 1: FUMC Princeton

April 8: Church of God (Mahood)

Crucifixion Reenactment

April 10, 6pm

Mercer Street

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

REV. THOMAS MCDOWELL, PASTOR

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Every year, the West Virginia Annual Conference throws a CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS EVENT, known as Music in the Mountains.

Local churches send a choir/music ensemble to a parish "hymn sing" to praise God and raise money for conference missions. Our Chancel Choir is busy preparing to represent us at the Princeton Parish event which you can attend on March 29 at 6pm at Bethel United Methodist Church.

The local church who raises the most money (per capita based on average attendance) for the selected Conference missions will get to move on to the District Event.

How You Can Help

1. Buy a Square for Our Music Ministries

Each square in our Celebration of Missions Event grid is worth the number on it. (Square 1 costs \$1.00, Square 22 costs \$22.00, etc.) We invite you to choose a square and decorate it with messages of encouragement and gratitude for our Music Ministries. After decorating, return your square back in the grid. Money and squares are due March 22! Please turn in your payment with an offering envelope marked "Music Square." This money will support the following Conference Missions:

New Vision Depot in Beaver, WV: This warehouse acts as the main hub for Disaster Relief Ministry of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Heart & Hand Outreach Ministries in Charleston, WV: This ministry provides a food pantry, emergency assistance, and thrift store.

2. Donate Flood Bucket Items

We want to send as many Flood Bucket Cleaning Kits to the New Vision Depot as we can. These buckets are crucial to provide

disaster relief for West Virginia residents who have been impacted by flooding.

The shopping list for these buckets includes:

- 5 gallon buckets with resealable lids (no screw lids)
- 32-64oz bottles of liquid laundry detergent
- 16-40oz bottles liquid concentrate household cleaner (no spray cleaners)
- 16-34oz bottles dish soap
- 4-8oz pump spray air freshener
- 6-14oz pump spray insect repellent (or pack of 10-20 wipes are also acceptable)
- Scrub brushes
- Re-usable cleaning wipes (no terry cloth, microfiber, or paper towels)
- Scouring pads (Scotch Brite type)
- Wood clothespins
- 50-100ft clothesline (cotton or plastic)
- Heavy duty trash bags (33-45gallon)
- N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3mm thickness)
- Kitchen gloves
- Work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)

Please have all supplies in by March 22. Our Youth will pack these buckets during their 30-for-70 event.

TO RECAP: Let's represent FUMC Princeton and support these important missions by buying squares and donating flood bucket supplies by March 22.



PSALM 30:4, NRSV

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BRANDON ROLAND, YOUTH DIRECTOR

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

Greetings Church Family!

This time of year seems to be the busiest time of year for me. Between the time of the last *Remarker* to now, it seems as though I am non-stop working with Upward and our Student Ministries. It is a hectic season and there are times I don't know if we will have enough volunteers, if we will be able to pull off games, or I worry about making sure the youth ministries doesn't skip a beat with everything else grabbing for my attention. I write all of this because in the midst of the chaos and worry, God still provides and shows His hand among the ministries that are working here at FUMC.

Our youth ministries and students continue to meet regularly on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. After Discipleship Training on Sunday Evenings we have opened the gym for our students and families to come and play basketball. We have had a great turnout and this continues to grow. It is encouraging to see families come and spend time together.



We recently got back from an incredible weekend at Resurrection in Pigeon Forge, TN. This is a conference put on through the Holston Conference. Rez was January 24-26th, and we took 36 people (15 leaders, adults, parents, and friends of the youth group and 21 students) to experience the four-session conference. The conference is split into two different sessions and I don't know exactly how

many people were there, but I would imagine that over 5,000 people attended each session for a total of 10,000 people coming to hear God's Word and worship Him in Pigeon Forge. Our students got to experience being the church as modeled after the first Christian Church in Acts. We fellowshiped, worshiped, learned, and studied Christ's teachings, cooked and ate meals, and had fun together! It was an incredible weekend where we got to experience the Spirit of God moving in the lives of young people and leaders by accepting Christ for the first time, rededicating their life, and answering the call to full-time ministry. Part of me felt bad for taking such a large number out of the congregation here at FUMC on that Sunday morning, but the other part of me felt terrible for everyone who couldn't be there with us and experience the weekend that we had together!

There are two events coming up in March where you can help support these amazing students! The first is our final Higher Education Grant Fund Fundraiser for the school year, which is our St. Patrick's Day Dinner right after church on Sunday, March 15th. All the proceeds will go towards the student's higher education after they graduate from high school. The second is our annual 30-for-70 fast. This is a 30-hour fast where our students have a friendly competition and raise money for our Feeding Hungry Children ministry. All the money collected at this event goes right to Feeding Hungry Children and helps them continue to feed children in Mercer County schools with the food bags that get delivered every Friday. If you already give to or want to give directly to Feeding Hungry Children, this would be a perfect way to be part of the fun and competition and find a student to donate the funds through in the month of March. 30-for-70 will be Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th.

Upward Basketball is nearing the end of the season with only one Saturday of games left - Feb 29. We will have our Upward Awards Celebration on Saturday, March 7th. At the Awards we will celebrate our young athletes and cheerleaders as well as enjoy the entertainment and gospel presentation from Epic Entertainment.

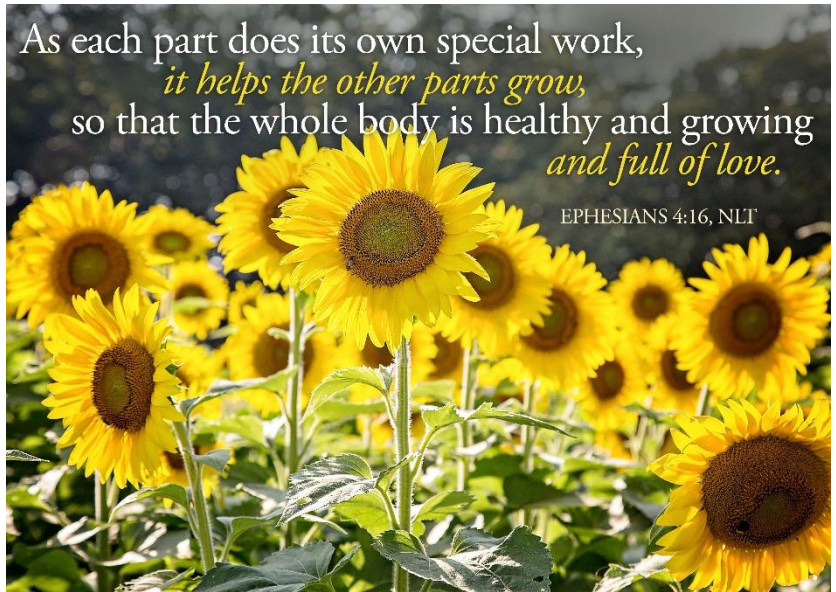
As always, I thank you and appreciate your prayers and support for both the Youth Ministry and Upward Basketball. I cannot thank enough the volunteers who have come out to make this Upward season a success thus far! I ask for your continued prayers for our youth and the families of Upward and that Christ's love will be revealed through every aspect of this ministry.

In Christ's Love,
Brandon Roland

A Reflection and a Thank-You

My last day as Church Administrator is February 27. Over two and a half years ago, I got a call late on a Sunday evening asking me to fill in for a week, and I'm only just now leaving. My time working in the office has been such a blessing. Your staff members at FUMC, past and present, have all been such committed partners in ministry with giant hearts, and working with them has been some of the most fulfilling work of my life.

I take with me so many lessons, but the one I want to highlight here is just how many loving and hard-working volunteers make this church go. Early on, I was astounded by how much is done invisibly by people who quietly go about duties that must be completed. From walking the campus twice a day to check for problems, emptying dehumidifiers, weeding flower gardens, crocheting and sewing and weaving, blowing leaves, preparing the chancel and sanctuary, cleaning the pews, working on the website, making magic happen in the tech booth, greeting



guests, giving tithes and offerings, serving on committees, coming to meetings, packing and delivering food, making tough decisions, singing, playing, directing, acting, visiting your stressed out administrator with coffee or avocados or a laugh, taking donations to the parish house, folding issues of *The Remarker*, donating your time and expertise, counting money, maintaining the membership book, visiting the homebound, preparing bereavement dinners, praying, visiting, calling, sending cards, teaching, checking a box on a Connect Card and showing up, and on, and on – this church and its mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ relies on all of you. Time and time again, I've seen you answer the call.

In his book *Living Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our community is in Jesus Christ alone, the more calmly we will learn to think about our community and pray and hope for it."

The unexpected blessing of this job has been the revelation that so many people can come together because of what Jesus has done and continues to do for them. His love drives people with different opinions and thoughts and priorities and desires to join hands with Him and *do the work*. It can only be Him. My hope is that we continue to see Him in our brothers and sisters in the pews and those who walk by us outside these walls. My prayer is that we see Him even more fully each day and submit to the truth that a church, that the Church, belongs to Him – is His very body, and not ours.

I don't know how to thank each and every one of you for how you've given me grace, taught me about love, and helped me in countless ways, but that won't stop me from trying with the simplest expression: Thank you.

And I thank God for you because each and every one of you belongs to and is so fully loved by Him.

-Amanda Wenisch



BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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Sunday: 9:30am-Noon



We Escaped from Egypt!!

With the wonderful involvement of our talented church family and parents, the children were enabled to experience the ups and downs, and trials and tribulations faced by the Israelites as they were led by Moses in their escape from Pharaoh's tyrannical rule.

Engaging storyteller Becky Kidwell began our journey by relating how Moses' life was spared by being placed in a basket by his mother and sister (Stephanie Bowling and Kaitlyn Artrip), traveling down the Nile until he was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter (Ella Bailey). The following week, Becky Veneri, dressed as a beautiful Egyptian, explained the vast differences between the daily lives of the Egyptians and the Israelite slaves and later, at the end of the session, provided the experience for the children of being supernaturally fed the miraculous fare from heaven of manna and

quail each day. Tom Bay, being fanned by slaves (Jersey and Jilly Pritchett) portrayed a very scary Pharaoh, describing his dealings with Moses as he was interviewed by Joanna Williams. Larry Cook joined us this evening by recording this interview and we are thankful to him for posting it on our website. We are grateful to Roger Topping for playing God, as he encountered Moses at the burning bush, as well as Moses as he led his people through the Red Sea. The ever-versatile Bob Davis gave generously of his Wednesday evenings, playing different roles - Moses (three times!) and the Wilderness Whiner (three times!), who represented the complaining group of Israelites Moses dealt with each day. Retired teacher Jeff McNew was able to join us for the first time this session to share the serious consequences of breaking God's laws by setting off a mousetrap as he reviewed each of the Ten Commandments.

I felt like it was a miracle that we had enough volunteers to provide an experience for each plague in several different locations throughout both church buildings! Many thanks to Marcia Anderson, Martha Cook, Patty Flanagan, Cathy Linkous, Vicki Horton, Lynsey Artrip, Robin Bailey, Stephanie

Bowling, Adam Sarver, Grace and William Farley, and Bob Davis for bringing the effects of each plague to life in this engaging and memorable lesson.

Martha Cook faithfully listened to the weekly Bible verses, as well as keeping track of the kids' church participation points for which they will be rewarded with prizes thoughtfully purchased by Martha on Show Off night.

Marcia Anderson continued to provide weekly support with both preparation and station management and spent weeks looking for appropriate treats and gifts to help the children remember the events Moses endured on his journey to freedom. Her treat bags are always a hit on Show Off night.

Both of these ladies enhance the CFT sessions tremendously with their wealth of experience and commitment to the children's Bible learning.

Finally, I can't thank Stephanie Bowling enough for her recently-added, weekly music station, which has proven to be a very enriching CFT station. Reviewing the lessons through song has reinforced this theme and introduced the kids to the history and culture of the Israelites during this challenging time. She went above and beyond in explaining the meaning of the lyrics she introduced.



Stephanie was joined by Rick Dooley on guitar in recent weeks, as they worked together to prepare for their opening song on Show Off night! We are very grateful for Rick accompanying us on the "Pharaoh" song, which definitely kicks up the performance a notch!!

Show-Off Night is Scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th, at 6pm in Schell Hall

CFT families, program storytellers and leaders, and Pastor Tom's Wednesday night Bible study are all invited to join us in Schell Hall at 6:00 PM for this "Escaping Egypt" celebration. The children will be singing, visiting the prize room, and receiving their treat bags.

Grace and William Farley will be bringing delicious chicken and casseroles from Cheddar's. We will have other fare that both kids and adults should enjoy. I am extremely blessed to have been joined by so many willing friends and families as we joined Moses in his miraculous journey, concluding with this special and fun evening.

COLLEGE NEWS

Graduation Announcement! Jordan Stadvec will be graduating from the University Of Cincinnati Conservatory Of Music at the end of April. She will have earned an AD (Artist Diploma) in Opera. Jordan plans to remain in Cincinnati working as a freelance singer and teacher. She has already been scheduled to perform in Blacksburg, Virginia, in June, so look for information about that production as the time gets closer. We were abundantly blessed with her beautiful voice while she was with us serving as Choir Director. Congratulations, Jordan!

Watch for more graduation announcements in the next newsletter.

LIBRARY NEWS AND STUFF (Jerry Flanagan, Librarian)



March 8, 2020 is International Women's Day

The church library in the Family Ministries Center is open on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. A library "staff person" will be available to assist with finding and checking out books and other resources. Training on the use of the church electronic card catalog will also be available. Entry to the Family Ministries Center building will be through the back door of Schell Hall. The library will be closed if Mid-

Week Bible Study is not meeting, so check your "What's Happening" tri-fold in your Sunday bulletin for scheduling.

An Amish Year, by Beth Wiseman, is now available in the church library. Beth is an award-winning and bestselling author. *An Amish Year* contains four romance stories titled, "Rooted in Love," "A love for Irma Rose," "Patchwork Perfect," and "When Christmas Comes Again." If you would like to have your own paperback copy of *An Amish Year*, write "Amish" on your Sunday Connect Card near your name. The library has ten copies to give away. (By the way, there are currently 59 Amish novels in the church library. You can check out the titles of these Amish books before you come to the library by going to the church web page and hitting the LIBRARY button. Scroll down the page till you come to a picture of the card catalogue. Click on this picture and the card catalogue search engine for the library will appear. Type "Amish" in the search box. Now you can see all 59 titles of Amish fiction that are in the library. Also, you can now search the entire library collection!)

Three copies of *To Touch the Hand of God* by Eugene J. Phelan, have been donated to the FMC Library and The Library Den (Children's Library). These beautiful children's books have all been signed by the author. Thank you Dreama Denver for this donation!

THREAD-LOVING CRAFTERS

We encourage you to invite a friend or relative to join us during our Thursday evening (2nd and 4th weeks of the month) or every Friday morning meetings. We continue to make: hats and scarves, baby hats, prayer shawls, prayer squares, afghans and lap throws, Quilts of Valor and lap quilts, **Friends, Memories, and Connections.**

THANK YOU NOTE

We would like to thank our church family for the many calls, cards, thoughts, prayers and visits we have received over the last two weeks. Also thanks to Pastor Tom who provided us with comforting prayers and visits during Ott's final days and at the funeral home. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all.

JoAnna, Sallie and the Fredeking, Graham, Imrich, Sigmon, and McClaugherty Families

TRANSITIONS

In Memory

Jean Holliday Bailes April 14, 1924 – February 12, 2020

Stewart "Ott" Fredeking April 14, 1938 – February 5, 2020

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

A gift was given to the Higher Education Grant Fund in memory of Clyde and Ina Farley by Judith Farley Fleming.

A gift was given in memory of Dr. O.J. Bailes by Robert and Karen Taylor.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020 ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
1.5.2020	52	137	27	2.2.2020	58	154	30
1.12.2020	57	157	22	2.9.2020	62	198	27
1.19.2020	55	136	28	2.16.2020	55	161	25
1.26.2020	46	117	24	2.23.2020	51	159	24

GLORY SIGHTINGS from 2019

As a congregation, we should give thanks to God for allowing us to reach our goal of paying 100% of our Conference Apportionment in 2019 – a figure just over \$98,000. This money helps fund ministry throughout West Virginia and mission work throughout the world. Thank you for your faithful attention to being good stewards which allowed us to reach this goal.

The Community Emergency Assistance Fund (CEAF) continued to make a difference in the lives of our greater community last year. This fund is supported by your faithful giving to our General Fund; it is included as a line item in our general budget.

In 2019, our church helped with 190 cases of emergency utility assistance. Of these, there were 167 unique households; 17 households received assistance more than once. With this fund, we are able to help families avoid utility disconnect, reconnect services, and place deposits on new services. Families are referred to us by DHHR, domestic abuse advocates, food banks, CASE WV, and other churches. Our pledges combine with those from other churches and assistance agencies to make this happen – it is truly a community effort that God works through!

March Anniversaries

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

March Birthdays

March 1 – Anna Johnson
 March 2 – Janet Winfrey
 March 3 – Jim Burks
 March 4 – David Johnson
 March 4 – Bob Lohr
 March 4 – Keri Lytton
 March 5 – Bryce Veneri
 March 6 – Wayne Barth
 March 6 – Martha Cook
 March 7 – Megan Hersman
 March 7 – Emma Johnston
 March 9 – Kathy Clemons
 March 11 – Brenda Lohr
 March 13 – Rachel Johnson
 March 13 – Mary Frances Morris
 March 13 – Jean Rhodes
 March 15 – Austin Smith
 March 16 – Becky Kidwell
 March 20 – Patty Holland
 March 21 – Lucille Reynolds (98)
 March 22 – Tex Kennedy
 March 24 – Mona Lester
 March 26 – Sue Backus
 March 26 – Jerry Jenkins
 March 27 – Alston Sarver

April Anniversaries

April 1 – Ann & David Graham
 April 14 – Sandy & Randall Veneri (60)
 April 15 – Pat & Lynn Veneri (55)
 April 26 – Lee & Nathan Elmore (63)

April Birthdays

April 1 – Stephanie Bowling
 April 1 – Suzy Fry
 April 4 – Anthony Veneri
 April 6 – Barb Hampton
 April 7 – Greg Jessee
 April 10 – Kayla Thomas
 April 11 – Brandon Roland
 April 12 – Don Stanley
 April 12 – Ella Veneri
 April 14 – Carol Bailey
 April 15 – Logan Chapman
 April 15 – Michael Chapman
 April 15 – Ted Gillespie
 April 17 – Carol Ann Cook
 April 17 – Becky Veneri
 April 18 – Kathy Tucker
 April 19 – Jack Stafford
 April 21 – Jerry Childress (91)
 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 Costopolos
 April 26 – Rick Dooley
 April 29 – Nancy Duncan
 April 30 – Isaac Mick

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