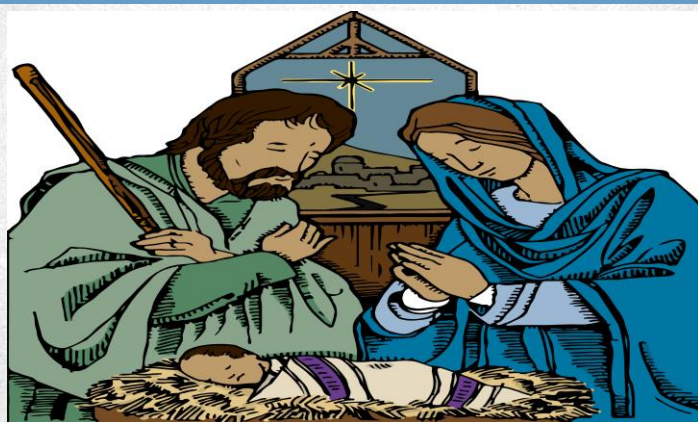


THE REMARKER



A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Princeton, WV

December 2021



Mark Your Calendar...

12.24.21 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Service begins at 7 PM.

Take Note...

TLC (Thread Loving Crafters) will not meet again until Thursday, January 6th.

Children's Hanchime Choir will not have practice for the remainder of December. Practice will resume on Monday, December 10th.

True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,
Meeting their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time
That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.

Our Savior showed us how to live
With charity, faith and service.
It makes the holidays a joy,
More peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is
About our Savior's birth;
That's the way to happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

By Joanna Fuchs

www.poemsource.com



100 Center Street / P.O. Box 304
Princeton, West Virginia 24739
(304) 425-2283
fumcprinceton@gmail.com
princetonfumc.org



Greetings in the Name of Jesus the Messiah!

What a wonderful time of the year when we take the opportunity to remember God's greater gift of His one and only Son. As you read this Christmas greeting, it is my hope that your preparations for celebrating the birth of Jesus have been filled with many blessed moments of quiet and profound contemplations. You might be thinking "what quiet moments?" I know, each of us get so consumed with the various activities that when Christmas Day arrives, we just collapse into our favorite chair and breathe a sigh of relief!!

Too often, the days of Advent and Christmas are just filled with way too many things. Life happens, shopping is done, crowds are dealt with, online orders with shipping issues, and then there's the traffic. Oh, my goodness, can it get any more hectic? I am grateful for all of the time and energy you've given to our church. We've decorated, rehearsed, presented music and plays, studied, fellowshiped, and cooked our favorite recipes for the Christmas Dinner. Now it is time to step back and think on the true meaning of this wonderful season.

I would like to invite you to reflect on three simple things. Really, please take a few moments from the chaotic race to the finish line and think about these three things. *How has the birth of Jesus changed your life? How has a relationship with Jesus impacted your spiritual worship, and how has the new life He brings influenced your congregational life?*

I truly believe that these are worthwhile reflections. We can become so busy with our plans and festivities that we miss out on an important time of reflection. It really is about the birth of Jesus and how His life has changed ours forever! It is my hope and prayer that your reflections will forever change your perspectives. That's really what the birth, life, death, resurrection, and rebirth bring to each one of us.

I do wish you a very Merry Christmas. May these reflections give you the chance to refocus after a very busy time!!

In Christ's Love and Peace
Pastor Tom

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

A Message from the Director:

Hello Church family!

I first of all want to wish each of you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. We are reminded that humanity had to wait for so many years for the coming Savior in the form of a baby in a manger, and we also reflect on how we are now waiting for the return of that same Savior. During Advent we really focus on the waiting and planning of the coming Savior. I am excited for this Advent season as we plan and get to have a lot of Christmas services, programs and events that we didn't get to have last year. But, even in the midst of the activities and traditions slowly returning to First United Methodist Church, this Advent season I am reminded of how we are still waiting and planning. We have been waiting and planning to start up these traditions again, we are waiting and planning to have everything back in full force, but most importantly we are still waiting and planning for our Savior. We waiting and planning by finding new ways to develop young people and make them Disciples of Christ, growing their Christian education, strengthening their faith and building their community of support of fellow believers in Christ.

In Christ's Love,
Brandon Roland

Children's Ministry

During the school year, our children's ministry resumed at the start of the year with our annual community Back to School Backpack Giveaway. We were able to provide about 40 backpacks and school supplies to community children.

The children also started their Wednesday Night Bible Study in September. The first 4 week series that our children studied was "Choose Your Own Adventure" and they looked at different Psalms and Proverbs that helped show them how to make wise decisions and how we should look for God's direction before we choose the paths that we take. The second 4 week series that the children studied was "Big and Small" and they studied the story of Job. They learned how God cares about our feelings when big things are happening in our life, how God sees the big picture even though we don't understand what is going on in the moment, how God cares about our feelings even when we think those might be small issues to God, and how God has bigger plans for us than we could ever imagine. The 8 week Bible Study concluded for the semester with our Show-Off Event "Pick Your Path".

The children and children's choir also led worship for us twice this semester. The children were able to resume children's choir practices and they led worship on Children's Sabbath on October 17th and their service was titled "Daniel Wasn't Lion". And on December 5th our children participated in the church's Christmas Program with their musical titled "The Light Before Christmas." We want to thank Sherrie Price, Tom Bay, and the Tech Team for all of their hard work on both of those worship services!

The Children will get an Advent lesson during Sunday School and Children's Church in the month of December. The choir chime program has resumed and the children practice on Mondays after school. The Children's Wednesday Night Bible Study will pick back up in January after they return to school.

Please continue to pray for our children and their ministries here at church. We hope that we continue to see our families and we get others back. Pray for volunteers to help with the many aspects of this ministry.

Youth Ministry

In September, we kicked things off with a youth game night and then resumed our normal Bible Study times on Sunday Evenings and Wednesday Nights. The youth also has one fun activity at the end of each month. In October, we had our annual Murder Mystery Dinner “Like, Oh My Gosh... Murder” which was 80’s themed. In November, we were unable to have the WV Conference’s Youth Fall Workshop, so we hosted a Discipleship Now Lock-in at the church titled “Hidden in Plain Sight”. We had 3 lessons during the lock-in discussing how we shouldn’t be ashamed of Jesus and being a Christ follower, how we need to follow him without any shame or hesitation and how we need to find our light and let it shine for others to come and know Jesus.

On December 19, we will have our Youth Christmas Party from 5 to 7 PM. January 21-23, 2020 we are planning on attending the Holston Conference’s Resurrection event in Pigeon Forge, TN.

The youth have covered four different four lesson series through the semester and are continuing to meet in person. We have participated in several community service projects as well as helping with the ministries within the church and community service projects that helped our youth families.

Our youth group continues to grow closer together while at the same time welcoming in some new faces. They have been intentional in growing closer to God and growing in their walk with God. I ask that you pray for our young people as they have been navigating their way through this pandemic. Please pray that they continue to put God first, focus on their Christian education and make the proper choices and priorities in their life while following Christ.

Upward Basketball

We were unable to have Upward during the 2019-2020 season last year. We looked at several recommendations and guidelines from Upward, the local health department, and CDC and we sat down with church members who were involved with Upward. After extensive discussion, we came to the conclusion that we could have had a modified basketball season, but it would have cut time from the devotions and it took away from the ministry aspect of Upward. Upward has always been a ministry first. So, we decided to not continue with a season until we could safely offer a program that didn’t take away the ministry aspect.

This season we are preparing to slim things down but keep the ministry aspect, basketball and cheerleading. I took other things we discussed last year and put them in place for this season so we may provide a safe practice and game day space for players and their families. We held our evaluations and coaches meeting on November 11, 2021. Upward basketball teams are now practicing, and games will start on Saturday, January 8, 2022. We have 104 basketball players and 7 cheerleaders for the 2021 – 2022 season. Please pray that we will have a safe and successful season. Pray that children and families can experience the love of Christ through the sport of basketball and the interactions that they have with our volunteers and church family.



Feeding Hungry Children

First Semester Update:

School started after Labor Day this year for the first time in many years and quickly went into a few weeks of remote learning, due to a covid upsurge. Soon after the return to in-person school, the school staff was able to identify the children in need of food and provide numbers for our program. Feeding Hungry Children team members began packing and delivering weekend food bags to the four schools we serve in the Princeton area. The Board of Education recently received a grant and will be providing some of the food needed for our packaging. We appreciate their help since the price and availability of food supplies make things difficult. We also appreciate the financial support and prayers of our church family, and the faithful work of team members.



Transitions **2021**

In loving memory...

Evayne Chambers	2/16/2021
David Wesley Knight	2/20/2021
Edith Irene Earls	4/05/2021
Raymond D. Price, Jr.	4/14/2021
Anna Lee Mason Greer	5/15/2021
Margaret "Susie" Bell	7/05/2021
Barbara Hampton	7/25/2021
Paul Shannon Cline	10/16/2021

Higher Education

In recognition of our college students:

Logan Austin	West Virginia University
Madison Austin	Concord University
Makayla Chibuzo	Marshall University
Cade Fix	Concord University
Cole Hollifield	Marshall University School of Pharmacy
Taylor Horton	New River Community College
Rachel Johnson	West Virginia University
Rebecca Johnson	West Virginia University
Madison Knight	Marshall University
Sarah Linkous	Concord University
Stephen Linkous	Marshall University
McKenzie Olonko	Fairmont State University
Brayden Quesenberry	Virginia Tech University
Austin Smith	University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Brittany Smith	Washington and Lee
Cale Veneri	Concord University
Tanner Veneri	West Virginia University

Infant Baptisms

BYRON OLIVER PRICE

6/6/21

Parents: Seth & Lindsay Price

MILO PRICE ROLAND

8/1/21

Parents: Brandon & BJ Roland

ARLEY ROBERT SADDLER

12/19/21

Parents: Kory & Laurel Saddler



Attendance



July – December 2021

DATE	WORSHIP	ONLINE
7.4.21	59	64
7.11.21	91	66
7.18.21	100	58
7.25.21	72	58
8.1.21	111	64
8.8.21	101	74
8.15.21	78	48
8.22.21	74	72
8.29.21	79	66
9.5.21	61	54
9.12.21	63	72
9.19.21	54	58
9.26.21	52	82
10.3.21	66	74
10.12.21	78	84
10.17.21	100	72
10.24.21	71	72
10.31.21	77	65
11.7.21	72	66
11.14.21	82	62
11.21.21	89	66
11.28.21	94	62
12.5.21	105	60

Memorials & Gifts

Contributions made to the Youth Scholarship Fund (HEGF):

- **In Memory of Anna Lee Greer:** Glenna Belcher, Margaret Edmunds, Frances Jean Foster, Nancy P. Moore, Louise Matson, Gertrude Swim, Alice Thompson, and Mary Ann Thomas.
- **In Memory of Raymond Price:** Larry & Martha Cook, Betty Farley, Donald & Ramona Stanley, Richard & Renee Prutzman, Anthony & Rebecca Veneri, Brandon Hicks, Joyce M. Keneda, Bonnie Hatchett, William & Mona Lester, Benjamin & Sandra Gay, John R. & Janet E. Davis, Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Ann Melvin, John Frazier, and the Quail Valley Townhouse Complex.

Contributions made to Feeding Hungry Children:

- **In Memory of Barbara Hampton:** JoAnna Fredeking, Harry Farmer, Larry & Martha Cook, Jerry & Patricia Flanagan, Elizabeth A. Musick, James & Heather Austin, Marshall & Peggy Lytton, Mary Katherine Rader, Betty Farley, and Edward & Mary Ruth Austin.
- **In Memory of Renee Lester Simmons:** JoAnna Fredeking and Judy Fleming.
- **In Memory of James Southerland:** JoAnna Fredeking
- **In Memory of David Knight:** Robert & Barbara Ballard, Larry & Martha Cook, Jerry & Patty Flanagan, John Frazier, Gail Rector, Edward A. Austin, Kathryn B. Bayless, Glenna B. Belcher, Betty Neil Cutlip, Charles & Frances Foster, Linda Kennedy, Betty Farley, Harry Farmer, Suzy Fry, Sandy & Ben Gay, Kay E. Haddad, David & Sarah Johnson, Norman & Nancy Jones, Thomas S. Lilly, Cathy & Gerald Linkous, Marshall & Peggy Lytton, Nancy P. Moore, Elizabeth A. Musick, Thomas & Texas Reynolds, Jr., Donald & Ramona Stanley, Derek Craig Swope, Mary Ann Thomas, Evayne Chambers, Kathy Goodall, Mark & Revonda Wills, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Mercer County Adult Probation, and the West Virginia Judicial Association.

Gifts given to the Church Library in Memory of Buddy Fry, Randy Atkins, and Linda Hawkins: Jerry & Patty Flanagan.

Gifts given to the Youth Scholarship Fund (HEGF) in Memory of Clyde and Ina Farley: Judy Fleming

Gifts given to Feeding Hungry Children & Chancel Choir in Memory of Linda Hawkins: David & Ann Graham

If someone is missing from this list, please accept our apologies. We are happy to make the correction in our next newsletter, please inform the Church Office of any error, correction, or addition.

Birthdays

DECEMBER

Bailey, Tom	Hawkins, Christopher	Owen, Mike
Beachler, Randy	Hill, London	Price, Kristine
Belcher, Stan	Hunter, George Cameron	Robertson, Doris
Boyles, Ruth	Hylton, Donavin	Sarles, Reed
Chibuzo, Makayla	Jenkins, Griffin	Sarver, Janie
Cline, Shelley	Jones, Tyler	Sarver II, Jim
Cook, Rob	Kessinger, Dorothy	Satterfield, Jim Bob
Coulbourne, Pam	Kessinger, Jeff	Schaeffer, Eric
Davis, Louise	Linkous, Sarah	Smith, Elizabeth
Dunbar, Dorothy	Lester, Randy	Stafford, Abbey
Duty, Lisa	Lively, Cecil	Stafford, Dink
Erps, Donna	Lovely, David	Taylor, Irene
Farley, Kinleigh	Massie, Jr., Kelley	Tolley, Pat
Farmer Sr., Harry C.	McNew Cathy	Walthall, Jane
Fleming, Jim	Moody, Bonnie	Wells, Peggy
French, Ryan	Musick, Betty	Wiggins, Ruth
Harris, Virginia	Myers, Connie	Williams, Benjamin
Haway, Kathey	O'Dell, Stewart	Williams, Eleanor



JANUARY

Artrip, Lynsey	Elmore, Lee	Phillips, Barbara	Stanley, Ramona
Bay, Alex	Fleming, Judy	Pilkins, Chase	Stanley, Sahara
Beachler, Allison	Graham, Dawn	Presley, Sandra Kay	Struble, Zack
Beachler, Brandon	Imrich, Sadie	Repass, Claudia	Thurmer, Janet
Beachler, Kelly	Knight, Chris	Repass, Frank	Vaughn, Ashley
Belcher, Glenna	Knight, Madison	Rhodes, Robert	Veneri, Brad
Ben Chaabane, Zach	Massie, Debbie	Roland, BJ	Veneri, Brent
Biggs, Owen	McDowell, Tom	Russell, Harold	Veneri, Jordie
Burger, Anna	Mitchem, Danny	Russell, Sarah	Warf, Lindsey
Burks, Gail	Moore, Nancy	Sears, Erin	Williams, Jonathan
Clark, Rhonda	O'Dell, Angele	Shaffer, Sarah	
Collis, Teresa	O'Dell, Sarah	Smith, Shyanne	
Craft, Tori	Olonko, McKenzi	Stafford II, Will	

Anniversaries

DECEMBER

Austin, Jim & Heather	Thompson, Kent & Joanna
Ballard, Bob & Barb	Tucker, Stan & Kathryn
Knight, Chris & Stephanie	



JANUARY

Bay, Tom & Kim	Fields, Gene & LaVerne	Morris, Darryl & Mary Frances
Clark, Mike & Ronda	Lohr, Bob & Martha	Quesenberry, Mike & Kathy

First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 304
Princeton, WV 24740