

# The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

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

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 6

"HE WILL BE  
**GREAT**  
AND WILL  
BE CALLED  
THE SON OF THE  
**MOST HIGH.**"

LUKE 1:32



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## Church Conference

The Annual Church Conference for Princeton First United Methodist Church will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 12th during our normal worship service. Rev. Dr. Joseph Kenaston, Southern District Superintendent will be the presiding officer. Normally, we hold a Charge Conference that is limited to members of Church Council, however, **this year we are holding a Church Conference which will allow every member of the congregation to attend, have voice, and vote. Guests are also welcome to attend and worship with us as we care for the annual business of the congregation.**

## HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

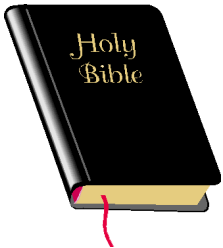
### Hanging of the Greens

Princeton First United Methodist Church will celebrate the decorations in our Sanctuary and throughout the campus with a special concert from the Princeton Senior High School Madrigals on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to invite friends and family to this special concert! (The Altar Guild and Altar Guild Auxiliary will be decorating following worship on November 19<sup>th</sup>.)

### Live Nativity

Our Annual Live Nativity (a reenactment of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem) will take place in front of the church (corners of Park, Mercer and Center Streets) on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Anthony Veneri is directing this year's Nativity and will be offering more information on sign-ups in the "What's Happening" pamphlet in our worship bulletin. (In case of bad weather, we will hold the Live Nativity on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.)

### December 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark Your Calendar - Christmas Dinner – Children's Program



*Our Children in grades 1-5 will be sharing:*

**A RED LETTER CHRISTMAS**  
*Arranged by Luke Gambill*



*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30*

So, as we look around, we see Christmas in all the pretty colors.  
The many colors help us remember the reasons we celebrate.

The ringing gold church bells, reminding us of the angels announcing Jesus' arrival. The greenery takes us to the hillside where the shepherds watched their flock. And, the red in the stripes of candy canes leads us toward the words in the Bible that Jesus spoke and the sacrifice He made to give us eternal life.

"A Red Letter Christmas" brings the story of Christ's birth alive with every color of the season. Please come join us, as we reflect on the wonder of Christmas with song and narration. Together, we will journey through the colors of Christmas. Our hope for this season is to ultimately point every heart towards the life and **WORDS** of Christ.

Immediately following the Children's Program, we are once again holding a "church wide" Christmas Party/Dinner. Sunday School classes and other groups within the

church are invited to celebrate together by decorating a table and then sitting together as a group during the festivities! This year, Kathy Tucker will be coordinating the Table Decorating Contest. (Applications for the Decorating Contest are due in by the end of the Hanging of the Greens Service on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.) Please remember there are no “losers” when it comes to this contest! Every table will be awarded special recognition.

Dinner will start at 6:30 pm in the Family Ministries Center gym. *You may drop off your food prior to the program as there will be people available to make sure it stays warm and gets set out in time for the dinner!* This will be a fabulous night of fun and a great way to start the Christmas celebration as a church.

### **Christmas Eve**

Please remember that we have two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve again this year. The first service will be at 7:00 pm and the second at 11:00 pm. Both will be candlelight services and we will Holy Communion at each. The second service is meant to have an informal dress code – please come as you are! *Please note that many people will be inviting guests to come and be a part of our worship experience for the very first time during one of these services. Welcome everyone around you to be sure you aren't missing the very special guest God is sending us!*

### **New Year's Eve**

A New Year's Eve worship service will be held on Sunday Evening, December 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



Christ is  
**BORN**  
WONDERFUL  
COUNSEL  
MIGHTY GOD  
EVERLASTING FATHER  
PRINCE OF PEACE

## **NOT QUITE HOME**

*Thoughts from Pastor Scott*

“Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 CEB

October 17th was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the evening that Pam and I were joined together by our promises and God’s presence as husband and wife. Every year that date rolls around I am able to give thanks to God for the beauty that he brought to my life in Pam and for the many blessings we have shared together – the places we have lived and served, the children we still enjoy, the passage of quiet time together and the confidence of knowing that someone is always, always in our corner.

Sometimes, it’s easy to give thanks. October 17th of any year...I can do that.

December 15th is coming closer even as I write this. That’s the day that my Dad died. I know that when the day comes again this year I will be a little bit deeper in the “remembering” stage of our relationship. Some of those memories are some of the best of my life – winning a father-son bake-off together, learning to drive, just sitting around talking. And some of those memories are not so good. The memories leading up to December 15 among them.

Sometimes, it’s not so easy to give thanks. December 15th of any year...I know that.

This past Fall I have had some interesting health battles. I will spare everyone the details. (Believe me, this is harder to do than you imagine, since it goes against the way my Dad handled things and I just finished writing something about him!) The fact of the matter is that I went through a lot of pain, a surgery, a recovery that took me longer than I EVER anticipated, and the lingering cloud of “this could all happen again sometime” as my final diagnosis.

Sometimes, it’s hard to give thanks when you are going through health problems.

At the same time, however, I learned a great deal during this illness. I learned to really, really appreciate how much the human body needs water. I learned that you can call a District Superintendent at four o’clock in the morning and they will still talk to you later in the month. I learned that my spouse’s patience with me in a “post-surgical state of mind” is as close to God’s grace as I will probably ever experience in this

lifetime. (Yes, there is a great story there, but I will save it for another day.) Despite everything that I was going through, I learned that there were things for which I could be very thankful.

Sometimes, it's not so hard to give thanks when you are going through health problems.

When Paul wrote the letter to the church in Thessalonica, he was focusing upon the relationships between people as they grew together in their faith. Walking this new "Way" of following Jesus was brand new territory for everyone in that church – whether they were Jewish or Gentile. Because they came from different backgrounds, had different experiences, and even understood the world around themselves in different ways, things would at times become tense. Disagreements would break out. Conflict would arise. Paul spent some time in this rather short letter trying to help everyone understand this new faith better but at the end he reminded them of the most important things.

Treat one another with love. Pray all the time.

And be thankful. Be thankful in all circumstances.

One of the things I recall best about my daughter Erin's recollection of her trip to Nicaragua several years ago was how "thankful" the people were. A family of four shared one helping of dinner while they gave Erin a full helping and they thanked HER for coming to visit. A woman cooked beans and rice every day to help feed people who were working at a dump to recycle trash into a living and she gave thanks for the people who came to share her food with her. Even Erin herself was changed by being surrounded by such thankfulness. When she came home, her favorite pair of shoes were ruined by being covered in dirt and trash, but she wouldn't throw them away – she saw too many shoeless children playing in the mud and debris or a trash dump, and laughing while they did so, to ever be anything but thankful for those shoes.

Be thankful. Be thankful in all circumstances.

Yes, we think of Thanksgiving in November and we prepare for the Holidays during this time of year and most of the time, it's easy for us to give thanks.

But as people of God, who have "real" relationships with family and others...as people of God who live in a world that is so focused on what divides...as people of God who struggle together to walk the way of following Jesus still today – Be thankful. Be thankful in all circumstances.

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



“Amish Country Crossroads” .....The winners of the drawing for a free book, AMISH COUNTRY CROSSROADS, by Beverly Lewis, are: Lee Elmore, Cheryl Merritt, Gail Rector, Mary Ann Thomas, Kathy Tucker, Amanda Wenisch and Kay Presley. CONGRATULATIONS!! P.S. We still have a few copies left. If you would like to have a copy, please put your name and the word AMISH on a piece of paper and place it in the offering plate.

**TLC News (Submitted by Kathryn Tucker)**

It has been a busy fall for the Thread-Loving Crafters! We participated in the Princeton Autumnfest celebration, held our 3rd Annual Blanket Day, and we continue to work on hats and scarves for the Feeding Hungry Children participants. We have also began a new project weaving plastic shopping bags into mats for the homeless. We have 4 looms for weaving, and we can always use volunteers to cutting and looping the bags to prepare them for weaving. You may also donate your plastic bags for this exciting project!

**College News (Submitted by Patty Flanagan)**

Our congregation has 30 college students currently working on higher education, but sometimes we discover a “non-traditional” student quietly working on an advanced degree. Securing that degree while working and raising a family is no easy task, so a big CONGRATUALIONS to....Chris Knight, husband of Stephanie and father of Madison and Savannah, who will complete a Master of Health Care Administration (MHA) in December.

**Attendance For September-October 2017**

ATTENDANCE – September 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
9.03.2017	48	152	13	165
9.10.2017	61	123	17	140
9.17.2017	41	138	18	156
9.24.2017	44	123	17	140
ATTENDANCE – October 2017				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM Worship	Online	TOTAL
10.01.2017	67	140	14	154
10.08.2017	50	133	21	154
10.15.2017	66	123	19	142
10.22.2017	58	138	16	154
10.29.2017	66	152	16	168

## MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Gifts gave been given

IN MEMORY OF

**Wanda Bradley**

to Feeding Hungry Children  
by Rose Ann Burgess

IN MEMORY OF

**Nancy Lytton**

to  
Memorial Fund  
by Randy and Mona Lester

IN MEMORY OF

**Edward Horton**

to Feeding Hungry Children  
by Jack and Carol Stafford



## TRANSITIONS

**Certificate of Transfer To Another United Methodist Church:**

John Michael White

October 3, 2017

## THANK YOU NOTES & LETTERS

Church, thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers. They really lifted my spirits. God does answer prayers!

Jan Wilson

*(Letters, continued)*

**Rev. Clifford Schell asked that we share this letter:**

I was fortunate to be the pastor at First Church for 12 of the 28 years Vicki Horton was employed as a Secretary-Treasurer-Administrator, changing titles and often adding responsibilities as time progressed. However, to Vicki the position in which she served was never looked upon as a job, but as a ministry. Her responsibilities were overwhelming and I marveled that she was ever able to get anything done with all of the distractions. First Church is a hub of activities and someone is always coming through the door or the phone is ringing. In addition, it was during this time that Vicki was blessed by becoming the mother of two great kids – Taylor and Betsy. Of course, that brought much joy, but also added responsibilities.

Nevertheless, I cannot ever remember a time when Vicki told anyone they would have to wait – that she was too busy at the time. She has a great love for people and always dropped whatever she was doing to take care of whoever came in, or who was on the phone, or what was being delivered to the church, or what another staff person needed.

Vicki always carried out her responsibilities with great proficiency and had a stick-to-it manner that would not let up until the task was done. She worked many hours each week than what her job description required. Being deeply committed to Christ and the church, she involved herself in other ministries of the church, in addition to her job responsibilities. I think the only thing I ever “fussed” at her about was her trying to do too much – and often doing it alone. Nevertheless, I knew I was wasting my time, because if she saw something that needed done, she was going to do it – whether it was costuming the Live Nativity Scene characters, weeding the shrubbery, cleaning up water that flooded the basement, servicing the van, or storing heavy boxes of supplies delivered to the church. Those things – and many other similar tasks – were certainly not in her job description, but she was always a “take charge” person to get the job done.

It was my good fortune to have worked with Vicki for the first 12 years she served First Church. Likewise, First Church has been greatly blessed by her many gifts and tasks performed over 28 years. Only God knows how many lives have been touched for good by her presence and ministries. Thank you, Vicki, for your years of service, for the ministries you have performed and the lives you have touched. Please know that both your life and your labors are greatly appreciated and that every good wish is extended to you as you enter this thing called “retirement,” – *whatever* that may mean.



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### November Anniversaries

11/2 – David and Carol Westfall (54)  
11/13 – Randy and Mona Lester  
11/17 – Will and Vicki Horton  
11/18 – Rick and Kathy Dooley  
11/21 – Robert and Terri Vest  
11/26 – Buddy and Suzy Fry

### November Birthdays

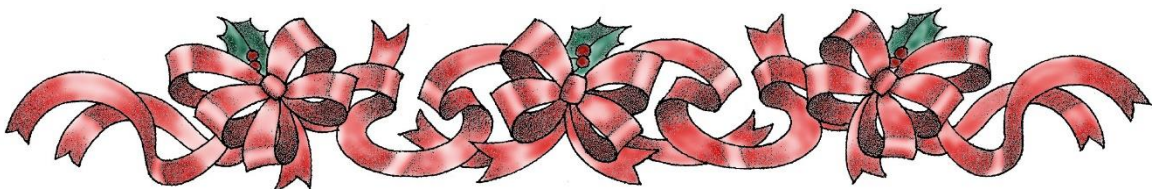
11/1 – Kathy Quesenberry  
11/4 – Delia Ben Chaabane  
11/4 – Carol Westfall  
11/5 – Marcia Anderson  
11/6 – Taylor Horton  
11/8 – Vicki Horton  
11/9 – Roger Topping  
11/12 – David Westfall  
11/13 – Becky Helmick  
11/19 – Elizabeth Hollifield  
11/20 – Griffin Biggs  
11/21 – Jerry Bailes (94)  
11/21 – Kim Bay  
11/22 – Timothy Farabaugh  
11/22 – Joanna Williams  
11/23 – Cathy Linkous  
11/25 – Valeda O'Dell  
11/26 – Brian Struble  
11/27 – Mike Quesenberry  
11/28 – Raegan Biggs  
11/29 – Kaitlyn Artrip

### December Anniversaries

12/18 – Jim and Heather Austin  
12/18 – Kent and Joanna Thompson  
12/19 – Chris and Stephanie Knight  
12/22 – David and Ellen Knight (61)  
12/22 – Stan and Kathryn Tucker  
12/29 – Bob and Barb Ballard

### December Birthdays

12/2- Eleanor Williams  
12/3 – Tyler Jones  
12/5 – Harry Farmer  
12/6 – Sarah Linkous  
12/6 – Kelley Massie  
12/6 – Peggy Wells  
12/7 – Randy Beachler  
12/7 – Jim Sarver  
12/9 – Cathy McNew  
12/10 – Evayne Chambers (91)  
12/14 – Randy Lester  
12/17 – Griffin Jenkins  
12/18 – Ruth Boyles  
12/20 – Betty Musick  
12/24 – Doris Robertson  
12/26 – Kristine Price  
12/26 – Ben Williams  
12/30 – Abbey Stafford  
12/31 – Janie Sarver



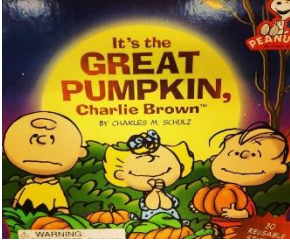


*Barbara Ballard, Director of Children's Ministries*

*Office Hours: Mon. 9-10 AM, 11:30 -12:30 PM, Tues. 1-2 & Wed 12-2*

*Cell (320-920-8186); office (304-425-0064)*

*Email: [fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com)*



### **A Chilly but Fun-Filled Trunk or Treat**

It seemed like the coldest evening of the season, but our dedicated group of volunteers did not let that stop them from welcoming and treating our own children and community guests at their creatively decorated trunks. Despite the frigid air, we hosted over two hundred guests at this annual outreach event. Once again, Brandon Roland organized the indoor game activities and families were able to enjoy a safe, festive, and fun fall celebration, during which they could purchase a delicious hot dog meal, served by the youth, which helped to raise money for their Higher Education Scholarship Fund. We are so grateful for the willingness of youth and adults alike to come out each year to make this special event run smoothly. The generous donations of candy and cakes for the cake walk by the congregation make this event affordable and it couldn't happen without your generous support.

### **Children's Fellowship Time "Show Off" Night with Olympics Closing Ceremony**

Our fall CFT session concluded with a fellowship dinner where we enjoyed food from Mexico, Italy, and the USA, to go along with our Olympic theme. The adult Bible study, parents, grandparents, children, and the actors who portrayed Biblical characters were all invited to attend this celebration. The children shared that they had learned that both Olympians and Christians must be strong, honest, leaders, finishers, brave, loyal, survivors, faithful, and clever, as the Bible champions Samson, Joseph, David, Paul, Esther, Ruth, Peter, Mary, and Rahab showed us. Our parent and church family actors truly made these stories come to life and we appreciate so much Bob Davis, Jason Pritchett, David Graham, Pastor Scott, Kim and Alex Bay, Lindsey Artrip, and Becky Kidwell for sharing their Biblical knowledge and storytelling gifts with the kids.



Once again, Miss Martha and Miss Marcia were key leaders and made this Wednesday night program a success. Miss Martha met individually with each child to

listen to the weekly Bible verse and record their attendance at church ministries. She then recorded the points they earn by participating in these activities, which accumulate to purchase items in the store on "Show Off" night. Miss Marcia provided creative crafts for each Bible Champion lesson, and often special snacks to go with the story. She is also responsible for the wonderful treat bags containing a gift for each story that the children take home at the end of the session.

The winter session of CFT will resume in early January. Watch for more information in the bulletin as we finalize our plans.



**Due to the increase in number of children and sometimes offering crafts which can require individual attention, we are looking for parents and adult friends to be guest leaders during our game and/or craft time one week during the winter session. We know you will have a rewarding and enjoyable experience working with this enthusiastic group.**

## **PARISH NEWS (SUBMITTED BY JANET PAINTER)**

November and December are traditionally very busy months for the Parish House (located beside Kee Street United Methodist Church). Now open twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 2:00pm, donations of food and winter clothing are needed to help fill the needs of the folks here in our own community. There is a special need for children's coats right now. If you have donations, please contact Janet Painter at 304-910-6214 to arrange delivery. A container for food donations will be placed in the hallway to the offices off the lobby. All nonperishable foods are needed for the months of both November and December.

In other Parish News, Sunday evening services are held throughout the various churches in the Parish. Members of First Church are highly encouraged to attend these lively meetings for a good Word, encouraging music and great fellowship. Each church does something different, so come enjoy the services.

November 5	Carr Memorial (Glenwood)	6:00pm
November 12	Kee Street	6:00pm
November 19	Mt. Horeb	6:00pm
November 26	Stinson (Thanksgiving)	6:00pm
December 3	Carr Memorial	6:00

## FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

**Brandon Roland**

**Office: 304-425-0064**

**Email: bgroland@gmail.com**

Hello everyone! It is hard to believe that it has already been about 2 months since I accepted this opportunity to be the Director of Youth Ministries. I want to thank everyone for their support and words of encouragement during this initial process. I am excited for the opportunity, and I believe that our youth has a lot of potential. We currently have a strong core group of young people who have a heart for Christ, serving others and care for one another. I am excited to see what Christ is going to do in each and every one of their lives and to help their relationship with Christ and each other grow. If you have a student in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and haven't been to any meetings lately, we would love to have you join the fellowship and fun.

**A new Sunday School curriculum** will be introduced in November called "The Tread" – a 52-lesson Bible Study that goes from Genesis to Revelation that will show the thread of the Gospel message throughout the entire Bible.

**On Wednesday evenings** the youth have been using "Fuel" – curriculum that presents topical discussions in regards to the Bible, Faith and discussion on issues the students may face on a daily basis.

**On Sunday evenings** the youth have been studying "The Life" - a 52-lesson study on discipleship which will help students learn how to take that next step in their Christian walk and be a disciple for Christ and His Church. On the last Sunday of the month the youth have a "Game Night" where we get a chance to fellowship with food, games and a lot of fun! In December we will have a Christmas party with a tentative date of December 15, 2017 at my house and we won't have a "Game Night" in December.

### **Upcoming Trips:**

**November 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Workshop** – The West Virginia Annual Conference's event where youth throughout the conference come together each fall to worship, pray and take a hands-on approach to life and faith through workshops. The conference is at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, WV. The cost is \$100 which includes admission, food for the weekend & lodging. To get a free t-shirt the students need to register online by November 1<sup>st</sup> through their Facebook page. Registration is open until the 17<sup>th</sup>, however the t-shirt would not be a guarantee if registered that late.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – tentative date for the Christmas Party at the Roland house.

**January 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Resurrection** – Retreat to Pigeon Forge, TN, where students and leaders will get to experience a weekend of worship and spiritual growth. The speaker is Rachel Billups and worship will be led by I Am They. Cost for the students as of now will be \$80 and due by Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. This will include the ticket for admission, lodging, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Students will be responsible for cost of fun activities if they chose to do any, snacks, and their lunch on Sunday.

# CALENDAR

Click the image below to access our online calendar.

