

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

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

MARCH – APRIL 2018

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 2

EASTER SERVICES

A Living Last Supper

In 1494, when Leonardo DaVinci was 42, he was commissioned by The Duke of Milan to decorate the dining room of the Covenant church, which was the favorite shrine of the Duke's young bride. An appropriate theme for this dining room, the painter chose The Last Supper. His painting was not intended to be a faithful reproduction of the original scene as it had taken place but as it might have taken place in 15th Century Italy. He chose what he considered the most dramatic moment of The Last Supper when Jesus said "One of you will betray Me." In this living dramatization, the Twelve Disciples speak about leaving a legacy as they contemplate their time spent with Jesus.

Maunder Thursday, March, 29th at 7pm

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 1st at 6am

(Breakfast to follow)

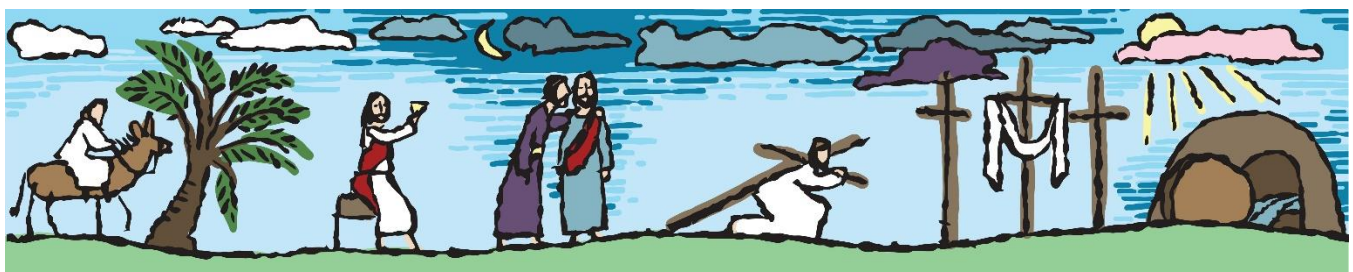
Church Sanctuary

Easter Service & Cantata

On April 1, Easter Sunday, our choir under the direction of Jordan Stadvec, will join Pastor Scott in bringing the good news of Easter during our 10:50am worship service.

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Holy Week Services

The Greater Princeton Ministerial Association (GPMA) will be holding worship services at Noon each day of Holy Week. The services, with the exception of the Friday reenactment of the crucifixion, will be followed by a meal at the host church. An offering will be received at each service and the meal will cost \$5.00. *The Friday meal will be a bag lunch served on the sidewalk in front of First UMC and will be free.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Program</u>
Monday (3/26)	Church of God (Mahood)	Norm Arrington
Tuesday (3/27)	Immanuel Baptist	Norm Arrington
Wednesday (3/28)	First Baptist	PSHS Madrigals
Thursday (3/29)	First Presbyterian	GPMA Singers
Friday (3/30)	Mercer Street	Reenactment of Crucifixion of Jesus



**Holy Week 2018
Community Dinner**
March 30, 2018 at Noon

On Good Friday, FUMC-Princeton will again provide bagged lunches to the community, following the reenactment of the crucifixion on Mercer Street. We need your help!

Donate

During weekly services, we have asked for bottles of water, cookies, Ziploc bags, or sandwiches. If you would like to donate and have not signed up to do so, please contact Ruth Boyles (304-716-6533) or Bridgette Pendleton (304-716-6542) for the most up-to-date needs. Water, cookies, and Ziploc bags can be dropped off during normal office hours on the week of March 26th. Sandwiches must be individually wrapped and delivered on the morning of March 30th.

Volunteer

We will need volunteers to help pack the lunches, as well as distribute them. Please contact Ruth, Bridgette, or the church office if you would like to volunteer.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Parish House – Ongoing Donations

The need for donations of food and clothing for the Parish House continues. All churches in the Princeton Parish have been asked to support this project on a continuous basis. A plastic tub to collect the food is in the Office Wing under the coat rack at the end towards the lobby. If you have clothing to be donated, please contact Janet Painter. Thank you for your continued support.



Welcome to Mercer Street's GrassRoots District; where Craft, Culture and Commerce come to thrive!

Did you know from our location on the corner of Park and Center, we are a part of the Mercer Street GrassRoots District?

"Princeton, West Virginia's downtown district embodies authentic Appalachia, embracing our homegrown heritage to provide a destination experience worthy of a

weekday, a weekend or even a lifetime. Drawing momentum from our bootstrap determination, a grassroots revival is unfolding, transforming this place with a sheer force of will resolved to make an impact. Our enthusiasm is drawing inspiration from the traditions of our past to help nurture a new nostalgia for downtown Princeton. Commercial vitality is branching out as new vendors crop up, joining stalwart businesses to reinvigorate and redefine the area. As locals harness their talents, we see a fresh future emerging based on the pride of craftsmanship passed down through generations." (From <https://www.facebook.com/grassrootsdistrict/>)

Many members of our church work directly with the community organizers involved with The Princeton Renaissance Project which drives this redefinition of the GrassRoots district. The businesses and residents around us are our neighbors, and we invite you to remember them as such. When you see the Mercer Street GrassRoots District logo in *The Remarker* or in our weekly bulletins, we hope it serves as a reminder to you to pray for our community and to pray for God to reveal ways that we, as a Church in the Heart of Princeton, can continue to be a part of its revitalization.

NOT QUITE HOME

A Message from a Fellow Traveler – Your Pastor

“Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb.

They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”

Mark 16:8

Of all the resurrection accounts, I must admit that this one from the “earliest ending” of Mark’s Gospel is my favorite. (If you want to know why I call this the “earliest ending, read the sidebar comment included with this article. I don’t want to get too distracted in telling the story.) I know that there are accounts of disciples running to and from the scene of the empty tomb. I know that there are accounts of women visiting the tomb and meeting mysterious strangers and even Jesus. There are the accounts of Jesus appearing to the disciples and Thomas. There is that wonderful account of Jesus telling Peter to jump out of a boat and meet him on the shore for breakfast.

Those are all good accounts of the Resurrection. But they are not my favorite. My favorite is Mark’s.

I like it first of all because the irony of the statement made by this gospel writer should almost make us all laugh with joy. The very idea that the writer says, “They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid” belies the fact that they told someone!! Despite their terror and dread and even their supposed silence, the women who went to the tomb told people about it being empty. If they didn’t, well, we wouldn’t have these words. I like that Mark ends his gospel with this ironic twist. I see it as a challenge to any of us who read the gospel. It is as if Mark is saying, “Okay. I’ve told you the whole story. I know it has affected you in some strange, mysterious way. Now, I dare you NOT to tell anyone else about it.”

If you have been touched by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, you can’t help but tell someone about it. I hope you see that irony. I hope even more that you live it.

The second reason I love this Resurrection account is because of the twist Mark gives in his “witness” to the

On the “End” of Mark

Although most translations of the Bible contain verse 9, usually twice, and verses 10 through 20, these verses are often, but not always, included in parenthesis. The reason for this is not clear to most readers unless they are using a good study Bible.

Most scholars believe that the earliest and most reliable copies of Mark’s gospel ended at verse 8. They base that upon evidence of the grammar used in verse 9 (either version of it) and because the overall style of Mark’s gospel was one of brevity and cutting things short.

The first verse 9 that is included in many Bibles appears to be a way of glossing over the ironic challenge Mark offers in verse 8. This was probably added by someone copying the scroll who made the very obvious assumption, “Well, that can’t be how the story ends.” And thus the rest of my article. The second verse 9, and the verses following it seem to build on that same need to finish things out and appear to be written at a time when the church was facing some fairly strong trials – thus the reference to both snakes and poison which were not there to encourage us to take up and/or ingest either, but are there to say, “God will see us through whatever we may face.”

Mark probably originally ended at verse eight.

Resurrection. There is no mention of disciples in this passage. There are just the faithful women who loved Jesus enough in life to be with him in death coming to the tomb and getting frightened. There are no men around to confirm the empty tomb. Peter? Not there. John? Nowhere to be seen. The profundity that the earliest proclaimers of Jesus' Resurrection were women should not be lost on any of us. Women were not considered reliable witnesses in Jesus' day and yet Mark lists the first three people to proclaim (well, they did eventually do it) the Resurrection as women. This should serve as a reminder to us that sometimes Jesus uses those seen as least likely in God's Kingdom.

I heard a bit a wisdom from a Baptist friend the other day that goes right along with this. "The whole idea of Jesus being Good News really made the most sense to the poorest people in Jesus' day. The Sermon on the Mount, the sacrificial love, and everything else about Jesus spoke most deeply to those who were the furthest out of society. It makes me wonder," he continued, "if those of us in middle to upper-middle class America can even hear the Good News the way Jesus proclaimed it."

Those words reminded me that even in the Resurrection, Jesus was choosing people we would most likely overlook to become the ones touched first by God's new Kingdom.

Finally, I love this passage the most of the Resurrection accounts because I think it contains the most hope of any of them. (Ah...I started with Mark's irony and I end with my own!) At first glance, there doesn't seem to be any "hope" proclaimed in this passage at all. Terror? Yes. Dread? Got that. Fear? It's loaded with it.

Then the story just stops.

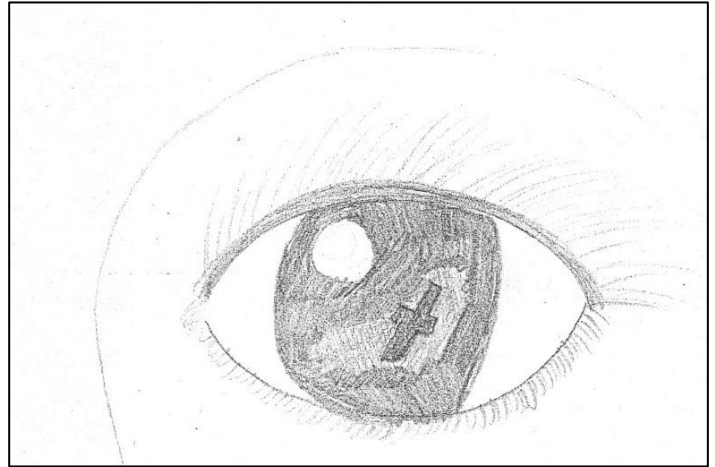
But that, my friends, is the whole point. It doesn't stop. We know the women tell their tale. We know the faith goes on. We know that this isn't the end. We know it still lives on today. And that reminds us that just when we think things couldn't get any worse, there is something more to come.

One of my favorite lines in popular music from the 1990s is "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." And that is exactly what this Good News is offering us. A new beginning that we can't see. A new beginning that came from another beginning's end.

That, my friends, is the epitome of hope.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Scott



CONNECT CARD ART BY SAVANNAH KNIGHT

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Brandon Roland

Office: 304-425-0064

Email: bjroland@gmail.com

Upward Sports Update

We are near the completion of yet another season of Upward basketball and cheerleading. This will mark 14 successful seasons partnering with Upward Sports. This season went very smoothly thanks to all your prayers, support and volunteer hours. I want to especially thank those who invested in our Upward program by coming out and volunteering all throughout the season, from volunteering in the concession stand, coaching, refereeing, giving devotions at halftime, keeping score, running clock, and just being there on game days to support our Upward participants and families. We will have our end of the year Upward Awards Celebration on Saturday March 10th at 1PM, and Upward Sunday will be March 11th. Even though this season has concluded, it is never too late to begin to pray for next season and the participants and families that we will see and get to share God's love to. Next season will be our 15th year partnering with Upward Sports and I am already looking for and thinking of ideas of how we can make it extra special and celebrating that partnership.

Resurrection & St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Our students in our youth group have been growing spiritually and continue to meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We experienced an amazing time at Resurrection in Pigeon Forge, TN, with each other through fellowship and worshipping God. We have since come off that mountaintop experience and have been diving deeper into the Word at Bible study. On March 18th you can support these incredible young people and their higher education by attending our St. Patrick's Day dinner right after church service. The dinner is donation-only and the students will be working with Bill Lewis to put together a delicious dinner for our church family, so come hungry!

30 for 70 Fast

Also, on the horizon is our annual 30 for 70 fast. This is an event that the entire church family can be a part of and attend. The event is on Friday, April 27th – Saturday, April 28th with a special 30 for 70 themed Jumpstart on Sunday, April 29th. The participants begin fasting at 1PM on Friday and we break the fast on Saturday at 7PM. This event allows those who participate an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for our very own Feeding Hungry Children ministry. As we fast we get to experience what hunger feels like with just missing 3 meals, and it puts you in the shoes of a child that we support through Feeding Hungry Children. It is also a time to fellowship, do service projects throughout our community, raise ministry items for Bluefield Union Mission and Tender Mercies, and have a lot of fun in the process! I want to invite our entire church to come and make a difference in our community that weekend. If you want to volunteer or help in any way, but may be unsure of how you can help, please ask or let me know!



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

"The Jesus People" Closing Celebration

Children's Fellowship Time will conclude our winter session with our "Show-Off" night in Schell Hall on Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM. We look forward to sharing a snack supper with parents, extended family, CFT volunteers, and the adult Bible study members.

During this study, the children have become familiar with many Bible characters from diverse backgrounds who all were touched and forever changed by their interactions with Jesus. We are extremely grateful to both parents and church family who have visited the children to share the individual encounters: Bob Davis, David Graham, Jason Pritchett, Becky Kidwell and Roger Topping, Tom, Kim, and Alex Bay, Jeremy Wenisch, Lynsey Artrip, and Randy Lester. Game leaders Mike Quesenberry, Jason Pritchett, and Jeffrey Roberts made this session active and fun. Craft leaders Kathy Quesenberry, Amanda Wenisch, Barbara Phillips, Dreama Swecker, and artist Amy Williams have enabled the children to creatively express their Bible experiences. We are looking forward to Christina Flanigan's visit in March, when she'll be sharing her expertise in working with blind students, as well as providing the children activities to experience her teaching methods.

Since our numbers have grown, having so many willing volunteers has truly been a God-send this winter! As always, Miss Martha has started the evenings listening to Bible verses and keeping track of the children's involvement in worship, Sunday School, and music activities for which they receive points to be redeemed at her ticket store on Show Off night.

Miss Marcia has been so faithful in being involved in planning and preparing for each Wednesday meeting and has prepared an amazing treat box for each child, including a treat or toy to help the children remember each Bible character's story for each lesson they were present to hear.

We are excited to celebrate with our special guests and hope many will be able to attend. The children's choir, under the direction of Miss Sherrie and accompanied by

a surprise guest musician will be sharing a special song that gives the Jesus people a mission.



Easter Party and Egg Hunt

Our annual children's Easter activity will be held on March 11th at 11:00 AM. We welcome any adult or youth who is interested in helping to lead a craft or activity (i.e., face painting, cookie decorating, egg coloring) in the FMC gym before the egg hunt begins. We also always need youth who enjoy hiding the eggs and supervising the kids as they hunt them. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office wing lobby to let us know your area of interest. Eggs will be available in the lobby to fill with candy, coins, stickers, or small toys. YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS ENABLE US TO OFFER THIS COMMUNITY EVENT YEAR AFTER YEAR AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL!!



Group VBS "Shipwrecked Training" on April 21st from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Wonderful trainer Erma Williams will be returning to our Family Ministries Center to motivate us as we prepare for our July 15th week of VBS. She will be taking us through Day 1 of the curriculum and, like last year's event, it will go by quickly with great information, good discussion, decorating tips and, of course, food. Please sign up in the office wing lobby if you are interested in this training that made last year's "Rome" run so smoothly.

Children Growing in Faith

During these days of sometimes upsetting news, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support of parents and church family members for both supporting and participating in the opportunities for our children to develop in their knowledge of who God is, His promises, and His constant presence in their lives. I know that the solid faith foundation they are establishing, as well as the relationships they are forming with other young believers will prove to bring a calming peace in their journeys, as they continue to move toward their promising destinies.

-Barb

MINISTRY UPDATES

Thread Loving Crafters (TLC)

We recently hosted a mat-weaving workshop for 11 people. From that workshop, we now have several people coming to weave at our meetings!

We stay busy making hats for newborns. A special project right now is a growing stack of purple newborn hats that are for the Shaken Baby Awareness program. They will go to the Greenbrier Ronald McDonald House which participates in this program. We will also send some to the association in April for their Purple Crying Campaign. Our current and ongoing projects include:

- Woven mats for the homeless and Hat and Scarf sets for Fred Kinder's Warm a Heart Give a Bed outreach
- Newborn and preemie hats for the Ronald McDonald House, Purple Crying campaign, and local hospitals
- Hats and scarves for Feeding Hungry Children
- Fleece lap throws for the VA in Beckley
- Prayer shawls for those needing extra warmth and love
- Afghans and quilts for church members, nursing homes, Mary's Cradle, Children's Home Society, and others
- Quilts of Valor

We invite anyone and everyone to join us every Friday from 10-2 or the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:30-7:30. We also accept items from people who prefer working from home.

Library News & Stuff

Jerry Flanagan, Librarian



If you are curious about what books might be in the Family Ministries Center Library or if the library has a book by your favorite author, go to the church web page at www.princetonfumc.org and click on the Church Library tab on the menu bar near the top of the church web page. About halfway down the library page you will see a picture of a card catalog. Right above the picture are the words "Online Card Catalog". Click on this button and that will bring up the card catalog whereby you can search the library collection.

Children's Choir Spring Program / Sunday, May 14th, Mother's Day



THE AMERICAN IDEAL

Created by Janet McMahan-Wilson

Arranged by Ted Wilson



Lights! Camera! Ego! Well, that is, if you're a contestant on one of the "Reality TV" shows of today. Entertaining? Maybe. Harmless? Hardly.

"A must see event!" – The New Walk Times

"Highly entertaining and thought provoking" – Entertainment Weekly

"You'll never look at Reality TV the same way again" – Charles Isgood, Sunday A.M.

This humorous, tongue-in-cheek look at fame, fortune and flim-flam turns popular culture on its head and shines the spotlight of God's truth about humility on the heart of the contestants and audience alike.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First United Methodist Church on 4/27/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of

stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979.**

ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

January 2018				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 Worship	Online	Worship Total
1.7.18	37	97	29	126
1.14.18	43	107	44	151
1.21.18	44	133	21	154
1.28.18	62	146	19	165
February 2018				
Date	Sunday School	10:50 Worship	Online	Worship Total
2.4.18	55	124	36	160
2.11.18	61	118	35	153
2.14.18 (Ash Wednesday)				61
2.18.18	60	157	22	179
2.25.18	74	162	NA	162

THANK YOU NOTES & LETTERS

Thank you very much for your support and stewardship. First United Methodist has allowed my Boy Scout Troop to create life long memories. Thank you again for everything. See you next year!

Al Nedrich
Scoutmaster, Troop 119 (Charlotte, North Carolina)

The Salvation Army would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our 2017 Christmas effort. You and many other clubs, businesses, churches, schools and individuals made it possible for us to give food to 163 families, toys/gifts to 341 children/teens and gifts for over 500 nursing home residents and shut-ins – our friends and neighbors!

In His Service,
Majors Raymond & Crystal Pruitt, Corps Officers

Thank you for your congregation's donation toward our 2017 campaign. Your gift arrived just when we needed it most!! You made several families very happy and gave their little ones a safe place to sleep! God Bless!

Jennifer Trobia, Director of Mary's Cradle

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March Anniversaries

3/14 – Jim & Janie Sarver
 3/15 – James & Raegan Biggs
 3/21 – Bob & Jackie Davis

March Birthdays

3/1 – Anna Johnson
 3/2 – Janet Winfrey
 3/3 – Jim Burks
 3/4 – David Johnson
 3/4 – Bob Lohr
 3/5 – Bryce Veneri
 3/6 – Wayne Barth
 3/6 – Martha Cook
 3/7 – Megan Hersman
 3/7 – Emma Johnston
 3/9 – Kathy Clemons
 3/10 – Jordan Stadvec
 3/13 – Rachel Johnson
 3/13 – Mary Frances Morris
 3/13 – Jean Rhodes
 3/14 – Neil Lohr (93)
 3/15 – Austin W. Smith
 3/16 – Becky Kidwell
 3/20 – Patty Holland
 3/21 – Lucille Reynolds (96)
 3/22 – Melissa Forbes
 3/22 – Tex Kennedy
 3/24 – Mona Lester
 3/26 – Sue Backus
 3/26 – Jerry Jenkins
 3/26 – Naomi Raines
 3/30 – Lela McCormick
 3/31 – Jeff Hollifield

April Anniversaries

4/1 – David & Ann Graham (40)
 4/14 – Randall & Sandy Veneri (58)
 4/15 – Lynn & Pat Veneri (53)
 4/26 – Nathan & Lee Elmore (61)

April Birthdays

4/1 – Stephanie Bowling
 4/1 – Otis Earls (89)
 4/1 – Suzy Fry
 4/3 – Sydney Ben Chaabane
 4/4 – Anthony Veneri
 4/6 – Barb Hampton
 4/6 – Laura Suroski
 4/11 – Brandon Roland
 4/12 – Don Stanley
 4/12 – Ella Veneri
 4/14 – Jean Bailes (94)
 4/14 – Ott Fredeking
 4/14 – Carol Bailey
 4/15 – Logan Chapman
 4/15 – Michael Chapman
 4/15 – Ted Gillespie
 4/17 – Carol Ann Cook
 4/17 – Becky Veneri
 4/18 – Brooke Henkes
 4/18 – Kathryn Tucker
 4/19 – Jack Stafford
 4/21 – Jerry Childress
 4/21 – Twyla Hersman
 4/22 – Jasper Pritchett
 4/22 – Jersey Pritchett
 4/22 – Jillian Pritchett
 4/22 – Kathryn Vaughn
 4/22 – Jan Wilson
 4/24 – Betty Costoplos
 4/26 – Rick Dooley
 4/30 – Isaac Mick

Click the photo below to access the online calendar.

