

The Remarker

First United Methodist Church

Princeton, WV

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

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Discipleship Class

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates a brother or sister, he is a liar, because the person who doesn't love a brother or sister who can be seen can't love God, who can't be seen. This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

1 John 4:18-21 (CEB)

Pastor Scott will offer a Discipleship Class that addresses overcoming the divided nature of relationships in the church and world today and is based on the book "Fear of the Other" by Bishop William Willimon. This is a five-week study that encourages participants, who may be anywhere in their growth as disciples, to explore who they consider the "Other" to be in their lives and communities and begin regarding the Other from a Christian perspective. By the end of this Discipleship Class, those who participate will hopefully find that they are able to:

- identify the Other in their midst;
- train their fears by seeking additional information and relationships with those they fear;
- renew their commitment to embracing the Other in obedience to God's instruction; and
- work to make their local church more welcoming of the Other.

This five-week study will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm in Schell Hall starting August 15 and running each week until September 12. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to sign up as early as possible by calling or emailing the church office so that resources can be available for them to take the course.

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Moving Towards a Discipleship Model Congregation



Several months ago Pastor Scott introduced our Church Council to two different ways that churches tend to go about doing the work of God's Kingdom. One model, known as the Membership Model, has been predominant in the US over the last seventy years or so. The Membership Model focuses upon bringing in "members" who then get the services of the congregation and sometimes, if they feel moved to do so, work to bring in more members. The second model, known as the Discipleship Model, has been predominant in the church at various times in history including during the great movement that led to Methodism. The Discipleship Model Congregation places a heavy emphasis upon the expectation that people who are members of that congregation are

also on a deepening path of Discipleship. These congregations focus their energy on allowing people to have experiences that help grow them as disciples.

During the meeting, the Church Council decided that the better of these two models was the Discipleship Model and Pastor Scott began putting together a group of people who would help to move our congregation toward this model. That group has been meeting for a couple of months and in the coming few months will offer to the Church Council specific ideas on what we can do to become a Discipleship Model Congregation. As of right now, this group is moving forward with the following definition of a disciple:

A Disciple Is:

Living Proof of a Loving God.

One who is responding to and growing in God's amazing love and grace.

One who is on a journey of learning, listening, obeying and sharing God's love and grace.

Please be in prayer for this leadership team as they continue the work God has called them to do to help our congregation make the move to being a Discipleship Model Congregation.

Legacy Giving Presentation

The mission of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia is to create a culture of generosity that transforms the world by raising, managing, and distributing funds that serve the needs of all people and communities. Through Christian stewardship and partnerships with donors, churches and other ministries, the Foundation makes disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world by helping individuals and communities grow closer to God's image.



The Foundation was established in 1974 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. In May 1995, the name was changed from United Methodist Charities to our current name of United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. The Foundation serves United Methodists in the West Virginia Annual Conference. The Foundation is governed by a 32-member Board of Trustees.

The United Methodist Foundation of WV's primary goal is to raise new money for ministry through planned giving. We help donors explore planned giving options that meet their needs. We work with churches to develop endowments and to manage reserve funds. Our conservative investment policy follows the Socially Responsible investing practices of the United Methodist Church.

On Tuesday, June 19th, at 6:30 pm, The Foundation will be joining us for a dinner, followed by a presentation from them at 7:00 pm on how you might consider planned giving or legacy gifts as part of your stewardship life. Please call the church office to reserve a spot for this meal and presentation.

COLLEGE GRADUATES 2018

It is graduation time again and our church family has several students completing their degrees this spring. Please check out the students' information below, congratulate them as you have opportunity, and continue to pray for them as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

Catherine Cavender (daughter of Steve and Susan) is graduating summa cum laude from Concord University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She plans to attend medical school at Marshall University in the fall.

LydiaBeth Comer (daughter of Steve and Lori) is graduating from Concord University with a Bachelor in Business Administration, Management, and a minor in Pre-Law and Entrepreneurship. She will be attending Appalachian School of Law in the fall.

Tierney Quesenberry (daughter of Mike and Kathy) is graduating from Bluefield State with a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Ultra Sound. After graduation, she will be seeking employment.

Becky Rowe is graduating from Virginia Appalachian Tri-College Nursing Program with an Associate of Science in Nursing. She plans to work as an RN after graduation.

Rebekah Weaver (daughter of Shawn and Connie) is graduating from Concord University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Erin Sears (daughter of Scott and Pam) is graduating summa cum laude from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music with a Concentration in Multidisciplinary Studies. This fall, she will attend Candler School of Theology pursuing a Masters of Divinity.

Perry Stafford (son of Will and Pam) is graduating from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor Degree in Animal and Poultry Science with minors in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and in Agricultural and Applied Economics. He has applied for selection to participate in a program at a Montana ranch for 3 months after graduation before returning to the area to raise cattle.

GRASSROOTS GRUB

From the Pastor and Staff of FUMC

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. (From "Mercer Grassroots District" Facebook page.)



AMANDA WENISCH, BRANDON ROLAND, AND BARBARA BALLARD DELIVER LUNCH TO "THE HATTER'S BOOKSHOP" IN PRINCETON, WV.

First UMC, Princeton, is located in the midst of this "grassroots revival" of one of West Virginia's oldest railroad and coal towns. The people of First UMC, Princeton, have embraced the momentum taking place in their town and participate in the local community garden and arts festivals, and even invest in the local businesses. Several disciples from First UMC serve in the local government as well as the community organizations that are helping push this revitalization of a downtown.

Those employed by First UMC, Princeton, recently felt a need to acknowledge and celebrate all the good things that businesses were doing for the community. As part of their weekly discipling meetings, the First

UMC staff members began delivering free lunches to the workers at local businesses who are making this Grassroots Revival take place. They answered the call to take "the table" to the people.

Amanda Wenisch, Church Administrator, had this to say about the "Grassroots Grub": "I was amazed that, though our interactions were relatively brief, the act of bringing someone lunch, acknowledging their contributions to the community, and asking if they had prayer concerns, really broke through barriers so quickly. A couple of merchants opened up to us about some real vulnerabilities, and it felt like we were already building something meaningful in those moments. I look forward to the way God will lead us to build upon those foundations. I also enjoyed the entire process from brainstorming to planning to executing this project because working together on something outside of our day-to-day responsibilities allowed us to use some different talents and work together on something brand new. Each of us contributed something unique, and God wove it all together beautifully. And in the end, we just had fun! We laughed and had a great time while packing the lunches and delivering them."

Once a month – or more often as schedules allow – these church employees are interacting with other employees in their area by offering "grub," some fellowship, and the offer to pray for both the business and the people working there. Barbara Ballard (Children's Ministries), Brandon Roland (Youth Director), Scott Sears (Pastor) and Amanda Wenisch (Church Administrator) are enjoying being disciples in this way in their town. As they plan for that next day, Barbara Ballard adds, "I liked making a positive connection with our business neighbors. They were all very appreciative of the gesture of being treated with lunch. I was especially touched that most all shared prayer requests with us and had positive reactions to being asked about their business and family concerns. I am very much looking forward to our next venture!"



"PROVIDING LUNCH TO OUR NEIGHBORING BUSINESSES ON MERCER ST HELPED OUR STAFF TO GET TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS. I HOPE THAT IT SHOWS THEM THAT WE ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR THEM AND WE SUPPORT THEM. IT WAS A GOOD FIRST STEP IN HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE AND BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY." BRANDON ROLAND AND PASTOR SCOTT SEARS DELIVER LUNCH TO THE WORKERS AT "DANNY'S BAR" IN PRINCETON, WV.



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)

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Mother's Day Brunch



Please join us as we honor all of the special women in our church family with a delicious and elegant Mother's Day brunch prepared by Chef Bill Lewis and his team of merry men. This special meal will be served in the gym starting at 9:30 AM. We are very grateful for Bill's leadership in this annual event, as he never ceases to

outdo himself with his culinary expertise.

*This meal is supported by your faithful Sunday School offerings, which enable us to enjoy fellowship meals as well as provide curriculum for all ages throughout the year.

"Shipwrecked" VBS Plans Underway

Dates: July 15th-19th (Sun. - Thurs.) 6:00-8:30 PM

After hosting an informative VBS Funshop training in April, we are excited to begin our plans, as we receive input on the areas of interest of our wonderful volunteers who give of their time and talents to this outreach ministry. Please see Barb if you have a station interest, so we can finalize our schedule and plan and prepare activities.

The "Shipwrecked" theme is very timely for our children, as they face daily challenges and really brings home the point that Jesus is always with us, especially during scary times and will rescue us.

Hosting this training last year resulted in a smooth-running week of VBS and I can't thank Kent Thompson, Bob Davis, Marcia Anderson, Brandon Roland, Brenda Larue, Bridgette Pendleton, Stephanie Bowling, and all of the attendees from our church enough, for their hard work and support as we prepared and implemented this hands-on experience.

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Brandon Roland

Office: 304-425-0064

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30-for-70 Recap

On Friday April 26th and Saturday April 27th, 20 students and 16 adults participated



A PORTION OF THE FOOD COLLECTED FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS
DURING 30 FOR 70

in our annual 30-hour fast – 30 for 70. The weekend was focused on raising awareness and funds for hungry children and families in Princeton, WV. We also looked at the hunger epidemic worldwide, across the United States and our home state of WV. 100% of our fund-raising dollars went toward First United Methodist Church's Feeding Hungry Children ministry. The participants also

collected canned food, non-perishable food items, clothing, rice, beans, and peanut butter for our local food bank ministries – Tender Mercies and Bluefield Union Mission. The participants also had an opportunity to visit a homebound church member. They delivered a delicious meal to them and spent some much needed visitation time with those church members. **The grand totals for the weekend are – 1,000 food and ministry items collected for Bluefield Union Mission and Tender Mercies, and \$4,655 collected for our Feeding Hungry Children ministry!!**

The fast includes a weekend where we split the participants up for a friendly competition. They get "points" for items and dollars they collect and play games throughout the weekend to add to their "point" total. The teams had a lot of opportunities for fun and fellowship with things like a massive scavenger hunt around Princeton, trivia, competing against other teams by playing games, and on Saturday they participated in game stations around the church such as – an escape room, mini golf, and a laser course maze.

The participants also had 3 Bible lessons throughout the weekend that taught us the importance of fasting and why as Christians we should make this a part of our growth as a Christian. This weekend gave our participants time to grow closer to God, closer to each other, and to fast and use their bodies and hunger pains to cry out to God and our community to help with our neighbors who go hungry. It is always an eye-opening experience to wake up hungry and to walk a mile in someone else's shoes for a weekend. This is an incredible opportunity for our church to bridge the gap between the generations and spend time with each other. If you didn't get the chance to participate I challenge you to think and pray about how you can help out and be more involved next year!

A huge thank you to all of those who donated money, food items, and clothing. Thank you to those who came and volunteered with game stations and participated. Thank you to Shelia Roland for donating the meal that went to the homebound church members and for cooking the meal. Thank you to Karen Thorn for organizing the break fast meal on Saturday evening and to all of those who donated food and helped in the kitchen that day. Thank you for loving and supporting our young people!



CLOTHING DONATIONS GATHERED DURING THE WEEKEND

What Some Participants Had to Say

30 for 70 has been a wonderful experience from start to finish! Good times, great fellowship, and all working towards such an amazing cause.

Packing the bags for the kids had the largest impact on me because I know for some this is all they have for the weekend.

Visiting our homebound members is such a great experience. It's nice to see the smiling faces of the people you visit.

Upcoming events – May 20th we will recognize our graduating high school seniors. Also on May 20th, we will have our annual Youth FUMCIES Awards in the Family Ministry Center. That will be the last day for our regularly scheduled youth programs. We will have a little break before we start our Summer Activities and that schedule will be handed out to students soon!

MINISTRY UPDATES

Feeding Hungry Children



On Sunday, June 3rd, the Feeding Hungry Children Team will be meeting for a covered dish lunch after Worship for their annual Celebration Event! The team will be evaluating the past year and planning for the fall school term. The number of students served this year fluctuates as students move or situations change. We are ending the school year serving 127 children from four Princeton area schools. Thanks to the congregation and the community for all their support.

We would like to offer a HUGE thanks to the Princeton Rotarians! They are putting together a food bag of items for the families of children in the Feeding Hungry Children Program to be distributed at the end of the school year. The bag will include things like peanut butter, beans, minute rice, macaroni and cheese dinners, and cereal.

Thread Loving Crafters (TLC)

Current Projects:

- 1) Purple/Lavender newborn hats (Immediate Priority)
- 2) Newborn hats of any color. They particularly like the character hats.
- 3) Hats and Scarves for Feeding Hungry Children
- 4) Hats and Scarves for the "Warm a Heart, Give a Bed" ministry
- 5) Woven mats for the "Warm a Heart, Give a Bed" ministry
- 6) Quilts of Valor and Misc. Quilts
- 7) Prayer Shawls
- 8) Lap robes
- 9) Baby afghans and hats

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.



Parish News (Submitted by Janet Painter)

Thank you for your continued support for the Princeton Parish House. Food and clothing donations are being brought in weekly. As the season changes from colder weather to warmer weather (we hope!) the clothing needs will change, as well. May is the month they change over from winter to summer clothes. Let me know if you have any donations and I'll make arrangements with you to get the clothes delivered.



I am including a list of items requested by the workers at the Parish Pantry. ALL donations are welcome and greatly appreciated, but these are the items on their shopping list:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Vegetables (canned – any variety) | Pasta | Toilet Paper |
| Instant Potatoes | Spaghetti Sauce | Diapers (baby and adult) |
| Mac n Cheese (box mix) | Peanut Butter* (16 oz jars) | Feminine Hygiene Products |
| Fruit* (canned) | Cereal (instant and boxed) | Travel Size Shampoo, soap and deodorant |
| Beans (canned or 1 pound bags of dry) | Evaporated Milk | Toothbrushes |
| Jiffy Cornbread mix | Pancake Mix | Toothpaste |
| Meat or Fish* (canned) | Pancake Syrup | <u>*LEAST DONATED ITEMS</u> |
| Soup | Saltines | |
| | Ramen Noodles* | |

As summer vacation season kicks in, please bring any of the courtesy shampoo, deodorant, soaps, etc. from your hotel bathrooms.

I have approached some of you about volunteering at the Parish House. I would like to encourage anyone interested in donating a couple of hours a month to help me put together a team to assist with stocking, sorting, and working at the Parish House. If you are interested, please let me know. I would like to meet Tuesday, May 8th in the Family Ministries Center Conference Room at 6:00pm. Please join me for a very brief informational meeting. Thanks again for your support!



Children's Choir Spring Program / Sunday, May 13th, 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.

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH-APRIL 2018

| March 2018 | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Date | Sunday School | 10:50 Worship | Online* | Worship Total |
| 3.4.18 | 54 | 140 | -- | 140 |
| 3.11.18 | 59 | 149 | -- | 149 |
| 3.18.18 | 62 | 149 | -- | 149 |
| 3.25.18 | Canceled due to snow. | 51 | -- | 51 |
| 3.29.18 Maundy Thursday | -- | -- | -- | 108 |
| April 2018 | | | | |
| Date | Sunday School | 10:50 Worship | Online | Worship Total |
| 4.1.18 Sunrise | -- | -- | -- | 77 |
| 4.1.18 | 63 | 207 | -- | 207 |
| 4.8.18 | 57 | 134 | 25 | 159 |
| 4.15.18 | 60 | 123 | 16 | 139 |
| 4.22.18 | 69 | 150 | 20 | 170 |
| 4.29.18 | 66 | 165 | 24 | 189 |

*Live-Streaming stats unavailable for some dates.

THANK YOU NOTES & LETTERS

We, the Princeton Senior High School Class of 2018, wish to express appreciation for your donation for Project Graduation. Your support will enable our class to safely celebrate one of the most important events of our lives. Project Graduation will be a great success mostly because of the continued support of the surrounding community.

Pastor and Friends at FUMC,

Our program at Point of Contact Ministries was great and powerful. Thank you so much for the use of the costume. We pray you and the church are blessed. Again, thank you very much.

Pastor Eddie Johnson

To my church family,

I want to graciously thank each of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness for your many phone calls, cards, and prayers during my testing and treatments. I am truly blessed and thankful for so many caring friends. May God richly bless each of you.

Barbara Hampton

We thank you for thinking of all those that are served through the Princeton Parish Project. By your giving, we are able to give more.

God bless,
Cathy Combs, Treasurer

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Gifts have been given:

In memory of Mrs. Kathleen Bowman to Feeding Hungry Children by Nancy Moore

In memory of Trudy Weaver to Feeding Hungry Children by Nancy Moore.

In honor of Karen Kissam to Feeding Hungry Children by Nancy Moore.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Anniversaries

May 01 – Ben & Sandy Gay (53)
 May 12 – Seth & Ashley Vaughn
 May 13 – Ray & Sherrie Price
 May 16 – David and Sarah Johnson (20)
 May 23 – Larry & Sharon Croy
 May 24 – Randy & Rhonda Adkins
 May 25 – Bill & Cindy Lewis
 May 25 – Nate & Becky Rowe
 May 30 – Jean & Jerry Bailes (72)

Mary Birthdays

May 01 - Austin Smith
 May 01 – Brittany Smith
 May 01 – Andrew Vaughn
 May 02 – Jim Austin
 May 02 – Gina Moore
 May 03 – Kathy Dooley
 May 04 – Ella Sarver
 May 07 – Tierney Quesenberry
 May 07 – Kelley Rose
 May 08 – Buddy Fry
 May 09 – Laurel Comer
 May 11 – Shirley Halsey
 May 11 – Lauren Thompson
 May 12 – Nathan Elmore
 May 16 – Sarah Johnson
 May 17 – Cheryl Merritt
 May 20 – Megan Massie
 May 20 – Ron Steenson
 May 23 – Giff Coulbourne
 May 24 – Steve Comer
 May 24 – Rebecca Johnson
 May 25 – Alison Lester
 May 25 – Shanley Quesenberry
 May 27 – Joanna Thompson
 May 29 – Makenli Roberts

June Anniversaries

June 01 – Adam & Alston Sarver
 June 04 – Sam & Janet Thurmer (63)
 June 07 – Brandon & BJ Roland
 June 08 – Don & Ramona Stanley
 June 09 – Kelley & Debbie Massie
 June 10 – Michael & Stephanie Bowling
 June 10 – Bill & Jan Wilson (59)
 June 16 – Ted & Debbie Gillespie
 June 16 – Norman & Nancy Jones (62)
 June 17 – Otis & Edie Earls (66)
 June 17 – Robbie & Krista Fix
 June 18 – Steve & Lori Comer
 June 20 – Jeff & Cathy McNew
 June 21 – Larry & Martha Cook
 June 27 – Marshall & Peggy Lytton (59)
 June 28 – Bob & Barbara Robinson
 June 29 – Jason & Jessica Pritchett

June Birthdays

June 01 – Ella Biggs
 June 01 – Will Horton
 June 04 – Tanner Veneri
 June 10 – Lori Comer
 June 10 – Betsy Horton
 June 13 – Patrick Conner
 June 13 – Alden Presley
 June 15 – Stephen Linkous
 June 15 – Randy McCormick
 June 16 – Bob Ballard
 June 16 – Larry Croy
 June 17 – Jerry Flanagan
 June 17 – Ramonia Kessinger
 June 17 – Tony Veneri
 June 20 – Gail Rector
 June 22 – Gavin Forbes
 June 23 – Jacob Flanagan
 June 24 – Linda Kennedy
 June 29 – Addison Sarver

Click the image below to access our online calendar.

