

THE REMARKER

A Publication of First United Methodist Princeton, WV
 A Place to Trust ♦ A Place to Become ♦ Church in the Heart of Princeton

Weekly Communion to Start December 2nd



Starting on the first Sunday of Advent, First UMC will return to the historic practice of celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday during worship. This will continue until at least the close of the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church in February 2019. This is a return to the practice of both early Christians and early Methodists who could not have imagined worshipping God without the celebration of Holy Communion.

The reason Pastor Scott is returning to this ancient practice is to help us focus on what draws us together rather than on what might divide us and remind us further that, even though we are “broken” into many individuals, we are all part of one body of Christ. Between this first Sunday of Advent and the end of General Conference, we will focus on praying that our Church – The United Methodist Church – will find its way forward as a stronger witness to Christ in the world.

We will still use both methods of receiving communion – intinction and individual cups – but we will be using intinction more often for cost and time saving reasons. Please be in prayer for the UMC during this time of our lives together!

End of Year Giving - Apportionment Goal

As our Church comes ever closer to the end of 2018, please remember that this is the year our Church Council and Pastor committed us to paying 100% of our Conference Apportionment. As of this writing, we are only slightly behind in meeting that goal. Pastor Scott cannot stress to all how very important it is for us to honor the commitment that we have made together. If you have a special gift that you can make to the church before the end of the year, please, please do so. The blessing of extending mission and ministry into the world is a part of your generosity.



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KEEP SEEKING HIM



NOT QUITE HOME

REV. SCOTT SEARS

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What's More Important than Christ in Christmas?

JOHN 1:11 TELLS US: "(JESUS) CAME TO WHAT WAS HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT ACCEPT HIM." EVERY TIME WE BUY INTO THE WARRING ATTITUDE WITH OUR CULTURE, WE DO THE SAME THING - WE DON'T ACCEPT JESUS IN US.

At first glance, the title of this article might make some cringe. We live in a society where for decades we have heard that there is a

robbing ourselves of the peace and hope Christ's birth promises?

So, if the battle is over and we can't really participate in any "war" to win it back, what is "more important than Christ in Christmas"?

That answer is simple. Instead of focusing on putting Christ back in Christmas in our culture, *let us focus instead on putting Christ back in Christians every single day.*

John 1:11 tells us: "(Jesus) came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." Every time I buy into the warring attitude with our culture, I do the same thing - I don't accept Jesus in me.

Every time I don't align my finances so that at least a tenth of what I make goes to the local church, but spend even more than that on Christmas celebrations, then I do not accept him.

Every time I find some reason not to reach out to the stranger near me in the same way that Jesus stepped down from the throne of heaven to come and be with us, I do not accept him.

Every time I post something on social media that belittles a group that disagrees with the way I think, I do not accept him. Remember - Jesus is the one who ate with sinners, let the condemned adulterer live, and even forgave a thief dying next to him on a cross.

Yes, there is something much more important than putting Christ back in Christmas. It is putting Christ back in **Christians**.

When I do that, well, the other will take care of itself. Would you like to join in that kind of change?

Pastor Scott

"war" on Christmas and we need to be doing everything that we can to win this cultural war.

First, it's a disservice to combat veterans to refer to cultural disagreements as "war." War is an ugly, violent, and deadly thing. I've never fought in a war, but I have counseled those who have. I have no desire to see combat or the terror that it brings to heart, mind, and soul. So calling this a "war" is just a way of trying to stir up stronger reactions from people and help them vilify (and thus dehumanize) those who see Christmas differently than they do. When it comes to dehumanizing our brothers and sisters in this world, I have only one piece of advice - STOP. It is a clear sin to consider those created in God's holy image as anything other than human.

Second, if we are worried that Jesus is being forced out of the Christmas season, well, in many ways, we surrendered the battle with our money and time a long, long time ago. Sure, there are many who choose to celebrate the birth of Christ without buying into all the commercialism. But how many of us expend countless hours and dollars on the decorations of trees, presents, and parties during this time of the year, all while



C.I.A. YOUTH

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

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for your continued support of our youth program. With each youth meeting and event we are seeing new relationships being formed and growth in each and every one of them. We have seen new faces this year, from our new 6th graders to our students bringing friends, and it has been an exciting time for our youth group. Just as with any small group there can be speed bumps in the maturation process and growing our relationship with Christ. But, I believe that our students are

investing in our youth group, an investment in growing their spiritual relationship with God together as a group. I believe that they love this church and the group that they are developing, being a part of, and welcoming others to join. And thank you First United Methodist Church for loving and supporting our young people! If you ever want to be more involved or help these students in any way, do not hesitate to ask how you can do that!

ON THE HORIZON

- **November 16 – 18 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, and lodging.
- **December 16** – Youth Christmas Party at FUMC.
- **December 19** - \$90 due for Resurrection in Pigeon Forge, TN.
- **December 23, 26 & 30** – No Youth - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
- **January 19 – 21 Resurrection** – Retreat to Pigeon Forge, TN, where students and leaders will get to experience a weekend of worship and spiritual growth. The speaker is Jorge Acevedo and worship will be led by I Am They. Cost for the students as of now will be \$90 and due by Wednesday, December 19. This will include the ticket for admission, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Friday and Saturday, and help pay for their lodging at a cabin. Students will be responsible for the cost of fun activities if they choose to do any, snacks, and their lunch on Sunday.



Upward Basketball will be starting soon! I am currently putting together the teams for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading. We will have 163 basketball players and 30 cheerleaders.

- ❖ November 8 – Coaches and Referees meeting at 7pm.
- ❖ The first practices start the week after Thanksgiving.
- ❖ No practices the week of Christmas.
- ❖ The first game day will be Saturday, January 5th.

We are always in need for coaches and referees. Once the games start in January we will need help with the concession stand and volunteers for referees. If you would like to help out with our Upward Sports program, please let me know. Also, please be in prayer for this upcoming season as we will have a lot of families visiting us during this time of year.



BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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Sunday: 9:30am-Noon



We are so grateful to all who gave our children an opportunity to participate in the worship experience this past Children's Sunday. They were able to share their talents in music, drama, and reading, all while getting a first-hand knowledge of all of the effort it takes to offer worship each Sunday. The youth were able to take on leadership roles as they led in both liturgist parts, Children's Time, and the Benediction! We appreciate the leadership of Martha Cook and Sherrie Price in leading the handchimes and the Children's Ensemble, and Stephanie Bowling for leading the Rosebuds Choir, as well as facilitating the sound setup. The guidance of both Amanda Wenisch and Sandy Gay enabled the children to feel secure as each waited patiently for their specific part(s) in the service. Also, much appreciation to the parents and children for their dedication in attending Sunday School and extra practices during church and after handchime practice. We appreciate the tech team of Rick Dooley and Larry Cook for their placement of several extra mics to enable the children to be heard. We pray this service was a blessing to those in attendance, as well as meaningful for the children who participated. God bless the entire congregation for your support of this service!

Special Silent Auction for VBS 2019



Randolph Evans, the owner of the Bronze Look, has generously made a donation of one of his West Virginia Heritage Series coins designed for the 150th birthday of our state. These coins sell for \$59, and it is his wish that we have a silent auction, with the proceeds going to help fund our Vacation Bible School next summer.

Please have your bids into the church office by Friday, November 16th.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, CONTINUED

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TRUNK - OR - TREAT!!



Oh, "me" of little faith! Your generous candy donations came through in force during the week before our annual Trunk-or-Treat event, and we were more than prepared for our guests, once again, this year! I can't thank you enough for supporting this fun evening, and wanted to let you know that we even had candy left over to share with the downtown merchants for their "Monster Mash" Halloween event to be held on Halloween night.

These same businesses, including Black Steele Arms, The Bronze Look, Bucha Bistro, Hatter's Bookstore, New Kids on the Block, Myra's Flower Shop, PTOWN Cell Repairs, Simply Beautiful Hair and Nail Salon, and The Wearhouse provided gifts or gift certificates to be used as door prizes this year. Bojangles and the North Walker Dairy Queen also contributed gift certificates. In addition to providing gifts, and a collectable West Virginia Heritage Series coin to be auctioned off, Randolph Evans of The Bronze Look also donated numerous coins, including uncirculated sets to be given away.

I am grateful to Brandon Roland and Corey Mann for organizing and planning the popular indoor game activities. Brandon was actually out-of-town for a family wedding, but I couldn't be happier with his pre-event work and with Corey for

facilitating the many activities and providing guidance to our awesome youth workers, without which we couldn't offer the indoor event. Janet and John Painter and Becky Helmick provided and hosted the refreshments, and Sabrina Mick and Cathy Linkous both provided candy alternatives with a huge selection of books

for the kids.

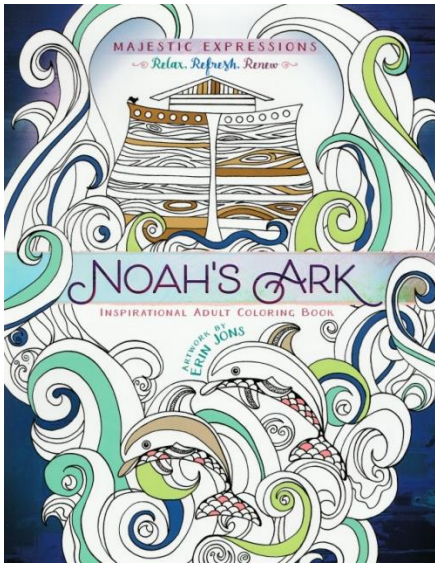
The ever-popular cake walk was facilitated by Kim Bay and Pam Sears, and Alex Bay displayed great composure while serving double-duty as she managed the cake walk announcing along with drawing names for the tremendous amount of door prizes we had this year!

Much appreciation for all who make this event happen, whether you donate, hand out candy, man a game station, or just visit with our guests! We saw some of our VBS attendees with their families, as well as other community members who visit our church events. So, in addition to entertaining our own children, we are able to reach a large number of area children, as they are able to have a positive experience interacting with our wonderful church members and youth, planting seeds of the love that is available in the local church.

God bless each of you!!!

MINISTRY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Library Giveaway



Take a break from your busy schedule with Noah's Ark Inspirational Adult Coloring Book and relax and be amazed by the faithfulness and mercy of God, revealed in the story expressed through these pages. A limited number of

copies of this coloring book have been donated to your church library to be given away. If you would like to have a copy, write "Noah's Ark" and your name on a piece of paper and place it in the offering plate. Supplies are limited.

Thread-Loving Crafters



The Thread-Loving Crafters held their 4th annual Blanket Day in October. These dedicated workers continue to lovingly make blankets, hats, scarves, prayer shawls, and more – each creation spreading the warmth of Christ's love to people near and far. Want to get involved? TLC meets every Friday at 10am and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 5:30pm in the Family Ministries Center.

College News

Let's celebrate two college students finishing their academic work in December!



Griffin Jenkins (son of Melody and Jerry Jenkins) finishes his academic work for a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Linguistics at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in December. He will walk for his diploma in April. He previously received an Associate of Trinity College London in Voice. He plans to work in musical theater and apply for masters programs in music.

Charles Seye (son of Lisa and Mustafa Seye) will graduate in December with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics from Concord University. He plans to pursue work in his field as soon as possible.

Please offer congratulations to these two young men for their hard work and prayers for their future.



Christmas Program

STAR GIFT

&

Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday

December 9th

5:00

STAR:

* a heavenly body appearing as a fixed luminous point in the sky

* a person who is distinguished or notable for their actions

So, maybe it is a special Christmas Star (the Star of Bethlehem), heaven full of glimmering and sparkling lights, our big bright sun, or just a lonely little twinkle in the nighttime sky, or, maybe it is someone who glows a little and spreads hope while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior. This year's Christmas program, STAR GIFT, sets our attention on stars. We invite you to come learn about stars, see some stars, and perhaps be a star yourself as we celebrate the gift of a star.

TRANSITIONS

In Loving Memory

George Edward Haway

June 7, 1936 – September 9, 2018

Transfers from Another Denomination

James Graham

September 30, 2018

Dawn Graham

September 30, 2018

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift was given to the Feeding Hungry Children ministry of FUMC Princeton in loving memory of Margaret Horton by Mariah Kello Nunn.

A gift was given to the Feeding Hungry Children ministry of FUMC Princeton in loving memory of Roseann Hollifield by Ott and JoAnna Fredeking.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018 ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
9.2.18	56	120	-	10.7.18	50	133	-
9.9.18	62	124	19	10.14.18	39	132	21
9.16.18	48	121	22	10.21.18	69	145	25
9.23.18	52	145	19	10.28.18	53	134	-
9.30.18	60	152	24				



11/1 - Kathy Quesenberry
 11/2 - JoAnna Fredeking
 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
 11/14 - Jon Casey
 11/19 - Elizabeth Hollifield
 11/19 - Seth Price
 11/20 - Griffin Biggs
 11/21 - Jerry Bailes (95)
 11/21 - Kim Bay
 11/22 - Joanna Williams
 11/23 - Cathy Linkous
 11/23 - Lindsay Price
 11/25 - Valeda O'Dell
 11/26 - Brian Struble
 11/27 - Mike Quesenberry
 11/28 - Raegan Biggs
 11/29- Kaitlyn Artrip

12/2- Nora Williams
 12/4- Jane Walthall
 12/5 - Harry Farmer
 12/6 - Sarah Linkous
 12/6 - Kelley Massie
 12/6 - Peggy Wells
 12/7 - Randy Beachler
 12/7 - Jim Sarver
 12/8 - Kathey Haway
 12/9 - Cathy McNew
 12/10 - Evayne Chambers (92)
 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
 12/27 - Makayla Chibuzo
 12/28 - Pam Coulbourne
 12/30 - Abbey Stafford
 12/31 - Janie Sarver

Happy Anniversary!

11/2 - David and Carol Westfall (55)
 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

12/18 - Kent and Joanna Thompson
 12/19 - Chris and Stephanie Knight
 12/22 - David and Ellen Knight (62)
 12/22 - Stan and Kathryn Tucker
 12/29 - Bob and Barb Ballard



Please Join Us During the Advent & Christmas Season!

Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 2, 7pm
Sanctuary

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 9, 5pm
Sanctuary

Church Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 9
Immediately Following Christmas Program
Family Ministries Center Gym

Winter Cantata

Sunday, December 16, 10:50am
Sanctuary

Live Nativity

Friday, December 21, 6:00pm
Front Lawn

Jumpstart, Christmas Edition

Sunday, December 23, 9:30am
Family Ministries Center Gym

Christmas Eve Communion Services

Monday, December 24, 7pm and 11pm
Sanctuary

New Year's Eve Love Feast

Monday, December 31, 7pm
Sanctuary

