

# THE REMARKER

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

## Move Announcement

On February 24th, I shared the following – or something very similar – to the worshipping congregation. I share it with you in writing as well...

*Just over seven years ago, on a Sunday morning probably much like this one, you heard an announcement made by Bettye Bolen that in July, some guy named Scott Sears would be appointed here by the Bishop to be your pastor. At the same time, I was telling a congregation in Parkersburg that I would be leaving them to join you in ministry here in Mercer County.*

*Seven years... 364 Sundays – a year of Sundays! Several weddings, births, baptisms, professions of faith, and over seventy funerals. Almost an equal number of organists as well! (Okay, I'm exaggerating on the number of organists, but we have been blessed with many talented people on that bench, as we are right now.)*

*This morning I inform you that it is the intention of Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball to appoint me to First UMC, Huntington, effective July 1st. Although it is difficult and sad to leave this community and congregation, I have said 'Yes' to my Bishop just as I did seven years ago, and we will begin this transition.*

*Our Superintendent, Dr. Joe Kenaston, has already met with your Staff Parish Relations Committee to complete a profile of your church and its needs for pastoral leadership. In the coming weeks, we will learn the Bishop's intention for First UMC, Princeton. We will pray as we wait.*

*In the meantime, we have plenty of time to say goodbye. More important than that, we have ministry to continue that is bigger than any ONE of us – especially the launch of our Intentional Discipleship Program, "Living Proof of a Loving God." Do not fail to sign up for the launch dinner on March 5th. Nothing, nothing, will change this important ministry in your church. I will have more to say about the transition in the days ahead. Know this today... I love each and every one of you. You have loved me, Pam, Erin, and Allie more than we can thank you for in words. I am a better pastor for having served here with a group of people who have loved me and my family as you have and as I know you will in the days ahead. I expect nothing less for the new pastor as well.*

Peace,  
Pastor Scott



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# “LIVING PROOF OF A LOVING GOD”

## Intentional Discipleship at First UMC, Princeton

At the direction of our Church Council, a group of people led by Pastor Scott spent close to a year working out an intentional plan to make disciples of Jesus Christ at First UMC. This plan was seen as necessary because we were operating under a “membership” model – we accepted people as members of our congregation without having any set plans for them to become disciples of Jesus. The Council thought it would best serve our time and place to be intentional about this process and thus the team began and completed its work.

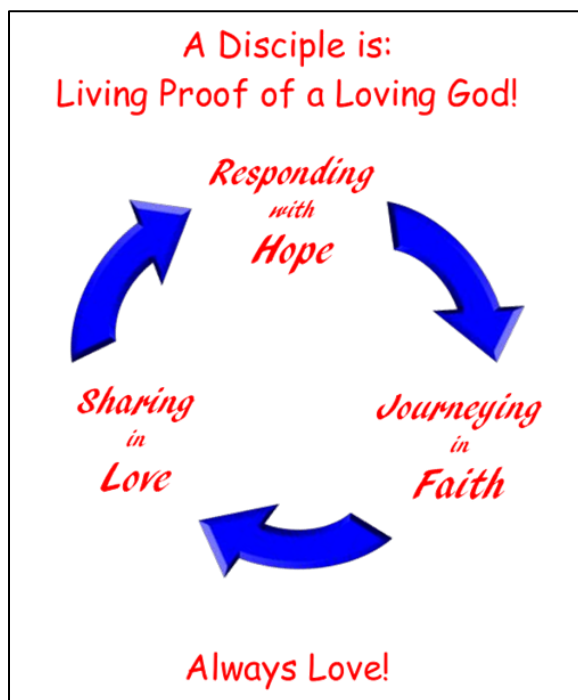
During that year of work, the team spent time in worship, prayer, and learning as they met together to study various methods available to make disciples. Instead of using a readily available curriculum, they decided that one made specifically for First UMC, Princeton would be best.

This model begins with the definition of a disciple: *A Christian Disciple is a person who responds with Hope to God’s amazing Love and Grace by deciding to follow Jesus on a journey of Faith by learning, listening, obeying, and becoming open to a life of sharing in Love and Grace – Living Proof of a Loving God.* The definition can be illustrated with the graphic on this page that shows that this process is an ongoing process with many points of entry and is surrounded by the presence of God’s love.

With this definition in mind the team also worked out a self-assessment tool that can be used by any person to find out where they are in the process of becoming a disciple along the continuum of “beginning to mature” in five key areas of discipleship: Worship, Community, Christ-likeness, Spiritual Practices, Generosity, and Service. The

understanding of this assessment is that the results would always be private and the responsibility to seek growth would be on the part of the disciple – not the church. However, once the church is made known of a need to grow from one stage to the next, we would work to provide what is needed. The assessment also takes for granted that a person striving to be a disciple would not necessarily move straight along the continuum but may from time to time move back and forth across that continuum.

In order to begin this process, the team is offering the following two items:



First, a gathering on March 5th, also known as Shrove Tuesday, for a meal and an opportunity to take the self-assessment after witnessing our children in the Children’s Fellowship Time present their discipleship learning from this past session.

Second, a church-wide study during Lent on the “General Rules” of the United Methodist Church as first laid out by John Wesley. (Those rules are: Do no harm, Do all the good you can, and Stay in love with God.) This study

will help everyone regardless of where they are on the discipleship continuum. People will be able to join this study through small groups offered in children, youth, and adult Sunday School classes, along with Wednesday evening Bible Study. The topics will be used in worship each Sunday during the season of Lent. **If none of these groups fit your schedule, please contact the church office and a new group will be started.**

Please join your church family in this new endeavor that will transform you, our church and the entire world. Join us as we all become “Living Proof of a Loving God.”





C.I.A. YOUTH

## BRANDON ROLAND, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Office: 304-425-0064 Email: [bgroland@gmail.com](mailto:bgroland@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Fri: 9am-3pm; Wednesday: 11am-8pm;

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



The spring season is right around the corner and it is exciting! 2019 has already gotten off to a great start with our youth ministries. We took a group of 30 to Pigeon Forge, TN, for a weekend youth conference called Resurrection which is hosted by the Holsten Conference. Our group worshiped our Creator with about 12,000 people in a beautiful part of our country. I cherish the time that I get to invest in our young people, get to know them better, and am blessed to watch them fellowship

and create new friendships.

As this Lenten season approaches, our students will be taking part in the church-wide discipleship study of *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. Starting March 10<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday School, Sunday Evening, and Wednesday Evening Bible Studies we will be looking at how our youth students can grow as disciples of Christ. We will look at ways our students can become disciples to their family, friends, school campus, and church. Christ calls us to go and make disciples. This is a perfect opportunity to start inward before we can go and reach outward.

Our spring is full of fun and service projects. Here are some of the important dates:

- **March 1st** - Guys Lock-in at the church and Girls Slumber Party at the Roland House
- **March 17th** - HEGF Fundraiser - St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- **March 31st** - Jumpstart - Special *Three Simple Rules* Discipleship Service
- **April 18th** - HEGF Fundraiser - Flamingo Invasion
- **April 26th-27th** - 30 for 70
- **April 28th** - Jumpstart - Special 30 for 70 Recap Service

# UPWARD

Upward Basketball concluded its 15th season at First United Methodist Church on February 23rd. The Upward Awards Celebration will be held Saturday, March 2nd, at 10:30AM. I want to thank everyone who contributed to making this a successful season, especially all of those who volunteered each and every Saturday. The season would not be possible if it wasn't for the many people who volunteer! I also thank those who have been in prayer for the season. At the end of the night, on the last Saturday of the season, I received a message from a parent. She informed me that her daughter's friend, who was on the cheerleading squad with her, at the last practice accepted Christ into her heart when the coach presented the Gospel message! That is what this is all about and the ultimate reason we work so hard to host Upward basketball, so that we can grow the Kingdom of God and share the love of Christ. So, to all of those who helped, we can celebrate this because God and His Kingdom in Heaven are celebrating this new addition to the family of God!



**BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

Office: 304-425-0064 Cell: 304-920-8186 Email: [fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com)

Office Hours: Mon: 9-10am; 11-12pm; Tues: 1-2pm; Wed: 12-2pm, 5:30-8pm

Sunday: 9:30am-Noon

"Amped" Vacation Bible School (VBS) is sure to get both kids and leaders excited to LIVE FULLY ALIVE in the confidence that comes in trusting God. It promises to offer electrifying fun, as kids learn why God wants to be overloaded with confidence because we can believe what He says is true!

The key verse is, **"I have come so that they might have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."** (John 10:10 NIV)

Stephanie Bowling will be this year's VBS coordinator. She will be sharing information and volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks for this exciting outreach ministry, which is, once again, scheduled for the 3rd week in July (14th - 18th, Sun. - Thurs. evenings).

The energetic and powerful music is sure to be a hit with our own children, as well as their friends and community guests. If you are available for any of the evenings that week, we'd love to have you join us in your area of interest as we share the gospel message this summer.

**AMPED**  
**LIVE FULLY ALIVE!**

**SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE  
JULY 14-18**

### "To Mars and Beyond" Appreciation



**BOB DAVIS, ALEX BAY, TOM BAY, KIM BAY, AND OWEN BIGGS ILLUSTRATED QUEEN ESTHER'S BOLDNESS.**

Our winter Children's Fellowship Time (CFT) session, which featured a fun, space-themed curriculum, is coming to a close with our "Show-Off" night celebration scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th, in Schell Hall at 6:00 PM. The children will be performing songs they have learned from Stephanie Bowling, who faithfully led our music station each week, and receiving rewards in the prize room from Miss Martha, who meets with the individual children each week to keep track of points they have earned from CFT attendance, choir, handchimes, Sunday School, and church participation. In addition, Miss Marcia has searched far and wide throughout the weeks of this session to locate treat bag items that go along with each Bible story as well as several with the Space theme.

The Bible stories used to illustrate the theme verse, "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20), were about Daniel (Faith), Esther (Boldness), The Good Samaritan (Kindness), The 10 Lepers (Thankfulness), and The Road to Emmaus (Hope). We were blessed to have the storytelling talents of Becky Veneri, Bob Davis, Tom, Kim, and Alex Bay, Becky Kidwell and Roger Topping, Jeremy Wenisch, and David Graham to portray these faith heroes and give us living examples of the character traits we strive to instill. *(continued on next page)*

The children also participated in several arts and crafts activities led by Kathy Quesenberry, Marcia *(continued on next page)*

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Anderson, Amanda Wenisch and Patty Flanagan, Jamie and Raegan Biggs, and Christina Flanagan. Game sessions were led by Dave Johnson, Mike Quesenberry, and Larrissa and Jeff Roberts. I can't thank these church family and parent volunteers enough for giving of their time and talents to enable the kids to experience the stories through both art and movement.

With the "Living Proof" Discipleship Program kickoff sharing the evening meal and celebration with us, we look forward to enjoying this wonderful opportunity for intergenerational fellowship as we embark on this church-wide study together.

## MINISTRY NEWS

### Feeding Hungry Children

Most everyone reading this newsletter knows at this point that the Feeding Hungry Children Ministry provides weekend food for children in four local area schools who have been identified by teachers as being at risk of not having adequate food at home.



**TEAM MEMBERS PREPARE BAGS ON A SATURDAY MORNING**

The Ministry has become a big operation. We are currently providing food for 153 local children, and it takes a team effort. Members of this congregation and community serve in this ministry by using their talents and resources to regularly pray, donate money or food items, deliver food to four schools weekly, prepare food items and package food bags, inventory food, order food for pick-up, take care of a large amount of recycling, pick-up and unload food items from Sam's and Kroger, and generally make themselves available for a variety of random jobs (like 5 or 6 team members who cleaned plastic tubs for Fall deliveries in the hot summer sun). As you can tell, a variety of gifts and talents are needed.

Approximately 25 people are currently living out their discipleship journey by sharing God's Love and making a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

### Thread-Loving Crafters (TLC)

The members of Thread-Loving Crafters have been expanding efforts to contribute to other community outreach endeavors. TLC has provided hats, scarves, and woven mats for the local Warm a Heart, Give a Bed ministry; hats to 4H for vets; and hats for the Ruritan Club Stocking Giveaway. We have also donated a quilt to the Humane Society Fundraiser Auction and items for the Young Adults' Mission Trip Fundraiser.

TLC continues to work on baby hats for local hospitals, hat and scarf sets for the children of the Feeding Hungry Children ministry, prayer shawls, lap quilts, and throws, woven mats for the homeless, and hats for military service people deployed in cold regions.

TLC continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 5:30pm and every Friday at 10am. You are invited to come serve with us. Please contact the church office with questions.



**NEIL LOHR, RECIPIENT OF A QUILT OF VALOR FROM TLC**

## THANK YOU NOTES

To our church with loving thanks. Barbara and I would like to graciously thank each of you for your many prayers, cards, and phone calls during our son-in-law's illness and passing. It is very comforting to know that so many people cared. May God richly bless each of you.

*Joe and Barbara Hampton*

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Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

*The Family of Jerry Thompson*

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Thank you so much for your kind donation of the coats, hats, and gloves to students that needed it. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity. It does not go unnoticed.

*Mrs. Showalter and Princeton Primary School*

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Thank you so much for your generous gift of our new Boy Scout trailer. We truly appreciate everything you do for us. Troop 1 has been preparing young men for almost a century due to your thoughtfulness, prayers, and support. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we do our best as your Troop to represent FUMC to the best of our abilities. Again, many thanks for everything!

*The Boy Scouts and Adults of Troop 1*

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What a delightful and happy surprise the Valentine gift bag was for me! To know that many of my fellow church members thought of me on this special "love" day touched me deeply, and I thank each of them. The delivery-visit with Vicki Horton added even more warmth and cheer to my day. To whatever group planned and organized this project, my deepest gratitude.

*Rosanna Reaser*

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Thank you and the church for the Valentines for my dad... Thank you so much for yours and the Church's kind thoughts. I especially liked the ones from the kids.

*Samantha Craig (daughter of Harold Russell)*

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Thank you so much - more than we can say - for your continued support [of the mission] and for remembering those who feel left out, abandoned or forgotten.

*Craig Hammond, Director of Bluefield Union Mission*

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Mary's Cradle gratefully accepts your donation for our Mother's Day Crib Campaign. As you know, Mary's Cradle assists young families with basic needs, and we are now presented with greater and more urgent requests. We had 850 visits in 2018. Your generosity to our ministry provided safe sleeping places for several families in our community. God Bless!

*Jennifer Tobia, Director*

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Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation! Because of you, many will be helped, needs met, and lives changed. I thank you for all you do for this community! Blessings!

*Lt. Dennis Smith, Salvation Army*

**TRANSITIONS**

**In Memory**

John Michael White  
Maurice Neil Lohr

March 08, 1944 – January 25, 2019  
March 14, 1925 – February 27, 2019

**MEMORIALS and GIFTS**

A gift was given to the Feeding Hungry Children ministry of FUMC Princeton in loving memory of Jerry Thompson by Terry and Peggy Wells.

A gift was given to the Feeding Hungry Children ministry of FUMC Princeton in loving memory of Toni Porterfield by Terry and Peggy Wells.

**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2018 ATTENDANCE**

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
1.6.19	59	139	34	2.3.19	65	139	30
1.13.19	35	62	63	2.10.19	52	132	27
1.20.19	52	116	39	2.17.19	63	158	36
1.27.19	49	126	22	2.24.19	72	172	24

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- † **March 5** – CFT Show-Off Night/Shrove Tuesday Dinner at 6pm (Gym)
- † **March 6** – Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm (Sanctuary)
- † **March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, following Worship Service (Schell Hall)  
This annual donation-only dinner hosted by the Youth raises money for the Higher Education Grant Fund.
- † **April 18** – Tenebrae Service at 7pm (Sanctuary)
- † **April 21** – Easter Sunrise Service (Details will be announced soon.)



Thanks to everyone who submitted an answer for our Mystery Bag app contest to try to stump Scott at Children’s Time! Patty Flanagan was chosen to bring an antique table butler, also known as a crumb catcher. It was a tough choice, and we wanted to share all the great answers!

- A Laundry Detergent Pod
- A Brand New Toilet Seat
- A Lightsaber
- Princess Leia Wig
- A specimen jar with kitty parts (recently alive, but preserved!)



- 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
- 3/13 - Rachel Johnson
- 3/13 - Mary Frances Morris
- 3/13 - Jean Rhodes
- 3/16 - Becky Kidwell
- 3/20 - Patty Holland
- 3/21 - Lucille Reynolds (97)
- 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



- 4/1 - Stephanie Bowling
- 4/1 - Otis Earls (90)
- 4/1 - Suzy Fry
- 4/3 - Sydney Ben Chaabane
- 4/3 - Jakob Haway
- 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 (95)
- 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 - Kathy Tucker
- 4/19 - Jack Stafford
- 4/21 - Jerry Childress (90)
- 4/21 - Twyla Hersman
- 4/22 - Jasper Pritchett
- 4/22 - Jersey Pritchett
- 4/22 - Jillian Pritchett
- 4/22 - Katie Vaughn
- 4/22 - Jan Wilson
- 4/24 - Betty Costopolos
- 4/26 - Rick Dooley
- 4/29 - Nancy Duncan
- 4/30 - Isaac Mick

**Anniversaries**

- March 14 - Jim and Janie Sarver
- March 15 - James and Raegan Biggs
- March 21 - Bob and Jackie Davis
- April 1 - David and Ann Graham
- April 14 - Randall and Sandy Veneri (59)
- April 15 - Lynn and Pat Veneri (54)
- April 26 - Nathan and Lee Elmore (62)

