

# THE REMARKER

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

## INSIDE

**Greetings!**..... 2  
Get to know Pastor Tom and Barbara McDowell.

**Youth Ministries**..... 4  
Brandon reflects on the Flamingo Fundraiser for our Higher Education Grant Fund.

**Children's Ministries**..... 5  
Amped: VBS is coming! Barbara shares details on this summer's Vacation Bible School.

**Library News**..... 6

**Attendance** ..... 6

**Thank You Notes** ..... 7

**Transitions** ..... 7

**Memorials**..... 7

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** ..... 9

## SUMMER EVENTS

### July 7: Welcome Dinner for The McDowells

The Staff-Parish Committee invites you to a Welcome Dinner for Pastor Tom and Barbara McDowell following church service on Sunday, July 7.

This will be a pot-luck dinner, so please bring your favorite dish to share!

Pastor Tom plans to hold small group meetings upon his arrival. Look for more information in our weekly bulletins.

### July 14-17: Vacation Bible School – Amped!

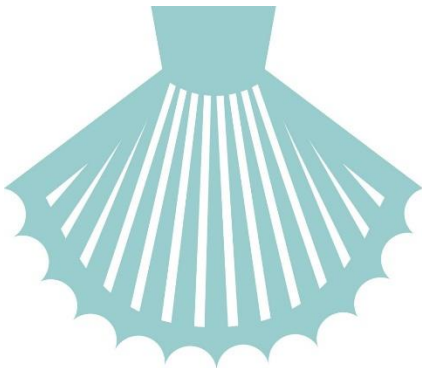
God made you and wants you to live fully alive! Join us for VBS, Sunday-Wednesday from 6pm-8pm. "I have come so that they might have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way." John 10:10 NIV

### July 31: Backpack Giveaway

In mid-July, we will start collecting school supplies and backpacks to support our annual backpack giveaway, which will be held Wednesday, July 31, at 5pm. Keep an eye out for additional details in our weekly bulletins.

### August 4: Annual Church Picnic

We will have our annual church picnic Sunday, August 4, at 5pm. Weather permitting, we will meet at the Bays' home. Alternatively, we will meet in the gym.



**First United Methodist Church of Princeton, WV**

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## Greetings in the Name of the One Who Loves Us with a Mighty Love!

REV. THOMAS MCDOWELL, PASTOR

The days are fast approaching for my return to the place we call home! I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Thomas McDowell and my wife of 42 years is Barbara. Folks call me Tom or Pastor Tom. I'm fine with either. We are both natives of Bluefield. I grew up on East Cumberland Road and she's a Stony Ridge girl! For those not familiar with the Bluefield area, I lived on a plot of land at the foot of East River Mountain about ¾ mile east of what is now the WVVA Television Station location. Barbara's family home was located near downtown Bluefield on the Brushfork side of the ridge.

After graduating from Bluefield High School in 1976, I met Barbara (who was in the class of 1974) and we were married August 27, 1977. She worked at Bluefield Sanitarium Hospital as a Radiologic Technologist and I was a Medic Orderly (a glorified title for what is now called a patient care technician who floated between the first floor and emergency room). We have three children and three grandchildren. Our daughter is Lacie, and sons are Adam and Geoffrey. The grandchildren are Chaynse 14 (pronounced chance), Alexis 13, and Isli (eyes - lee) who is 4. They are our joy and delight. One thing we both love is being parents and grandparents to our kiddos!

I graduated from Bluefield State College in 1987 with a B.A. in History, and from The Divinity School of Duke University in 1991 with a Master of Divinity degree. GO DUKE!!! I also graduated from United Theological Seminar in 2007 with a Doctor of Ministry degree, concentrating on the area of leadership deployment through spiritual giftedness. I also have certifications in Stephen Ministry, Disciple Bible Leader, conflict transformation, and leadership development. I was ordained a Deacon in 1990 and an Elder in 1993. A defining moment for me was my Emmaus Walk. The unconditional love and grace of this



community helped me re-embrace my call not only to ordained ministry, but to a continued life of devoted service to God and the church I have loved and served for the last 38 years!

As I said, Barbara was a registered Radiologic Technologist, but has pursued other areas of service since we left the East Princeton Charge in 1995. She served for 12 years at the United Methodist Conference Center as administrative assistant in the Communications office. For the last 4 years she has been the church secretary at Washington UMC. You assume correctly if you notice that she has worked with me at Washington as a partner in ministry. That defines Barbara, though! She has been my faithful partner throughout my years of ministry. Currently, she serves as a trustee for the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia and in various other ways in the Little Kanawha District. Her passion

is painting and genealogy. Many of her art pieces adorn the walls of our home and office. I also know more about my ancestry than I would have ever taken time to research!!

My passion lies in helping people grow in their faith, teaching, mentoring, crisis intervention, and pastoral care. People face many joys and frustrations in life and it is my heart's desire to come alongside them in this journey called life to be a friend and companion. People need to know that they are unconditionally loved and valued as unique creations of a loving God. We are partners in reaching those who have yet to realize a relationship with Jesus and helping the ones who have stepped to the sidelines of faith to reconnect with the church in a meaningful way.

Barbara and I look forward to coming alongside you to do this work of ministry and to make a significant difference for God's kingdom. We are excited to join you and pray that God will bless each one of us as we faithfully respond to God's call to serve all people in the precious name of Jesus the Christ.

In God's Mighty Grip,  
Tom and Barbara

# CONTACT information



## How to Contact Pastor Tom

Office:  
**304-425-2283**

Email:  
**tdmcdowell10@gmail.com**

Cell:  
**304-991-1900**



MAY 2019 MEMORIES: MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR (DIRECTED BY SHERRIE PRICE.)



**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

**C.I.A. YOUTH**

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer spending time with family and friends and making memories that will last a lifetime. The 2018-2019 C.I.A. Youth program came to an end on Sunday, May 19, at our annual FUMCIES Awards Banquet. The summer has been pretty quiet for the youth other than that due to some planning and scheduling for the upcoming year. We are also updating and working on the 3rd floor youth room, our usual meeting place for all our Bible Studies.

 **Flamingo Takeover** 



I want to extend a huge thank you to the church for the most recent Higher Education Fund Grant Fundraiser - The Flock of Pink Flamingos! I have heard an overwhelming positive response from those who participated by getting the flamingos placed in their yards and moving them on to the next church family member's yard. Everyone was a great sport, took a lot of photos, and had fun with the fundraiser. This will end up being the second-highest

fundraiser for the year, raising money for our students' higher education after high school. I thank you again, and I have heard many people have great ideas on how to "improve" or "increase the fun" on this fundraiser. If you have ideas to make it even better, feel free to let me know!

In Christ's Love,  
 Brandon Roland





**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" VBS IS COMING SOON!!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CHAIR STEPHANIE BOWLING SHARES HER EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE UPCOMING "AMPED" VBS DURING THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ON CONFERENCE SUNDAY.

Under the direction of Mrs. Stephanie Bowling, who has lots of teaching experience with a variety of ages, as well as a background in directing well-attended library reading programs, our VBS will take place **July 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun-Wed), from 6-8PM**. This year we have shortened the event by one evening and will be ending 30 minutes earlier. We hope these changes will enable us to provide adequate supervision and personal attention to the children having **completed K - 4th grade** who will be joining us for this fun adventure and learning about God's power available to each of His children.

There is only one featured Bible verse, John 10:10: **"I have come so they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."** (NIRV) This Bible truth is reinforced each evening through Music (led by Sherrie Price), Small Group Activities (led by Amanda and Jeremy Wenisch), Games (led by Brandon Roland), Snacks (prepared by Becky Kidwell, Lynsey Artrip, and Terri Vest), and the ever-popular Mission station (led by Kathy Tucker).

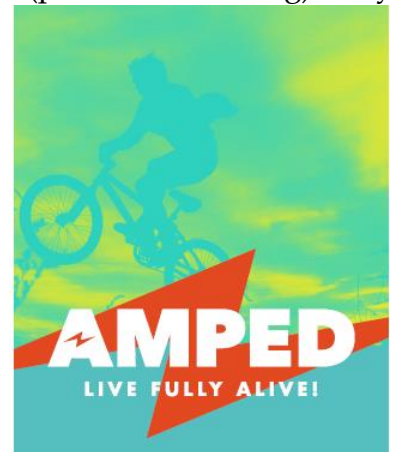
We are excited about this year's mission project, "The Chicken and Egg Initiative," because it provides chickens to families in Haiti who are still overcoming the effects of a hurricane that devastated the region several years ago. Both the chickens and the eggs provide income for rural families who are in great need of support. Kathy always makes this station educational and fun and her decorations will surely enable

the kids to feel they are actively involved in this wonderful project.

VBS has truly brought God's love and grace to countless children who have attended our programs over the years, and it is heartwarming to witness the spiritual growth of the kids each evening. Please consider coming to observe or join us for the fun activities happening throughout the buildings.

We strongly encourage you to register your child and any friends they will be bringing either on our website ([princetonfumc.org](http://princetonfumc.org)) or by using the forms on the table in the office wing lobby.

Stephanie and I are so grateful for all of the folks willing to give of their time and love of children to make this event possible.



# LIBRARY NEWS & STUFF FROM JERRY FLANAGAN, LIBRARIAN

Your church library has multiple copies of each title below to be given away. If you would like to have a copy of either book, please place the word "Perfect" and/or "Stay" near your name on the Connect Card.

**A Perfect Ambition** by Dr. Kevin Leman

"As a firstborn son of an old and powerful family, William Jennings Worthington VI knows what it's like to be under pressure. Groomed from birth with the relentless message that he was destined for greatness, Will has always pushed himself to succeed--nearly as much as his never-satisfied financial tycoon father pushes him. Becoming CEO of the world's largest and most adventuresome oil company seems the next logical step on the success ladder. But when circumstances turn, Will finds himself starting down a road that leads to Capitol Hill. Can he trade the board room for the Senate floor? Or will family secrets keep him from his destiny?"



Becoming CEO of the world's largest and most adventuresome oil company seems the next logical step on the success ladder. But when circumstances turn, Will finds himself starting down a road that leads to Capitol Hill. Can he trade the board room for the Senate floor? Or will family secrets keep him from his destiny?"

**Here To Stay** by Melissa Tagg

"Nomad Blake Hunziker has had enough adventure. When he arrives in Whisper Shore after being involved in a big publicity scandal, his hometown surprises him with its warm welcome and a job offer---providing he can successfully pull off the annual Christmas Festival. If only he knew the first thing about coordinating events. Autumn Kingsley has planned the festival before, but she is done with Whisper Shore. With the visit of a potential investor for her family's Inn on the horizon, her escape finally seems possible. But the old place needs a major facelift, and she only has two weeks to do it. When Blake comes looking for help, she finds the perfect handyman in turn. But, for good reason, the Hunzikers and Kingsleys have never gotten along....."

## MAY-JUNE 2019 ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
5.5.19	52	128	22	6.2.19	52	133	14
5.12.19	91	191	20	6.9.19	51	168	20
5.19.19	49	141	17	6.16.19	65	82	17
5.26.19	47	92	19	6.23.19	50	151	20



## THANK YOU NOTES

To our Church Family – Thank each and every one of you for your love and support during this time of Harold’s passing. I know Jerry is thankful for your words of encouragement and for your love! Flowers were beautiful also.

With much love, Jerry, Cathy, Stephen, and Sarah Linkous

The family of “Skip” Owen sincerely appreciates the meal served to the family after Mother’s funeral. It provided good food and a closure for the family of an emotional day. Thank you very much!

## TRANSITIONS

### In Memory

Doris Lee Bradley	July 15, 1942 – June 16, 2019
Corinne “Skip” Owen	August 6, 1921 – May 12, 2019
Janice Lee “Susie” Belcher	December 26, 1961 – May 22, 2019

### New Members – Transfer from Another Denomination

William Farley	June 9, 2019
Grace Farley	June 9, 2019

### Baptism

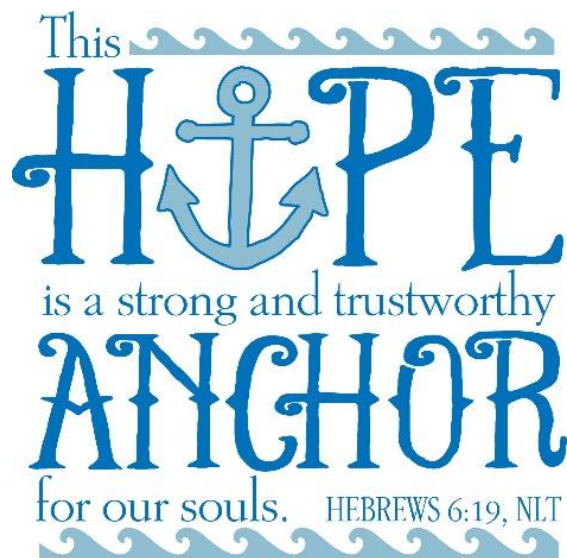
Kinleigh Parker Farley	June 9, 2019
William Brydon Farley	June 9, 2019
Carson Andrew Hamm	June 9, 2019
Makenli Dawn Roberts	June 9, 2019

### New Members – Confirmation

Jaycee Lee Pritchett	June 9, 2019
Makenli Dawn Roberts	June 9, 2019

### Transfer to Another United Methodist Congregation

Ruth Boyles	June 11, 2019
Bridgette Pendleton	June 11, 2019



## MEMORIALS and GIFTS

A gift was given to Thread-Loving Crafters in loving memory of Susie Belcher by Jerry and Patty Flanagan.

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Doris Bradley by Suzy and Buddy Fry.

A gift was given to the Higher Education Grant Fund in loving memory of Jean Cline by Suzy and Buddy Fry.

A gift was given to First United Methodist Church in loving memory of Jean Cline by Michael and Nancy Donovan.

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Skip Owen by:

Edward and Mary Ruth Austin	Jerry and Patty Flanagan
Wilma Bowling	Marie and Michael Irving
Nicholas and Michelle Carolla	Jerry and Melody Jenkins
Terry and Jerry Childress	Roots Revival Sunday School Class
Jim and Charlene Daniels	Rachel Sumner
Dale and Jean Dickens	Brenda Veneri
Shirley Evans	Amanda Wensch
Margaret Edmunds	

A gift was given to the Higher Education Grant Fund in loving memory of Skip Owen by Suzy and Buddy Fry.

A gift was given to the United Methodist Foundation General Endowment Fund in loving memory of Skip Owen by Dan and Betty Farley.

### ONE LAST LOOK BACK

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Staff-Parish Committee and the congregation threw a royal banquet in appreciation of Pastor Scott and Pam Sears. Master of Ceremonies Tom Bay kept the entertainment coming. Scott, Pam, Allie, and Erin: Thank you for your service the last seven years. May God bless you many times over in your new appointment.







July 01- Jillian Biggs  
 July 02 – Leah Johnson  
 July 03 – David Graham  
 July 05 – Colton Fix  
 July 05 – Jeff McNew  
 July 06 – Ethel McColgan  
 July 07 – Bridgette Pendleton  
 July 09 – Amy Williams  
 July 12 – Amanda Wenisch  
 July 13 – Ronda Veneri Clark  
 July 13 – Krista Fix  
 July 14 – Buster Brown  
 July 14 – Terry Childress  
 July 14 – Peggy Lytton  
 July 15 – Doris Bradley  
 July 17 – Judi Carter  
 July 18 – Lynn Veneri  
 July 19 – Larry Cook  
 July 21 – Barb Ballard  
 July 21 – Tom Bay  
 July 22 – Chris Hersman  
 July 22 – Scott Sears  
 July 25 – Rose Ann Burgess  
 July 31 – Sandy Veneri

**July Anniversaries**

7/1 – Jerry & Patty Flanagan  
 7/11 – Jerry & Cathy Linkous  
 7/16 – Cory & Amy Williams  
 7/19 – Jim & Gail Burks (50)  
 7/29 – Will & Pam Stafford



**August Anniversaries**



8/1 – Brian & Ann Struble  
 8/10 – Jamie & Laura Suroski  
 8/13 – John & Sue Backus  
 8/15 – Tony & Becky Veneri  
 8/19 – John & Valeda O'Dell (58)  
 8/20 – John & Kathy Clemons  
 8/25 – John & Janet Painter  
 8/26 – Jerry & Melody Jenkins  
 8/27 – Tom & Barbara McDowell



August 01 – Bill Lewis  
 August 01 – Randall Veneri  
 August 03 – Kathy Casey  
 August 03 – Bill Stafford  
 August 04 – Patty Flanagan  
 August 04 – Tim Merritt  
 August 04 – Stan Tucker  
 August 05 – Mary Ella Noel  
 August 06 – Jackie Davis  
 August 06 – Betty Farley  
 August 06 – Nancy Jones  
 August 06 – Perry Stafford  
 August 07 – Logan Austin  
 August 07 – Tammy Hill  
 August 07 – Tonya Hill  
 August 07 – Brayden Quesenberry  
 August 08 – Hattie Price  
 August 08 – Joni Veneri  
 August 10 – Jerry Evans  
 August 13 – Jenna Bowling  
 August 14 – Shirley Evans  
 August 16 – Layne Veneri  
 August 19 – Nancy Clark  
 August 19 – Todd Craft  
 August 20 – Jane Jessee  
 August 22 – Carson Hamm  
 August 23 – Pam Stafford  
 August 24 – Carol Lani Arnett  
 August 26 – Jamie Suroski  
 August 27 – Elliott Bowling  
 August 28 – Darryl Morris  
 August 29 – Allie Sears  
 August 31 – Betty Sue Bolen