

THE REMARKER

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

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Upcoming Events

November 3: Children's Sunday, 10:50am

The children will bring the Sunday morning worship message through skit and song.

November 9: Painting Day, 11am

Thread-Loving Crafters will host a Painting Day with Amy Williams. Proceeds will go the Higher Education Grant Fund for our Youth.

November 10: The Evolution of Religious Music, 10:50am

Tom Bay and the Drama Team will present a special service celebrating religious music through the ages.

November 17: Jumpstart, 9:30am

Charge Conference, 4:30pm

November 24: United Methodist Student Day, 10:50am

We will welcome back many of our college students who will serve as ushers and worship leaders.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

December 1: Hanging of the Greens, 7pm

The Princeton Senior High School Madrigals return this year for our special Advent kick-off service.

December 8: Christmas Program & Dinner, 5:30pm

December 20: Live Nativity, 6-8pm

Inclement Weather: December 21

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, 7pm



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

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Strategically placed on the bookshelves in my study is a gift given to me by a Confirmation Class a few years ago. It is simple in design, yet it means so much to me. Before I tell you what it is I want to take a moment and share why they gave me this particular gift.

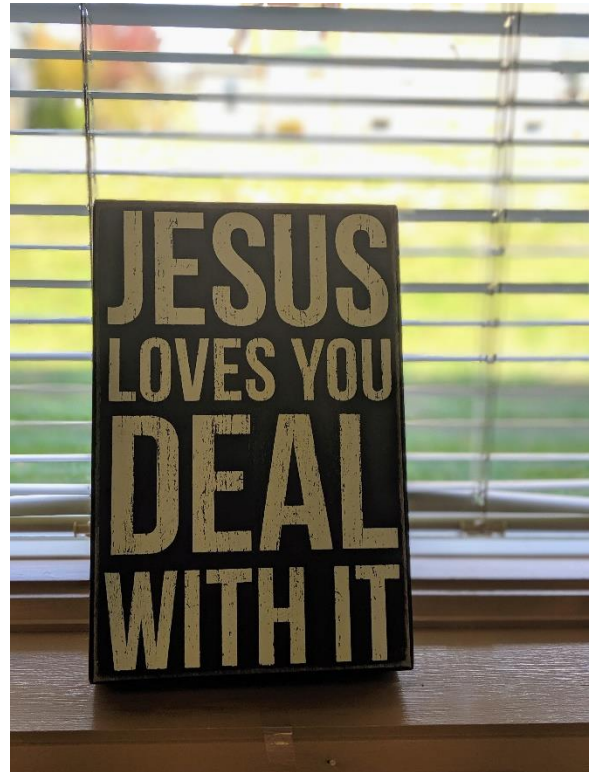
The group consisted of seven sixth-grade girls who were funny, vivacious, and inquisitive. They were to spend ten weeks working on the confirmation materials with a mentor and then do class work with me to complete the course. It was an interesting group to say the least! They were a chatty and giggling group that asked many questions and would often say "you are confusing me" or "I'm not sure I understand what you are saying." Like I said, they were high energy, but extremely intelligent students seeking to find their place in God's kingdom!

I kept assuring them that Jesus loved them and went through each progression of each lesson plan. My prayer was that they be led to the conclusion that Jesus loves them and wants to be in relation with them. It was my purpose to lead them to a relationship with Jesus that would permanently alter the course of their lives, change them, and prepare them for that day when they would say, "Jesus loves me and I love Him, too!!"

We were nearing the final week and for what seemed the hundredth time I heard that familiar remark, "But I'm confused!" In haste to get the point across, I replied . . . "Jesus loves you, deal with it!" Now before you draw a swift opinion of my reply, think back to what I was hearing. My biggest concern at that moment was that I'd led this group of vivacious girls on a ten-week journey to declare their faith in Jesus and I was troubled (well fearful is a better word) that I had presented the gospel in a way that was not understandable for them and when given the opportunity they would say "I'm not ready to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior!"

The time finally came to ask the ultimate question of faith, so I asked them to pray the "Sinner's Prayer" and to my surprise all seven said "yes" to Jesus and pledged their love for Him! I was elated and excited to share the good news with the congregation and to plan the Baptismal Covenant Service for their Confirmation Sunday celebration!

The Sunday came for the recognition and I had carved each of them a wooden cross necklace to present as a gift. What I didn't know was that they had gotten together and purchased a gift for me. When they gave it to me they insisted that I open it immediately. I was surprised and pleased that it was a simple plaque that said: "Jesus Loves You Deal with It!"



So, on the wall behind my desk, I have hung this simply worded plaque that contains a summary of what I believe to be the message of Christ's church. **"Jesus loves you. Deal with it!"** What is your reply?

In His Mighty Grip!!

Pastor Tom

**BRANDON ROLAND, YOUTH DIRECTOR**Office: 304-425-0064 Email: bgroland24@gmail.com

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

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

Happy Fall, Church Family!



The youth ministry program has been in full swing. We have been meeting regularly on Wednesday and Sunday evenings for Bible Study and Discipleship Training. At Wednesday Night Bible Study we have been exploring salvation and the restoration of our relationship with God. At Sunday Discipleship Training we have been exploring the community of the church and what our role is as a disciple of Christ. We need to look at how we can contribute to that community. We are called to grow towards Christ together and we were never expected to develop our relationship with Christ alone.

This year we changed up our game nights and took them off campus. Each month, we have one game on a Sunday evening. In September, the youth group and leaders went to Princeton's Out of the Box escape room. We split into 3 groups and each group worked together to get out of their room! It was a great experience of team building and teamwork! In October, we hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner in Schell Hall. The students had specific characters and had to work together to unveil secrets, clues, and solve a mystery. It was a blast and everyone really enjoyed it!

November 22-24 we will take the students to Fall Workshop in Ripley, WV. Parents, just a reminder, you will need to register the students by November 1st.



Upward Basketball and Cheerleading will start the week after Thanksgiving. Currently, we have about 190 signed up for basketball and 20 for cheerleading. If you would like to volunteer, there are many different ways that you can! Please reach out to the church office or myself and we can find a perfect fit for you! We will have a coaches and referees meeting Tuesday, November 5th at 7PM. We will have a cheerleading coaches meeting Thursday, November 7th at 7PM. Practices will begin the week after Thanksgiving and games start Saturday, January 4th.

Please be in prayer for our youth students, the Upward Sports program, volunteers for Upward Sports, and the families associated with Upward Sports.



BARBARA BALLARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Office: 304-425-0064 Cell: 304-920-8186 Email: fumcdce@suddenlinkmail.com

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

Sunday: 9:30am-Noon

TO ATHENS AND BACK



Stan Tucker brought Paul to Life!!

Our fall CFT Athens theme proved to be very educational, inspiring, and fun, due to the faithful participation of many volunteers, both from our church family and parents.

The apostle Paul, played very convincingly by Stan Tucker, did a wonderful job sharing his dangerous journey as he shared the gospel both in Athens and Rome. He was so repentant as he told the children how he used to persecute Christians before he met the risen Jesus. That evening, he led the kids in writing a regret they had on a handprint and placing it on a wooden cross. Many of them willingly stopped by the altar rail afterwards to pray. It was so meaningful, touching, and inspiring to the adults present!

Bob Davis played the role of Dionysius, a real historical Biblical character, who was a member of the council and converted to Christianity, due to Paul's teachings. Mother/daughter actresses Kim and Alex Bay play dueling sisters very well! A couple of years ago, they portrayed Mary and Martha in an entertaining way, while succeeding in conveying the scripture message. This year they got into their roles as sisters once again. Kim's character's son was sick and blamed Alex's character for angering the Greek gods when she became a Christian. A sympathetic passerby, played by Becky Kidwell, came along for comfort and to support the new Christian when she tries to reconcile with her sister and pray for her son. Tom Bay played a soldier in Athens who encounters opportunist Bob Davis trying to sell tickets to a free event where Paul will be arguing with the Greek philosophers. Both of these guys are great at presenting Bible stories with humor and truth. Roger Topping played the role of a beggar with a jail record for stealing food to feed his children. He reluctantly agrees to come to a new Christian's (also played by Bob Davis 😊) house to learn about God's love. Later, we learned that he

has become a changed man after becoming friends with Christians when a friend (played by wife Becky Kidwell) notices tremendous change in his behavior and attitude.

I can't thank these church family members enough for the time and energy they invested in this session, in order that the kids would be impacted by the tremendous trials Paul faced and overcame, to fulfill his call to tell his world about Jesus.

Since music, crafts, and games were also a part our Athens study, Stephanie Bowling shared her music gifts by leading Athens-themed songs each week, and crafts were led by Grace Farley, Stephanie Bowling, Marcia Anderson, Cathy Linkous, Kathy Quesenberry, and Lynsey Artrip. Our kids love games, so we were blessed that Grace and William Farley and Larrissa Roberts were willing to plan and lead outside theme-related games.

Finally, Miss Marcia worked tirelessly to find a treat and/or prize to go with each week's lesson, and Miss Martha kept track of all church activity points, and chose prizes that we know the kids loved because they started showing them to us adults and playing with them before "Show Off" night was over!

I am extremely grateful for all of the involvement, which not only exposes the kids to Bible truths but also shows them how Christian adults can impact their church family by sowing into the spiritual lives of the children.

Church Christmas Program & Dinner – December 8th at 5:30pm



Hey, People!
Smile, Laugh, and... be MERRY

Created by Sherrie Price



- Act 1 Wise People
- Act 2 Grinchy People
- Act 3 Sneezing people



Christmas program December 8th
@5:30 in Sanctuary
Followed by our Annual
Christmas Potluck Dinner in the FMC

A three-act program with multi-generational players that will have us take a serious look at Biblical scripture. But then we'll "flip the coin" and take a different look, on a lighter side. We will smile, laugh, and be MERRY as we keep focus on Advent and the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Our annual Church Christmas Potluck Dinner will take place in the gym,
 following the conclusion of our program.**

MINISTRY NEWS



Hey, singers! Choir is back in full swing, rehearsing on Thursdays at 7pm in the Choir Room, under the direction of Steve and Lori Comer. All are welcome to join!

COLLEGE NEWS

November 24th is United Methodist Student Sunday, and our higher education students will be participating in the worship service by delivering a message, serving as Worship Leader, and ushering. Be certain to show them our love with a special greeting.

We have two students completing degrees in December:

Betsy Horton, daughter of Vicki and Will Horton, will graduate from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She has been involved in an internship program at ARH in Beckley during this Fall term.

Jamie Suroski, husband of Laura Suroski, will graduate from Marshall University with a Master of Arts in Literacy Education. He completed his degree while teaching at Straley Elementary School.

Congratulations, Betsy and Jamie!



LIBRARY NEWS AND STUFF

Jerry Flanagan, Librarian



The church library will be open on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, starting November 6th. A library "staff person" will be available to assist with finding and checking out books and other resources. Training on the use of the church electronic card catalog will also be available. Entry to the Family Ministries Center building will be through the back door of Schell Hall. The library will be closed if Mid-Week Bible Study is cancelled, so check your "What's Happening" tri-fold in your Sunday bulletin for scheduling.

Volunteers are needed! If you have just an hour or two of spare time and enjoy books, there are numerous volunteer opportunities available. If you are interested, please stop by the library on Wednesdays between 5:00 and 6:00 or contact Jerry Flanagan at 304-487-1089.



THREAD-LOVING CRAFTERS (TLC)

Along with our ongoing projects, TLC has two new exciting initiatives!

First, we are hosting a "Painting Day" on November 9th at 11am in Schell Hall. The cost is \$35.00 for all the supplies and includes a donation to the Higher Education Grant Fund. Amy is designing a holiday-themed painting this time, and step-by-step will guide us through creating our own masterpieces. This is great for beginners and habitual painters alike. We will serve light refreshments. There is limited seating so please let Kathy Tucker or the church office know as soon as possible that you plan to attend.

TLC has also been invited to participate in "Lunch and Learn" events in the Counseling Center at Concord University. This is a great chance for us to share how therapeutic our ministry is with students! We will provide events this semester teaching crochet, loom knitting, jewelry making, mat weaving, fleecetied blankets, and simple quilting. We are so excited about this unique outreach to these students.

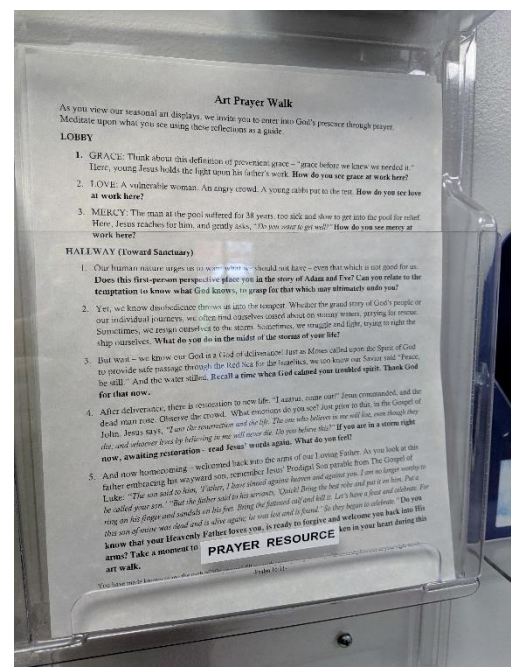


INTRODUCING THE ART PRAYER WALK



Have you noticed the new arrangement of memorial art pieces hanging in the lobby and hallway toward the sanctuary? These pieces have been carefully selected to help us reflect on God's grace, love, and mercy.

In the lobby, a guided devotion has been designed to help you spend time in conversation with God while viewing and reflecting upon this work. These specific displays will be changed seasonally. We invite you to take a few moments, intentionally slow down, and take this short art prayer walk. What do you see? What do you hear?



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019 ATTENDANCE

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online	Date	Sunday School	Worship	Online
9.1.19	56	157	21	10.6.19	54	158	--
9.8.19	47	153	16	10.13.19	37	107	22
9.15.19	41	132	20	10.20.19	55	132	22
9.22.19	43	144	20	10.27.19	86	171	17
9.29.19	42	116	18				

THANK YOU NOTES

I want to graciously thank everyone for your prayers, your cards, phone calls and concerns for the passing of my brother, Bill Martin. It is very comforting to know that my church family cares for others during troubling times.

Thank each of you for your visits, prayers, phone calls and cards during my illness. It is comforting to know others care. May God richly bless each of you.

With loving thanks,
Barbara Hampton

TRANSITIONS

In Memory

Naomi June Raines March 26, 1937 – September 26, 2019
Alice Taylor Smith February 10, 1935 – August 28, 2019

New Member – Confirmation

Ella Biggs September 8, 2019

Transfer to Another Denomination

Kathey Haway September 19, 2019

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in loving memory of Dr. Jerry Bailes by:

Hickman's Pharmacy Brenda Veneri
Shelley McHenry and Tiffany Montgomery John and Patricia Whitmore
Calvin Saunders and Pam Elmore

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Dr. Jerry Bailes by Mary Ann Thomas.

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Doris Bradley by Ott & Joanna Fredeking.

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Naomi Raines by Harry Farmer.

A gift was given to Feeding Hungry Children in loving memory of Alice Smith by:

Jerry and Patty Flanagan Mary Ann Thomas

A gift was given to the Odell Huffman Scholarship Fund in loving memory of Alice Smith by Terry and Geraldine Childress.

November Anniversaries

November 2 – David & Carol Westfall (56)
 November 13 – Randy & Mona Lester
 November 17 – Will & Vicki Horton
 November 18 – Rick & Kathy Dooley
 November 19 – Rick & Terry Graham
 November 21 – Robert & Terri Vest
 November 26 – Buddy & Suzy Fry

November Birthdays

November 1 – Kathy Quesenberry
 November 2 – Joanna Fredeking
 November 4 – Carol Westfall
 November 5 – Marcia Anderson
 November 6 – Taylor Horton
 November 7 – Jason Pritchett
 November 8 – Vicki Horton
 November 9 – Roger Topping
 November 12 – David Westfall
 November 13 – Becky Helmick
 November 14 – Jon Casey
 November 14 – Linda Hawkins
 November 19 – Seth Price
 November 20 – Griffin Biggs
 November 21 – Kim Bay
 November 22 – Joanna Williams
 November 23 – Cathy Linkous
 November 23 – Lindsay Price
 November 25 – Valeda O'Dell
 November 26 – Brian Struble
 November 27 – Mike Quesenberry
 November 28 – Raegan Biggs
 November 29 – Kaitlyn Artrip

December Anniversaries

December 18 – Kent & Joanna Thompson
 December 19 – Chris & Stephanie Knight
 December 22 – David & Ellen Knight (63)
 December 22 – Stan & Kathy Tucker
 December 29 – Bob & Barb Ballard

December Birthdays

December 2 – Kinleigh Farley
 December 2 – Nora Williams
 December 5 – Harry Farmer
 December 6 – Sarah Linkous
 December 6 – Kelley Massie

December 6 – Peggy Wells
 December 7 – Randy Beachler
 December 9 – Cathy McNew
 December 10 – Evayne Chambers (93)
 December 10 – London Hill
 December 14 – Randy Lester
 December 20 – Betty Musick
 December 24 – Doris Robertson
 December 26 – Kristine Price
 December 26 – Ben Williams
 December 27 – Makayla Chibuzo
 December 28 – Pam Coulbourne
 December 30 – Abbey Stafford
 December 31 – Shelley Cline
 December 31 – Janie Sarver

*If someone is missing or a correction is needed,
 please accept our apologies and call the church
 office.*