

May 2022

TOWER TOPICS



Welcome to Our New Associate Pastor

It is the intention of Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball to appoint Heather Barker as Associate Pastor of First UMC, Huntington. Heather graduated Summa Cum Laude from Marshall University with a BA in Online Journalism. She graduates from The Divinity School at Duke University in

May with a Master of Divinity degree and Certificate in Wesleyan/Methodist Studies. She will be commissioned as a Provisional Member of the Annual Conference (Elder track) in June. Closest to Heather's heart for ministry are pastoral care and visitation, discipleship building, and teaching. Her parents, Bob and Diana Barker, are residents of Huntington. Joining her in the move from Durham, NC will be her cat, Finnegan. Let's make Heather feel welcome to First Church, even as we continue to work with Pastor Steve prior to his move.

Pastor Heather will begin work with us on July 1st. A reception to welcome her will be held following worship on July 8th in the Fellowship Hall!

Faith, Compassion, and Community – 150 Years of First United Methodist, Huntington

Special Celebration Day on May 8th – “Festival of the Christian Home”

The United Methodist denomination calls the "Festival of the Christian Home" — **a day to celebrate the gift of home and those who share it with us, in our immediate families, our communities, and within the church itself.**

As a special celebration in the midst of 150th Anniversary as First United Methodist Church, Huntington, we will spend this day in worship celebrating the families that have shaped our faith through many generations. Our worship will celebrate our history together with the realization that families, both by birth and by choice, have helped to form us into the church that we are today.

Our sanctuary will be decorated with our typical “All Saints Day” banners as a reminder to us that our family is not just in this world.

You are invited to bring photos of people that make up “your family” to place on our communion table and chancel rail. These can be photos from the past or present, birth family, church family, or other!

Rev. Mark Conner will be with us during this special celebration to preach.

*Following worship, each **HOUSEHOLD** will receive 1 complimentary copy of our new history book.*

*We will also have T-Shirts made by Joe Eddins Designs available for sale in the Fellowship Hall.
(\$10 for youth and children, \$12 for adult)*

150th Anniversary Events: Blood Drive



On Friday, April 22, FUMC and the Red Cross hosted a blood drive as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration. This event, organized by Marla Haslam, was open to the public and had a great turnout. Schauna Chambers said that she donated blood that day because not only does she have a rare blood type, but also was doing so in memory of a little boy named Benjamin Poole who died. The Red Cross hosts blood drives around the country every day and it is always a good time to give blood. If you would like to find a blood drive near you, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or visit their website at redcross.org.



The Wesley Kids Children's Choir invites EVERYONE to their year-end musical on Wednesday evening, May 11 at 6 pm. Entitled *The Sailor's Bible* it features all the kids, plus a few "big Kids" (Pastor Scott, Pastor Steve, Schauna, Susan, & Harriett) as we tell a few tall tales from the Bible.

Pianist extraordinaire Rhonda Adkins will accompany and choir assistants Carolyn Waggoner & Emily Riggio will manage things back-stage. Make your dinner reservations soon, so you can get the best seats for this fun-filled evening of music and bad jokes!

For Choir Parents:

Children will be singing for 10:45 worship on Mother's Day, May 8th.

Musical Info: TECH rehearsal is Wednesday, May 4th from 5:30-7:00 on the fellowship hall stage



FUMC has a strong musical tradition that has and continues to bring our congregation together in worship and fun. The handbell choir has been a part of this musical tradition for over twenty years with dedicated musicians and directors. Both adult and youth handbell choirs have filled our church with the music from this unique and beautiful instrument.

The current adult handbell choir would love to grow and will welcome any and all people interested in joining our group. No experience necessary. Feel free to jump in and test it out if you wish, no commitment needed. We rehearse on Wednesday nights for about an hour starting at 6:00 PM immediately after dinner. I look forward to having you join us! Chris Thomas, Handbell Choir Director



And here's another date to put on your busy calendars: Sunday afternoon, June 19th. That's when Johan Botes, our "traveling" organist will be back in our sanctuary to present a fabulous organ recital. Johan has been on a semester-long sabbatical, giving concerts all around the globe. This will not be just any organ recital; this will be jaw-droppingly wonderful! You will hear our fine organ in a way you've never heard it before. We are extremely fortunate to have a performer of this caliber in WV, let alone at Marshall University and especially at First United Methodist Church!

And, in case you need another incentive to attend, we will be recognizing Sandra Folsom's many years of service as our organist and choir director. We will have a reception afterwards so you can meet and greet both of these outstanding musicians. This is the CONCERT OF THE YEAR. Invite your music-loving friends. Invite other church goers to attend. Invite out-of-towners to make a special trip to Huntington for this event. This is a performance worthy of our 150 years of celebration and our own congregation needs to support it by attending and spreading the word!

Many thanks to all our singers, accompanists, ringers, and brass players for their fine musical contributions to our Easter Celebration. Worship would be much less joyful without your "joyful noise!"

(Right) The Sanctuary Choir welcomed anyone that wanted to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* by Handel on Easter Sunday. This performance was dedicated to the glory of God but also to Jim McVey, the longest participant in the choir who passed April 23, 2022





5/2	Shirley Kincade
5/3	Marlene Sheets
5/5	C.R. Neighborgall IV
	Courtney Ashley
5/8	Kil Choi
	Matt Birkhimer
5/9	Christopher Gooding
5/10	Sandee Folsom
5/13	Sheri Duncan
5/14	Alyse Lewis
	Alex Hill
5/16	Nancy Campbell
	Tess Anderson
5/17	Nancie Perry
	Peggy Brown
	Craig Sergent
	Hilary Brownstead
5/18	Erik Legg
5/19	Rosie Bright
	Alex Naegele
5/21	Vance Bunn
	Wendy Bacon
5/24	Keir Adkins Coleman
5/23	Sally Duncan
	Avett Bannon
5/27	Ted Johnson
	Karianne Fischer
	Harrison Massie
5/28	J.D. Maue
5/29	Rob Archer
	Benjamin Skaggs
5/30	Autumn Arthur

DaySpring – A Camp from Downtown UM Churches

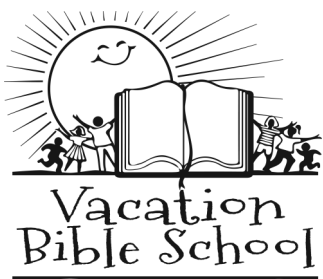
First UMC and Johnson Memorial UMC will be working with Spring Heights (our Annual Conference Camping Ministry) to provide a “Day Camp” for children in Huntington – both members of our congregation and community members. **The camp will take place on June 27, 28, and 29 at Ritter Park** and will include games, crafts, devotions, sports, and of course food!

First UMC has agreed to supply FIVE adults who are willing to spend the three days with these children from 9 am in the morning until 3 pm in the afternoon to act as “shepherds” of each group of ten kids. The staff of Spring Heights will be leading the activities in different locations, and our volunteers, along with an equal number from JM will serve as the “shepherds”. **THESE CHILDREN MAY NEED YOUR PRESENCE WITH THEM, BUT BE ASSURED THAT YOU WILL GET MORE OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE THAN THEY WILL.** Retired or still working – this is an excellent opportunity for adults to use personal days in a way that impacts the lives of children with the message of the Good News.

We will also need two able bodied men to volunteer to be “willing workers” during the event to run errands and help with set up, etc.

We also need food for snacks and lunch for campers and helpers as well as food donations to help feed the staff that will be coming from Spring Heights to carry out the activities. Those young adults will be staying at First Church during this event.

If you are willing to help in any way, please call Schauna Chambers at the church office! You will not regret any investment you make in this new ministry.



Vacation Bible School is June 5th and 6th. June 5th we start right after church with lunch and it goes until 4:30 and on June 6th it starts at 6pm with a snack supper for kids and volunteers at 5:15. You can pre register your children starting May 8th. Any Questions please contact Schauna Chambers 304-634-9684

The children and vacation bible school needs more volunteers to help make vacation bible school happen.

Schauna also needs help decorating for VBS on May 11 and 25th (Wednesdays) from 5:30-7:30. Please help her if you are able!



NURSERY *Workers Needed*

Nursery workers are needed to have the nursery open. Workers must be 18 or older and available Sundays 9:30-Noon and Wednesdays 5:15-7:15. This is a paid position and would be perfect for someone that wants to work with children

Please contact Schauna or the church office if you are interested!



Easter Flowers



The sanctuary looked beautifully decorated with flowers this Easter Sunday (April 17). Thank you to Margaret and Vern Reichenbecher, Jody and Linda Eddins, Katie Bonnett, Sue King and the Maue family for their hard work organizing the flowers on the altar and for making the distribution run smoothly.

First Light – Summer Break

The last meeting of our First Light worship service for the summer will be June 19th. We will start back in the Fall after our new Associate Pastor has some time to look at the service and offer proper guidance for it in the days to come.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WILL BE HOSTING A BRUNCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS FIRST LIGHT SERVICE!! ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.



Bible Study

Women bring your favorite breakfast dish and a friend to The Table, **May 14th** from 9 am to 11 am. The Table is a women's Bible Study that all are welcome to and no prep is needed. Come as you are! If you need childcare, please let Schauna know at 304-634-9684.

United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women)

With just some yellow and blue ribbon and many busy fingers, the Dorcas Circle raised \$790 dollars for UMCOR relief of the Ukraine. At their April meeting they contemplated our relationship to Mary Magdalene at the Tomb.

Upcoming UWF Events:

May 10 (Tuesday) at 1:00

Lynn Cummings will tell about the work and needs of Cridlin Food and Clothing Closet.

May 7 (Saturday) Flower Sale. Please place your orders by May 1
June 19 (Sunday) Farewell Brunch for Steve Hensley, 9:30-10:30



MANNA AND MERCY



A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOD'S UNFOLDING PROMISE TO MEND THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE

Daniel Erlender

JOIN US!

The Journey Class is starting a new study:

Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe



We are beginning 5/15 @ 9:30

This will be a six-week study

For any question, contact Gavin Brandenburg via Facebook or

Email: Gavin.Brandenburg00@gmail.com



The Journey Class is a Reconciling Ministry Network Community--
ALL ARE WELCOME!

May 2022

WEEKLY
SCHEDULE:

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4 Finance Meeting 6:00 Children's Musial Tech Rehearsal 5:30-7:00	5	6	7 Cyndi Bright Funeral Visitation: 12-2 Service: 2:00 UMW Flower Pick-up
8 Festival of the Christian Home	9	10 Dorcas Circle 1:00	11 Trustee Meeting 6:00 Children's Musical 6:00	12	13	14 The Table Women's Bible Study 9:00
15	16	17	18 Staff Parish 7:00 VBS Decorating 5:30-7:30	19	20 Tower Topic Articles Due	21
22 Covered Dish Steve's Farewell Graduation Celebration	23	24	25 VBS Decorating 5:30-7:30	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31				

SUNDAY:
8:45 First Light Worship Service
9:30 Small Groups for all ages
10:45 Traditional Worship

WEDNESDAY
9:00 Wednesday Willing Workers
10:00 Veterans Fellowship
(Parlor)

Knitters Club
11:00 Bible Study (Panel
Room)
5-6:00 Dinner (Reservations
required.
6-6:45 Yoga (\$5.00 a person)
Wesley Kids Choir
Small Group Meetings
Bell Choir
7-8:00 Sanctuary Choir

Upcoming Dates in
June

June 5-6: VBS
June 19: Last First Light service
 Brunch
 Johan Botes Concert
June 27-29: Day/Spring Camp

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CHANGE SERVICE
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Senior Pastor,
Scott Sears

Associate Pastor
Stephen Hensley

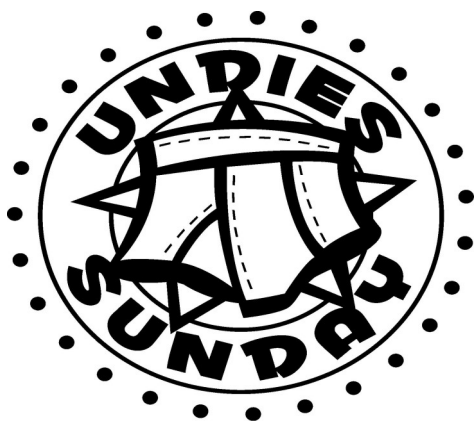
Director of Christian Education
Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

First Light 8:45 a.m.
Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline May 20 2022.



MAY 8, 2022

**REMEMBER MOM THIS MOTHER'S DAY
BY BRINGING NEW UNDERWEAR FOR
THOSE IN NEED**

**ALL SIZES NEEDED!
MENS, WOMENS, BOYS, AND GIRLS**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are sick or homebound...

Bill McClintock, Allen Parsley and his wife Beth, Jim Cummings, Mel Cummings, JD Maue, Nancy Palmer, Anna Archer, GinnyLee Hastings, Richard Drown, Alec Cyrus, Mike Conley, Anne Weeks, Leona Davis, Jon Bradley, Mark Burton, Nancy Crum, Martha Cummings, Jack Patrick, Marlene Sheets, those suffering from COVID- 19, caretakers.

For those who grieve

The family of Jim McVey, who passed Saturday, April 23rd.
The family of Cyndi Bright, who passed Monday, April 25
The family of Mary Lamb, who passed Monday April 25th.

For our community...

Those battling addiction, those who are without shelter, our local leaders

For our world...

The people of Ukraine, victims of natural disasters, those who welcome refugees, for peace