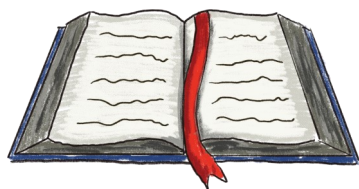


September 2022

TOWER TOPICS



Bible Study Opportunities

Over the next couple weeks, more Bible studies will be beginning! The first of which is another offering of the Ruth study which has been taught on Wednesday mornings. Starting Aug. 31, the study on the Book of Ruth will be offered Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in Room 207. This is a perfect opportunity for parents or those with free time after dinner to delve into the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. Each week we will cover a single chapter by reading the scripture, learning about the history, discussing how we see God at work, and seeing connections with our own lives. You're invited to read the first chapter of Ruth prior to meeting, but it is not necessary.

The Wednesday morning Bible Study Group decided to do a study on the Book of Esther next! This will be a 6-week study exploring Queen Esther's rule and her ability to save her people from genocide. Please read the first two chapters of Esther prior to our first meeting on Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. in the Panel Room. Come explore how God is present in a book in which God is never mentioned.

Both Bible studies are open to all adults, including those with no Bible knowledge to those with a lot. Bring your thoughts and your friends!

Blessings,
Pastor Heather

Not Quite Home...Thoughts from Your Pastor

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2

These verses from the Book of Psalms are sometimes referred to as “the WV Psalm.” Well, theologians and bible scholars don't do that, but I've heard it more than once in my ministry. When I read these two verses of Psalm 121, I almost always change couple things “in my head” if not out loud.

First, I almost always add to the end of it the words, “and hills.” I know, I know, if God made the earth, then it stands to reason that God made the hills. However, I like the poetic reminder of saying, “My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth and hills.” Sometimes, repetition is a good thing. To me it is a reminder that no matter how much comfort and protection that I find in the hills that surround me, there is one who is even greater than these: The Lord our God!

Secondly, I sometimes, especially recently, have been replacing the word “help” with the word “hope” so that the Psalm reads, “I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my hope come? My hope comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth and hills!”

I like doing this because many times I need to remind myself that this world needs hope now more than ever and some days, even I need the reminder that I have the greatest source of hope as my Lord and Savior. When you look at the world around us you can often find what the Germans would call a lot of “gluckschmerz” or “schadenfreude” – roughly “pain at another person's good fortune” and “pleasure at another person's or groups pain or misfortune” respectively.

I tire of seeing people celebrate the trials that someone of their opposing

viewpoint is undergoing. I grow weary of hearing people complain about good fortune being given to one group or another simply because the opportunity for that fortune to hit them has passed them by. I watch all this unfolding in our world and I think, “Wow...we really need hope. Hope that will sustain us when things are good AND hope that will sustain us when things are not going our way!”

I find that hope in the one who made everything around me, including the beautiful mountains we often refer to as “hills” in various songs. I find that hope in the one who made the very heavens that surround us that are so vast we can't even imagine finding the end of them! I find my hope in the one who created and will create again.

I don't know where your hope is bound. For many people, it seems to be tied to something or someone that is around them. If it is not that, then it is in something that they create on their own.

I invite you to join those who travelled to Jerusalem each year and as they walked the mountains into the city of their Temple would sing out these words: “I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth and hills.” And if you are lacking in hope, or abounding in *gluckschmerz* or *schadenfreude*, then join me in adding the word hope to this psalm as you sing!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



In The Mailbag



Dear Pastor Scott,

Please forgive the delay in issuing a heartfelt “thank you” for the lovely gifts you sent sometime ago; terrific copy of the First church’s 150th anniversary and the lovely T-shirt; both have become quite popular in this household.

I was so excited to have a copy of First church’s history, with Huntington’s growing pains integrated, that I had to read it all at one sitting. Wonderfully written, with so much information about the early Church! Gathering all that information, as well as the pictures was quite a task I am sure. Please give a sincere ‘thank you’ to all concerned.

My delay in responding was occasioned by a lengthy hospital stay as well as four or five subsequent weeks in a rehabilitation facility. However, I am now at my daughter’s home, in Florida, and am doing remarkably well, thanks to oxygen and a walker. My goal is to walk normally again on my own two feet, unattended. I am currently headed in that direction!

Thanks again for your love, prayers, and gifts. Prayer works!

Blessings,
Claire McClure

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your sponsorship of the Bishop's Chalice Challenge. Your generous gifts to the Endowment for Religious and Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College will help campus ministry reach young people far into the future. Thank you for helping to build this legacy.

Grace,
Kim Matthews



Mission News

Flood Buckets

The Mission Committee-Katie Bonnett, Lisa Lucas, Pam McCoy, Sara and Kenny Tschop, Jane and Jerry Morse went on a shopping spree and found the supplies to fit into 36 flood buckets worth over \$2000. Amy

Dillon, Chris, Brittany, Bell, and Arthur Thomas, the Morses, and the Tschops filled the buckets. We wanted those buckets to be used NOW. Jon and Debbie Bradley delivered them to Joe Hill in Charleston. Joe distributed them to the flooded homes on Campbell’s Creek in Kanawha, County. Folks were amazed at how much Methodists could cram in a bucket. Thank you one all.

EBENEZER

Plans are finally being drawn up for the center’s expansion. The first order of business is a new roof for the existing building.

HEALTH KITS

The Dorcas Circle put together 20 health kits in August. They were delivered to Campbell’s Creek.



**FLOOD BUCKET HELPERS ON AUGUST 10.
THEY FILLED 36 BUCKETS IN 34 MINUTES**





Youth 2023 Meeting

Wednesday September 7th at 5:30 pm there will be a meeting discussing all things that are needed to make Youth 2023 happen. **If youth or yourself are interested in going, you must attend this meeting.** If there is a conflict, contact Schauna Chambers BEFORE the meeting at 304-634-9684. **If you do not attend the meeting or let Schauna know of your absence, you cannot go on the trip.**

Volunteers

The children Sunday School class needs volunteers. We are not able to have Sunday School for the children without adults.

Raising for a Cause

Although it is not time for Octoberfest just yet, we already are making plans. The children read a book about the Heifer Project in Children's Church and have decided to help raise funds for the cause. Make sure you come out on October 26th to support the project and have some Halloween fun.

High Schoolers

Any High Schoolers who need volunteer hours and would be interested in helping in the nursery or children's church, please contact Schauna Chambers

Asbury Woods:

Are you Fall-O-Ween Jesus Elementary Retreat! Grades 3-5 on October 14-16.
More information in October's issue of Tower Topics!

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

9/1	Caleb Jackson
9/3	Melanie Hughes
	Jamie Legg
9/4	Charlie Buell
9/5	Cruze Smith
9/6	Gary Taylor
9/8	Todd Bacon
	Zealand Wylie
9/12	Mary Arthur
	Chris Thomas
9/13	Sam Denning
9/14	Gene Weekley
	John Knight
9/15	Schauna Chambers
9/16	Chuck Hanshaw
9/17	Ashley Duncan
	Taylor Davis
9/18	Stacy Morgan
9/19	Evalee Kyger
9/22	Sara Tschop
	Tim Dillon
9/23	Paul Edwards
9/25	Debbie Bradley
	Waverly Hughes
9/26	Joshua Crum
9/28	Chase Thomas
	Shelby Naegele
9/29	Jake Maue
9/30	Leann Haines

YOU'RE INVITED

Helpington

A community of believers lending a helping hand to our community

Together we will spread out across downtown to serve and support our neighbors in need:

**City Mission
Rebuild
Harmony House
Cridlin Food & Clothing
Pantry
and others.**

FIFTH AVENUE BAPTIST
is coordinating a day of missions on Saturday,
September 24, 2022
8:00a - 1:00p

All downtown churches and interested people of faith are welcome to join us! If you would like to participate, please sign up via the link below. Questions: contact Rev. Alicia Porterfield at aliciap@fifthavenuebaptist.org.





As summer ends and we all start to settle into our fall routines, we will be relaunching our Sunday contemporary service! Things will look a bit different from the past, including the name. With a fresh start, we wanted to re-name our service to reflect our goals of fellowship and worship.

"The Gathering" will

begin Sunday, Sept. 11 at 8:30-9:15 am. Note the time change as we moved it a little earlier, so people don't feel rushed for time to attend Sunday School.

Through discussion with people during Hanging with Heathers, I received lots of feedback on what they would like to see in contemporary worship. A casual atmosphere was one of the main desires people had. So, I hope you'll join us as you are and enjoy the live music, a short and casual message, and fellowship together. We will have a play area for kids to be their full and loud selves with toys and a rocking chair for parents to participate in worship while still being with their kids. This worship service is truly for everyone of all ages; bring toys, bring food, bring your friends!

Twice a month, sometimes three times if there are extra Sundays, we will worship together in the Fellowship Hall. We will share communion each of those Sundays. However, the other two Sundays in the month, we will be getting outside of the walls of the Church! Sunday, Sept. 18 The Gathering will be going hiking at the Huntington Museum of Art. This is an opportunity for us to be

active, be in God's creation, and be with one another in walking out our faith journey together. Kids, pets, and adults of all ages are welcome to join us in our hike where we'll share in conversation and have a short devotional on the trail. Don't forget to bring some water and maybe a snack!

The first Sunday of each month, The Gathering will be working together to do a service and outreach project. We want to show up for our neighbors and be a helping hand to those in our community. Whether it's sharing a meal, cleaning up the streets or park, repairs on houses, or walking shelter pets, the possibilities are endless in how we can serve our community. Oct. 2 will be The Gathering's first service project. Be on the lookout for more information during traditional worship, online, and on social media.

I hope you'll join us in our mission of becoming better disciples in our community by sharing our love and grace through worship and service! If you'd like to get involved by playing music, leading a devotional, have ideas for service projects, or want to participate in another way, call the office, and we can dream together how God can use your gifts.

Blessings,
Pastor Heather



All three choirs (Bell, Children, & Adults) had a good "opening night" on our first Wednesday back together, but there's still plenty of room for more **singers & ringers**. If you've been considering joining one of these groups, it's time to give it a try! Will it ever be a better time? We have exciting musical programs planned for the next 4 months with our 150th anniversary being celebrated, plus special Advent and Christmas programs coming up. So, it's a great time to become part of our vital music ministry here at First Church.

If you would like to be part of the "HOMECOMING CHOIR" we will have a special Saturday morning rehearsal, Oct 8th from 10-noon to prepare. We would LOVE to have former choir members from the Sanctuary Choir as well as former YOUTH & CHILDREN'S choir members. Please let Debbie Bradley know if you plan to do this, so we will have music ready for you.

WESLEY CHOIR will be singing for church on Sundays Sept 18, Oct 9, Nov 6 and Dec 11. AND they will be presenting their annual WONDERFUL Christmas musical on Wednesday evening, Dec 14. Mark those calendars NOW!

BELL CHOIR could use another ringer or two. If you're a music-reader, please consider joining them for their one hour a week rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6pm. It's a lot of fun!

SANCTUARY CHOIR is always open to new singers and this FALL is a great time to join. They will be welcoming former choir members during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 8 & 9. A special Saturday morning rehearsal is planned on the 8th and YOUR help is needed to get the word out to invite former singers. Sanctuary Choir is also planning another Christmas Dessert Theater similar to the one we had last year. This year's is called **LOVE WAS BORN A KING** and will be presented on Sunday afternoon, Dec 4th in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of scrumptious desserts, lots of laughter, lots of Christmas music: what could be better?

FINAL THOUGHTS Did you know that the #1 reason people join a group (whether it's a choir or a church or a Bible Study, etc.) is because of YOU? That's right, **YOU!** If you are enthusiastic about something you just can't help but talk about it and invite others to join. So, would you please do that? Would you please use your influence to invite others to join us? Use your power for good!

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Dinner: Ranch Chicken Youth Meeting 5:30 Finance Meeting 6:00	8	9	10 The Table Bible Study 9:00
11 The Gathering Begins 8:30	12 Cridlin Meeting 3:00	13 Dorcas Circle 1:00	14 Dinner: Spaghetti Trustee Meeting 6:00	15	16	17
18 Wesley Choir Sings The Gathering Hike Hunting MOA	19	20	21 Dinner: Tacos Staff Parish Meeting 7:00	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Dinner: Baked Steak Lay Leadership Meeting 6:00	29	30	

Sundays

- 8:30 The Gathering
- 9:30 Small Groups
- 10:45 Traditional Worship

Wednesday

- 10-12 Veterans Group (Parlor)
- Knitters Group
- 11:00 Bible Study
- 5:00 Fellowship dinner
- 6:00 Yoga (\$5.00 a person)
- Handbell choir
- Wesley Choir
- Bible Study
- 6:45-7:15 Kids for Christ
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Dates in October

- 2: The Gathering service project
- 4: Lay Leadership meeting
- 7-9: Homecoming weekend
- 12: Marshall Home Game (more information to come!)
- 23: Charge Conference Meeting
- 26: Octoberfest

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Senior Pastor,
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Associate Pastor
 Heather Barker

Director of Christian Education
 Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

The Gathering 8:30 a.m.
 Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline September 23, 2022.

Food Pantry Needs:

September: 96 Chili

Cridlin is in need of all non-perishable foods at this time. Anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated.



Follow us on social media for exciting updates, weekly events and fun pictures!
 Facebook: First United Methodist Church
 Instagram: @firstumchuntington

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...

Linda Eddins, Martha Cummings, Jay Brooks, Louella Gilispie, Jon Bradley, Judy Davis, Dawn Aikin, Jeanne Burford, Leona Davis, GinnyLee Hastings, Betty Keeling, Claire McClure, Jane McColgan, Dan Smith, Pat Sydnor, Jean White, Tracy Jones, JD Maue, Nancy Palmer, Mike Goodall, Beth McVey, Anna Archer, Richard Drown, Mike Conley, Anne Weeks, Carolyn Waggoner, Jack Patrick, Caretakers.



First United Methodist Church

150th Anniversary Homecoming

Faith, Compassion, and
Community

October 7-9



150 Years Old and Refusing to Act Our Age!

Events

10/7

7-9 P.M.

Welcome
fellowship and
tours of the
church

10/8

10:00-Noon

Choir Brunch
All current, past,
and future
members
welcome! (Panel
Room)

2:00-8:00

Open Tours
Treasure hunt for
kids with prizes

10/9

8:30-9:30

Coffee and
muffins

9:45:

Sunday School

10:45:

Church Service
with Rev. David
Erenrich

After Service:

Photos in
courtyard and
lunch