

October 2022

TOWER TOPICS

Faith, Compassion, and Community



First United Methodist
Church

Huntington, WV

*"I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"*
Psalm 122:1 (NRSVU)

A lot of times we think of this verse as an "opening verse" or even a "Call to Worship" for our regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship time. And this verse is quite appropriately used for just that – to remind us that coming together brings joy to our heart as we gather in the presence of God.

For the Hebrew people who first used this hymn, it was most often sung as people journeyed from all over the land to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is known as one of the Psalms of Ascent that the Hebrews used as they finished their journey for a pilgrimage to the sacred city.

I would like for us to think of this verse as we gather this month for our "Homecoming" weekend of our 150th Anniversary Celebration.

In many ways, we are gathering for another worship service that takes place each and every week in place that has become special to us. In other ways, there are people journeying from far and wide to come and be a part of this special time of remembering that although our congregation is 150 years old, we are still being "young at heart" as a radical, loving church that is transforming our community with compassionate service! Faithfulness, Compassion, and Community has served us in the past and will continue to serve us for time to come.

How will we know if this is a successful "Homecoming" service?

Well, I guess we could count the number of people who attend. We could see how many people show up for tours or other events. Maybe we could count the number of people who participate in the worship – liturgists, choir members, and others. Maybe the offering for that week could be our mark of success. We might even think comparing our last big event (125th Celebration) to this one would be the way to know if it is a success or not.

Perhaps we could take a hint from the psalmist and all those who journeyed to Jerusalem for many centuries and find our marker of success in this – JOY!

Let us come together on October 9th for worship, food, and fellowship with just one thing on our mind – the joy that God has given us another year to be faithful, another year to perform acts of compassion, another year to be a community. Let us be filled with joy as we come to house of the Lord!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



10/2	Jacob Gerlach
10/4	Meg Cyrus
	Riley Mancuso
	Skyler Smith
10/5	Arthur Thomas
10/6	Audra Gerlach
10/10	Debbie Conley
	Artemis McKenna
	Otto McKenna
	Savannah Smith
10/12	Tina Fulks
10/13	Nancy Palmer
10/14	Laura Fulks
10/17	Jerry Morse
10/19	Carolyn Waggoner
10/20	Linda McLain
	Grant Sergeant
10/21	Rod Duncan
	Heather Birkhimer
10/22	Carole Ann Bradley
10/24	Carmel Knight
10/25	Amelia Adkins
10/26	Derik Legg
10/27	Amy Dillon
	Scott Archer
10/28	Hannah Crager
10/29	Sarah McInerney
10/30	Benny Canterbury
10/31	Sally Mankins





Join us for our annual Octoberfest on October 26th. Come dressed up in costume and have some fun! There will be spooky Halloween parade for the kids to participate in, games, cake walk, and lots of fun!

This year's proceeds will be going to the Heifer Project. It is a nonprofit that helps provide animals and education to help eradicate poverty in other countries as well as support and cultivate community development. The youth will get the choice of an animal or service they would like to donate.

We are in need of goodies and little prizes for the kids during the Octoberfest, if you are interested please see the donation list. Donations are needed by October 16th.

Calling all Bakers or Buyers!

The Cake walk is happening and you know what that means, we need some delicious cakes! If you are willing to bake a cake or two, or buy one it would help the night be a success!

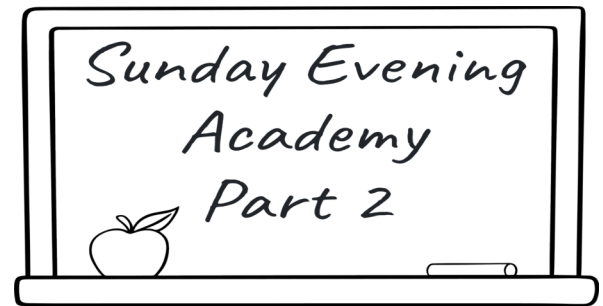
Prizes

Donations needed by October 16

- Candy (No Nuts)
- Fidget toys
- Slinkies
- Bubbles
- Mini stuffed animals
- Chalk
- Small Toys
- Glow Stick items

Journey to the SEA – Part 2

The next Sunday Evening Academy will be held on the first three Sunday evenings of November, December, and January (11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/15, and 1/22). This journey to the SEA will be "Our Greatest Book of Hope – Revelation" and yes, we will be diving into the Book of Revelation on each night of the study from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. If you would like to join us on this journey, please send an email to Pastor Scott – sears.scott@gmail.com and just say, "Sign me up!" I hope you will join us for the in depth look at a book of the Bible that is often quite misunderstood.



The Gathering has been busy its first few weeks, gathering people in for worship and hiking. September 11 and 25, we worshipped together in the fellowship hall with live music, communion, and a short message.

In October, we'll have two opportunities for you to join in contemporary worship on Oct. 9 and 23. I hope you'll join us in this less formal space, where your kids can come and play, where you can bring your breakfast and coffee, and where you can gather around the Lord's table with one another to grow closer to God.

Our first hike together at the Huntington Museum of Art gathered 19 people and 2 dogs at the trails. Lots of laughter, discussion, and crunching of leaves could be heard in God's creation. It was a refreshing start to our Sunday. You can join us for our next hike at Rotary Park on Oct. 16. This is open to people of all ages and their furry friends. Invite your neighbor who might not be ready to attend worship at church but loves to be active and hear a little devotional.

For our first service project as The Gathering, we will be collecting pet supplies for the Cabell Huntington Cabell Wayne Animal Control Shelter during our Pet Blessing on Oct. 2. Bring your supplies and your pets to the new playground Ark to be blessed in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi who was devoted to the care of animals. All animals are welcome, including cats, dogs, lizards, stuffed animals, pet rocks, or pictures of your animals. You can even meet Pastor Heather's foster kittens from the shelter! The items we will be collecting include: Friskies Paté, Fancy Feast Kitten Paté, Purina Cat and Kitten Chow, Purina Dog Chow, any cat litter, and bleach and Lysol for cleaning. If you'd like to donate financially to buy supplies, contact the office.

Lastly, the fifth Sunday of the month, Oct. 30, we will be having a potluck breakfast and devotional in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and build community as we listen to a short devotional. So much is going on with The Gathering, and we hope you'll join us in worshipping God in fun and creative ways.

Blessings,
Pastor Heather





There's music in the air; there's music EVERYWHERE! We have lots going on this month as each choir prepares extra-special music for our HOMECOMING Service and beyond.

Wesley Choir will be joining the Sanctuary Choir on HOMECOMING SUNDAY, OCT 9. They are also working on their annual *Christmas*

Musical. We are glad to welcome 3 new singers this Fall: Logan Chambers, Luke Haslam & Jacob Gerlach! It's not too late for us to accept new children, so if you know kids from 5 years to 5th grade, please invite them to CHOIR each Wednesday at 6pm.

Handbell Choir is also diligently ringing each Wednesday at 6pm and they are happy to accept new ringers. Chris Thomas is their director and he has recently welcomed several new musicians but there's always room for more! You'll get to hear them on HOMECOMING SUNDAY, OCT 9, along with some former ringers taking part.

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR just had a Christmas retreat last Sunday afternoon in preparation for their musical which will be presented on Sunday afternoon, Dec 4 at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. They are also thrilled to welcome several new singers to the choir loft: Jennifer Wood, Anne Weeks, & Diana Maue – sopranos; Peggy Brown – alto; and Raji Lukmon – Baritone. There's still room for more!

We're hoping to have lots of "alumni" singers for our HOMECOMING CHOIR. We have scheduled a rehearsal on Sat morning, 10-noon in the multi-purpose room on Oct 8th. We'll prepare music for the next day AND enjoy goodies and visiting with each other. Get the word out to any former choir members that they are encouraged to join us for this special event.

Music Dates at a Glance

October 8 (10:00 a.m.): Rehearsal for Homecoming service

October 9 (10:45): Homecoming service; Wesley, sanctuary, handbell, and alumni choir performing

December 4 (3:00): Sanctuary Choir Christmas program and dessert bar

December 14 (6:00): Wesley Children's Choir Christmas program



Have you seen an embroidered 23rd Psalm wall tapestry that was in the archive room? It is missing and we would like to have it for the Homecoming celebration.

150th Thank You from the Children

Our church children from the last fifty years or so have offered up their hands and feet and thumbs to create a new banner for the church. It depicts the animals leaving the ark after the flood. It is their way of saying thank you for decades of Christian education taught by faithful teachers and always under-appreciated CDE's. The banner can be viewed on the staircase next to the fellowship hall. There is also a banner made by Joe Eddin Designs that has most of the names of the children that have been present at FUMC at a time in their lives.



Food Donations


Cridlin Food Pantry needs food this fall! They are currently in serious need of non-perishable items.

While they are not accepting clothing at this time, underwear of all sizes and socks are always needed.



October 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 The Table Bible Study
2 The Gathering: Pet Blessing	3	4 Lay Leadership Meeting 6:00	5 Finance Meeting 6:00 Meal : Lasagna	6	7 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION	8 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
9 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION	10	11 Dorcas Circle 1:00	12 Trustee Meeting 6:00 Meal: TBD	13	14	15
						
16 The Gathering: Hiking at Rotary Park	17	18	19 Staff Parish Meeting 7:00 Meal: Hamburgers/ Hotdogs	20	21	22
23 The Gathering: Worship	24	25	26 Octoberfest Meal: Pizza	27	28	29
30 The Gathering: Potluck Breakfast	31					

Sundays

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

Wednesday

10-12 Veterans Group
(Parlor)
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

Upcoming Dates in November

2: Finance Meeting
5: The Table
6: SEA Begins
8: Dorcas Circle
9: Trustee Meeting
14: Criddle Meeting
16: Staff Parish Meeting
23: Lifthouse dinner
24: Thanksgiving (Office closed)
25: Office closed

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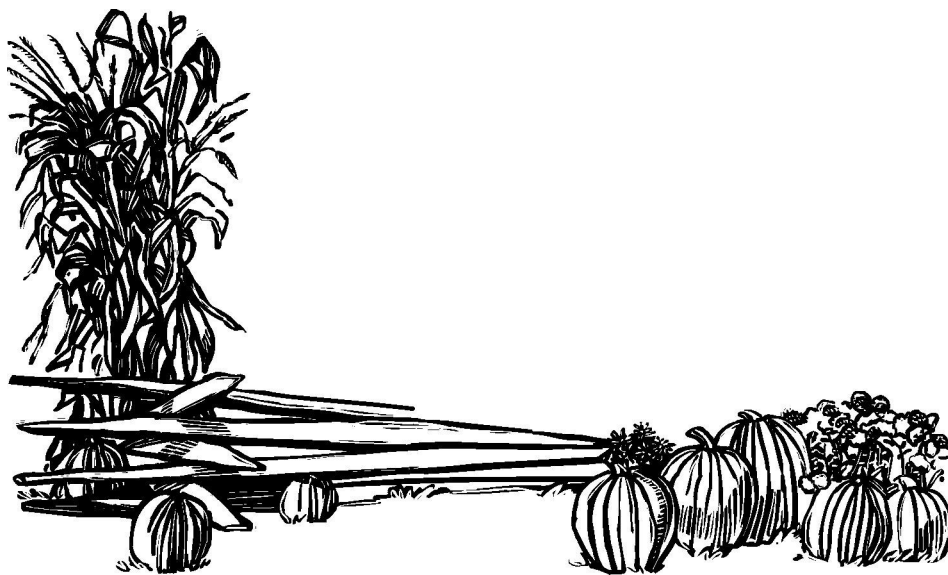
Senior Pastor,
 Scott Sears

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 October 21, 2022



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday, Oct. 2

Pet Blessing and collection of items at
 FUMC Playground

Sunday, Oct. 9

Homecoming Fellowship Time

Sunday, Oct. 16

Hiking Church at Rotary Park

Sunday, Oct. 23

Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Oct. 30

Potluck Breakfast and devotional in Fellowship Hall

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...

Martha Cummings, Jay Brooks, Jon Bradley, Judy Davis,
 Dawn Aikin, Jeanne Burford, Leona Davis, GinnyLee Has-
 tings, 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 Wag-
 goner, Jack Patrick, Caretakers.

THE
GATHERING
 SUNDAYS - 8:30 A.M.

First United
 Methodist Church





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