

April 2023

TOWER TOPICS

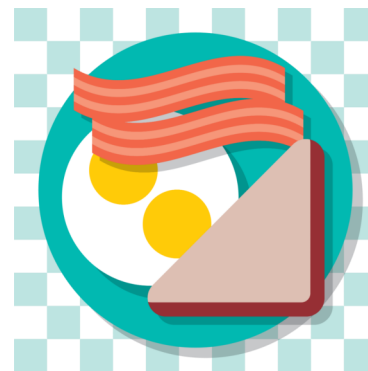
Holy Week Worship Service on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm

On the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples, at either the Passover Seder Meal (according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke) or on the Day of Preparation (according to John), the disciples and Jesus met together for a last meal. The Christian Church often refers to the day as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday. ("Maundy" comes from the Latin word "mandatum" and is connected to Jesus' words in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.")

Our worship service on this special day of Holy Week will remember this last meal with a gathering that will include the sharing of Scripture, songs sung without musical accompaniment, and a sharing of Holy Communion. Please join your sisters and brothers to show your "love for one another" on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the

Sanctuary.

On Good Friday, the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion – a time of both great shame for Jesus and the starting point of Christ's remaking of the world through resurrection – we are offering times that you may come to the church and walk through "Prayer Stations" that will help you reflect on the meaning of the crucifixion in your life today. Prayer Stations are activities where one can read, listen, and reflect in an interactive way in prayer to God. There will be Twelve Stations set up in the sanctuary and you will be able to lead yourself through these stations. Our hope is for you to come by yourself or with others during the times available to walk through and participate at your own pace. This can be a great way for you to connect with God during the moments that we recognize Christ's death before his resurrection on Sunday. There will be options for both adults and children to pray in new and exciting ways that we hope will make this Lenten season meaningful for you. The sanctuary will be open from Noon till 3 pm, and 6 pm till 8 pm on Good Friday AND ALSO from 9 am till 5 pm on Saturday.



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's breakfast will be April 15th. For those who are still working on your taxes, you are excused. For the rest of us we will hear about the upcoming events at Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry. Lynn Cummings, Director will be our guest. Our menu will remain the same, but we may have a surprise in store. See you on the 15th, coffee, juice and fellowship at 8, breakfast at 8:30.

Right:
A fierce
game of
Boggle
was
played at
the last
game
night!



We had so much fun at our first game night of the year and are excited for our next one which will be on Sunday, April 30 from 3-4:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for intergenerational fellowship to gather around fun games and be a little competitive. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend! If you're able and willing, please bring a snack and/or game to share.



Left: It
was the
perfect
night to
try a new
game,
Konexi!

We have had a lot happening in the youth group that I thought we would do a reflection time before summer hits. In January the youth got to go skiing and have a winter retreat at Asbury Woods. We made lots of memories and have a great group that loves to do so many things. In February, Youth2023 sold chocolate covered cherries. In March, we went ice skating and the Youth2023 trip started a fundraiser to egg yards for Easter. There are so many things that are going to happen this Spring and Summer so please check out the youth board and Facebook page to keep up to date with everything.

We had a Camp Clean up day on March 25th and there is still plenty to do before camp season opens up. Be on the look out for the April work date.

Bible Memory Bingo

The children during Lent were pushed to learn and memorize Bible verses each week. After Easter the children can pick up a Bible Bingo sheet. Once they memorize 5 verses in a row they get a prize. Memorize the whole sheet and get a grand prize! Ask Schauna for more information.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is in need of 20 more volunteers. You can sign up as a volunteer or a participant on our Facebook page and we have forms ready in the back of the sanctuary as well. The Dates are June 4th-and 5th.



Above: Youth members enjoyed a great afternoon ice skating in Charleston.

Below: It was all smiles at the slopes of Winterplace with the youth!



AND SO IT BEGINS

Ebenezer Community Outreach is a WV Conference Mission Project. The Center has been serving as a safe, day care center for many years. But, it has never been able to serve fully as a community center, especially in the COVID years. The building is just too small. Until last year, the surrounding properties needed for expansion were not available. All that has changed. Most of the needed properties were purchased and on March 9, 2023, the Board voted to accept architect Edward Tucker's plan for the much-needed expansion. There will be three new classrooms with bathrooms, an indoor play area, a gym, while leaving the original rooms for community activities. The existing playground spaces will remain. The toddler playground was completed. The larger playground will be rebuilt. There will also be safe off-street parking and unloading. This is a big project. It is also a desperately needed project. Currently, the Day Care Center has 57 children enrolled. The expansion will allow for more tutoring and mentoring, community activities and adult learning. Watch for further details and get involved.



United Women in Faith

**WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
United Women in Faith**

**63rd SPIRITUAL GROWTH
RETREAT**

"Women United in Knowing God"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Janet Harmen

Music: Rev. Dustin and Carrie McCune

April 21-22, 2023

**Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, West Virginia**

Registration due by April 1

Go to

**<https://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/uwif/>
for more information and registration sheet**

SPRING FLOWER SALE

GERANIUMS- \$1.25

Red, White, limited Salmon, limited Lavender

PURPLE WAVE PETUNIAS -\$2.00

HANGING BASKETS- \$16.00

Pick-up: Saturday, May 6.

**Proceeds support missions of United Methodist Women
(United Women in Faith)**



Not Quite Home...reflections from Pastor Scott Sears

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Mary Magdalene went to the place where her teacher, her friend, was buried. All indications are that she was going there to continue her grief. In John's gospel, Mary the sister of Lazarus heads to his tomb four days after his burial and everyone in the house thought she was going to the site to grieve. So, it is not unfair for us to think this about Mary Magdalene. She needed to be close to the source of her grief and just let things go.

And when she arrives, she finds that things are not as she expected – the stone that had sealed the tomb for the previous days has been rolled away.

I think If I were Mary, I might imagine that my grief had taken me to the wrong spot. I'd double check to make sure I had my bearings, but when discovering that something had gone quite possibly "horribly wrong", I don't think I would have done anything differently. I would have run away as well.

I think the first inclination of human beings when they face the complete unknown is to shy away from it. When the face that which they "know" should not be taking place, they absolutely find somewhere else to be. For the most part, we do not find comfort in uncertainty. In grief, the uncertainty of a once sealed tomb being left wide open would only spark very dark thoughts. Mary's reaction to run away is normal. It gives us the solace of knowing that when we do feel like running away in the face of the unknown, we are in good company.

However, we are also Easter People! We know that the stone was rolled away so that the living Jesus could come forth from everything that would hold his "dead" body back and allow him to be in the world spreading the power or Resurrection. We know this about the stone being rolled away from the tomb. It is what we celebrate each year when we come to worship on Easter. It is what we celebrate each Sunday as we proclaim a Risen Savior.

The real power of knowing this, however, is in taking it with us as we face other points of uncertainty and unknowing in our lives. The real power of knowing the Resurrection is in living as people who know that when we see something that we don't expect, we should not run in fear, but instead, we should look for the power of God at work!

I pray that as we gather for both Holy Week and Easter celebrations, we would come as those who know the story and carry that story with us in our lives.

Look for the stones that have been rolled away. Look for the things that are not as they should be.

Then, look for God. Because we know: God is present. God is active. God is in control.

Pastor Scott



Music News

Easter Sunday will be full of celebratory music and all singers are invited to come to the choir loft at the end of the Easter Sunday service to join in singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Music will be provided.

Sunday, April 23rd the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a program of "heavenly" music during the 10:45 service that fea-

tures well-known hymns and songs about heaven. Guest pianist Gale Poe will be joining Rhonda Adkins in several 4-hand piano accompaniments & tenor Bill Weekley will be a featured soloist on one spiritual. Mark your calendars for this day of heavenly music.

Wesley Children's choir will be singing for our Easter Sunday service and they'll be accompanied by our Handbell Ringers, under the direction of Chris Thomas. The children are also preparing a musical called "Tell Me the Truth" that will be presented on Sunday morning, May 21st at the 10:45 service. We plan to have a dinner after church that day to celebrate the children and mark the end of the school/church year.



4/1	Bob Tebbetts
	Bill Weekley
4/3	Sara Allen
4/6	Logan Phipps
4/7	Stephen Riggs
	Gina Davis
	Nathan Edmonds
4/9	Kelly Daniel
4/11	Ginnie Tebbetts
4/12	Gavin Eddins
4/13	Abigail Sheets
4/14	Kenny Tschop
	Andrew Gooding
4/15	Donna Griffith
	Jody Eddins
4/17	Scott Archer
4/18	Leona Davis
	Mike Sheets
4/19	Ben Fulks
	Peyton Smith
4/22	Bonnie Hughes
4/24	Alexa Hensley
4/25	Chase Rutherford
4/26	Maribeth Anderson
	Kevin Sergent
4/29	Evelyn Rutherford

April 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 Marshall U. SEA Study 6:30	3	4	5 Dinner: Pork Roast Finance Meeting 6:00	6 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00	7 Good Friday Office Closed Prayer Stations Noon-3:00 6:00-8:00pm	8 Prayer Stations 9:00am-5:00pm
9 Easter Sunday	10 Office Closed	11 Dorcas Circle 1:00	12 Dinner: Pizza Trustee Meeting 6:00	13	14	15 Men's Breakfast Guest: Lynn Cummings
16	17	18	19 Veterans Breakfast Dinner: Lasagna SPRC Meeting 7:00	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Dinner: Baked Steak	27	28	29
30 Game Night 3:00-4:30pm						

Holy Week 2023

Palm Sunday	9:30 Small Groups 10:45 Traditional Service 1:00 Easter Egg Hunt at Marshall U. (Buskirk Field)
Maundy Thursday	7:00 Service Fellowship Hall
Good Friday	Office is Closed Prayer Stations 12:00-3:00 / 6:00-8:00
Holy Saturday	Prayer Stations 9:00-5:00
Easter Sunday	9:30 Small Groups 10:45 Traditional Service

**Where do the hopeless
find hope?**

CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT 2023

Sunday, May 7

**Heart and Hand
House, Phillippi**

**Items Needed For:
Infant care, food
pantry, hygiene,
cleaning, and office**

Upshur Parish House

**Items Needed For:
Personal care,
household, school,
and infant care**



**Winfield UMC
20 Radwin Dr. Winfield WV, 25213
3:00-5:00**

**Check out the Mission page on our
website
firstunitedmethodist.com
for more information or contact Jane
Morse**

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**CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED**

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Senior Pastor,
Scott Sears

Associate Pastor
Heather Barker

Director of Christian Education
Schauna Chambers

Sunday Worship Opportunities

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



Next Tower Topics Deadline April 21, 2022

First United Methodist

Easter
EGG HUNT

1 pm April 2nd



Eggs, Food, & Fun

Memorial Fountain @ Marshall University
More Info Contact Schauna Chambers
304-634-9684

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...

Susann Meurer, Janice Erenrich, Lisa Cooke, Mel Cummings, Martha Cummings, Mary Plyde Bell, Judy Davis, Dawn Aikin, Leona Davis, GinnyLee Hastings, Claire McClure, Jane McColgan, Dan Smith, Pat Sydnor, Jean White, Tracy Jones, JD Maue, Nancy Palmer, Beth McVey, Mike Conley, Anne Weeks, Carolyn Waggoner, Jack Patrick, Caretakers.