

# TOWER TOPICS

## **NOT QUITE HOME**

In the Christmas classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life”, the main character George Bailey learns a powerful lesson about gratitude as he is given the opportunity to examine what the world would be like without his presence. It has become a classic for many reasons but perhaps the greatest of those is that the message of living in gratitude for even the broken things around us will change how we see the whole world – and especially our place in it.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have a member of our congregation speak to us all about how gratitude has changed them. They will also speak briefly about how important it is to show our gratitude to God through faithful stewardship and committed giving to the church we call our “home.” On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Mark Conner, a pastor who has led this congregation in the past, will be with us to bring a special message on Gratitude and Giving. Our worship service will be followed by a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Showing gratitude through giving is practiced in different ways these days, also. More giving is being done through Bill Pay and other direct gifts

to the church. As we go through our planning for 2024 and present this year’s Stewardship campaign, I am encouraging everyone to be in prayer about the 2024 financial commitment that you will make to support the ministry of First UMC. Think about it in the terms of George Bailey – how will the church be changed by *your* gratitude through giving in the coming year?

An Estimate of Gratitude Giving sheet has been sent in a separate mailing. After you have taken time to pray and ask God to help you discern how you will be a good steward of all that God has given you, please return your Estimate of Giving for 2024 during worship on November 12<sup>th</sup> or by mail or email (finance@firstunitedmethodist.com) no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>. The pastors and finance team will be praying that we receive your confidential Estimate of Giving.

Pastor Scott  
Sears



## **DOWNTOWN FAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

The churches, Temple, and Islamic Center that make up the Downtown Huntington Minister’s Group are inviting the community to participate in a Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Service on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be served in two “shifts” – from 4:30 to 5:15 and from 5:15 to 6:00 – and then we will join for a worship service. All of this will take place at First Presbyterian Church on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. We will also be joined by The City Mission community and kitchen crew in both the preparation and sharing of the meal. First UMC will be providing half of the turkeys for this meal. If you would like to make a special donation towards that outreach, please see Pastor Scott.



# **CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS**

## **CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Charge Conference for Huntington First United Methodist Church will be held at 6 pm on November 6th in the Sanctuary. ALL MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD are members of the Charge Conference and are invited to attend. Rev. Joseph Hill, Conference Superintendent serving the Nine Rivers District will preside. Business will include the election of new church officers for 2024 as well as filling classes of Committees that will serve from 2024-2026. (Information on the elections will be shared following the Charge Conference.)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Sunday, December 24th is Christmas Eve. Our 10:45 am Worship Service will feature special Christmas Music. Our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service will include a live nativity scene using volunteers from the congregation. Our 11:00 pm Service will be a traditional Christmas Eve Service.

## **CRIDLIN FOOD AND CLOTHING PANTRY**

As many of you know, we collected tuna cans for the month of October. Our initial hope was to get 96 tuna cans donated, and we got over 192 cans of tuna donated to Cridlin Pantry! Thanks to everyone who donated!

At **Cridlinpantry.org** you can access information about the shelter, current needs, and a form to fill out to get involved.

## **WE CARE MINISTRY**

The We Care Ministry has been an important way to connect with those who are homebound or ill but have not been active in the past few years. So, this fall, a team is coming together to share their gifts of love and compassion through visitation, card writing, home communion, and other ways to be attentive to the needs of our congregation. Tim Hamilton will be leading this team with the help of the pastoral staff in equipping laity to care for those who need it. If you would like to be included on the list of those who want to receive at-home communion, please call the church office at 304-522-0357. Volunteers of the We Care Ministry can participate in whatever form they feel comfortable, but if you feel called to serve in this way, reach out to Tim Hamilton at 304-529-7260.

## **We are in need of Kitchen Helpers for Nov. 9, 10, & 11 for Community Thanksgiving!**

On November 22 at 1:00 PM, we will be hosting a Thanksgiving lunch for The Lifehouse. We will be needing LOTS of help. There is a schedule and sign up sheet on the kitchen door.

Monetary and food donations are greatly appreciated.

(Lifehouse is a group of recovery homes that incorporate religion into treatment.)

For more information please call Susan Nickels:

(304) 634-9805



## **NOVEMBER MEALS**

**Meals are on Wednesday nights begin at 5 PM except  
the Nov. 22 Lifehouse dinner which is at 1 PM**

### **Cost:**

\$5 for adults  
\$20 for family

### **Dates:**

Nov. 1—Lasagna

Nov. 8—Baked Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Nov. 15—Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries

Nov. 22 @ 1:00 PM —Lifehouse Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 29—Pizza





What's been going on with the FUMC Choirs lately? Lots of singing & ringing! All of the choirs have been faithfully rehearsing each Wednesday but we're always welcoming to new recruits; there's never been a better time to enhance your life by being part of a musical community AND serve your church at the same time. Please contact me ([debbiebradleyfumc@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebradleyfumc@gmail.com)) for more information.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**The Sanctuary Choir** will be presenting a Christmas program at 10:45am on Dec 24th and we are inviting "non-regular members" to join us. Rehearsal for this special music is 7-7:30pm each Wednesday in the Chapel. This is a short-term opportunity for those who can't commit to full choir membership. We'd love to have YOU!

**Wesley Children's Choir** rehearses each Wednesday 6-7pm from now until their Christmas Show on Dec 13th. They will be joining The Sanctuary Choir on Sunday, Nov 19th for a special anthem of thanksgiving. They will also sing on Sunday, Dec 10th and stay after church that day for musical dress rehearsal. Parents, please double check your costume information so there are no last-minute surprises.

### **A WORD OF GRATITUDE**

We are indebted to so many people in so many ways for the robust nature of our music department here at FUMC. A few who come to mind include Pastors Scott, Heather, & Schauna for ALWAYS being supportive & encouraging. Also, ongoing thanks to Chris Thomas for directing the handbells AND Carolyn Waggoner for helping with children's choir; AWESOME volunteers!! We're also very grateful to get to hear Jay Brooks on organ and Rhonda Adkins on piano each week; they are not only very talented musicians but wonderful people to work with (except we sometimes have to threaten Jay with telling his mother if he doesn't quit misbehaving in choir).

- Debbie Bradley



### **CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES!**

Youth will be selling chocolate covered cherries for Christmas. Orders start in November and end in the 1st week of December to give enough time to get them. All profits go towards the youth fund!

**4 count for \$11    10 count for \$22    30 count for \$65**

### **A BIG THANK YOU!**

Thanks to the Shepherd's for hosting the youth Halloween party. Be on the look out for the youth Christmas party next month.

Thanks to everyone who baked and donated for Octoberfest.

Thanks to those who have donated to the Asbury Woods fund. We have raised over \$2,800! This helps us out a lot and we appreciate your donations.

### **NO MORE KIDS FOR CHRIST (KFC)**

There will not be any more KFC until the New Year, this is in order to help the kids prepare for the children's play. Everything on Wednesday evenings will end at 7:00 PM including youth.

- Schauna Chambers



# **GIVE THANKS AND SHARE**

As our world faces wars, global warming, economic and political unrest, it is sometimes hard to remember that we have so much for which to be thankful. We must remember that there are those in far worse shape than we are- in our community, our nation, around the world, and, yes, within our own church family. We can make a difference with our time, our prayers, and our money. Here are some ways:

## **COIN CHIMES**

In November we will share the bounty of our lives with others by dropping our spare change in the offering buckets presented by our children during morning worship. The money will go to support Cridlin Food and Clothing Closet.

## **WINTER COATS**

Also, at Thanksgiving, we will be collecting, winter coats for the poor in our community. Used is fine as long as they are clean and in good repair. Place them in the barrels near the pop machine.

## **MITTEN TREE**

Watch for it! Our magical mitten tree will soon appear at the foot of the stairs. Fill it with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats to keep our local, needy children warm this winter.

## **EBENEZER'S ANGELS**

Each year Ebenezer Outreach tries to provide Christmas for all their children. How many shall we adopt this year?

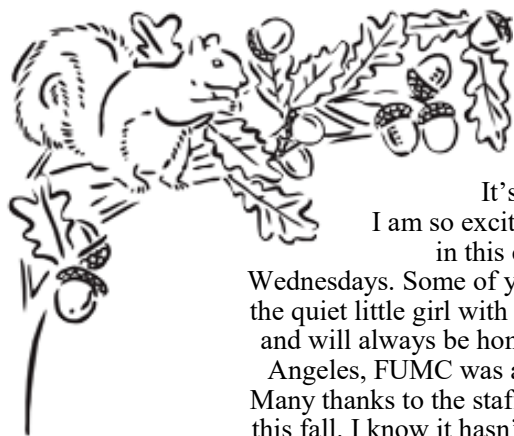
## **GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS**

A perfect way to celebrate the gift of the Christ Child. Bring layette items to the altar on Christmas Eve, or fill the red barrel by the elevator. These gifts will be distributed locally through Ebenezer's Bassinet.

## **UMCOR**

There is no better way to reach out to disaster victims than the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

- Jane Morse

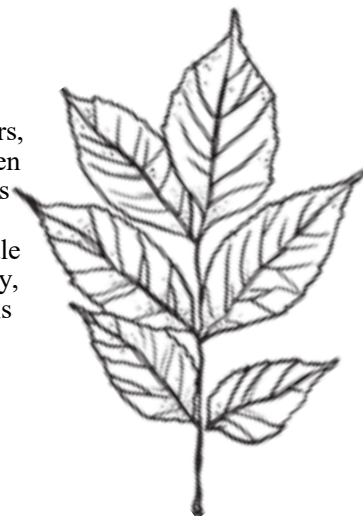


## **INTRODUCTION LETTER**

Dear friends of First Church,

It's me, your new Office Manager Allie Bright!  
I am so excited to be back here at First United Methodist Church. I grew up in this church, attending service every Sunday and Youth group on Wednesdays. Some of you may remember me as one of Cyndi & Phil Bright's daughters, the quiet little girl with the longest brown hair you've ever seen. FUMC has always been and will always be home. So, this summer when I moved back to Huntington from Los Angeles, FUMC was a natural first stop for me. And to my surprise, I landed this job! Many thanks to the staff, especially Pastor Scott, for putting up with my wonky schedule this fall. I know it hasn't been easy! Also, a special thanks to Hillary. We, unfortunately, never got the pleasure of meeting, but she left me the most comprehensive guide to this role of Office Manager, so thank you!

With kindness,  
Allie Bright



## **WE WILL MISS YOU HEATHER!**

November 1, 2023

Dear Members of First United Methodist Church,

Pastor Heather Barker will conclude her ministry at First Church this month and we would like to show her love and gratitude as she moves to her next chapter. Though her stay with us has been short, her very thoughtful sermons, her heart-felt leadership in Bible studies, her connections with our children and young adults, her passion for visitation, her fun and energetic spirit ... all of these left an impact we are eager to celebrate.

We will have a cake and punch reception for her after Worship on November 19. Please spread the word and plan to stay for a bit after worship and express your good wishes.

If you'd like to contribute to a gift for Heather, please send a check to the church with "Heather Farewell" on the memo line. If it's more convenient and you are comfortable doing so, you may Venmo your contribution to SPR member Jennie Yoost at @Jennie-Yoost and note it is for "Heather Farewell". We will see you on the 19th!

Sincerely,

Staff Parish Relations Committee



11/01	James (Garrett) Cunningham Joshua (Ben) Fischer
11/02	Jacob Hensley
11/04	Henry (Gus) Cooke Libby Knight
11/05	Rev. Steve Hensley Eden Cummings
11/07	Madison Sergeant
11/08	Katherine (Emily) Dye
11/10	Trisha Cunningham Ashley Linville Chelsey Linville Ansel Meade Oskar Meade
11/12	Megan Archambault Abigail Birkhimer
11/13	Ed Stone Martha Cummings Jean White
11/14	Thomas Legg Brooks Anderson Campbell (Grace) Chiles Finn Russell
11/15	Margaret Reichenbecher Chris Hutchison
11/17	Justin Rhoten Marc Rutherford
11/18	Fred (Bob) Palmer Emelia Adkins Meagan Shepherd
11/19	Shanice Drakes Micah Krantz Rhonda Adkins
11/21	Anne Weeks
11/22	Anne Tebbetts
11/23	Patricia (Sue) King Charlee Adkins Max Shepherd Elliott Shepherd
11/24	Jay Brooks Evan Knight
11/25	Clark Neighborgall Price Wilson
11/26	Lauren Reid
11/28	Andrew Tschop Gregory Powers Carey Young Cynthia Beal Jonathan Hager
11/29	Mel Cummings Mike Brown Skylar (Stone) Arthur Joseph (Cyrus) Cummings





# NOVEMBER 2023

SUN      MON      TUE      WED      THU      FRI      SAT

WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
ACTIVITY  
SCHEDULE

5:00  
Dinner

6:00  
Committee Meetings  
Bell Choir  
Bible Study  
Children's Choir  
Wesley Children's Choir  
Youth Group  
Yoga  
  
7:00  
Sanctuary Choir

		31	1 Finance Meeting 6:00 PM	2	3	4
5	6 Cridlin Meeting 3:00 PM Charge Conference 6:00 PM	7	8 Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM	9	10	11
12 Pledge Sunday Stewardship Dinner	13	14 Dorcas Circle Meeting 1:00 PM	15 SPRC Meeting 6:00 PM	16	17 Tower Topics Deadline	18
19 Reception for Heather 11:45 AM	20	21	22 Lifeshouse Dinner 1:00 PM (No Wednesday Evening Activities)	23 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	24 Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29 Tentative date for Hanging of the Greens 6:00 PM	30		

We would  
LOVE  
to see  
YOU!

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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: NOVEMBER 17**



Council on Youth Ministries  
**West Virginia Conference**  
The United Methodist Church



**PRESENTS...**

**2023 FALL  
WORKSHOP**

**WHO?** MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

**WHEN?** NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023

**WHERE?** JACKSON'S MILL

**COST:** \$125

+

A 90'S THEME PARTY SATURDAY NIGHT!

**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,*

Dawn Aikin, Sharon Allen, Sue Atkinson, Kathy Bartram, Pris Beard, Pat Broce, Kicker Chiles, Mike Chiles, Debbie Conley, Lisa Cooke, Mark Cornell, Myra Creek, Mel Cummings, Judy Davis, Leona Davis, Linda Eddins, Jackie Eplion, Mary Griffith, Troy Jones' Family, JD Maue, Jane McColgan, Beth McVey, Jane Morse, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, Sally Richards-Bartram, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Billie Wood (sister of Jane Ferguson)



WVUMC.ORG/2023-FALL-WORKSHOP



