



August TOWER TOPICS

Not Quite Home...

A Few Words from Pastor Scott

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus makes a profound statement about money. He says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Of course, many people attempt to deflect what Jesus is saying here away from “money” to being about other things that we treasure – family, freedom, etc. – however, the context of Jesus’ words are quite clear: Jesus was talking about money. I realize that this can be a touchy subject for some people, but it is impossible to ignore as one of the things Jesus taught the disciples. Nearly 15% of everything Jesus spoke about had to do with money, so if I mention it in a single newsletter article, I am just striving to get to that mark.

Jesus does not say, “Search your heart and figure out where to put your money” or “Find the things you love and put your money there.” Jesus knew that as human beings we often need to teach ourselves how to best control our hearts. So, he picked the one thing that we all care about – our money – and said, “Put your treasure in the place you want your heart to be!”

Every person who becomes a member of the United Methodist Church stands before their particular congregation and makes a vow before God and the congregation to support it with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Since “service” would obviously use the spiritual gifts that are given by the Holy Spirit, the word gifts in this context must refer to our financial gifts. Biblically, there is a long held understanding that a tenth of everything that we have belongs to God and should be presented to God in the sanctuary (Malachi 3:8-12). Some

people hold to the belief that this tithe can be broken between “good causes” that serve God. As for me and my house, we bring our tithe to the church we are serving, because, well, I will trust that church to find the good causes with which to use it.

This is heavy teaching for a summer edition of the newsletter, and I understand that, but it is also a timely one. As we entered into the month of July we were over \$12,000 behind our giving levels for 2023 and we are nowhere near paying our fair share of the Annual Conference’s Mission and Ministry Budget for 2024.

So, as a pastor, I am simply asking you to reflect upon Jesus words this month – “Where your treasure is there your heart will be also” – and really think about what you are doing. The simple act of giving a tithe to your church will help you love that church more, care for that church more, and be involved in that church more. Jesus knew what he was talking about. As we put our money towards something, we love it more and in loving it, we become “invested”.

And truthfully, I can think of nothing better for you to love. First United Methodist Church has a legacy of reaching out to its community, of offering quality programs to its members, and of creating disciples who are transforming the world around them. *Don’t you want to love that with all you can?*

I do and I will.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott



Church News

Asbury Woods Appreciation & Success

Asbury Woods would like to thank the FUMC church for the continued support of Asbury Woods and its mission to be a multi-purpose camp and retreat center for the local community and beyond. Without your generous support, the work of Asbury Woods would not be possible.

By all metrics, this year of District Summer Camps has been a success of reaching so many young ones from Methodist churches, other churches and those with no religious affiliation from across West Virginia and neighboring states. As Asbury Woods concludes the season of traditional summer camps, the season of hosting different small groups and events begins. The harvest at Asbury Woods orchard is also upon us and you may see fruit produced on Asbury Woods property available at church or other local food pantries.

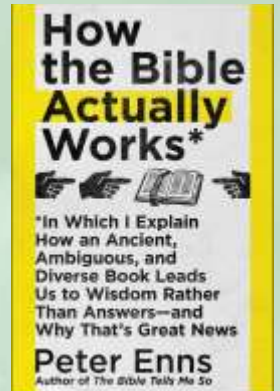
Again, thank you all and be filled with joy by the work you support.

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle met on July 9. The focus of this meeting was to work with Katrina Lee and prepare for Vacation Bible School. The Circle group provided the ingredients - graham crackers, marshmallows, and Hershey chocolate bars - making 65 packets. We also cut out pictures from magazines to be used by the children.

Video Study with Grace Gooding

Grace Gooding is facilitating a six week study with a video component starting **Wednesday, August 21 from 6:00-7:00pm** in the First United Methodist Library. Anyone is welcome to join! If you would like to read the book this study is based on, it is pictured here. However, while you are more than welcome to read it, you do not have to take part in this study).



Film Shoot at First UMC!

Local filmmakers, Tijah Bumgarner and Patrick Ward-Perkins, will be shooting their feature film, *Of the Cloth* **August 16-26**. If you would like to help out with the filmmaking process in any way, you can use the QR code provided or email them at ofthecloth@gmail.com



Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous meetings take place every Friday night from 6:30-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Cridlin Pantry

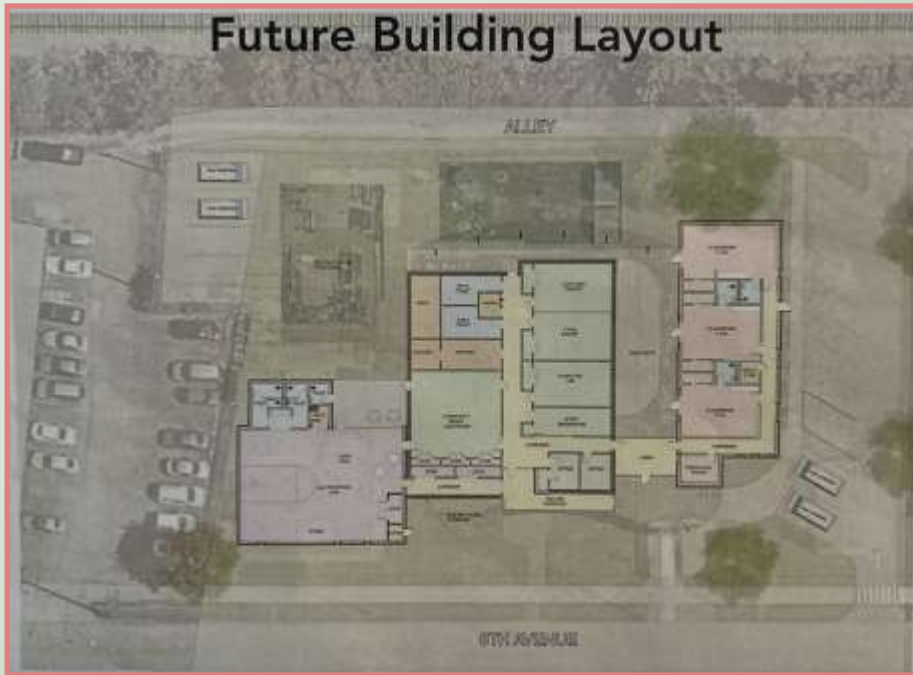
Cridlin Pantry is asking for **96 boxes of tuna helper** in August. If you would like to donate please drop off donations either at the Church Office or by the soda machines downstairs by the multipurpose room.

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

Hiking Church

This has been a great way to worship differently and reach people outside of our church. We would love to have you at our next hiking church on August 18th. This one will be longer than the others. It will be about 3.1 miles and start at 9 am at Beech Fork. Some will be camping the night before and if you would like to join the fun contact the office by August 9th **at noon. September's hiking church will be at Barboursville Park on the 29th.**

Mission Update



Expansion of the Outreach Center will allow new programs to support the community.

- Non-Perishable Food Pantry
- Clothing Closet
- Computer Lab
 - Resume & Cover Letter Education
 - Assistance in Job Searches
 - Mock Interviews
- Meeting Room
 - Community Meeting Space
 - Collaboration with Unlimited Future, Inc., a local business incubator, to host product launch events
- Rentable Office Space

Mission Vision

It seems that many people are scratching their heads trying to find a **dynamic mission project for our church. You don't have to look far.** There is an United Methodist Project less than eight blocks from our church which needs our help. Ebenezer Community Outreach Center has been faithfully serving our community for over forty years. In all those years they have been trying to expand their services, beyond day care and after school mentoring. Finally, the necessary property is purchased, the blueprints are completed, and fundraising will soon begin. You can help with fundraising, finding donors, and volunteering in many other ways.

How to support the future of Ebenezer Community Outreach Center

Donate with a check made payable to
Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc
1660 8th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703

Visit <https://ebenezercoc.org>

Email ebencomout@gmail.com

COME

The first Celebration of Mission totals are in. As of June 30, the 2024 Conference Giving to the Celebration of Mission Event is \$62,081.92. Nine donations are up to \$12,402.96 in cash and over \$2600 in donations from eleven churches. First donated \$2300 in cash and \$270 in goods. That all sounds great, but the Usual Conference for the year is usually around \$100,000. WE have a long way yet to go. Thank you for your support.



Important Fall Dates

August 14th – Back to School Luau
August 21st – All Wednesday Activities Begin
September TBA – FUMC Church Picnic
October 20th – **Children's Sunday**
October 30th – Octoberfest!

**Please keep an eye on the bulletin board outside of the Nursery and outside of the elevator on the second floor. All of the information for our children and youth programs will be posted there in the upcoming weeks...

Children's Ministry

Contact Info

Do not ever hesitate to contact me for more information about anything relating to our children's programs!

Katrina Lee 304-522-0357
katrinamlee1124@gmail.com



Back to School L U A U

This year, I want to do something a little different for our back-to-school bash. We will be having a Back-to-School Luau! This means there will be hula skirts, coconuts, beachy music, and A WATER SLIDE. Make sure your child comes ready to have so much fun in their favorite (appropriate) swimsuit. The inflatables will be here from 6pm-8pm, so plan accordingly. I will need parents to help supervise their children during this event to make sure everyone is safe and has an amazing time! I cannot wait for this super event, and I cannot wait to see you there!!



Welcome to Youth!



Students going into 6th grade are officially in youth and we are excited to see you during youth!

New School Year, New Things

Youth is changing. School and sports are so demanding, we want to make sure your youth still have a chance to make church and youth an important part of their life. We are moving youth to Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm and ending at 7:00 pm. We will begin with a snack supper and then dive into lessons and fun. The first Sunday will be August 18th.

Camping Lovers

If you love to camp but hiking isn't your thing, we invite you to come and camp with us at Beech Fork on August 17th. People who love to hike will participate in hiking church at 9 am. If you are interested please contact the church office no later than August 9th at noon so we can reserve our spots and make sure everyone is accounted for.

Thank You

If you have prayed for camp, helped with monetary donations, or helped a camper go to camp; thank you. We had such a great group of kids that dove deeper in their faith because of you.





"The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music"

The halls here at church WILL be alive with music again on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st. That will be the beginning date for all of our choirs to resume rehearsals after their summer hiatus. Check below for new times and special dates. We probably have a choir for YOU!

We want to thank all of our Summer Soloists for sharing their gifts while the choirs are on vacation. And thanks to all congregants who supplied their favorite hymns for us to sing in July. We didn't get to sing every one, but we'll try to work them in during the coming weeks, if possible. We also want to thank our fabulous music team of Jay Brooks, Rhonda Adkins, and Debbie Bradley for blessing us with meaningful music all year long.

Appetizers After Church on August 18th

All current AND prospective Sanctuary Choir members are invited to join us for an appetizer-dessert party right after church. We'll supply the soft drinks & desserts if you'll bring your favorite appetizers to share. We'll have 5 special guests with us that day: Harmonium Quartet from Chillicothe, OH who will be providing special music during the worship service. It will be our pleasure to show them our best FUMC hospitality so start planning what yummy food you can bring. If you want to bring your family members that's fine – just bring more food. This will be a good time to see everyone again & enjoy ourselves before we get down to business at Wednesday night's rehearsal.

Sanctuary Choir

NEW TIME!! 6:45-8:15. This is only a 15 minute difference but because children's choir will be finished earlier, that opens the possibility of beginning Sanctuary Choir a little earlier. If this doesn't suit the majority of singers, we can revert back to 7:00.

We will have lots of new, exciting & challenging music for the Fall and we're looking forward to welcoming some new singers. If you have a gift of singing, even if you think it's a modest one, we'd like to encourage you to give choir a try. We're more interested in serving our church with joyful noises than we are in perfection. And since we don't have a youth choir, we'd like to invite all our YOUTH to sing with us; we'd love to have you! We try hard to enjoy ourselves during rehearsals & I think most of the time we succeed.

We plan to offer child care for anyone who needs it, so don't let that be a barrier to singing in Sanctuary Choir. If you'd like to take advantage of this, please let Debbie know ASAP so we can be prepared.

Wesley Children's Choir

NEW TIME!! 5:45-6:30. We're starting 15 minutes earlier in order to give KFC a 45 minute time slot and still finish up the children's programming by 7:15. All kids ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to participate. We meet in room 206 every Wednesday & have BIG plans for the Fall semester. We typically sing for church once a month and will present a Christmas Program in December. Please invite your friends & neighbors! After Wesley Choir, most children go to KFC (Kids for Christ), which is right across the hall, until 7:15. These are outstanding Christian programs that we offer for our children and we hope everyone will take advantage of them.

Handbell Choirs - Adult & Youth

Adult ringers will meet at 6:00-6:50 each Wednesday & youth ringers rehearse 7:15-7:45, and director Chris Thomas is always looking for new members for each group. Being able to read a little music is nice but everyone is helpful and willing to work with new ringers so it's not absolutely necessary. So, if your Wednesday evenings are open, why not give handbells a try?



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Wednesday Night Activities start up again on August 21!
 5:00pm - Dinner
 6:00pm - Bible Study, Adult Bell Choir, Video Lecture Series, & Yoga
 6:30-7:30pm - KFC
 7:15pm - Youth Handbell
 5:45-6:30pm - Children's Choir
 6:45pm - Sanctuary Choir

				1	2	3
					6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12:00 pm Youth - ACE Adventure		1:00 pm Dorcas Circle	5:00 pm Dinner (Pizza) 5:00 - 7:00 pm Back to School Bash		6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
5:00 - 7:00 pm Youth Group Starts Back Up			5:00 pm Dinner (Tacos & Brown Beans) Wednesday Night Activities Start Up		Tower Topics Articles Duel! 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
5:00 - 7:00 pm Youth Group			5:00 pm Dinner (Hamburgers & Hot Dogs)		6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	

- 08/01 Logan Chambers
- 08/02 Blake Weekley
- 08/02 Nicholas Beyard
- 08/03 Vicki Hanshaw
- 08/03 Jennifer Adkins
- 08/03 Michael Campbell
- 08/03 Timothy Cummings
- 08/03 Christy Edwards
- 08/03 Parker Shepherd
- 08/04 Tyler Eddins
- 08/04 Mary Ganzer
- 08/05 Graham Stevens
- 08/06 Kieorci Pleasant
- 08/06 Elsa Meade
- 08/07 David Denning
- 08/07 Amanda Duncan
- 08/08 Carter Sergeant
- 08/08 Ashley-Ann Broce
- 08/09 Hailey Campbell
- 08/09 Macy Archer
- 08/11 Jeremy Rhoten
- 08/11 Campbell Neighborgall
- 08/12 Eric Young
- 08/12 Angus Day
- 08/13 Madison Reed
- 08/14 Russell Tatum
- 08/15 Mark Richardson
- 08/15 Angel Blake
- 08/16 Katie Brown
- 08/16 Johnathan Butler
- 08/17 Evan Gooding
- 08/17 Ryan Pumfrey
- 08/17 Jennifer Brown
- 08/17 Kacie Mendez
- 08/18 Jill Nelson
- 08/18 Jacob Polcyn
- 08/18 Ava Conaway
- 08/18 Cara Hewitt
- 08/20 Judy Taylor
- 08/20 Mary Plyde Bell
- 08/23 John Tanner
- 08/25 Josie Curry
- 08/26 Alexis Turner
- 08/27 Ashley Swann
- 08/28 Austin Davis
- 08/28 Jeff Davis
- 08/29 Joe Eddins II
- 08/29 Emily Hagan
- 08/29 Mary Holbrook
- 08/30 Kathy Patrick
- 08/30 Shawna Thomas
- 08/30 Jeff Archambault
- 08/30 Zack Barker
- 08/30 Taylor Goings-Damron
- 08/30 Lyndsey Saunders
- 08/30 Asher Sinclair

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Pastor: Scott Sears
Music Director: Debbie Bradley
Director of Youth & Young Adult
Ministry: Schauna Chambers
Director of Children's Ministries:
Katrina Lee
Finance Secretary: Amy Ward
Church Hostess: Susan Nickels
Office Manager: Allie Bright

Sunday Worship Opportunities

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



Next Tower Topics Deadline: August 23

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 grieving, sick, or homebound.



Family of William "Jody" Crabtree Jr. (father of Jessica Adkins), Dawn Aikin, Hunter Barry, Kathy Bartram, Tabitha Berry, Erin Bradley, Pris Beard, Pat Broce, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Mark Cornell, Myra Creek, Leona Davis, Norma Denning, Linda Eddins, Jackie Eplion, Sonny Hammer, Emma Mace, JD & Diana Maue, Jane McColgan, Steven McGill, Beth McVey, Bob Morris, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, Vern & Margaret Reichenbecher, Sally Richards-Bartram, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Jean White, Family of Barbara Walton, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Carole Wilson