



November TOWER TOPICS

Not Quite Home...

From Pastor Scott

One of the most poignant scenes among the accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus is found in John 19:

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

In this scene, we have a disciple watching his Lord give up his very life for the Kingdom. As a response to that, this disciple is more than willing to give of himself to take his Lord's mother into his own care.

I see this as a story of Jesus creating – even while dying upon the cross – a community that thrives when it gives. Jesus creates disciples who are *made for giving* just as their Lord gave his life.

In the 21 days leading up to November 10, you are invited to participate in devotionals prepared to bring us to a place of thinking about our giving in a prayerful state. Printed books are available in the sanctuary and videos of the devotion will be posted daily on our Facebook page.

Last week and over the next few weeks we will hear testimonies from people who have been touched by the giving nature of the disciples of First Church. I hope these stories and testimonies move you as much as “the beloved disciple” was moved.

On November 10, 2024, First Church will be receiving Estimate of Giving Cards from their members and friends to help us plan the Kingdom work we will do through the next year. A copy of that card is enclosed. You can bring this card with you, filled out or ready to be filled out as part of the worship service that day. (Additional copies will be available.)

As part of this special day we will also be celebrating with a Fellowship Meal following worship. This is a catered meal offered to you at no cost. The menu includes the choice of chicken or roast beef and sides, as well as dessert. In order to properly prepare for this meal, we are asking that you email (firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com) or call the church office at (304)522-0357 to make a reservation.

Eugene Peterson writes:

Birds have feet and can walk. Birds have talons and can grasp a branch securely. They can walk; they can cling. But *flying* is their characteristic action, and not until they fly are they living at their best, gracefully and beautifully.

Giving is what we do best. It is the air into which we were born. It is the action that was designed into us before our birth.

Our full participation in this campaign will help us live into being the giving people we were made to be! Please, move heaven and earth to be here and be ready to fill out that Estimate of Giving Card as an act of worshipping Jesus our Lord! Do not be satisfied with just walking or clinging! Fly! Fly like the giving disciple Jesus saw from the cross!



Recovery Point Thanksgiving

Recovery Point West Virginia provides a long-term, residential recovery program based on the social model of recovery. We offer drop-in recovery coaching services and transitional recovery residences through The Point Cafe, as well as The Point Apartments. Recovery Point WV programs follow the 12-Step model of Alcoholics Anonymous to help clients find lasting recovery. We also offer board-recognized Peer Recovery credential training at no cost to those with a desire to become certified. **Recovery Point WV works to promote hope and recovery across the state.**

This year, First UMC is celebrating that we can reach out to those in our community who are going through the process of recovery with the love of Christ by providing a Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 27.

Plans for the church's 10th annual Thanksgiving dinner for residents of Recovery Point, an addiction recovery program are under way and your help is needed.

We will host about 150 residents, and perhaps some of their family members, for a traditional meal at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The menu will include turkey and ham, plus all the usual trimmings.

There are several ways you can help. Donations to purchase food may be made directly to the church. Please note the gift is for the Thanksgiving dinner. We will cook Monday and Tuesday from 9-4 and Wednesday until service time. If you would prefer to prepare a dish at home for the dinner, those are welcome, too.

After the dinner, volunteers to clean up are appreciated. Extra hands are welcome all three days. There is a job for everyone no matter the age. It is a wonderful experience and so rewarding to serve others. Sign up sheets will be on the kitchen door, or if you have questions you can contact Susan Nickels at 304-634-9805 or at Susann3272@gmail.com

Cridlin Pantry

Cridlin Pantry is asking for **96 cans of peaches** in November. Drop off donations at the church office or by the soda machine downstairs.

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 8 after church

Get ready for the fastest 20 minutes on the church calendar. For just \$7.00/lb, you can stock up on a banquet of cookies for the holiday season. All proceeds go to benefit the Mission projects of United Women of Faith. But, we can't sell cookies if we don't have bakers, buyers, and eaters!

Thank You

The Cummings/Denning families would like to thank the church for helping us with the celebration of Norma Dennings life. Norma loved her church and was a part of almost every aspect of it. Such as Sunday School teacher, Marketplace Vacation Bible School (as well as other ones), Prayer Shawl group, Christmas decorations, Bible Study groups, Women's Retreats, and the Nicaragua Mission trip that she loved so dearly. Thank you to Sandee Folsom, Jennifer Plyburn, Rhonda Adkins, and Pastor Scott for making the celebration meaningful. Thank you to Susan Nickels and everyone who brought food for the lovely luncheon afterwards. Norma loved the children and was always donating her time/effort in bringing them closer to God through her teachings, crafts, and activities. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will celebrate Veteran's Day on **Nov. 5 at 1pm** with gifts and toiletries for the patients at the Barboursville Veterans' Home. Join us!

Charge Conference

The 2024 Charge Conference for First UMC, Huntington will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 26th in the sanctuary. All members of Church Council are invited to attend.

Video Lectures

Grace Gooding is facilitating some video lectures and discussions from "The Bible for Normal People" on **Wednesdays nights from 6:00-6:45pm** in the church library through Christmas.

News from the Woods

Asbury Woods will be hosting a **Dinner Theater on Sunday December 1, 2024** at First United Methodist Church in Huntington, WV with dinner starting at 5:00pm followed immediately by the show "Christmas Concert: Swinging with Sinatra and Elvis". Tickets are available for \$50 by contacting Brittany Thomas at 304-767-0254.

The first ever **Asbury Christmas Market will be held on Saturday December 14, 2024** from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Don't miss out on crafts produced by local Vendors and a visit from Father Christmas. Kids 3rd - 12th grade are welcome to register for the overnight. We are also looking for vendors! \$25/table, donations optional! Contact asburywoods.wv@gmail.com if interested!

Asbury Winter Retreat that will be held February 7 - 9. The theme for the retreat will be "Learning to Live in Love". The 3rd-5th grade Dean is Megan Carder and the 6th-12th grade Dean will be Schauna Chambers. Registration ends 12/31/24. Go to Asburywoodswv.com for registration and more details. Thank you all for your continued support of our mission at Asbury Woods Camp and Retreat Center.



Rejoice in the Birth of a brown-skinned Middle-Eastern undocumented Immigrant!

WHAT GIFT SHALL I BRING?

We have only to watch the evening news to visualize that first Christmas. In Appalachia, Hawaii, and in a hundred other disaster areas, we see poor families far from home, seeking shelter in a foreign town. When we watch a determined father floating his family to safety through Florida flood waters, we can imagine Joseph leading that little donkey through the night. When we hear about a frightened young mother giving birth in the teeth of the storm or under a bush, we can better understand how Mary survived in that humble stable. The Holy Family was forced to wander searching for safe shelter, just as families around the world are trying to survive in school gyms, refugee camps, and strange new surroundings. Jesus grew up in Nazareth beloved by his parents. He was trained in religion and a trade. Too many children lack these basic needs—a loving family, food, shelter, and education. Too many adults are struggling to escape substance abuse or other misfortunes. This Christmas look into the faces of those in need and give as Jesus has taught us to give.

GIVE YOURSELF

Help with a few home repairs

Baby-sit for a stressed-out parent

Play a game with a child

Write a letter to a student, sailor, soldier, or missionary

Volunteer at the hospital, Red Cross, Ebenezer, Cridlin, school, etc.

Work with the children at the church

Take a meal to a shut-in

Take a friend to a doctor's appointment

Read a story to a friend

GIVE TO MISSION:

Ebenezer's Angels: We will soon have wish lists for children from Ebenezer Outreach. Adopt one of our angels and help make their Christmas a joyous time.

Ebenezer Outreach: Come Grow with Us, as we begin the building expansion. The plans are complete. Publicity materials are being prepared. We still need volunteers and money is always welcome.

Mitten Tree: This is true Christmas magic. An empty tree appears at the foot of the stairs. Then it begins to fill with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. Do the elves knit these things? Where do they come from? When the tree is full they are whisked away to the Food and Clothing Closet and other local missions to warm icy fingers and frostbit ears. Let's make the magic happen again this Christmas.

UMCOR- What a year for relief agencies. One disaster after another. One of the first on the scene is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. When you give to UMCOR, you know that all of your gift goes to those most in need. Yes, UMCOR always needs money, but they also need health kits, flood buckets, & other supplies as well. These kits are easy to put together, instructions are on the UMCOR web page. First Church has sent cleaning supplies to Crosslanes UMC for delivery to Holston Conference (TN and VA). If you want to send more, you can order supplies online through Walmart or Amazon and direct shipment to Cokesbury UMC, 9919 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922.

If you want to offer hands-on help for Helene clean-up, contact Jim McCune at disasterresponse@wvumc.org. One clean-up team is headed out, but there will be more.

Children's News



Children's Sunday



I have received several compliments about how well Children's Sunday went, and I am beaming with pride. All of the kids did so great, and I am beyond thankful for all who participated. Norma would have been so proud of all of the kids. I am glad that we were able to dedicate this Sunday to her and her love for our children. The kids really proved how hard God worked on each of them. Thank you again to everyone!

- Katrina Lee

Fall Workshop

November 22nd-24th is fall workshop. It is in Jackson's Mill. The cost is \$125. Schauna will be there for the weekend and teaching a workshop. For more information please contact Schauna Chambers



Youth News

Volunteer Opportunity

November 10th Youth will be going to Ronald McDonald house to bake cookies and help clean the area from 5:00-6:30.

The youth are welcome to participate any days **November 24-26th** to help prepare and serve the Recovery Point Thanksgiving dinner. Schauna will be at the church during volunteer hours. This is a great opportunity to get community service hours as well

Chocolate Covered Cherries

it's chocolate covered cherry time! See the Youth to reserve yours!

No Youth

November 24th. Schauna needs a head count of people that will be at youth on December 1st to determine if we will have it then because of Thanksgiving break.

Hiking Church

Hiking Church is a great way to invite people to be involved in church that may not be ready to be inside the church. Invite your friends, your neighbors, and your neighbors' dogs. This month is busy, so we will meet on **December 1 at 10 am** at Ritter Park, weather permitting.

Advent Series

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are the first three seasons of the Christian Year. Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas, is followed by Christmas Day and any Sundays until January 5th, and then Epiphany is the closest Sunday to January 6th. This year's Advent and Christmas theme will be "Words for the Beginning". The series artwork is based upon the concept of a quilt and quilting pieces. The various themes for each week are:

- December 1** "Hope - You Are a Blessing" Luke 1:26-29; Isaiah 43:1-7
- December 8** "Peace - We Can't Go Alone" Ruth 1; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- December 15** "Joy - Do the Good that Is Yours to Do" Luke 3:7-16; Isaiah 58:9b-12
- December 22** "Love - Hope Is Worth the Risk" Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:46-55
- December 24** "The Christ Candle - Love Knows YOUR Name" Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:6
- December 29** "Don't Forget to Laugh" Luke 2:10; Matthew 2:10
- January 5** "Epiphany - The Road Isn't Straight" Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 43:16-21

If you or your family would like to volunteer to light the Advent Wreath this year during worship, please contact Pastor Scott at the church office or via email to sears.scott@gmail.com.

The Sanctuary Choir

is pleased to welcome another new singer: Ann Snyder. Ann and her husband George have recently moved to the area to be near family & we're pleased that she's sharing her talents with us.

We're still welcoming "Christmas Choir" singers from 7-7:30 each Wednesday. If you'd like to join us for the Dec 22nd program, find your way to the choir room on Wednesdays.

Wesley Children's Choir

will be adding their voices to Sanctuary Choir on **Nov 17 during our 10:45 worship service**. After church that same day the children will be going to the parsonage to work on a special project for their **Christmas Musical which is on Wednesday evening, Dec 11th at 6 pm**. It would be a good idea to mark your calendar NOW





November

Birthdays



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Wednesday Night Activity Schedule

5:00pm ~ Dinner 5:45-6:30pm ~ Children's Choir
6:00pm ~ Bible Study, Bell Choir, Video Lecture Series, Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 ~ KFC 6:45pm ~ Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm ~ Youth Handbell

Girl Scout Lock-In

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Saints' Sunday 5:00-7:00pm Youth Group		1:00pm Dorcas Circle @ Barboursville Veterans' Home			6:30-9:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12:00pm Stewardship Dinner 5:00-7:00pm Youth Group					6:30-9:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Hiking Church 5:00-7:00pm Youth Group					6:30-9:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:00-7:00pm Youth Group		Charge Conference	Thanksgiving Dinner for Recovery Point	Happy Thanksgiving! (Office Closed)	6:30-9:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	

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

First United Methodist Church
1124 Fifth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2288



Phone: (304) 522-0357

firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com
www.firstunitedmethodist.com

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Huntington, WV
PERMIT NO. 173

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: November 22

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.

Dawn Aikin, Kathy Bartram, Pris Beard, Pat Broce, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Mark Cornell, Myra Creek, Family of Leona Davis, Family of Norma Denning, Linda Eddins, Jackie Eplion, Sonny Hammer, Paul Hemann, Emma Mace, JD & Diana Maue, Jane McColgan, Steven McGill, Beth McVey, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, Joyce Ray, Sally Richards-Bartram, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Lucille Thaxton, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Carole Wilson

