



# October TOWER TOPICS



## Not Quite Home...

*They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. ..." Numbers 13:27-28*

Over the past month there has been a LOT going on in my life: a new Bishop has started to serve the WVAC – Welcome to Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett; a new grandchild has entered our family – welcome to Julian Henry Lea, son of Luke Lea and Erin Sears Lea; preparing for several fall events; preparing for Charge Conference on October 29; starting to preach the 9:30 am service at Central UMC (as a volunteer to help a hurting congregation in the connection). I'm absolutely certain that this does name everything!

And with each and every event that comes along, it brings with it a lot of change. And no one, not even me, really "likes" change.

I also recognize as a pastor that each one of you are facing changes in your lives as well – some that are celebrations and some that are struggles. I pray for the members of this congregation every day and I cherish your prayers as well. I also recognize that

coming up this Fall for all of us is the contentious General Election.

The passage above is used in another article in this month's Tower Topic and I felt moved to also use it myself. It is part of the story of the Israelites facing the change of moving into the Promised Land and having to face the fears that this change might bring to them. It is a reminder to us that no matter what we go through or what we are facing we have a God who is bigger than any of those "things."

It is also the reason that in the weeks leading up to election time, I am preaching a three week (October 6, October 27, and November 3) sermon series on Holy Communion. This is the meal that Jesus gave us that reminds us that we are both broken and one at the same time. It is a feast of celebration of all that God has done for us in Christ and meal of preparation for what the body of Christ is able to do in the world that "God so loved that he gave his son, his only son."

I hope this series will bring me the peace I need and that it passes along some of that peace to you as well.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Scott



# Upcoming Stewardship Campaign

*They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. ...” Numbers 13:27-28*

We’re doing what? Haven’t you read the headlines? Haven’t you seen the news? How can we even think about having a stewardship campaign in this kind of an economy? You must be nuts. It doesn’t require a great deal of imagination to think that some of the same comments were being made to Moses after the return of the spies from their visit to the Promised Land. Even without headlines screaming disaster and 24-hour news trumpeting crisis after crisis; one can almost imagine the people of Israel saying some of the very same things. You want us to do what? You expect us to go into that land with those giants and those walls and forts. You’re crazy!

Then, as well as now, the issue is the same: Faith or Fear. There is the voice of the great tempter shouting to us words of fear; you can’t, you mustn’t, what if. But that is not the only voice. If we take the time to be quiet, to turn off the news, to put down the newspaper we will hear another voice, the voice of One who owns all of the cattle on the hillside; the voice of One who is the great I Am, not the small and insignificant “what if”.

The question, of course, becomes, which voice will we listen to? One wise pastor said that every church has two basic committees; a Back to Egypt committee ruled by fear and anxiety and an Into the Promised Land committee ruled by faith and hope. Which committee will you serve?

From *Bounty* by Kristine Miller and Scott McKenzie

Remember, God isn’t asking for a decision about giving today. You are only being asked to listen for God’s voice. Our Stewardship Sunday is November 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark it on your calendar TODAY! Rev. Jeff Taylor, President of the WV UM Foundation will be out guest speaker.

Be watching your mail, worship services, and online for the following:

- A 21 Day Devotional leading up to November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Letters of Invitation to the Meal and Worship on November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Special testimonies from people touched by the ministry of First UMC

## 2024 Stewardship Report as of August 31

### Local Church

Gifts and Income	330,943.16
Expenses	339,035.41
Net Loss	(8,092.25)

### UMC Connectional Mission & Support

Due as of August 31	75,552.00
Paid thus far	15,831.75
Missional Giving Deficit	(59,720.25)



# Choir News

Christmas Choir - October 2 through December 18

Sanctuary Choir will once again be inviting singers to join them for their special Christmas music service which will be presented during the **10:45 service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Rehearsals will begin **Wednesday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00-7:30** in the adult choir room. If you are interested in participating in this special performance, which will also feature Lincoln Brass Quintet, we'd love to have you! If you can let us know you'll be coming, we'll have a folder of music waiting for you.

## New Choir Voices

We are pleased to announce we have several Marshall Scholarship Students singing with Sanctuary Choir this year. Noah Munique, from Princeton, WV is joining the bass section; From Hurricane, Mikaylah Lippert is in the alto section, & Teya Gandee from Ripley will be joining the sopranos. These are voice students and we're very glad to have them in our choir. We also want to welcome two other singers: Stacey Floyd. Stacey is married to John, who has been singing bass for several years and she's singing alto. When you see these new folks, please welcome them & make them feel at home.

## Wesley Children's Choir

The children will be singing for church this month on **Oct 20, which is Children's Sunday**. We won't be wearing robes this time because many of the children are involved in other aspects of the service.

They are also singing for church on **Nov 17<sup>th</sup>** AND right after church will be heading to the parsonage (where Pastor Scott & his family live) for a very special PROJECT, which is expected to take no more than an hour. Rumor has it that there may be pizza! So, please mark this on your schedules for next month.

## A Big Thanks!

The church would like to acknowledge the generous gift of a Steinway Grand Piano from Dr. Den & Peggy Wolfe. The piano has been placed in the choir loft where it will be played often for everyone's enjoyment.



## Young Adults

Young Adults Bible Study met for the first time Wednesday, September 18. We discussed different ways to dive deeper into our faith life. We are starting with reading the New Testament in one hundred days. The great part about this is that if you do not read that week, there is still space for you since there will be a discussion each week. We hope that eventually this will become a group that will be able to engage in the community and do other mission moments together as we grow.

The age range is 18-35; but if you feel led to join our group, all are welcome. We meet **every Wednesday in the Panel Room from 6:00-7:00pm** and remember, **college students eat free on Wednesday nights from 5:00-6:00pm.**

## Youth



### Youth Parent Meeting

There's plenty to discuss, from Fall workshop and lock-ins to mission trips and fundraising. Please come to the first half hour of Youth on **October 6 at 5:00pm** to discuss the possibilities of what is to come.

### No more Wednesday Youth Hang Outs

From where Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, there will be no more Wednesday night youth hangouts. If a need arises and we need to start once again, we would love all the help to make it a success!

### TEAM REACH APP

Both our Youth and Children's Ministries use the Team Reach app to communicate and keep people up to date when things happen. Please download the app. For access to the youth team reach, our group code is **Fumcyouth25701**, and our children's code is **FUMCparents2024**.



### Youth Halloween Party

The youth are having their second annual **Halloween Party at the Shepherd's House on Sunday the 13th.**

There is no school that Monday. Be on the lookout for more details.





## Children's Ministry

### Children's Sunday - Sunday, October 20

The Greatest Showman, a movie about uniqueness and the gifts we were given to share with the world, is the theme for this year's Children's Sunday. Our FUMC children will be showcasing some of their amazing talents as well as giving a wonderful sermon about the differences that make each of us special and how important it is to celebrate those differences. We are all God's unique creations, so please join us on **October 20<sup>th</sup>** and let our kids show you how special they all are.

### Volunteers Needed!

On Wednesdays, I am in serious need of volunteers to hang out with me during **KFC from 6:30-7:15pm**. It would be great for the kids to see others from the congregation (not just their parents) volunteering and spending time with them on Wednesdays! I will send materials to you ahead of time, and if you do not want to teach - you don't have to! If you are interested, please email me - [katrinamlee1124@gmail.com](mailto:katrinamlee1124@gmail.com)  
Thank you in advance!

### Upcoming October Events

**October 20th - Children's Sunday**

**October 27th - Kids are going to Cridlin**

**October 30th - Octoberfest**

**October 31st - Halloween (be safe!)**



### IN HONOR & MEMORY

For those who did not know, up until about 9 months ago, Norma Denning would help decorate the bulletin boards for us. There were many who were in awe of what she quilted and would place on the boards. When she chose to take a break from that part of her ministry, she gave Schauna one of the quilted pieces to use when felt led to. You can now find the quilted piece on the bulletin board across from the Nursery and outside the Fellowship Hall. It will be there until Christmas, and we hope you have the time to stop and admire the beautiful piece of art that Norma poured her heart into.





# Church Community News

## WV Annual Conference

The United Methodist Women's West Virginia Annual Conference will be **Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26**, hosted by the Greenbrier Wesleyan District.

## Baby Announcement!

Leslie and Sean Adkins son, Reid Patrick Adkins was born on July 11. A huge congratulations to them and to the grandparents - Margaret & Vern Reichenbecher, Rhonda & the late Rev. Randy Adkins, and Fenton & Jill Cummings.

## 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 **Asbury Winter Retreat that will be held February 7 - 9**. The theme for the retreat will be "Learning to Live in Love". Go to [Asburywoodswv.com](http://Asburywoodswv.com) for registration and more details. Thank you all for your continued support of our mission at Asbury Woods Camp and Retreat Center.

## Faith In Action Fall Fundraiser

Heritage Farm Museum & Village on **Friday, October 25 from 5:00-7:00pm**. The fundraiser is \$50/person and will include a catered meal by Rebel Barn, Appalachian Artisans and music, a silent auction for gift baskets, and a drawing for a handmade patchwork quilt! **Reservation and payment due by October 17** to Faith in Action - 1900 3rd Avenue Huntington, WV 25701. (304)697-1274





## Hiking Church

We had 36 for Hiking Church last month! 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. We will be at Barbourville Park again; this time we will be taking the trails behind the walking path circle. It will be on **October 27 at 9:30am**. From where the weather will start getting cooler, we will get later so it can warm up. The children will be encouraged to gather leaves on the hike so they can participate in a craft afterwards.

## Video Lectures

If we have interested people, we will continue to have some video lectures from "The Bible for Normal People" and discussions on **Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45pm** in the church library.  
- Grace Gooding

## Cridlin Pantry

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

## UM Men

John Yeager will be our speaker at the UM Men's Breakfast on **October 12 at 8.am**. Reverend Yeager works with Sunflower Seeds, a non-profit that provides resources for Ukrainian refugees & war victims. This aid is delivered to refugees as well as directly to medics in the field.

## Dorcas Circle

The circle members met on September 10. The guest speaker was Dan Hager, Executive Director of Ebenezer Medical Outreach. Mr. Hager gave the group an understanding of the services provided by the outreach. We were astounded by all the medical services provided to the community. A limited number of brochures have been placed on the table by the entry to the Sanctuary.



# OCTOBER



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, Adult Bell Choir, Video  
 Lecture Series, Young Adult Bible Study & Yoga  
 6:30 ~ KFC 6:45pm ~ Sanctuary Choir  
 7:15pm ~ Youth Handbell

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5:00-7:00 pm Youth Parent Meeting (5-5:30) then Youth		1:00 pm Dorcas Circle	6:00pm Trustees Meeting		6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	8:00 am UM Men's Breakfast
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Youth Halloween Party @ Shepherd's			6:00pm Finance Meeting		6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Children's Sunday! 5:00-7:00 pm Youth					6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30am Hiking Church		6:00 pm Charge Conference	Octoberfest	Happy Halloween!		

- 10/01 Parker Ward Jr.
- 10/02 Mason Reed
- 10/03 Parker Campbell
- 10/04 Philip Erenrich
- Lucas Chambers
- Meg Cyrus
- Riley Mancuso
- Noah Tschop
- 10/05 Arthur Thomas
- 10/06 Linda Choi
- Andra Gerlach
- 10/07 Alex Dawson
- Ian Holzworth
- 10/10 Debbie Conley
- Artemis McKenna
- Otto McKenna
- 10/11 Andy Cunningham
- 10/12 Tina Fuls
- 10/13 Nancy Palmer
- 10/14 Laura Fuls
- Luke Holbrook
- Jane Montsinger
- 10/17 Jerry Morse
- 10/19 Carolyn Waggoner
- 10/20 Linda McLain
- Grant Sergeant
- 10/21 Heather Birkhimer
- Rod Duncan
- 10/22 Carole Ann Bradley
- Cynthia Klek
- 10/24 Christopher Nicely
- Zachary Slone
- 10/25 Jon Voitelle Jr.
- 10/26 Amelia Adkins
- 10/27 Derik Legg
- 10/28 Mark Trimble
- 10/29 Scott Archer II
- 10/30 Amy Dillon
- Katherine Ward
- Sarah McInerney
- Benny Canterbury



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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: October 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.*

Dawn Aikin, Hunter Barry, Kathy Bartram, Tabitha Berry, Pris Beard, Pat Broce, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Mark Cornell, Myra Creek, Leona Davis, Family of 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, Joyce Ray, Sally Richards-Bartram, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Carole Wilson