



# August/September

# TOWER TOPICS

## Not Quite Home...

From Pastor Scott

As I settle into the landscape of my sixties, a sense of gratitude continues to grow within me. The milestone passed just days ago as of this writing, the celebrations have faded, but the quiet feeling of thankfulness remains, a constant melody in the music of life. Sixty years. It's a number that once felt distant, a far-off shore on the horizon of my youth. I recall how "old" I felt when I turned twenty-five and now laugh with thankfulness at that memory of "being a quarter of a century old." I've added 12,783 days to *that* milestone, and my heart overflows with appreciation for the journey.

In my teen years, I was quite the fan of Michael W. Smith and especially loved the imagery of the song "Pray for Me" ...*Painted on a tapestry, we see the way it has to be, weaving through the laughter and the tears.* My passage through these six decades has been a rich tapestry, intricately woven with threads of joy and sorrow, triumph and challenge. Looking back, I can clearly discern the unwavering faithfulness of God in every single stitch. He has been my constant companion, my steadfast guide through sunlit valleys and the most shadowed canyons. The Psalmist's words in Psalm 107:1 echo within me: "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" And truly, His steadfast love has been with me.

This turning point isn't merely about the accumulation of years; it's about the wisdom gleaned, the lessons absorbed, and the love shared. It's about recognizing the countless blessings, both grand and subtle, that have graced my path. From the loud laughter of loved ones to the quiet, transformative moments of spiritual growth, each experience has shaped me, refined me, and drawn me ever closer to the heart of the Creator.

The apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, exhorts us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This verse has taken on new resonance as I reflect on my sixty years. Even in seasons of difficulty (like boiler replacements and HVAC issues, maybe?) God's grace proved sufficient, and his very presence was a source of strength. These challenging moments, though arduous, have often been the very "chalices" in which my faith was dipped and my understanding of God's magnificent grace has risen like a communion loaf bursting to be shared.

So now that I am established in this new decade, my prayer remains one of thankfulness. Thankful for every memory of the past, for the reality of the present, and for the promise of what is yet to come. Thankful for every breath, every heartbeat, every precious moment gifted to me. For truly, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). May the remaining chapters of my life be a resounding testament to His boundless goodness, lived out in joyful gratitude for all His wondrous works.

# Stewardship Sunday - Worship & Meal

November 16, 2025

The Theme is "Our Money Story"

## Rise and Charge Conference

Please mark your calendars now for our special worship service on **October 12, 2025** that will include both our Charge Conference celebration of the end of our "Mission: Discipleship Program 2025" and a food packaging event for RISE Against Hunger where we will be packing 40,000 meals. This promises to be a special day for First UMC in both celebrations and in continuing the Mission Orientation of our congregation.

## Advent Worship Planning

The Worship Committee will be working in the month of September to plan our Advent worship themes. This year we will be looking for people to prepare art work, write devotions, write poetry, and take part in worship in special ways throughout the Advent Season. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Sue Welch or Pastor Scott.

## Wed. Night Bible Study

Starts up again on Wednesday, August 13 at 6:00pm in the Library. The first few meetings will be on "Mythbusting the Bible" with Dan McClellan and Pete Enns.

-Grace Gooding

## Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle is cancelled for the month of August. In September, we will meet on the second Tuesday - September 9.

-Jane Ferguson

## Lay Leadership (Nominations) Committee

The Lay Leadership Team will be meeting on **Sunday August 17, at 6:30 pm** in the Panel Room to make nominations for officers and committees for our Charge Conference. If you have a particular area where you would like to serve this year, please contact a member of this committee and let them know or call the church office.

Donate to  
First UMC



## Special Thanks

Every member of the congregation should be giving special thanks to the members of the Wednesday Willing Workers, who have done so much over the past month to make it possible for us to worship in our Fellowship Hall. These men moved more than chairs and sanctuary furniture – they moved mountains to make the space that we have welcoming and open for worship and fellowship. Bob Ganzer, Ron Hay, Rick Brown, Jack Welch, Jay Brooks, John Tanner, Jody Eddins, Charlie Buell – Thank you!





Bedding in a Backpack 6/25/2025

## Cridlin Pantry

Cridlin Pantry is asking for our help! For the month of **August**, they need **96 cans of chicken noodle soup**, and for **September**, **96 cans of diced tomatoes**.

Let's all pitch in by bringing a few boxes with us the next time we come to church. Together, we can help feed our community and share God's love in a practical way.

## Thank You Notes

On behalf of the Huntington City Mission, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your involvement and sponsorship of our 21st Annual golf outing. Proceeds raised were for critical funds needed to continue operating HCM. We appreciate your support, and we can't wait to have you with us again in the future!

With sincere gratitude,  
Emily Meyers

Dear Members of First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the board of Christian Associates/Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry, I would like to thank you for the recent donations from "Bedding in a Backpack" that was gathered and delivered to us on Wednesday evening. The amount of bedding that was collected was overwhelming and will go towards the children in our community who are in desperate need of beds to sleep on. We thank you for supporting this very special mission.

What started as a simple Sunday School lesson from Adam Hamilton and his church out of Kansas City has spread to our community through prayer and volunteers like you. Our goal is to reach out to even more children in needs of beds this year. Our belief is that every child, regardless of their circumstances, deserves a bed to sleep on. Again, our deepest appreciation for your continued support of Cridlin and our mission in helping those most in need.

In Christ's love & spirit,  
Lynn Cummings

## Flood Bucket Mission Event

On Wednesday, July 23, our church family came together for a meaningful evening of service: assembling flood buckets for disaster relief. Thanks to your generosity and helping hands, we packed 50 buckets full of essential cleaning supplies such as soap, gloves, masks, trash bags, detergent, bug spray, air freshener, and more!

These buckets have been sent to New Vision Depot in Beckley, where they'll be distributed to individuals and families recovering from natural disasters. Recovering from a natural disaster is never easy, but these buckets offer practical help and a reminder that people care.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed! Your compassion and commitment to serving others truly shines.



Flood Bucket Filling 7/23/2025



## Wesley Children's Choir

This choir will officially begin rehearsals on Wed, August 20 in room 204. Ms. Debbie, along with Ms. Carolyn & Ms. Rhonda will be on hand to guide children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade in singing once a month for Sunday worship & presenting a Christmas musical in December. We hope to see all our young children each week at 5:45. Bring your friends & neighbors!

## Upcoming Events

**August 13** - Back to School Bash! (Tailgate & Inflatables)

**August 20** - First "Normal" Wednesday (5:45pm Choir/6:30pm KFC)

5:45pm - KFC Parent Meeting (Parents of kids PreK-5th)

**September 3** - 1st Youth Handbells Practice (7:15-7:45pm)

**September 28** - Children's Sunday (Kid's run Worship)

## Volunteers Needed

To those who have volunteered to work with our children in the past, thank you so much and we hope you continue sharing your time with us! To those who are looking for a push to volunteer...

We are looking for people who want to do a children's minutes lesson on a Sunday, people who want to be backup for our nursery, and people who want to come work with Katrina and some of the FUMC kids on Wednesday nights from 6:15pm – 7:15pm (no teaching required). If any of these volunteer opportunities pique your interest, please contact Katrina Lee

([katrinamlee1124@gmail.com](mailto:katrinamlee1124@gmail.com))!

## Sanctuary Choir

*The Sanctuary Choir* will be hosting the choir from St. Paul Lutheran Church on Wednesdays, Aug 13 & 20<sup>th</sup> in preparation for singing together at a joint worship service [HERE](#) on Sunday, Aug 24<sup>th</sup>. The two choirs will be presenting a group of spirituals that Sunday as the two congregations worship together for probably the very first time. All choir members are urged to make a special effort to not only attend, but find extra ways to show radical hospitality to our guests. This would also be a great time for new people to join the Sanctuary Choir! So, if you like to sing, come join us for this special occasion.

*The Sanctuary Choir* will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays, (by themselves), beginning Aug 27 and will begin singing for worship services on Sept 7. New singers are encouraged & welcome, especially sopranos, altos, tenors and basses!





# Youth Dates

**August 10** - Ace Adventure, families welcome! We will leave after church and do a half day at the water park.

**August 11** - Pickleball & Prayer at Ritter Park from 7-9pm. Schauna will get there early to try and get 2 courts.

**August 17** - Welcome back youth, messy games night! Bring a change of clothes and prepare to get a little messy from 5-7pm. Any youth or adult that would like to be a part of the yearly planning is welcome to come at 4:15pm so we can work together to have a great year as a youth group.

**August 24** - Schauna will be out of town for a youth ministry cohort she was accepted in at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is looking for someone to cover youth this evening.

**September 7** - Youth parent meeting to discuss things that we planned in our yearly prep meeting.

## Love to Read?

Schauna Chambers is starting a book club this year and would love for you to join! We would read one book a month then meet together to discuss. This is another way to grow in our faith. Contact Schauna for more information. The first book will start in September.

### Wednesday Evening Activities

**5:00pm** - Dinner

**5:45pm** - Children's Choir

**6:00pm** - Bell Choir, Bible Study, & Young Adult Bible Study

**6:30pm** - KFC

**6:45pm** - Sanctuary Choir

**7:15pm** - Youth Bell Choir



## Youth Communication

Team Reach is the app we use for communication. We will still be using this to communicate regularly. For parents that do not want to download an app but still stay up to date, we are utilizing Grow Hubs. This will send you an email anytime something is posted. It will also give you access to what we are learning in our meetings, events, and other important information. If you would like access to this, please send Schauna Chambers an email so she can add you to the list to be notified.

## Young Adults

Wednesday Young Adults meetings will be starting back up on **Wednesday, September 3**. We will be meeting in the panel room from 6:00-7:15pm.



# August

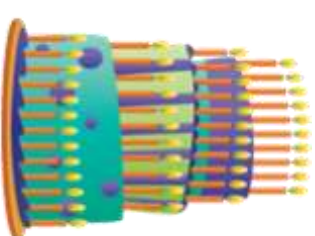



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

3	4	5	6 6:00pm SPRC Meeting	7	1 6:30-9:pm - NA	2 7:30-9:00pm LGBT Q +
10 Youth - Ace Adventure	11 7:00pm Youth - Pickleball & Prayer	12	13 5:00pm Back to School Bash!	14	15 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	16 7:30-9:00pm LGBT Q + Self-Defense
17 5:00pm - Youth 6:30pm - Lay Leadership	18	19	20 Wednesday Night Activities Resume	21	22 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	23 7:30-9:00pm LGBT Q + Self-Defense
24 Joint Worship Service with St. Paul Lutheran	25	26	27 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	28	29 6:30-9:30pm NA Meeting	30 7:30-9:00pm LGBT Q + Self-Defense
31	<b>Dinner Menu:</b> <b>August 13 - Tailgate (Bring your own food/drinks)</b> <b>August 20 - Tacos</b> <b>August 27 - Hamburgers &amp; Hot Dogs</b>					

08/01	Logan Chambers
08/02	Blake Weekley
08/03	Vicki Hanshaw
	Jennifer Adkins
	Michael Campbell
	Timothy Cummings
	Christy Edwards
	Parker Shepherd
08/04	Tyler Eddins
	Mary Ganzer
08/06	Graham Stevens
08/07	Elsa Meade
	David Denning
	Carter Sergeant
08/08	Hailey Campbell
08/09	Macy Archer
08/11	Jeremy Rhoten
08/12	Eric Young
	Angus Day
08/13	Madison Reed
08/14	Russell Tatum
08/15	Mark Richardson
	Angel Blake
	Katie Brown
	Jonathan Butler
	Evan Gooding
08/17	Jennifer Brown
	Jill Nelson
	Jacob Polcyn
08/18	Ava Conaway
	Cara Hewitt
	Judy Taylor
08/20	Mary Plyde Bell
08/23	John Tanner
08/25	Josie Curry
08/26	Lakin Thompson Moore
	Alexis Turner
08/27	Ann O'Roark
08/28	Ashley Swann
	Austin Davis
	Jeff Davis
	Joe Eddins II
	Emily Hagan
08/29	Mary Holbrook
	Joan Meredith
	Kathy Patrick
08/30	Shawna Thomas
	Jeff Archanbault
	Lynndey Saunders
	Asher Sinclair

# September



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3	4	5 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	6 7:30-9:00pm LG B T Q + Self-Defense
7 Youth Parent Meeting	8	9 1:00pm Dorcas Circle	10	11	12 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	13 7:30-9:00pm LG B T Q + Self-Defense
14	15	16	17	18	19 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	20 7:30-9:00pm LG B T Q + Self-Defense
21	22	23	24 6:00pm Church Council	25	26 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	27 7:30-9:00pm LG B T Q + Self-Defense
28 Children's Sunday	29	30	<b>Dinner Menu:</b> Sept. 3 - Spaghetti Sept. 10 - Ranch Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Broccoli Sept. 17 - Lasagna Sept. 24 - Baked Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans			

09/02	Katie Cundiff
09/03	Melanie Hughes
	Jamie Legg
09/04	Sallie Richards
	Charlie Buell
09/06	Timothy Reed
	Riley Blake
09/07	Gary Taylor
	Jonathan Fredrick
	Bob Morris
09/08	Todd Bacon
	Zealand Wylie
09/10	Lois Chatfield
	Nikolas Klek
	Kitty Wilson
09/11	Olivia Day
09/12	Mary Arthur
	Lily Hager
	Chris Thomas
09/14	Gene Weekley
09/15	Schauna Chambers
	Jon Holzworth
09/16	Jennifer Price
	John Edwards
09/17	Chuck Hanshaw
	Taylor Davis
09/18	Sharon Powers
	Katrina Lee
09/19	Stacy Morgan
	Karen Hagan
	EvaLee Kyger
	Steven Richardson
09/20	Joann Vanover
09/22	Robert Hagan
09/25	Tim Dillon
	Debbie Bradley
	Waverly Hughes
09/26	Joshua Crum
09/28	Shelby Naegele
	Chase Thomas
09/29	Jake Maue
09/30	Leann Haines
	Adam Nuckols
	Justin Swann
	Jeremy Vest



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



Phone: (304) 522-0357

firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com  
www.firstunitedmethodist.com

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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: September 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 grieving, sick, or homebound,*  
Randall Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Kathy Bartram, Pat Broce, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Amy Conner, Mark Cornell, Mel Cummings, Family of Paul Edwards, Jackie Eplion, Jane Ferguson, Father Bill French, Jim Hamilton, Sonny Hammer, Family of Emilie Hilton, Al & Lynn Hurt, Brian Justice, Emma Mace, JD & Diana Maue, Jane McColgan, Family of Steven McGill, Family of Greg McNeer (Andrew Kinsey's Stepfather) Beth McVey, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, Sally Richards-Bartram, Janet Rowe, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Joe Welch, Carole Wilson