



October/November TOWER TOPICS

Not Quite Home...

From Pastor Scott

The parable of the dishonest manager in Luke 16:1-13 is one of Jesus' most puzzling stories. At first glance, it appears that Jesus is praising dishonesty, but a deeper look reveals a profound lesson about how we should view and use our resources.

In this story, a manager who has been caught misusing his master's resources faces termination. Realizing his predicament, he quickly devises a plan. He calls in people who owe his master money and reduces their debts, effectively making friends who might help him after he loses his job.

Surprisingly, when the master discovers what happened, he doesn't punish the manager but commends him for his cleverness. The manager saw the crisis ahead and acted decisively to prepare for his future. The owner wasn't praising the manager's dishonesty. Rather, he was highlighting the man's ability to recognize his situation and take urgent action.

Jesus then makes a striking observation: "People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light." In other words, worldly people often show more strategic thinking about temporary matters than believers do about eternal ones.

Just as a one-year-old might stubbornly pursue what they want without understanding consequences, we often fail to recognize the abundance of grace around us. We take for granted the gifts we've been given—our life, time, resources—and go "crawling off somewhere else" instead of embracing the present moment. We can be hardheaded about what we think we want, missing the bigger picture of God's kingdom and our role in it.

The foundation of Christian living is grace—undeserved favor from God. Our very existence, our hope, and our salvation are all gifts we don't deserve. Like the manager, we've probably squandered much of that grace.

But here's the good news: unlike the manager, we're not fired. God isn't throwing us out. Instead, we're given another chance to live differently in the abundant grace surrounding us.

Jesus calls us to use our temporary resources—money, time, talents—with the same urgency and shrewdness as the dishonest manager, but for kingdom purposes:

- To make friends for the kingdom
- To love our neighbors
- To serve the poor
- To share the story of Jesus
- To invest in things that last forever

Jesus concludes with a stark truth: "You cannot serve God and wealth." The dishonest manager used money to serve himself. *We, as people filled with grace, are called to be clever not for ourselves but for the giver of all grace.*

RISE & 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. Sign up for RISE by using the QR code below.



Church Giving

The offerings from Communion Sunday on September 7 helped over 20 people/families eat **and get to work & doctor's appointments. We gave** out 11 fast food cards, 20 bus tickets, and 5 gasoline (fuel) cards.

We also gave out over 17 hygiene bags. Just a reminder that the money you donate on Communion Sundays goes directly to help our community! Trust me, the people receiving these gifts are extraordinarily grateful! They have asked that I share their gratitude with our loving and **caring congregation, so... Thanks ya'll!!**

-Allie

Hygiene Bag Donations

Allie is currently collecting donations for hygiene bags to support those in need. To keep everyone informed, she is transforming one of the bulletin boards into a donation and information center. This space will highlight which items are needed most and provide updates on how your generous donations and communion offerings are being used to bless others. If interested in donating, here is a link & QR code to our hygiene bag Amazon wishlist!

Thank you for your continued support!
<https://a.co/cieUUGe>



Cridlin Pantry

Cridlin Pantry is asking for our help! For the month of October, they need 96 cans of tomato soup, and for November, 96 cans of peaches.

Thank You Notes

First United Methodist,

Thank you so much for awarding me your scholarship. I greatly appreciate all of the support you all have provided!

Love,
Stone Arthur

Dear Friends in Ministry,

Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - *Thank you!*

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary
General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR

Zeffy Donate to First UMC



Dorcas Circle

The September meeting was blessed to have Jan Rader, an assistant to the Mayor, as our guest speaker. She gave the attendees an informative talk about the HUB, the new homeless shelter project, and issues of the homeless. Ms. Rader answered many questions from the group. Our thanks to Jan for giving her time and knowledge.

The attendance of interested people filled the room to capacity!

The next meeting will be October 14 at 1:00pm in the Panel Room. Everyone is invited to attend. Come join us!

Advent Worship Planning

The Worship Committee will be working in the next month 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.

Stewardship Sunday

Worship & Meal
November 16, 2025

The Theme is "Our Money Story"

Mission Report

2025 has been an active year for Mission. The best part is that we are once more getting more people, young and old, involved. As disaster after disaster struck, your giving to UMCOR was generous. Your giving to many other agencies continues - food and clothing for Cridlin, meals for the City Mission, etc. Some of our hands-on mission activities include:

Octoberfest

Cridlin Volunteers

Youth working at Vision Depot

Purchasing & Packing Bedding for Cridlin's Bed Project

Ecumenical Spring Effort for Rise Against Hunger

Upcoming (Oct. 12) Meal Packing for RISE Providing \$1800 in Supplies for 51 Flood Buckets

Children's Christmas Program Collection

Cookie Walk - Mission Money for UWF

The Mission Committee needs an infusion of interested people. Unfortunately, members are not responding to meetings. There were only 3 of us at the last meeting.

Come and join us!

-Jane Morse

Holiday Giving

It is not too early to make plans for our holiday giving! It will soon be time for Octoberfest, which has been a mission project for the children & youth for some 50 years. For Thanksgiving, we need to renew our special food collections. Our Ebenezer Angel lists will be **available early in November. Let's adopt them all!**

-Jane Morse

News from the Woods

As the leaves begin to blanket the trails and the campfire ring of Asbury Woods, the camp is winding down from an active summer filled with laughter, friendships and exploration. Our sights are shifting to making preparations for next summer and we need to remind ourselves to enjoy the slowing down during the fall season and pull families together in a busy time of sports and other activities. To celebrate fall and family time, Asbury Woods will be hosting a family campout on Saturday, October 25 and will end after hiking church led by Schauna Chambers on Sunday, October 26. Bring a tent and your sleeping bags and enjoy a night at Asbury Woods. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Please send RSVP to asburywoods.wv@gmail.com

Youth Dates

October 25 - Haunted Hydration Hustle 5k
(participating in this to help raise money for the McDowell water crisis)

October 26 - Hiking Church
(Asbury Woods hiking church and worship)

October 29 - Octoberfest
(We help with games and fun with the **children's ministry**)

November - Cherry Fundraiser
(We sell cherries to go towards our mission fund)

November 14-16 - Fall Workshop
(Is at Camp Cowen this year and the theme is **"Rooted"**. **Schauna will be teaching 2 workshops.**)

November 23 - Thanksgiving Break
(Friendsgiving?)

December 7 - Christmas Party
(Dress in fun Christmas attire, bring a gift, and **let's have some fun!**)

December 14 - Winter Break
(Breaking for Christmas!)



Youth Group doing mission work
(taking donated flood bucket kits to Vision Depot)

Wednesday Evening Activities

5:00pm - Dinner

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

6:00pm - Bell Choir, Bible Study, & The Vine

6:30pm - KFC

6:45pm - Sanctuary Choir

The Vine

Young Adults meet on Wednesdays from 6-7pm.

The Vine is a place where we come together to grow and connect back to the true vine that is Jesus Christ. We have great conversations and it has proven to be a safe space to question, discuss, and grow together. For more information, please contact Schauna Chambers at (304) 634-9684



HAUNTED HYDRATION HUSTLE 5K

**Saturday, October
25th. 9:00 am
Barboursville Park**



To register, search for "Haunted Hydration Hustle" on tristaterace.com, or follow the QR code to the right.

- \$25.00 early registration through October 20th guarantees a t-shirt. There will be a \$3.75 processing upon registration.
- \$35.00 October 21st thru day of race registration. We may have t-shirts available the day of the but we can not guarantee if you haven't registered by October 20th.

The Haunted Hydration Hustle is a WV United Methodist Church Benefit for the McDowell County Water Crisis.

Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir is happy to welcome new singer, Michael Moon to our bass section. Michael is one of those rare people who just showed up to worship one Sunday and came to choir rehearsal **the next Wednesday. We're very glad to have him.** He is a teacher at Wayne High School.

Sanctuary Choir is planning several special Sundays of music in the coming months – the first will be Nov 2nd when we celebrate All Saints Day and the 2nd will be our Christmas program on Dec 21st. These days will feature extra singing **with extra instruments and we're already working toward them.**

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) or use the **"Help Needed" bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.**

LGBTQ+ Self-Defense

The LGBTQ+ Self-Defense class takes place every Saturday and Sunday night from 7:30-9:00pm. Anyone over the age of 18 and a part of the LGBTQ+ community is invited to join!

Wesley Children's Choir

Children will be singing for church on Sundays Oct 12, Nov 16 & Dec 7. Rehearsals begin at 5:45 each Wednesday and new kids are always welcome.

Love Your Neighbor is a mission project the children are leading. On Nov 16th They are asking the congregation to contribute toiletry items that can fit in a gallon zip-lock bag to be **distributed to our city's unhoused population.** Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more specific information.

October fest

Will be on Wednesday, October 29! Katrina Lee is looking for mission project ideas so the kids can vote on which they want to support! Have any recommendations? Contact Katrina Lee at katrinamlee1124@gmail.com

Bulletin Art

A big thanks to all the kids who have shared their artwork with us! We have LOVED using your art as the cover of our bulletins each week!

If you have art that you would like to share with the congregation and have featured on our bulletin then please give your drawing to Katrina Lee or Schauna Chambers, or email it to Allie Bright in the office at firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com

We want to see and share artwork from those of ALL ages!

NA Meetings

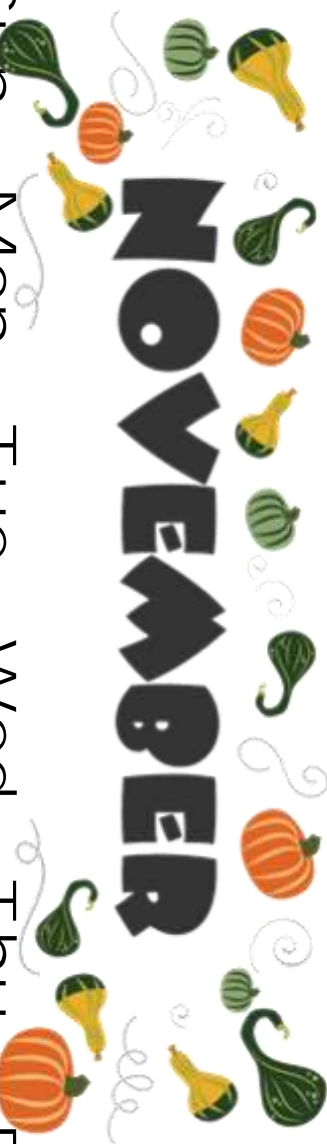
Narcotics Anonymous meetings take place every Friday night from 6:30-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Parker Ward Jr.

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



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

11/01 Ben Fischer
11/02 Garrett Cunningham
11/04 Jacob Hensley
11/04 Gus Cooke IX
11/05 Steve Hensley
Eden Cummings
11/07 Madison Sergeant
11/08 Emily Dye
Oskar Meade
11/10 Ansel Meade

2
All Saints' Day
Worship

3

4

5

6

7
6:30-9:00pm
NA Meeting

1
7:30-9:00pm
LGBT Self Defense

11/12 Trisha Cunningham
Abby Birkhimer
11/13 Megan Archambault
Jean White
Ed Stone
Martha Cummings
11/14 Finn Russell

9

10

11
1:00pm
Dorcas Circle

12

13

14
6:30-9:00pm
NA Meeting

15
7:30-9:00pm
LGBTQ+ Self-Defense

11/15 Margaret Reichenbecher
Chris Hutchison
11/17 Marc Rutherford
Justin Rhoten

16
Stewardship
Sunday
Love Your
Neighbor Mission
Project led by the
children

17

18

19

20

21
6:30-9:00pm
NA Meeting

22
7:30-9:00pm
LGBTQ+ Self-Defense

11/18 Meagan Shepherd
Bob Palmer
Emelia Adkins
11/19 Micah Krantz
Shanice Drakes
Rhonda Adkins

23

24

25

26

27
Happy
Thanksgiving!
(Office Closed)

28
6:30-9:00pm
NA Meeting

29
7:30-9:00pm
LGBTQ+ Self-Defense

11/24 Charlee Adkins
Jay Brooks
11/25 Price Wilson
11/26 Lauren Reid
11/28 Carey Young

30

Dinner Menu:
Nov. 5 - Lasagna
Nov. 12 - TBD
Nov. 19 - Leftovers from Sunday the 16 (Pork Loin)

11/29 Andrew Tischop
Gregory Powers
Jonathan Hager
Cynthia Beal
Mel Cummings III
Cyrus Cummings
Mike Brown
Arthur Stone

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 21

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, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Amy Conner, Mark Cornell, Mel Cummings, Family of Paul Edwards, Jackie Eplion, Jane Ferguson, Bill French (Terry Justice's dad), Mike Goodall, Jim Hamilton, Sonny Hammer, Al & Lynn Hurt, Brian Justice, Andy King, Emma Mace, JD & Diana Maue, Jane McColgan, Family of Steven McGill, Beth McVey, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Jack Patrick, Christie Payne, Sally Richards-Bartram, Janet Rowe, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Dr. Joseph Subah, Fred Tallman, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Joe Welch, Carole Wilson