

***A Message from Pastor Alan***

What does a Jesus-shaped life look like? There are lots of possible answers, but one way to see it is to pay deep attention to who Jesus hangs around with in the Gospels and who is threatened by his presence. Jesus was continually present with those on the margins, and he chose to be in solidarity with the most vulnerable persons around him. Like so many of the prophets, he challenged the powerful and wealthy for the ways they oppressed those vulnerable persons.

The challenge of Jesus' life was so profound that it was experienced by the powers that be even when he was a baby. Herod was so threatened by Jesus that he murdered thousands of children trying to kill the one who many were suggesting was the true King. This challenge remained throughout Jesus' life, and it culminated in the powers of the world murdering him on a cross.

In Christ's resurrection, we see God's affirmation that Jesus' life is what a faithful life looks like. We find ourselves called to continue that work as we have been incorporated in the body of the one who was born, lived, died, and rose to save us from our brokenness and sin, and in whom the Kingdom of God breaks into the world.

As we look to a New Year, perhaps we wonder where to begin? Our Methodist heritage gives us a great starting point at the beginning of each year to offer our lives to Jesus anew, for him to work in us through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about the changes in our lives that help us to live Jesus-shaped lives. This starting point is, not surprisingly, a prayer. It is known as the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

The Wesleyan Covenant Prayer is at the heart of discipleship because it finds us surrendering ourselves and our lives to Jesus, for us to go where he sends us, which may be into expected places with unexpected people. It's a New Year's commitment that is based in a prayer that we are ready to be used by God, and that God is always the one who makes the first move, drawing us into deeper relationship with the Triune God, and sending us out to be ambassadors of God's love in the world. May 2018 be a blessed year in our lives together, as Jesus uses us to spread his love locally and abroad.

Peace, Pastor Alan

**January Sermon Series - "Revival"**

**January 7 - Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany**

*Scripture: Revelation 2:1-5, 3:14-22*

*Sermon: "Precursors to Revival"*

**January 14**

*Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-16*

*Sermon: "A Longing for Holiness"*

**January 21**

*Scripture: Romans 4:1-5, 5:1-5*

*Sermon: "A Crisis of Faith"*

**January 28**

*Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10*

*Sermon: "The Necessity of Grace"*

### Pageant Rehearsal - January 6th (DO NOT MISS!)

**The Chorister choir** will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am to run through the pageant several times. I will give out costumes and we will have pizza afterwards. Please pick your child up at 12:30.

**The Cherub choir** will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00pm to go over your song and stage blocking. I will give out what they will need for the pageant this day also. Please pick your child up at 4:00pm.

### Christmas Pageant - January 7th

Choristers please be here by 4:00pm in costume; Cherubs be here by 5:15pm in costume. We will be meeting in the Chapel. The Christmas Pageant will begin at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall with a reception to follow of King's cake and punch.

### Wesleyan Preschool News

Happy New Year! There will be no preschool on January 15th and 26th. Pre-K will have January Field Trips to the Salem Library and Bellacino's Pizza. We will also have a Preschool Teacher Training Day with Kim Gregory, VWCC Head of Early Childhood Department. And on February 19<sup>th</sup> registration will begin for the 2018-19 Preschool Year!

### Youth—Coffee Shop Small Groups

Starting in January we will start up small groups again. We will be a part of the church wide Study of Revival. We will be focusing on what it means to be Methodist specifically as youth. Don't worry we aren't going to get stuck in the 1700's, it's more about reflecting on our own faith as we reflect on the life of John Wesley. Let's start 2018 the right way to open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit's reviving work in our hearts and lives.

Group	Day	Time	Location
7-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mon starting January 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:30-8:30pm	Mill Mountain Back Room
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Wed starting January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30-7:30pm	Starbucks Main Street
10-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Wed starting January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30-8:30pm	Starbucks Main Street

### Youth Christmas Party (Rescheduled) - January 21st

The Youth Sunday evening youth program will kick off the New Year with our postponed Christmas Party from 6:00-7:30pm! Do you wish it was still Christmas? Well good news: it still is with FUMC youth! All youth are encouraged to come and bring a small WRAPPED gift of \$20 to play Dirty Santa!

### Confirmation Sunday School Class - January 28th

Confirmation will begin for all 7<sup>th</sup> graders on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am in the Junior High Sunday School room. Our wonderful teachers will be Chris Russ and Dale Foster. Mentors are welcome and encouraged to join their confirmands during the Sunday School hour.

### Winter Youth Retreat at Virginia Tech - February 9th-11th

Wesley at Virginia Tech will be hosting a UMC Roanoke District Youth Retreat. Come have an awesome time meeting other youth in our area, staying up way too late, and talking about how to Anchor our Heart and Mind in the Character of God. Cost is \$15 and checks can be made payable to FUMC. Please sign up with check and permission form by January 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Jessica Kauffman for more details or if you have questions.

### Potato Lunch Fundraiser (Youth Missions) - February 4th

It's the day of the Big Football Game and you don't have time to cook lunch. Stop by the kitchen and pick up or join us for a quick bite to eat for lunch with our Baked Potato Bar! The Mission Trip team will be providing a baked potato and all the fixins'. Cost is by donation only! Give what you can. This is one of many of our fundraisers for our Youth Mission Trip in June 2018.

### Circle 1 Events

- \* January 3rd: Trinity Dinner, serving pancakes & eggs. Please bring your griddle and children to help! Look for more info via email.
- \* January 7th: Fellowship Time - Circle 1 is providing snacks and drinks. Look out for a sign-up Genius link to help provide baked goods, juice, coffee, etc. We will need helpers for setup and cleanup from 9:45 to 11:15.

### Financial Peace University

FPU is coming back to First Church! This will be a 9 week course on Tuesdays from January 16th - March 13th, 6:30-8:00pm in room 112. The cost per family is \$109. To sign up for the class and order your materials go to:

<https://fpu.com/1053588>

Ask us about our scholarships! Contact Bobby Pickle at (540) 389-5459 or [bpickle@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:bpickle@fumcsalemva.org).

### S.K.Y. Luncheon

Our next potluck luncheon will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be a presentation by Mr. Carey Harveycutter, Director of Tourism/Fair Manager. Please come and join us as we share good food and good fellowship with great people! Contact Bobby Pickle @ (540) 389-5459 for more information.

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to the Pew Angels and Grounds Helpers for keeping the inside and outside of our church looking great!

**Pew Angels:** Jane Arthur, Cathy Barbour, Carolyn Garst, Barbara Howerton, Susan Hoye, Barbara Martin, Lynn McGuire, Carol Jean Nunnally, Hilda Paxton, Kathy Phlegar, Gwen Dean Plymale, Pat Reed, Shirley Sheppard, Sandra Smith, Mary Jane Wall, and Frances Williams.

**Grounds Helpers:** Shelia Barber, Junior Bailey, Bob Burton, Judy Burton, Ben Crew, Mary Cross, Rylie Elliott, Staley Hester, Jim Kemper, Judith Painter, Hilda Paxton, Gwen Dean Plymale, Debbie Pugh, Anne Roseberry, Judy Snyder, Jim Sharp, Debbie Willard and The Scouts.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7
<b>New Year's Day</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	10:00am SKY Board	6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Group 7:30pm Youth Small Group	10:00am Bible Babes 6:00pm Girl Scouts	8:00pm AA 8:00pm AA-Anon	10:30 Pageant Rehearsal 3:00pm Pageant Rehearsal	
Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14
7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Youth Small Group 8:00pm AA	10:00am Circle 5 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Cracked Pots	6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Youth Small Group 6:45pm Circle 9 7:30pm Youth Small Group	10:00am Bible Babes 7:00pm SPRC	10:00am Parliamentarians 4:00pm AA Program 8:00pm AA 8:00pm AA-Anon		
Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Youth Small Group 8:00pm AA	6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Financial Peace 7:00pm Finance Meeting	6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Group 7:30pm Youth Small Group	10:00am Bible Babes 11:30am SKY Club 6:00pm Girl Scouts	8:00pm AA 8:00pm AA-Anon		
Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28
7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Youth Small Group 8:00pm AA	3:00pm Small Group Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Financial Peace 7:00pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Cracked Pots	6:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Youth Small Group 7:30pm Youth Small Group	10:00am Bible Babes	8:00am Preschool Training 5:30pm Girl Scouts 8:00pm AA 8:00pm AA-Anon		
Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:45am   Genesis 8:45am   Traditional Service 9:45am   Sunday School 11:00am   Traditional Service			
6:00pm Youth Reality Check 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Youth Small Group 8:00pm AA	6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Financial Peace	6:30pm Youth Small Group 7:30pm Youth Small Group	<b>Sunday Choir and Bell Schedule</b> Heavenly Bells   3:00pm Cherub Choir   3:30pm Chorister Choir   4:00pm JuBELLation   4:00pm Youth Choir   5:00pm  <b>Thursday Choir and Bell Schedule</b> Resounding Joy   6:15pm Adult Sanctuary Choir   7:30pm			

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- ◆ Organist, **Judith Snyder**
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#### **Roanoke District and VA Annual Conference**

Bishop, **Sharma Lewis** District Superintendent, **Kathleen Overby Webster**

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