

A Message from Pastor Alan:

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I am so grateful for all the ways our church participated in the Deep Water Weekend. It was the culmination of a significant discussion our Church Council had back in the fall about our Vision as a church. In the midst of that conversation, our Church Council had the vision to recognize that we needed to do some deep work and reflection as a church, and that it would be beneficial to bring in some outside eyes, ears, and voices, to help us with that reflection.

One of the parts of Deep Water that most meaningful to me was the conversations many of you shared with me about the history of First United Methodist Church in Salem, VA. I know that I did not get to speak to every person I wanted to, but the folks I did talk to helped me in so many ways. It has helped me feel more fluent in speaking about our church. It has helped us to see better the larger picture of our church across time, and to give thanks for those who came before, who had the vision to listen to God's call to get us to where we are as a church, as well as the ways we have come through times of difficulty and conflict, singing with the Charles Wesley hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive,"

What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last! Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love; and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

By the end of the Deep Water weekend, there was a true buzz among the congregation as we shared in holy conversations and worshiped the Risen Lord together. The goal of the Deep Water team report was to reflect back to us who we are based on the data and conversations we shared with them before and during the Deep Water weekend. We now have the opportunity and task to spend time in holy conversation and prayer about the recommendations that the team brought to us.

We still have one town hall meeting left on **Sunday, May 6th, in between worship services** in the Fellowship Hall, in order to clarify and discuss the recommendations before us, before we gather at **10 AM on June 3 for our Church Conference** to vote on the recommendations. As we prepare for the Church Conference, at **12:15pm each Wednesday in May** in our Chapel, we will have a brief service of prayer and Holy Communion in order to open our hearts and minds to God's call on the life of our Church. If you are not able to attend, I would encourage you to set an alarm on your watch or phone for 12:15pm on Wednesdays, to join us in prayer for our Church and our discernment about the Deep Water recommendations.

During the Church Conference on June 3, in order to vote on the recommendations, one needs to be a member of the church and needs to be present at the Church Conference. Our goal is to have 70% of those members present and voting to affirm the recommendations. Please keep in mind as you read the recommendations that to affirm them is to say yes to putting ourselves to work. This work will be conversation and discernment around the areas of concern that the Deep Water team echoed to us from what they heard from us, especially with regard to our vision as a church. Within that conversation we will seek to leverage the many strengths that the Deep Water team identified in order to serve God, our church, and our community.

Our vision will help us to align ourselves around a common understanding of our purpose and direction as First United Methodist Church. To think about such things is both exciting and anxiety-inducing. In the midst of all of it, what keeps me centered is that while each of us cares deeply about the direction and purpose of our church, at the end of the day we are able to rest in the truth that the true head of our church is Jesus Christ, and it is the Holy Spirit that guides us in our life and work together.

Peace, *Pastor Alan*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Tricia Givens, Director

LOVE DOES

We have been offering study classes on the book, "Love Does." If nothing else the very title of this book is profound. Love is doing. It is an action verb. It is not saying you love someone and never showing it. Words are nothing if not followed by action. How many times have you had a good idea or thought to do some wonderful act of love or service but you do not follow through. It becomes a good intention but not an act. We have to intentionally try to act on our sharing of love through not just words by what we do. How we live? Where we help? Our community service day was just a day to encourage all of our church that our love needs to be intentional just like the Good Samaritan. We often tell someone we feel concerned for them or that we love them, but we do nothing to help. It may be just a card or a phone call or a visit, but we act and not just speak. We also have to pray and pray and pray for God to help us with wisdom and guidance on the where, when, and how to show our love and to whom. We can be overwhelmed with who to do for, but God will actually place those opportunities in our path and our hearts, if we just pray and look and listen to His call. When everyone acts then people are cared for by many and not just a few.

With your children, start a LOVE DOES discussion. Discuss how they can truly show love. Have them actually share each night where they put love into action at school, with a friend or in the family. Have a family Love Does Project once a month. With great intention take on something that is truly an ACT of Love - not just words. I can tell you that just writing cards to people in our church or around the community that you know are hurting or lonely or sad, is truly a ministry in itself. It is simple, but can be very meaningful to those on the receiving end. A gift of a pie or flowers for no reason can be the most wonderful act of love. So put your love into action and remember LOVE DOES!!!

FUMC Service Day

As I write this part in the newsletter, I do not know how this day will end up cause it has not happened yet. However, I was impressed by the people I have heard from already. Groups are planning to visit our congressional members who are homebound. People are visiting in the nursing homes and taking cookies to the police station. Some groups are taking things to the animal's shelters and clothes closet. Some are delivering food to food pantry. Some are picking up trash in areas. Some are working on a mission project as a group. So I look forward to hearing what all has gone on.

Fellowship Sunday, May 6th

First Church has talent! Come share your talent at our annual church wide talent night. The children will sing and we invite anyone of any age to come and share their talents. This is always a great night of fellowship. I am always amazed at some of the talent that is in our church. Come share a dramatic reading, a song, play an instrument, dance, perform gymnastics, or tell a joke. We will celebrate the fact that you shared your talent with us. Dinner at 6:00 - Subs, chips and ice cream. Program at 6:30 pm.

Wesley Kids

It's that time of year again!!! We beautify the fellowship hall flower beds. WE will plant our geraniums, which do so well there. I will have some shovels and spades but you may bring your own too. We will plant and then we will play some games, if there is any time left over. See you at 5:00 pm in the chapel.

Vacation Bible School

I am so blessed. I have more than enough teachers. GOD IS SO GOOD! I still need people to help with the snacks and to help Ashley with the crafts. So, if you are interested, please call me at the church and leave a message. You may email me too. We have so much fun together and it truly a week of mission on many, many levels. Think of VBS as a LOVE DOES project.

VBS Mission Project

I mentioned to Alan and our visiting team that helped our church begin a new vision that I would like to take VBS to some of our low income areas I would like to take it to children that cannot come to VBS and have to stay near their homes because an elderly sibling is watching them or they are on their own. I want to form a team to do this. I would like to start out simple. It can even be having story time with these children on a blanket but also introducing a Bible story and giving out some of our left over curriculum. Sowing a seed of Christ's love to children who many not get to hear it otherwise. This can grow to something bigger. If you are interested, I am going to have a meeting at the church

in room 208 on Sunday night June 3rd at 7:00 pm.. Bring your calendars and ideas and I will bring sodas and snacks. We will make this a simple venture first and allow ourselves to see what potential it has. The important thing is we take the first step. YOU may email me, if you are interested or call me or text me. Hope to see you Sunday June 3rd. triciag@fumcsalmva.org or 389-5459

Children's Choir

PICNIC and FELLOWSHIP May 20th. Meet at Greenhill Park at the last shelter and the end of the road. Look for the balloons. We will meet from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Bring a packed supper. I will supply drinks and dessert. I will also have games. We will hike, eat, and play before you we go home. Your entire family is welcome to join us. Just give me a heads up so I will have enough drinks and dessert. Looking forward to this time of fellowship and fun! You all have worked so hard this year.

Children's Worship - May 20th

There will be children's worship in the chapel at 10:00 am. The children will receive awards to signify what they have learned in Sunday school this year according to their age groups. Please do not miss this special time for your child in Sunday school on June 3rd.

Story Time 2018

Join us on Wednesday in the church library on the second floor at 11:00 am on the following dates.

June 27th

The Kissing Hand

Whoops (a story where the children make the sounds)

A special Caterpillar

Every Which Way To Pray

We will make praying hands to hang and enjoy our own bags of candy kisses!

July 4th

Pete the Cat and The Missing Cupcakes

Letter To My Teacher

Cookies

Our Country Had A Birthday

Jesus Heals take Blind Man

We will dress up in 4th of July Red white and blue and have our own Fourth of July Parade

July 11th

Green Turtle (read by the Green Turtle)

Ellie

Audrey Bunny

God gave us You

We will make wooden book marker of ourselves with bible scriptures that go on

July 25th

Jelly Bean's Dance

Who's Been Walking on my Floor??

What DO You DO With A Problem?

David and Goliath

We will make a Jelly Bean – Love Does Jar!

August 1

Caps for Sale

Magic Hat

Miss Fanny's Hat

The Lost Sheep (Bleat)

Everyone come in their funny or favorite hat.

We will have a little magic fun today and end on the playground with ice cream sundaes that you make !!! You will go home with a new hat from Story Time !!!

Kids' in the SPOTLIGHT

This month First Church recognizes Keeley Prosser and Austin Prosser. Keeley and Austin attend Sunday school regularly. They attend children's choir. They attend Wesley Kids and VBS. They are at so many of the children events and functions. They have sweet personalities and engaging smiles. Keeley sings and likes to play the piano too. Austin not only sings but play soccer. They both make a difference and First church and we thank them.

Children's Ministry Volunteer of the month

This month children's ministry recognizes Jennifer Harshbarger. Jennifer helps to teach the three and four year olds. She along with Corrie Bowers do an amazing job with our little ones. Jennifer uses her creative teaching skills to engage our little ones. She is a valuable member of our Children's ministry Sunday school team. Thank you Jennifer for all you do in Sunday school for our children. The book, "The Easter Robin." has been placed in the children's ministry library in her honor.

WESLEYAN PRESCHOOL

Jane Butto, Director

It's hard to believe our preschool year is coming to an end! This has been a great year! Every year I like to offer thanks to all the people who help make this preschool so amazing! Thank you goes to the following people:

To our wonderful staff: Angie Carter, Susan Carter, Sherry Grisso, Jennifer Painter, Cindy McNally, Carrie Johnson, Debbie Holley, Becky Stephenson, Ashley Heffron, Tracy Lintner, Amanda Camden and Tami Hines. This dedicated group of women gives so much love, patience and teaching to these precious little ones! To our Music Staff - Tricia Givens and Mary Rae, who lead our music classes for our 3 and 4 year old classes. We appreciate your enthusiasm and expertise!

To our Chapel Leaders: Pastor Alan, Bobby Pickle and Tricia Givens. We are so thankful for the time you give to share God's love and sow seeds of faith in these children. To our Preschool Board- Shelia Barber, Tricia Givens, Mark Moore, Sharon Sheppard, Hilda Paxton, Morgan Combs, Myra Crew, Niki Justice and Ashley Heffron. I am so thankful that you give of your time and wisdom to help our school run smoothly. Personally, I appreciate your encouragement, advice and support.

To our Fix It Man: Butch Johnson- Thank you for coming to our rescue so many times from fixing broken shelves to plunging toilets. We appreciate you!

To our Financial person: Margaret Woolwine. Thank you so much for all you do for us. Whenever we have questions or problems you always help us with a smile

To our substitute staff: Stacy Brock, Carrie Johnson, Heather Marks, Janet Ratliff- You have been there for us many times this year- we appreciate your willingness to help us, sometimes with very little notice.

To our bus driver: Will Powers. We are so thankful that you give of your time to get us safely to all of our field trips.

Our Four Year Old Classes will be presenting their End of the Year Program on Thursday, May 24 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. All of you are invited to attend and see a small part of what these children have learned this year. Thank you again to Tricia, Mary, Debbie, Tracy and Amanda for your part in making this program happen.

Have a great summer! *Jane*

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Jessica Kauffman, Director

Confirmation Sunday, May 20th

Confirmation Sunday will be May 20th. Mentors, parents, and confirmands please be looking in your e-mail for meeting times to prepare for the service on May 20th.

Movies on the Lawn Fundraiser April 6th

Thank you to all who supported the Youth Mission Team with our Movies on the Lawn Fundraiser Event!

Graduate Sunday - June 3, 2018

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES! Graduate Sunday will be Sunday, June 3, 2018 at the Genesis Service at 8:45 a.m. and the Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m. Please meet in the parlor at 8:30 a.m. with your cap and gown to prepare for the Genesis Service. For the Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m., please meet in the parlor at 10:45 a.m. All graduates will process in with the choir and we will sit together. A reception will follow the Traditional Service.

It is very important to know who will be participating in this special day. Please call/text (540-353-7165) or email Melanie Burton at melanie@tanjents.org no later than **May 18, 2018** with the following information: the graduate's name; the school they are graduating from; degree received (college students); future plans (college and course of study if decided, or job, move to a new city, etc.) If you will not be able to attend but would like your name listed with the graduates, please let us know.

Clean Valley Day April 14th

The youth were involved in Clean Valley Day on April 14th. We were a part of a Valley Wide project to help clean our green spaces and parks. It was a beautiful day to help our community!



ADULT MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

Rev. Bobby J. Pickle, Director

SKY Luncheon, May 17th

Our SKY Luncheon this month will be on May 17th @ 11:30 in the Fellowship hall. Our program will be Mr. Gary Harvey cutter who will speak about "All Things Salem". We invite you to come and join us for good food, good fellowship, and lots of laughter! If you have any questions regarding the luncheon please feel free to call or email me @ bpickle@fumcsalemva.org or 389-5459.

MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Family Promise</i> <i>(April 29 — May 6)</i></p>		<p>10:00am - SKY Board 6:30pm - Cub Scouts</p>	<p>2 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Earth Study 12:15pm - Communion & Prayer 7:00pm - Earth Study 7:30pm - Youth (9th-12th)</p>	<p>3 10:00am - Bible Babes 6:00pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>5 Confirmation Day Retreat</p>
<p>6 9:45am - Town Hall 12:00pm - Trustees/Endow 12:00pm - Youth Missions 5:00pm - Wesley Kids 6:00pm - Talent Show & Dinner</p>	<p>7 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Youth (7th-8th) 8:00pm - AA</p>	<p>8 10:00am - Circle 5 6:30pm - Cub Scout 7:00pm - Cracked Pots 7:00pm - Staff Parish</p>	<p>9 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Earth Study 12:15pm - Communion & Prayer 6:00pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - Candle Burning 7:00pm - Earth Study</p>	<p>10 10:00am - Bible Babes 5:00pm - Boy Scout Dinner 6:00pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Youth (7th-8th) 8:00pm - AA</p>	<p>15 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Finance Meeting <i>June Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>16 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Earth Study 12:15pm - Communion & Prayer 7:00pm - Earth Study 7:00pm - Shawl Meeting</p>	<p>17 11:30am - SKY Club 6:00pm - Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Confirmation Sunday</p>	<p>21 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Youth (7th-8th) 8:00pm - AA</p>	<p>22 9:00am - District Meeting 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Church Council</p>	<p>23 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Earth Study 12:15pm - Communion & Prayer 7:00pm - Earth Study 7:30pm - Youth (9th-12th)</p>	<p>24 6:00pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - Preschool Program</p>	<p>25 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 8:45 Traditional service in Chapel for summer 11:00 Traditional remains in Sanctuary (no time change)</p>	<p>28 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>29 6:30pm - Cub Scouts</p>	<p>30 12:15pm - Communion & Prayer 7:30pm - Youth (9th-12th)</p>	<p>31</p>		

First United Methodist Church

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- ◆ Lead Pastor, **Alan Combs** (alancombs@fumcsalemva.org)
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- ◆ Assistant Minister of Congregational Care & Senior Adults, **Bobby Pickle** (bpickle@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Director of Children's Ministries & Children's Choirs, **Tricia Givens** (triciag@fumcsalemva.org)
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- ◆ Director of Wesleyan Preschool, **Jane Butto** (jbutto@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Director of Sanctuary Choir, **William Snyder**
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- ◆ Organist, **Judith Snyder**
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