

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALAN

As we shift into a New Year, I am excited about what we have in store for our worship services. The first two Sundays in January are two very special days in the Christian Calendar: Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Epiphany falls on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas (as in, the days of Christmas song!), and it is when we remember the wise men bringing the gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh to the baby Jesus. Epiphany is always full of light imagery, since it is a great light that Wise Men followed to find the Holy Family in Bethlehem. We are typically celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday closest to the day it falls, but this year we are fortunate that Epiphany falls on Sunday! We will enjoy worship together, and we will again share our Epiphany Stars as we did last year. Our Epiphany stars are stars that have a word on it that we can focus on and pray about during the year. Our Fellowship dinner on that night will also be an Epiphany party!

January 13th, the second Sunday in January is Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when we remember John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River. We reflect on Jesus' baptism, on the revelation of the Trinity that we see in Jesus' baptism, and it is an opportunity to remember our own baptism and to be thankful. That Sunday will include a congregation reaffirmation of the Baptismal covenant, in which we reaffirm our baptismal vows, encounter the waters of baptism, and give thanks to God for the grace of our baptism.

January 20th will see the beginning of a new Sermon Series, which will focus on love and relationships. It will be a six week series that will take us all the way through February, which is certainly a time when love and relationships are on our minds! It is based on a wonderful book by Adam Hamilton called Love to Stay: Sex, Grace, and Commitment. I chose this book because Adam Hamilton always brings clarity in his approach to scripture and to a variety of subjects, as well as the fact that I have heard feedback from both married and single people that his take on the matter has been helpful. The focus is around working towards healthy relationships that flourish and last.

Being in relationships and being married are some of the most challenging vocations that we have in our lives. I believe it will be valuable to consider the Bible's wisdom about relationships as well as Hamilton's engagement with an extensive survey of thousands of couples and singles and the latest research in the field. As I always tell folks when I am preparing to officiate their wedding, my own marriage is certainly not perfect, so I am looking forward to the opportunity to consider these matters myself, and to walk through these questions with you in our worship services.

Peace,

Pastor Alan

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Tricia Givens, Director

Beginnings and Endings

Life is full of new beginnings. We have seen some new beginning here at our church lately. We have seen some endings as well. Sometimes new beginnings are hard and sometimes new beginnings come as a relief. Sometimes endings are tough and sometimes endings come as a relief. It is a circle of beginnings and endings. This is life! However, in the midst of all of these beginning and endings there is one steadfast truth; God never ends and he is the beginning of all beginnings. Now that is a lot to wrap your brain around, if you really think about it. God is and was and will always be. That is profound and again much to really think about. What security and strength we gain from these truths. God is always with us, he has always been with us and he will always be with us forever and ever. There will not be an ending for us with God. He is there in our beginning and in our ending. This is why our eyes should always be cast on Him. In all we do, think on Him. He knows all. He sees all. He understands all. Sometimes in life, we cannot see what an outcome will be; and with that uncertainty we may feel stress and worry. However, with GOD we have the assurance that He knows the outcome. He knows the outcome and he will be there beside us, as we journey through our days of uncertainty.

Also remember, we cannot do for everyone. We cannot always be with those we love or care for sometimes because of personal burdens. However, God can be with all who we love and care for. Our hearts lifted in prayer for those people we care for, will always be heard by our God. He will use others to help, when we cannot. God calls on many, so that all his work can be done and all can be cared for. He uses many to do his work. Look up to Him to know where he is calling you to help or serve. Know that God is our compass and if we all look to him, he will orchestrate all that needs to be done. He will plan the how, the when and the way- by using the hands of many. Know through all the changes, heartaches, beginnings, endings and uncertainties that God is the same strong all-knowing God. He is there before you, beside you, behind you, above you, and leading you. Keep your Eyes on Him. Go to him in prayer daily. HE will not fail you!!!!

In His Service,
Tricia Givens

Children/Family Corner

(The Blindfold Game of Trust and Follow)

Sometime during your family time, play this game. Blindfold a child and tell them you need them to cross the room and have obstacles in the way. After you blind fold them, tell them that you are going to help them cross the room. You will lead them but they have to trust you. They have to listen to you tell them what to do and your direction. Now cross the room and make sure to guide your child carefully telling them when to turn or step high and over or when to slow up.

When you take the blindfold off, let them look back at what they have done blindfolded.

Talk to them about what I just shared above that God is with us every step of the way. If we listen to him and follow his direction, he will lead us through many obstacles and tough challenges. God is behind us, beside us, above us, and before us; always leading us through life journey. We must keep our trust in him.

Fellowship Sunday, January 6th

(Epiphany and 12th Night Celebration)

The Three Kings may visit and there will be Kings Cake at our fellowship dinner. There will be a few surprises!!! We will hear how the Wise Men found Jesus and also saved him from King Herod. We will enjoy our last night of singing Christmas carols. There will be hot soup and ham biscuits for dinner and a special dessert.

Wesley Kids & Tweens

Meet in the Chapel at 5:00pm. We will take down the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall and sing Christmas carols as we do. We will play some games. (Finding baby Jesus, Scripture fun, trust and obey, and the true or false Bible game!!!)

Wesley Tweens

We will meet Monday night, January 7th at 6:00pm in the Chapel. **BRING A SMALL NEW STUFFED ANIMAL!** We will travel to the Ronald McDonald House and take some stuffed animals for the children and families there. They will share with us what they do at the Ronald McDonald House.

Kids in the Spotlight

This month First Church recognizes Camden Burns. Camden sing is in the children's choir. He attends Sunday school, church, VBS and Wesley Kids. Camden is such a sweet friend to many. He listens and is helpful here at church. He is helpful in his family and in his community. Camden is the son of Chris and Alisa Burns and the brother to Violet Burns. Thank you Camden for making a difference here in your church.

Children's Ministry Volunteers of the Month

This month I have to thank Chris Russ, Bill Hill and Laura Hill. What would I do without their help on fellowship Sunday evenings? They work in the kitchen preparing whatever we have planned to serve. They do it with love and smiles. They help me pick up items and are always so gracious. They truly are a big help to our church. Thank you so much. The DVD, " Star " has been purchased in their honor.

WESLEYAN PRESCHOOL

Jane Butto, Director

We are ready to start a new year of fun and learning!

This month our Pre-K classes will be going on trips to the Library and to Bellacino's Pizza. These are always fun. Thank you to our parents who help chaperone to make these trips possible. Also thanks to Will Powers who is the bus driver for most of our field trips. We appreciate you giving of your time.

Looking ahead- we will be doing our Preschool Registration for next school year in February. Please watch for the dates to be announced on our Facebook page. Happy Winter!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Jessica Gehman, Director

January 21st: Skiing, Tubing, or Snowboarding at LU Snowflex!

The youth will be visiting Liberty University Snowflex for an afternoon of fun on January 21st. Time is still to be determined, but my hope is to meet at the church at 1:00pm and return back around 6:00pm. We will have two hours to tube, ski or snowboard! Jessica does not ski or snowboard so I will be tubing! Adults/parents welcome.

To secure your spot, confirm with Jessica by January 13th!

Costs: Tubing Only \$15, Skiing or Snowboarding \$20, Skiing/Snowboard And Tubing \$25.
Money due the day of, January 21st!

Youth Sunday Evenings: Reality Check

January 13th and January 27th Social Media Detox Challenge!

Can you give up social media for two weeks? What would happen if you did? This challenge is by volunteer basis. Parents and Youth welcome! Come on January 13th to find out the challenge and January 27th to review what we learned. Parents we will split up from the youth to discuss benefits and struggles of social media.

Dinner for Reality Check- if you would like to cover a meal for the winter/spring months please sign up on Meal Train! This is a huge part of our ministry for the youth program. Food gets the youth to come to Reality Check!

7th Grade Confirmation Begins February 3rd

If you have a 7th grader who is NOT signed up for Confirmation or know of a family with a 7th grader who may be interested please contact Jessica Gehman at jessicak@fumcsalemva.org!

Youth Service Hour Opportunities!

There will be multiple opportunities for the youth to collect service hours for the mission trip and school in Winter/Spring.

Hermitage Retirement Home January 12th and February 16th both 1:45-3:30ish: We loved volunteering at retirement homes on the Mission Trip, so we have set up two opportunities to meet with a local United Methodist Retirement home and connect with the residents. *After the February 16th opportunity we will be going to the Launching Pad for an hour!*

Other opportunities this winter/spring for service hours will be working at Camp Alta Mons for Paul Bunyan Day, being a part of Clean Valley Day, and helping with Spring Festival.

Youth Mission Trip Team

January 12th we will be meeting 11:30-1:30pm, prior to visiting the Hermitage Retirement Center (information above), to discuss Fundraising Opportunities. I have a few ideas but want your help and opinions. Pizza lunch will be provided!

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE			
Group	Day	Time	Location
6th-8th Grade	Mondays (Starting January 7th)	7:30-8:30pm	Off Site
9th-12th Grade	Wednesdays (Starting January 9th)	7:30-8:30pm	Off Site

Mark your calendars! Save the Date!

March 1st-3rd 2019

Youth (6th-12th Grade) District Retreat at VT Wesley!

Cost and information to come!

Youth Contact Information

E-mail: jessicak@fumcsalemva.org

Facebook Group: FUMC Impact Youth Ministry

Instagram: fumc_impactyouth

Remind App: Text 81010 with message: @2015impact

NEW Youth Website: youth.fumcsalemva.org

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sharon Sheppard, Deep Water Discipleship Team Chair

How can you know, love, and serve God in a life-changing way?

Journey 101 is a three-part course that helps you to answer this question as it guides you on the journey of growing as a Christian. Utilizing fifteen core traits of a deeply committed Christian, the series guides you in knowing, loving, and serving God with increasing passion and dedication. This course is open to anyone - no matter where you are in your faith journey. **You may choose to take one, two, or all three of the 6-week courses.** The three studies in the series include:

- Knowing God - Discover tools to deepen your understanding of God and the Scriptures
- Loving God - Experience spiritual practices that will help you to love God and others
- Serving God - Learn how you can serve others and share Christ

Ashley Givens and Sharon Sheppard will be facilitating the first 6-week series, Knowing God. We will grow in our faith journey together. We will meet on Sundays from 4-5 pm starting January 13th. If you are interested in this small group opportunity, please contact the Church Office at (540) 389-5459 or church@fumcsalemva.org to sign up.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of November 30, 2018

Year to Date Actual Giving	\$724,699
Year to Date Budget	<u>\$660,429</u>
Year to Date Balance Remaining	\$64,271
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Year to Date Actual Giving	\$724,699
Annual Budget	<u>\$823,879</u>
Annual Budget Remaining	(\$99,180)

2019 Pledge Update

2019 Pledges to Date	\$636,796
2019 Budget	<u>\$860,818</u>
Percentage Pledged	74%

CALENDAR INFORMATION

The following calendar contains information received by the Church Office as of December 1, 2018. Please contact your group leader if you have questions about a specific event. Any updates or changes will be communicated by your group leader.

Please note the following weekly calendar items are not represented due to space constraints:

Weekly Choir & Bell Schedule

Sunday

Heavenly Bells	3:00pm
Cherub Choir	3:30pm
Chorister Choir	4:00pm
JuBELLation	4:00pm
Youth Choir	5:00pm

Tuesday

GENESIS Praise Band	7:00pm
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Thursday

Resounding Joy	6:00pm
Sanctuary Choir	7:30pm

JANUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		New Year's Day 1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - Communications	3	4 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	5
6 12:15pm - Deep Water Outreach 5:00pm - Wesley Kids/Tweens 6:00pm - Fellowship Sunday	7 6:15pm - Wesley Tweens 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	8 9:30am - DCOM 10:00am - Circle 5 6:30pm - Girls on the Run 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - SPRC	9 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 6:45pm - Circle 9 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30 - 9-12 Small Group	10 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	11 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA Program 8:00pm - Al-Anon	12 11:00am - Mission Trip Fundraising Meeting
13 6:00pm - Reality Check	14 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	15 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Finance Meeting	16 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 7:00pm - Shawl Ministry 7:30 - 9-12 Small Group	17	18 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	19
20	21 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	22 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Church Council 7:00pm - Cracked Pots	23 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 12:15pm - Staff Meeting 7:30 - 9-12 Small Group	24 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	25 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - Al-Anon	26
27 6:00pm - Reality Check	28 7:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	29 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	30 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 7:30 - 9-12 Small Group	31		

First United Methodist Church

125 West Main Street

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First United Methodist Church Staff

- ◆ Lead Pastor, **Rev. Alan Combs** (alancombs@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Associate Minister, **The Rev^d Jeffrey Dorsey** (jeff@dorseylawfirm.com)
- ◆ Pastor In Residence, **Rev. Dr. Michael Houff**
- ◆ Director of Children's Ministries & Children's Choirs, **Tricia Givens** (triciag@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Youth Ministries Director, **Jessica Gehman** (jessicak@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Director of Wesleyan Preschool, **Jane Butto** (jbutto@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Coordinator of Music Ministries, **Heather Mitchell** (hmittchell@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Organist, **Judith Snyder** (jsnyder@hollins.edu)
- ◆ Piano Accompanist for Children & Youth, **London Reinhard**
- ◆ Contemporary Worship Music Co-Director, **Allan Davidson** (davidsonallan4@gmail.com)
- ◆ Contemporary Worship Music Co-Director, **Joey Poarch** (joseph.poarch@gmail.com)
- ◆ Office & Communications Manager, **Margaret Woolwine** (margaretw@fumcsalemva.org)
- ◆ Sextons, **Butch & Genia Johnson** (winhoos1@hotmail.com)

Roanoke District and VA Annual Conference

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

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