

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALAN

One concern that came up in the Deep Water Report last April was around prayer in our congregation. The line from the Deep Water Report reads,

*‘Prayer is an integral part of growing individuals and a congregation into mature Christians. Prayer was seldom mentioned in any of the interviews or conversations. It is key to the discovery of the vision and the implementation of it. As John Wesley said, ‘God does nothing except in response to prayer.’*

The recommendation from the Deep Water team, which was approved at our Church Conference in June, included working towards meeting the “hunger within new members and parents on basic instruction on living the Christian life that would incorporate lessons on personal prayer and Bible study.” Our Deep Water Discipleship team has been hard at work attempting ways to meet those concerns and the hunger in our congregation.

With regard to prayer, we have decided to make prayer the focus of our time during Lent at First UMC. Lent begins on March 6, Ash Wednesday, and it is a season where we try to go deeper into discipleship. There are a couple of different ways to do this. Many people give up something certain comforts or practices, to help us focus more deeply on our dependence on Christ. However, others find it is helpful to take on new practices during the season, and it is my prayer that our church will take on more prayer practices during the Lenten season.

There are a variety of ways to try to grow in our prayer life at First UMC during Lent. The second point of our new vision is “Grow in Faith,” and one of the principle ways we do this is through Prayer and other Spiritual Disciplines. Therefore, our **Lenten sermon series is called “Growing in Faith through Prayer,”** and it will focus on readings from the Psalms, which are ancient Biblical prayers that Jewish as well as Christian communities have prayed for centuries. To complement the series, we will make available for purchase **C.S. Lewis’ book, *Reflections on the Psalms***. The **Wednesday morning Lent study** will begin **March 13**, and we will use this book as their focus. The study will be co-led by Nate Stevens and me.

Additionally, I will offer two **Prayer Workshops** on Sunday afternoons on **March 10 and 17 from 4-5 PM**, focusing on “Approaches to Prayer” and “The Nature and Practice of Spiritual Reading.” We will arrange for childcare if needed

Finally, as another option, I would like to coordinate a group to pray the **Daily Office from *The Book of Common Prayer***. The Daily Office is a daily series of Psalms, prayers, and readings that can be done alone or with a group. We will learn how to use the Daily Office on our own, and we will gather periodically to pray the Office together and discuss our experience of praying the Daily Office. If you have an interest in the Book Study, the Prayer Workshops, or being part of the Daily Office group, please contact me at [AlanCombs@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:AlanCombs@fumcsalemva.org).

These are a few church wide offerings that we will have during Lent, but there are many other ways to commit more deeply during Lent. You may commit to pray on your own in your own way. Or, perhaps you may commit to participate in a Sunday School Class, the Choir, or some other group in the church for the seasons of Lent. Whatever you choose, it is my prayer that this Lenten Season will be a time for all of us to “Grow Together in Faith.”

Peace,

Alan

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

*Tricia Givens, Director*

### **Walking with Christ**

The image of CHRIST walking beside us through the day is such an image of comfort to me.

I often think of a picture I once saw of Christ walking with a child down a path through the woods. I always felt that picture was one of great comfort in that it reassured me not only that Christ was walking with me, but he was walking with my Children- all children. How often do we worry, when we have to send our children off on their first outing without us, or the first time they take the car out, or go to school, or college? They are always our kids. We are always their parents. The worry is always there, even though in the bible we are reminded not to worry. However, that picture of Christ holding your child's hand tightly, as they go forth, just calms your heart. The other component of that peace comes in the fact that your child knows Christ and knows Christ is walking with them. I pray you, as a parent, are taking time and making the choices to see that your child knows Christ. I pray they are learning about Christ and his life and teachings. The relationship they build with Christ now, will help get them through so many challenges in the future. The comfort and peace that comes with their knowing Christ will bring them inner strength. Nurturing your child's faith, can be the greatest gift you give your child.

During Lent, you will receive Lenten devotionals for you and your child. I hope you will use them daily and make a real effort to use the Lenten season to truly reconnect and strengthen your

own relationship with Christ, as well as help your children strengthen their relationship with Christ. Sunday school, Wesley Kids and Tweens, VBS, are helpful in building a foundation of knowledge about Christ, God and the teachings of the Bible; however, you are a very valuable part of their faith development. You, as a parent, have to help provide them with the opportunities and time to learn about Christ and God. You are the one that can create that image for your child. The image of Christ holding your child's hand, as they journey through the day, but most importantly your child holding tightly to Christ's hand with their eyes on him.

In His Service,  
*Tricia Givens*

### **Wesley Kids and Tweens, Sunday March 3rd**

Meet at 5:00pm in the chapel. We will have a short bible study on the meaning of Lent. We will work on a prayer chain to go down the church halls to be added to during the time of Lent. We will finish with a game called ( Putting God First)!!!!

### **Wesley Tweens, Monday March 4th**

Meet at 6:00 pm in the chapel. We will work on a skit to present in our children's worship service on March 31st. We will have bible time. Bring your Bibles and try to read Mark 1: 1-34 , Matthew 14: 13-21 and Matthew 14: 22-33 before we meet.

We will discuss the beginning of Jesus ministry (teachings, healings, and miracles.) I will give you an outline of Christ's life that you can take home, so you can study about Jesus's days on earth at home too.

### **Children Lead Worship—Sunday, March 31st**

The children will lead worship during the 10:00 am Genesis II service. Please have your child in their appropriate Sunday school class at the following times. All children three- second grade be in your class by 9:45 am on the dot. All children Third – fifth please be in your class by 9:30am on the dot. We will go to Genesis II, as soon as Genesis I service is finished, to set up and get seated together.

We encourage all children to participate. We have been preparing for this all year. Please help your child to be in Sunday school, so they can be a part of this special time in your church, when the children help to lead worship. Children have a wonderful innocent faith in GOD. The Bible refers to this and encourages adults to be as accepting of Christ, as children are. Be here to celebrate our children. We will acknowledge all children present! " A child shall lead them."

**Sixth graders will receive their youth Bibles at this service!**

### **Day of Service, Saturday March 16th**

Please make note that today (our church) will be serving all over our community intentionally. Circles, bible studies, Sunday schools, small groups, youth groups, children groups and men's groups will all participate this day in serving somewhere at the church or in our community. Feel free to plan for your individual family to serve in some capacity. This is also Paul Bunyan Day, so there will be men helping at Alta Mons. The children will meet at 1:00 pm to walk and leave bags in the neighborhoods for our Spring food drive (we will go for ice cream afterwards). Pick up for the children will be at 2:30pm at the church. Please email [triciag@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:triciag@fumcsalemva.org) to let us know what your group or family will be doing that day.

### **Coming Next Month!**

**APRIL 7th at 5:00 pm Wesley Kids and Tweens** will meet in the chapel. We will put together cleaning buckets for the Food pantry. We will have a short bible study and learn more about John Wesley. We will end with a game outside to remind us that we are to be fishers of men.

**APRIL 8th Wesley Tweens** only meet in the chapel from 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm. We will start off with Bible Study. Read Matthew 5: 1 – 16. We will have a game to help us learn verse 16. We will finish with coloring and decorating Easter Eggs for you to take home.

### **SPRING FESTIVAL, Sunday April 14th 5:30 – 6:30**

We will have our annual egg hunt, Easter crafts, inflatables to bounce on, face painting, and prizes. There will be a food truck, so you can purchase a meal and enjoy picnicking on the lawn. Bring a neighbor or a friend. This event is for our church and our community. We will kick off the evening with a short skit to remind us of the meaning of Easter. We ask people to bring a donation of non- perishable food for the Salem food pantry.

### **Kid's in the Spotlight**

This month F. U . M . C. recognizes Lauren Quisenberry. Lauren is the daughter to Sara and Jake Quisenberry. She is the big sister to Caroline. Lauren attends Sunday school, VBS, Wesley Kids and is in the children's choir. She has a beautiful smile and makes friends easily. Lauren is kind to others and especially her little sister. Lauren is at many of our church events and was a little angel at our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Thank you Lauren for making a difference here at church.

### **Children's Ministry Volunteer of the month**

This month children's ministry recognizes Wanda and Richard Hutchison. They have taught our little two year olds for probably 25 years. They care about our little ones with their loving hugs and soft voices. They delight as the children grow and transition to the threes, but they miss them when they do. They have tenderly loved many two's in our church through many, many years. They are part of good beginnings in our children's ministry program. Thank you is not enough, but I know God is well aware of the service they give to His children. The book, " Found," has been placed in the children's ministry library in their honor. This book is a dear story about the shepherd loving search to find the lost sheep, just as Christ looks for us when we are lost!

## **WESLEYAN PRESCHOOL**

*Jane Butto, Director*

Our Registration for our 2019-20 Preschool year was held in February. We still have openings in some of our classes. Please let your friends, family and neighbors know about this opportunity. For more information contact Jane at (540) 389-5144 or email her at [jbutto@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:jbutto@fumcsalemva.org)

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

*Jessica Gehman, Director*

### **SHROVE PANCAKE FUNDRAISER DINNER**

On March 3rd for the Fellowship Dinner the youth with help from the Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be serving pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. This dinner the youth will be your waiters or waitresses for the evening as you enjoy feasting on some delicious sausages and pancakes! The cost for the dinner is by donation only. And all donations will be going to the youth mission trip to help cover extra costs! Thank you to all who come and support our youth!

### **Youth Paul Bunyan Day at Camp Alta Mons**

The youth will be heading to Camp Alta Mons for Paul Bunyan day on March 16th. Camp Alta Mons hosts this event every year and it's a day to prepare the camp facility for Camp Alta Mons busiest time of the year. Some of the work we may be doing will be log splitting, raking, trail clearing, pool cleaning etc. The morning work will be followed by a free lunch for all volunteers! We are going to meet at the church at 8:20am. Bring a snack and some water! Wear clothing that can get dirty. This is open to all, but will be a great way to get some hours for National Honor Society and the Mission Trip!

### **Small Group Info**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Last Two Mondays in March</b>	<b>7:30-8:30pm</b>	<b>Off Site</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Last Two Wednesdays in March</b>	<b>7:30-8:30pm</b>	<b>Off Site</b>

### **Youth Contact Information**

**E-mail:** [jessicak@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:jessicak@fumcsalemva.org)

**Facebook Group:** FUMC Impact Youth Ministry

**Instagram:** [fumc\\_impactyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumc_impactyouth)

**Remind App:** Text 81010 with message: @2015impact

**NEW Youth Website:** [youth.fumcsalemva.org](http://youth.fumcsalemva.org)

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Heather Mitchell, Coordinator*

We are blessed to have an Organist who plays for both traditional services every Sunday and a Sanctuary Choir that sings for the 11:00 a.m. Traditional service each Sunday. We are also equally blessed to have a Praise Band that provides music for both Genesis services every Sunday too. Below you will find a preview of March and what our other musical groups are doing.

### **Additional Musical Offerings:**

Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Heavenly Bells – 8:45 a.m. Traditional

Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> – Youth Choir – 8:45 a.m. Traditional & Genesis | Heavenly Bells – 11:00 a.m. Traditional

Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – Children's Choirs – 8:45 a.m. Traditional & Genesis

Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – JuBELLation – 8:45 a.m. Genesis & 10:00 a.m. Genesis II

Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – Youth Choir – 8:45 a.m. Traditional | Children's Choirs – 10:00 a.m. Genesis II

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

### **A Call To Prayer and Self-Denial 2019**

Circle 5 will lead the program called "Building a Thriving Generation of Children and Youth Worldwide" for all FUMW Circles on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our new UMW leader, Fran Williams, will be installed. All women interested in joining a Circle are invited to attend. A soup, sandwich, and dessert luncheon will be served afterwards.

## **Circle 9**

Circle 9 will meet on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:45pm in Room 208.

## **SKY GROUP**

### **SKY News**

SKY group will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly potluck lunch. The program will be presented by Trula Byington about Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet. All are welcome!

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

### **UMM BBQ Chicken Dinner**

The UMM will hold their annual Spring UMM BBQ on Saturday, March 16th from 5PM to 7PM in the Church Fellowship Hall. Menu will include: 1/2 BBQ Chicken, Bake Beans, Potato Salad & Roll, Iced Tea and Water will be available for meals eaten in Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be provided by the UMM at their cost. Meals will be available for carryout. COST WILL BE \$9.00 PER MEAL, TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE UMM AND THE CHURCH OFFICE.

## **MISSIONS UPDATE**

### **HEART FOR MISSION-WALL OF MONEY**

Hearts for Mission Wall of Money! You may have seen the envelopes ALL over church. The envelopes were written by youth going on the mission trip! This summer the youth will be going to Indianapolis to work in homeless shelters and soup kitchens. This experience is not only beneficial for those we serve but life changing for us as well as we grow. We are currently raising funds for our two 15 passenger vans that we will need to rent. If you are able to support us please make sure to pick up an envelope with the amount you can donate and turn in to the church office by February 28th.

## **OUTREACH PROJECT**

The Church Outreach Committee would like to invite everyone at FUMC to participate in a very worthwhile project. During the month of March, we will be collecting cleaning products to be distributed at Mrs. Dorsey's Clothes Closet. Our youth will be assembling these items into "House Buckets," and the staff at the Clothes Closet are hoping we create at least 25 buckets. The following items are needed:

- Paper towels
- sponges
- scrub brush
- toilet brush
- laundry detergent(64 oz or less)
- dish soap
- comet spray cleaner
- glass cleaner
- toilet cleaner bleach tabs
- monetary donations to purchase the buckets

We were able to purchase all of these items at The Dollar Tree, making sure we got the largest size of each, and created a bucket for \$10. Collection boxes will be placed in the office lobby, the hallway leading into the Sanctuary, and near the Welcome Center.

Please "Serve God Through Care for Others."

Thank you for your generosity!

*FUMC Church Outreach Committee*

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

Year to Date Actual Giving	\$867,523
Annual Budget	<u>\$823,879</u>
Annual Balance Remaining	\$43,644

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Many thanks to all who have helped make Family Promise a success for 4 four families: 5 parents and 5 children. Those who provided food, hosted, and spent the night made it possible for these families to have food and shelter and to experience Christian love in our church.

## **CALENDAR INFORMATION**

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

# MARCH 2019

Calendar information is as of February 5th. Please check with group leaders for more information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	2
3 4:00 - Journey 101 5:00pm - Wesley Kids & Tween 6:00pm - Youth Pancake Fundraiser Dinner	4 6:00pm - Wesley Tweens 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 8:00pm - AA	5 10:00am - SKY Board 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 7:00am - Ash Wednesday 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 6:00pm - God & Life 6:00pm - Communications 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday	7 6:30pm - God & Family 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study	8 10:00am - Parliamentarians 8:00pm - AA Program 8:00pm - AI-Anon	9
10 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 8:00pm - AA	11 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 8:00pm - AA	12 10:00am - UMW 6:30pm - Girls on the Run 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	13 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Lenten Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 6:00pm - God & Life 6:45pm - Circle 9	14 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	15 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	16 Service Day Paul Bunyan Day 5:00pm - UMMI BBQ
17 6:00pm - Reality Check 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	18 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	19 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Finance Meeting	20 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Lenten Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:00pm - God & Life 7:00pm - Shawl Ministry 7:30pm - 9-12 Small Group	21 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 11:30am - SKY Group	22 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	23
24/31 Sunday, March 24th 4:00pm - Journey 101 Sunday, March 31st 4:00pm - Journey 101 6:00pm - Reality Check	25 7:00pm - Boy & Girl Scouts 7:30pm - 6-8 Small Group 8:00pm - AA	26 9:30am - DCOM 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7:00pm - Cracked Pots	27 6:30am - Men's Bible Study 11:00am - Lenten Study 12:00pm - Bulletin Deadline 12:15pm - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - God & Life 7:30pm - 9-12 Small Group	28 10:00am - Faith Journey Bible Study 6:00pm - Girl Scouts	29 8:00pm - AA 8:00pm - AI-Anon	30

**First United Methodist Church**

**125 West Main Street**

**Salem, VA 24153-0887**

**First United Methodist Church Staff**

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- ◆ Associate Minister, **The Rev<sup>d</sup> Jeffrey Dorsey** ([jeff@dorseylawfirm.com](mailto:jeff@dorseylawfirm.com))
- ◆ Pastor In Residence, **Rev. Dr. Michael Houff**
- ◆ Director of Children's Ministries & Children's Choirs, **Tricia Givens** ([triciag@fumcsalemva.org](mailto:triciag@fumcsalemva.org))
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- ◆ Organist, **Judith Snyder** ([jsnyder@hollins.edu](mailto:jsnyder@hollins.edu))
- ◆ Piano Accompanist for Children & Youth, **London Reinhard**
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**Roanoke District and VA Annual Conference**

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

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