

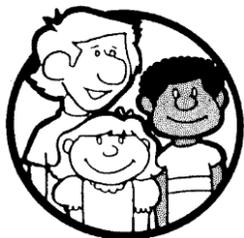


THE MESSENGER
Steele Memorial United Methodist Church
733 Shaw Street, P. O. Box 346
Barboursville, WV 25504
304-736-4583
Rev. Kevin Lantz, Pastor
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August 2016

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER will not be held during the three summer months, June, July and August. We are taking a break.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT – The United Methodist Men of Steele Memorial UMC are sponsoring a Golf Tournament at Esquire Country Club to benefit the Boy Scout Troop 733 that meets at the Church. The tournament will be Saturday, August 13, beginning at 8 a.m. Cost is \$50 per player and includes cart, golf fee, food, and prizes. Contact John Call (304-736-736) or Mike Call (304-633-0174) for more information.



STEELE MEMORIAL'S GOT TALENT! At All Stars for Jesus, kids will learn how famous Bible characters used their God-given talents and skills for HIM! Each one of us has special skills to use for HIS glory. What is yours? Watch for more details on the awesome Steele Memorial Talent Show 2016 coming this fall. Enjoy your summer, and I will see all of our talented All Stars in mid-August. Hugs! Ms. Becky

CHURCH-WIDE MISSION REPORT: Since the July newsletter with the mission report, we as a church have continued expressing our love of God by reaching out to those in need of assistance. Paul tells us in Romans (12:8) that if our gift is giving, then give generously and that we are to (12:13) share with the Lord's people who are in need. Contributions to Upshur Parish have included 67 baby items, 65 personal care items, 5 cleaning supply items and 122 school items. For the House of the Carpenter 71 personal care items, 55 household goods, 2 pair of socks, 3 toboggans and 91 food items have been given.

"Compliments of: Steele Memorial United Methodist Church, 733 Shaw St, Barboursville, WV 25504. MAY GOD BLESS YOU!!!" These words, printed on a small label, are attached to each snack that we, as a church, provide monthly to the Emogene Dolin House. During the first 6 months this year, we have provided almost \$90.00 in snacks for this ministry. Just one of the ways that even a small gesture of kindness during a difficult time can show God's Love to others. "MAY GOD BLESS YOU!!!"

CHURCH FAMILY: We often wonder if God is at work in our community. All you need to do is spend a day at ECCHO to understand the dedication of the men and women that give their time each week. None of this would be possible without the giving of monies and supplies to help those in the eastern part of Cabell who are less fortunate than we.

The donations of monies and school supplies helped volunteers to fill 170 bags for children K—12th grade to begin school with new crayons, pens, notebooks, paper, highlighters and binders. Each child will also be able to pick out a book bag of his choice. Last Thursday at Milton Methodist Church 16 volunteers (from Bethesda UJM, Pea Ridge Woman's Club, Milton UM and Steele UM) worked tirelessly to fill the school bags. None of this could have happened without the volunteers and donations from the church.

From Peggy Fillmore -- The children of eastern Cabell thank you. God is good: All the time. -- Brenda Chapman

ECCHO NEEDS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST: Mac and Cheese, Pasta, Jelly, Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Pork and Beans, Children's Underwear, Children's Socks



BUSY BEES is excited to bee-gin our 13th year! All of our classes are full and the bees will return to the hive on Monday, August 29. Staff returns to prepare rooms on August 22 and our Open House for enrolled families is August 25, 9 AM-1 PM. In September we will celebrate our country with an America Parade around the building on September 8 and 9. We will also participate in the Barboursville Fall Fest Parade on September 15. Our Bible story is Creation and our verse is "2 John 1:6 Walk in obedience to God's commands." Special thanks and loads of love to our SMUMC family for all your continued prayers and support. You are such blessings to us!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY: What does 25 plus 8 plus 1 equal? It equals an evening in our sanctuary where God's mercy, forgiveness and love flowed in the lives of all present. On Tuesday evening, July 19, twenty-four men from Recovery Point and one woman along with eight Celebrate Recovery volunteers saw the power of the ONE GOD transform lives. We all met in the sanctuary for the first time. We sang, we prayed, we studied about our personal faith and then, for the first time as a body, Pastor Kevin offered the sacrament of communion. It was a powerful moment as the elements representing the body and blood of Christ were received. One could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the room and in the lives of all present.

The Celebrate Recovery Team wants to thank God, the church, and the many who have participated in this program. God is working in the lives of all who attend these meetings and through His continued blessings, many will recover from their addictions to lead wholesome, productive Christian lives.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA: Steele Memorial UMC will be exploring a new video library called RightNow Media with our members! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos for everyone – kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals-all aimed at helping you grow.

You will receive an official invitation email to give you FREE access to RightNow Media. If you haven't received it yet, check your mail filter (because it will come from RightNow's system, it may get caught there). Once you find the email, simply click the link, sign up for an account, and you're all set to explore more than 12,000 videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!

REMIND: The Church has identified a quick and easy way to get information out to our members and friends using a text-tool called "Remind." We started using it this past winter in order to report worship cancellation due to sudden snow, which we did do once! We currently have 90-plus people from Steele Memorial signed up, and are sharing the key scripture lesson for our Sunday morning worship so attendees can read ahead, preparing for worship.

To receive Church messages on your texting phone, text the message code **@church733** to 81010 (in your top address box). **Do this now!**

You can also receive the message on your email by sending an email to church733@mail.remind.com [You can leave the "Subject" line blank.]

FLOOD DISASTER CLEAN-UP

Haven't volunteered yet? The need is still great!

Those who want to take part in the flood disaster clean-up can report to one of several locations for assignments. The two closest locations are in Kanawha County, (listed below). There are also volunteer reception centers in Clay County and Nicholas County. Volunteers at each center gather information on the most urgent needs of families. More than 900 families still need help cleaning up.

Samaritan's Purse;

1509 Bigley Ave.;

Charleston, WV

Phone: 304.410.4127

Volunteers deploy at 7:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Clendenin Nazarene Church;

103 Elk River Road

South Clendenin, WV;

Phone: 304.548.7744

We recently hosted 18 youth and adults from a United Methodist Church in Corona, Illinois at our 9:00 worship, on their way to Madison, WV to take part in a week's worth of clean-up. They had spent the night with one of the teens' aunt, Jessica and David Brier, on their way through!

A CHANGE IN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning the first of September, Steele Memorial UM Church will adopt a new worship schedule on Sunday mornings. Because the second worship often has a “special” of some kind – musical, mission story, children’s presentation, etc. – the new schedule allows us to add fifteen extra minutes.

Beginning September 4, set your Sunday calendars to begin earlier:

Early Worship: 8:45 – 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Second Worship: 10:45 – Noon

OUR CHURCH VISION TEAM



What is it that the Church really values? What is most important to us?

This is a question the Vision Team has been asking in recent weeks as we collect information from our members and friends at Steele Memorial UM Church.

We think about the *Great Commandment* Jesus gave to the Church when He spoke to the disciples near the end of His life: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39)

When you start with this bold message, we want to apply it to our community! Who are the people around us that are ignored or rejected by the systems in society? Where is God calling us to invest energy and resources to the least, the last, and the lost?

As we make our way into a new future, the Vision Team has accepted the task of assessing the gifts and strengths of the Church along with the needs in our community, some which can be discovered through demographic information and more thorough observation of our favorite gathering places.

The process in which we find ourselves is taking us through a three-point discussion that leads to strategies.

- Values: The convictions that underlie everything in our ministry
- Mission: What we do
- Vision: Our picture of the future that we head toward
- Strategies: The tasks or activities that help us live our values, do our mission, reach our vision

Please join us in prayer as we ask God to guide us in His ministry and mission for our Church and community. We are learning a lot as a group, and are excited by the discussion that takes place in our monthly meetings. We meet for about 7-8 hours one weekend a month. We are currently reading, *Power Surge*, a second book assigned to the group process that describes discipleship plans for the Church. This is in addition to another devotional book, *Discipleship Essentials*, which leads Christian believers to understand and practice real spiritual disciplines that draw us close to God!

THE SUMMER OF CHAOS

This summer is different.

Lighthearted chitchat around the poolside or picnic table has given way to serious discussions. The heaviness of recent events has left a dark cloud looming over the world, as people wonder not if, but when the next tragedy will occur.

Do you find yourself, with me, tuning in to the news just to see if the next awful shooting has occurred? And once it begins we hear all the details, the facts, the commentary flowing from any one of a dozen different news streams.

Depending on your favorite, you can hear how blame is directed at any of a number of groups: Blacks Lives Matter, Donald Trump, Republicans, Democrats, the church – and so on and so forth. It happens after every tragedy that captures our national attention, whether we’re talking about Islamic terrorism, or shootings of black people or police. Seemingly within minutes, everyone with a political agenda blames their political enemies for what happened.¹

There’s one thing these tragedies display to us: There is evil in the world. There is a devil who has influence over humanity. The name of evil is prejudice. It is hate. It is intolerance. And in some cases, impatience or fear. It has many names, but these are what we are seeing in recent acts of terrorism and killing.

Let me tell you three very important truths about evil that might help you. First, the Bible tells us that evil does not come from God, nor can we blame God for all the evils in the world. Evil comes instead from satan, and it entered this world when satan deceived Adam and Eve and caused them to turn against God. Both evil and satan are real, and the two go hand-in-hand.

¹ The Galli Report; Editor in Chief of *Christianity Today*

Second, the Bible tells us that someday all evil will be banished. The vast spiritual conflict between Satan and God that has raged from the beginning of time will be over, and God will be triumphant. Someday all evil will be cast "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons." (Matthew 25:41, NLT)

Third, the Bible tells us that in the meantime, God can give us victory over evil. This doesn't mean bad things will never happen to us – but even when they do, we can know God is with us, and He will give us strength to stand against them. Isn't it better to face life's problems with God rather than without Him? No, we may not understand everything that happens to us - but when we know Christ, we know we are on the winning side. Why not commit your life to Him today? ²

It's easy for many in the population to separate themselves from the grief and horribleness of these tragedies because we feel so isolated from the dangers of the larger cities. In West Virginia, where ethnic diversity barely registers a blip on the demographic pages, many can feel immune to the unjust killings.

I'm more than a little concerned about my own reactions; the distance I keep from the human tragedy and injustice of these cruel murders.

What about you? Are you angry with what we are seeing? I hope so! I hope we are angry! Because if we're ignoring these terroristic killings, if there's an absence of anger for the black and white lives that we see being killed on the city streets, doesn't this expose an apathy or indifference that says black lives, gay lives, or blue lives (police officers) don't matter?

God tells us in His Word to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).

The shortest verse in the Bible is found in John 11:35: "Jesus wept." He was weeping over the death of a friend, and it caused the people around to say, "See how he loved him!" (John 11:36). Followers of Jesus can demonstrate His love when they express sincere sorrow.

Russell Moore offered several ideas that the Christian Church can follow as we respond to the awful news broadcast across the country:

1. Pray specifically for the families of those killed, by name.

One of the most chilling aspects of the violence we see around us is the attempt at invisibility, as though those who are killed lived lives that didn't matter. This is not new. After Cain killed Abel, he chafed at even the reminder of his existence (Gen. 4).

Pray for those who we hear about: Pray not only for their families to be comforted, but also for justice to be served, that others – whether police officers protect a rally or African-American young men in any given city in America – would no longer be unjustly killed.

2. Consider these biblical truths, all of which are bound up in this crisis:

- The Sanctity of Human Life and the Sin of Murder (Matthew 5:21-22)
- The Truth that God Knows about Lives We Deem Not Worthy of Life (Genesis 4:1-10; James 5:1-6)
- The Unity of the Church as the Global People of God (Revelations 5:1-14; Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:1-29)
- The Need for the Church to Bear One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- The Mandate for Justice to Be Impartial (Proverbs 17:15)

Some years ago, Billy Graham said, "Only God can break down the national and racial barriers that divide men today. Only God can supply that love that we must have for our fellowman. We will never build brotherhood of man upon earth until we are believers in Christ Jesus."

Let us make every effort to build peace and reconciliation. Do so intentionally, which means, do it on purpose, do it with a plan and prayer.

Pastor Kevin



DISCORD IN THE DENOMINATION

Many of you, by now, have heard that a branch of the United Methodist Church has gone rogue, breaking the covenant agreement that binds the United Methodist Connection by electing a gay bishop in the Western Jurisdiction.

The Rev. Karen Oliveto, senior pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, has been elected as the first openly lesbian United Methodist bishop by delegates at the Western Jurisdictional Conference on July 15. The action taken has appalled many in the United Methodist Church, coming on the heels of our recent General Conference.

In a statement issued following Oliveto's election, **Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops**, said, "This election raises significant concerns and questions of church polity and unity."

Bishop Ough clarified that the Council of Bishops does not have constitutional authority to intervene in the election, but "is monitoring this situation very closely."

² BGEA Website (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association); "Answers by Billy Graham"

He acknowledged that some in the church will view this election as a violation of church law and a significant step toward a split, while others will consider it a milestone toward being a more inclusive church.

“Our differences are real and cannot be glossed over, but they are also reconcilable,” Bishop Ough said. “We are confident God is with us, especially in uncharted times and places.”

The Book of Discipline, the church's lawbook, bans "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from ordination, but many gay clergy came out before General Conference 2016. Several annual conferences in 2016 passed resolutions not to conform with any church laws seen to discriminate against LGBTQ people.³

There was some immediate negative reaction to Oliveto's election.

Rev. Rob Renfroe, president of Good News, an evangelical United Methodist group that upholds the church's current stance on homosexuality issues, said the election and other actions by annual conferences this summer ignored the Council of Bishops' proposal for a commission to examine all church law dealing with human sexuality. Renfroe said that proposal called for a “pause for prayer to step back from attempts at legislative solutions and to intentionally seek God's will for the future.”

“Instead, these conferences have moved ahead with legislative enactments pledging non-conformity with the Book of Discipline, culminating in the election of a practicing homosexual as bishop,” said Renfroe. “If the Western Jurisdiction wanted to push the church to the brink of schism, they could not have found a more certain way of doing so.”

West Virginia United Methodist Bishop, Sandra Steiner Ball has issued a response to the Churches of the West Virginia Conference, of which we are a part,

“...I would request that you not become distracted from this mission by the Western Jurisdiction's election of an openly gay bishop. The decision of the Western Jurisdiction is the decision of that particular Jurisdiction and can only impact the mission and ministry of our local congregations and the West Virginia Conference if we allow that decision to become the primary concern in our churches. I would argue that Christ would not want us to allow this incident to become the primary concern nor would Christ want this to distract us from our compassionate, loving care for all people or from our responsibility to reach all people for Christ.

“I hope that you will continue to keep our United Methodist Church in prayer.

“In the days ahead, the Council of Bishops, as you heard from the General Conference, is pulling together a Commission to discern a way forward for The United Methodist Church in the midst of good church members who have differences in biblical and theological interpretation on matters of human sexuality and marriage. Please pray for the work of this commission.”

Let us remember the words of Scripture: “Above all, remember that each person is God's chosen one, holy and beloved, created in God's image, and because of that we all are called to put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3: 12 – 17)

“**Above all...** put on love and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.’ Keep the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as the priority in your personal and congregational life. There are many who still need to be reached for Christ. God is calling us and empowering us for this work. Let us not be distracted from the mission and ministry to which Christ has called us.”⁴

Though the issues of homosexuality among the clergy and same-sex marriages are a powder keg for the Churches in this age, I am mindful of the friends we have, friends we all have, who grieve with the secret that a member of their family has struggled with their own sexual identity.

We, who have taken on the nature of Christ through His Spirit, are released from trying to judge, released from that harsh, critical spirit that brings anger to others. We are the people of a new way; a way of love as described above in God's Word. We, too, will struggle with how the conflicts and choices of a confusing world bear burdens of hate – while choosing *not* to hate. Let us be tender with our friendships, slow to speak with opinions, and gentle in all circumstances, believing that God the Father can transform a troubled world through His love *in you and me!*

Pastor Kevin

³ www.umc.org; article by Kathy L. Gilbert, “Western Jurisdiction elects openly gay United Methodist bishop”; July 15, 2016

⁴ In a letter to the Members of the West Virginia Conference; July 16, 2016; Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

August 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	2 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	3 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	4	5	6 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -Barboursville Pageant all day
7 -Communion Sunday -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	8 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	9 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	10 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	11 -M. Call gym 7:00 -Troop 88 7:00 -L. Call NFH	12 -L. Call NFH	13 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -UMM Golf Tournament 8-1 -L Call NFH
14 -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	15 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	16 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	17 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45	18 -M. Call gym 7:00	19	20 -Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM -Vision Team 9 AM -A. Kinker SFH 12:00
21 -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Singles OFH Noon -Vision Team 12:30 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	22 -Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	23 -Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	24 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Cele. Rec. Team Meeting 7:00 -Choir Practice 7:45	25 -Evangelism 7:00 -M. Call gym 7:00 -Troop 88 7:00	26	27-Men's Bible Study 8-9 AM
28 -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Church wide Ice Cream Social 5:00 -NO Evening Worship	29-Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	30-Celebrate Recovery 6:30 OFH	31 -All Stars 5:30 -Youth 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Choir Practice 7:45			

Parking Lot Greeters: 07: Larry Dickens – Kim Stanley 28: Pat Cornwell – Tony Ryder	14: Gary Cox – Kelly McGuffin	21: Donnie Barbour – Mike McClung
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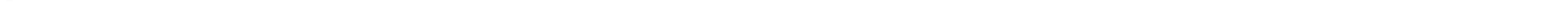
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Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Adam Nease	2 Brent Kimball	3 Arvin Canady Evan Conard	4	5 Brenda Morning	6 Suzanna Davenport
7 <i>Seth & Amy Adkins</i>	8 Don Barbour Katie Damron Lilly Dick	9 Bob Chenoweth	10 <i>J. K. & Ginger Fife</i>	11 Molly Fisher	12 Bill Dutton Claren Perkins	13
14	15 Vernon Payton	16 Steve Sebert Paul Short	17 Brad Merritt	18 Jack Perkins <i>Bob & Becky Chenoweth</i>	19 <i>Ron & Rosie Wooddell</i>	20
21	22 Kim Adkins	23 Robin Triplett	24 Rosemary Chapman J. K. Fife Lorri Jones Andrea Kazee Laura Smith	25 Johnna Adkins Olivia Lingenfelter Casey McGhee Malinda Ross	26	27 Ben Maynard <i>Eldon & Sherry Paugh</i>
28 Caydance Snell <i>Willie & Johnna Adkins</i>	29	30 Raymond Blake	31 Joseph Browning Sherrie Childers Monica Jackson <i>Denver & Karen Stevens</i>			



The church is starting to recognize one of our shut-ins each month. This is a way to brighten their day, week or month with a note, card or flowers. This month the shut-in is Ernestine Blake, 479 Peyton Street, Barboursville, WV 25504.



back2school



prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to
see new friends."

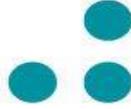
Open my ears to hear my teacher.

Open my mind to learn new things.

Let my heart remember YOU are near
when I'm afraid.

Help me to love others like you do.

I want to shine your light
so bright in my school."



Amen.

@Courtney DeFeo



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