

The Messenger

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

January, 2022

[This month's newsletter comes as a substitute for our regular publication with all the news and color normally represented. We have a trimmed down version due to illness in our Church Office.]

FROM THE PASTOR



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

We have recently come through the Advent Season in the life of the Church. Advent represents, in part, the waiting we experience for Jesus Christ's second coming. In His second coming, the Church anticipates our full redemption as Christian believers rise to an eternal fellowship with our heavenly Father!

The Bible has a lot to say about life for the Christian and the "Heaven Bound" path we are on with Jesus. Beginning in January I will present a sermon series that answers some questions we have about the time of transition, the time when we leave this world and enter into the next world!

Jesus, who was born, lived, died, was resurrected, and ascended will come again "to judge the living and the dead" (as the Apostle's Creed says). In Him we place our hope, because He is the hope of the nations (Matthew 12:21). All our other disappointed hopes are eased when we ponder the hope that will not disappoint us.

The Apostle Paul explains this in Romans, chapter five. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:1). Paul is building a foundation for hope. We have been set right with God through Christ. Our status is sure. We have peace with God, which means nothing now separates us from a holy and loving God.

To begin, the first message addresses the promise that Christ *will* return! The next two speak about a chronology of the end times, emphasizing an enduring faith! And then we will hear what the Bible says when a life ceases to be in this world, along with messages about God's judgment, the Book of Life, and our entrance into heaven!

Remember there are ways to take part in worship even when you can't be present in the sanctuary with us. Use our Church website to connect to worship. You can follow the recording of worship that is posted after each Sunday.

And don't forget, you can listen in on *The River* radio station, 107.9, each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. to the previous week's message.

— Peace to You! Pastor Kevin Lantz

IN THIS EDITION:

- From the Pastor
- The Role of a Minister
- Kentucky Storm Relief
- "One Shot" for Our Parents
- What You May Not Know about Abortion
- Youth Ministry News
- The Latest from The Busy Bees
- Re-Fit
- New 2022 Church Ministry Team

P.S. If you miss the phone live-streaming on Sunday morning, you can re-connect to this service by dialing (304) 215-1677 where you will hear a recorded introduction from me, followed by a playback of the most recent Sunday worship. (Be patient, you will first hear some musical prelude leading up to worship.)

THE ROLE OF YOUR PASTOR

Many people in our churches don't understand the training and the skills that a minister brings to a Church and community. In order to share what a resource your pastor is, here is a bit about the training many ministers in the United Methodist tradition experience prior to their ordination.

How has our Minister been trained for this special role?

If you have a seminary educated minister, that means that your minister has a 3-year Master's Degree on top of a 4-year Bachelors degree. The seminary education can be shaped with a variety of special interests, including counseling, youth ministry, Christian Education, missionary emphasis, and more. But it will also include expertise in Old Testament and New Testament studies, preaching classes, theology, worship, biblical history or biblical languages, and more. Your minister should be seen as the community's resident theologian and interpreter of God's Word and God's relationship to His people!

The local minister has also received training in basic counseling, some who may have more specialized training in marriage and family counseling. Your pastor can help guide you through some of the typical conflicts you may experience in life, including grief and loss counseling, pre-marriage and marriage counseling.

Your minister serves the Church and the community as a counselor.

The local minister of your Church has studied the spiritual life and spiri-

tual experiences, understanding what it takes for people to grow in their spiritual understanding, in their faith, and in their relationship to our heavenly Father. Along with this, your minister is eager to plan for the spiritual formation for those in your Church and community!

Your minister has studied the dynamics and changes of a shifting culture, knowing that faith in God for the older adults in Church was formed differently than the young adults and teenagers of a changing and different America. They have studied and read books and articles by the leading faith-based sociologists and psychologists, contemporary Church historians, and theologians, and their learning has been tested to the point that they can express intelligently or diagnose new avenues by which the Church must reach its community with the Good News of God's love and grace.

Your minister may understand the teaching methods necessary to reach people of different ages as well as people undergoing experiences in life that may be radically new and different from other people around them. These new understandings can help you and others in your personal discipleship and spiritual formation.

Who is the spiritual expert to guide God's Church in a culture of change?

Your minister has trained to communicate God's revelation to the world in traditional ways and in the electronic community using new devices and apps that are available to us in cyber-world.

Ministers also serve as priests among the people of the Church. As a priest, the minister knows the importance of bringing the presence of

God's grace and love into the life of the community. They know that they serve as your spiritual advisor and counselor in the worst moments of your life. It is an assumed role of your minister to be present for you in the great moments of life as well as in the tragic and bitter experiences. Your minister can offer comfort and counsel because of the hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Your minister is one of the greatest resources in your Church.

You will find the minister at the head of the casket following the funeral service, at the front of the casket leading to the hearse and to the burial site, reminding us again that God is present for us in the deep losses we experience in life. Please contact your pastor or the Church office when you are in the hospital, when you have lost a loved one, when you've received a diagnosis or are scheduled for surgery. It is a part of the pastor's regular responsibilities to conduct your family funerals, to baptize your children, and to officiate your weddings.

As we pray for the new pastor who will come our way, let's prepare ourselves to know what skills, interests, and experience they bring, and take advantage of the opportunities God brings to our community in Barboursville and beyond!

– *Office of Communications;*
2022

MEETING WITH THE BISHOP

The Churches of the Western District have an invitation to join Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball on Saturday, January 29th at one of two locations:

- January 29th, Noon at Forrest Burdette UMC in Hurricane, WV

- January 29th, 4 p.m. at Kenova UMC

The Bishop anticipates a 2 hour time-frame for each meeting, so please plan accordingly. Please RSVP to the District office for either meeting. Masks will be required. (Please share this information with Lay Leaders you have invited to join us.)

KENTUCKY TORNADO RELIEF

Our hearts go out to our neighbor Kentuckians who have been impacted by the recent Tornado Disaster. Many have lost their homes and even loved ones to this devastating storm. People across the nation want to volunteer or donate, but don't know how. Below are some guidelines to help you get you started.

Want to Volunteer?

Wait. Don't self-deploy. Volunteer responsibly and sign up before you show up.

Register with the State of Kentucky. Someone will get back to you after the first of the year. They need time to complete their disaster assessment and determine needs. Go to:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/02e24e0e3ddd4d158a21aaf9a0973384>

Volunteer with an established disaster organization.

Go to the National VOAD website to see a list of orgs at <https://www.nvoad.org/volunteer/>

Volunteer with American Red Cross in Kentucky at: www.redcross.org/local/kentucky/volunteer.html

WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW —

ABOUT ABORTION

When a woman in an unplanned pregnancy finds herself at an abortion clinic, she is likely not given the full range of education on options or post-abortion side-effects. Women who are not educated on all their options may find themselves fighting post-abortive trauma or very serious physical side-effects later. Abortion is constantly presented as an easy surgery or it may be compared to simple things such as a dental procedure. When this narrative is presented, women are desensitized to the reality of how abortion

affects them mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Learn more: savethestorks.com/truth-about-abortion

PARENTS: YOUR ONE SHOT

(Submitted by a member of the Church)

You have one shot to raise your children in church. That's all you get. One. When it's gone, it's gone forever. You can't go back. You don't get a redo.

As parents, Theresa and I have already accomplished our life's greatest accomplishment. We raised our kids in church.

What they do with that is up to them, but we did our best. I'll stand before God knowing that.

Faith is often inherited. So is a lack of it.

As a young man, I remember Nathan J. Hurst turning to the youth choir in Pearland, TX and telling them, "If your parents bring you to church, you are half-way to Heaven and don't even know it."

My God. I can still feel the conviction today.

I am so thankful I heard that while my children were little. I determined then and there to get my kids as close to Heaven as I could. I knew I couldn't save them, but I could raise them in church. I could get them in His presence. I could get them to an altar.

Nothing, not football, not baseball, not Boy Scouts, not a Playstation, not a demanding coach, not a job, not

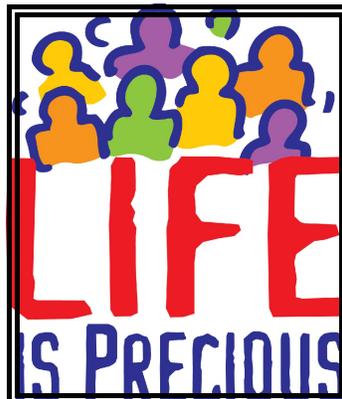
any other distraction was going to keep them out of church. I stood face to face with the devil on more than one occasion fighting some temptation to keep my kids out of church. Often, the devil was in the mirror.

But thanks be to God, we did it. We raised our kids in church.

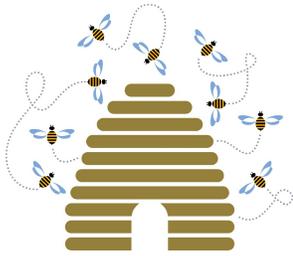
Now, before 2022 begins, I remind all the parents:

You get one shot. It's precious, scarce, and fleeting. Use it or lose it.

(— author unknown)



FROM OUR BUSY BEES — Mary Howerton



Happy New Year, Steele Memorial family! We hope everyone had a blessed holiday season. We are excited to be back and are refreshed and renewed.

- Our Bible story for this month is Jonah and the Whale.
- Our Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, **“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”**
- Our mission project is collecting new children's socks for ECCHO.
- This month we will come to school one day in our pajamas and eat pancakes for snack!

Fall registration begins at the end of this month. Community registration will not open until March. All new families must meet with the director prior to registration. If you are interested in a meeting contact Mary Howerton at 3046382611 or email her through the website.

BEE Warm, Friends!

OUR YOUTH MINISTRY — Ashlee Gallion

First, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

As we enter 2022, I want to remind members and



parents of the youth group that our new meeting time will be 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

Please make sure to like and subscribe to our Facebook and Instagram pages as that is where I tend to post lots of announcements and upcoming events.

Our first meeting on January 5th will be coined, "bring a friend to youth group night." What a great opportunity to introduce someone to God's love in the new year!

REFIT 2022! — Stephanie Ross

Women's Fitness Classes are starting January 3, 2022

Join us Monday and Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the new fellowship hall for REFIT®. REFIT® is a group fitness experience that works your body, heart, and soul with powerful moves and positive music. These classes are great for beginners and fitness enthusiasts with workouts designed for everybody and every BODY — regardless of age, shape, size, or ability.

For more information check out ...
facebook.com/gettingREFITwithStephanie.

January Birthdays!

1 st Breigh Nibert	12 th Bryton Leadman	18 th Anna Lantz	24 th Brenda Chapman
2 nd Ashley Kinker	15 th Nina Clayton	19 th Bob Miller	Jenny Black
5 th Mike Blower	Sean Knisely	Daniel Lee Burton	Nathan Wolfe
Brock Herrenkohl	Laura Leadman	20 th Paul Turman, Sr.	25 th Stephanie Hoover
7 th Kyleigh Snell	Shirley Bowwn	22 nd Phyllis Johnson	Emilia Barebo
Kyleigh Snell	16 th Bryan Turman	Karen Stevens	26 th Kevin Ballengee
Libby Burdette	Betty Duncan	23 rd Sydney Adkins	29 th Alexander Mast
Shawn Kelley	Ron Wooddell	24 th Patty Collins	30 th Kelly McGuffin
10 th Patty Blankenship	17 th Ben Dolin	27 th Lauren Fife	31 st Kayla Childers
11 th Sandy Rupert	Sue Ann Carroll		
	Roxie Feese		

January Anniversaries!

2 nd Buddy and Betty Beckett	7 th Carl and Beverly Eden Bill and Susan Wagoner	27 th Andrew and Kristen Johnson	31 st Paul and Karen Turman
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STEELE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2022

Church Council: (¶249, 252.5)

Administrative Council Chairperson	Sandy Rupert
Administrative Council Vice-Chair	Larry Dickens
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jim Pickett
Lay Leader	Jack Perkins
Trustees Chairman	Eddie Smith
Staff-Parish Relations Co. Chairperson	Jon Fannin
Pastor	Kevin Lantz
Pastor Emeritus	Ralph Sager
Church Treasurer	Annetta Coates
Financial Secretary	Lisa Rhodes
Youth Ministry Director	Ashlee Gallion
Secretary of the Administrative Council	Julia Dickens

... and **ALL CHAIRPERSONS OF MINISTRY TEAMS/COMMITTEES LISTED BELOW**

Members-At-Large: (¶252.5)

Brandi Beasley	Julia Dickens	Russ Witten
	Kylie Fisher	

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: (¶258.2.b) Chairperson: Jon Fannin

ex officio: Jack Perkins; Jim Pickett

2022	2023	2024
Teresa Blake	Mark Call	Jon Fannin
Sandy Rupert	Judy Hayes	Teresa Pickett
Terry Triplett	Nathan Kinker	Reba Swann

Trustees: (¶2525-2526) Chairperson: Eddie Smith

2022	2023	2024
Patty Blankenship	Mike Call	Aaron Gallion
Greg Gesner	Bob Miller	Todd Lester
Eddie Smith*	Robin Triplett	Levi Merritt

Committee on Nominations Leadership Development: (¶258.1) Chairperson: Kevin Lantz

ex officio: Jack Perkins

2022	2023	2024
Mike Call	Bob Chenoweth	Lynnette Call
Amy Jarvis	Dallas Nibert	Buck Conard
Levi Merritt	Rosie Wooddell	Greg Crews

Finance Committee: (¶258.4) Chairperson: Chad Fisher; Vice-Chairman: Ron Wooddell; Members: Annetta Coates; Sandy Rupert; Jon Fannin; Eddie Smith; Kevin Lantz; Lisa Rhoades; Jack Perkins; Jim Pickett

2022	2023	2024
Bobby Bannister	Frank Hayes	Roger Call
Brenda Cornwell	Kay Ratcliff	Becky Nisbet
Russ Witten	Matt Stead	Doris Staton
		Tony Ryder

Secretary of the Charge Conference: **Karen Turman**

LAY NOMINATIONS – 2022
— MINISTRY TEAM —

Lay Member to Annual Conference
Jim Pickett

Alternate: Lay Member to Annual Conference
Jack Perkins

Administrative Board Chairperson
Sandy Rupert

Financial Secretary
Lisa Rhoades

Christian Education
Ashley Kinker and Whitney Stead
Jenny Black; Amy Jarvis; Aimee Merritt . . . Janet Foss, Delora Call,

Children’s Ministry Team: All Stars for Jesus
Cathy Conard

Youth Minister: SWAG
Ashlee Gallion

Technology Team
Jon Fannin
Maggie Chenoweth; Aaron Gallion; Chris Jarvis

Worship
Connie Gesner

Choir Director
Johnna Adkins

Head Usher
Jim Boggess

Mission / Caring Ministries Co-Chairpersons
Gina Crews & Crystal Merritt

Sunday School Superintendent –
Jenny Black

ECCHO
Brenda Chapman Kay Ratcliff
Betty Miller

Scouting
Bill Dutton

UM Women President –
Rosie Wooddell

UM Men President –
Jack Perkins

ENGAGE: Evangelism & Witness
Alan Beasley and Chris Jarvis
Alan Beasley; Teresa Blake; Pat Cornwell; Levi Merritt; Jack Perkins; Jim Pickett; Robert & Kay Ratcliff; Keith & Malinda Ross; Christ Roy; Sandy Rupert; Kim Socha; Karen Turman; Patrick Wagoner; Rosie Wooddell

District Conference (2)

Spiritual Formation
Claren Perkins
Willie Adkins; Buck & Cathy Conard; Gina Crews; John & Sue Cummings; Phyllis Griffith; Rick & Lori Jones; Aimee Merritt; Doris Staton; Megan Turman; Jessica Wiley; Terry Wooten

Cooperative Parish Representative (2)
Vicki Delp

Parsonage Committee
Eddie Smith [plus a member of SPRC]

Pre-School Team
Larry Dickens

Membership Secretary
Lisa Rhoades

Building Church & Community Life (BCCL)
Vicki Smith

Historian
Sandy and Jim Boggess

Security
Brad Merritt

Healthy Church Task Force
Janet Foss, Ashlee Gallion, Connie Gesner, Pastor Kevin Lantz, Lisa Rhoades, Eddie Smith, Dr. Skyler Smith, and Dr. Terry Triplett