

**THE MESSENGER**  
 Steele Memorial United Methodist Church  
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 Barboursville, WV 25504  
 304-736-4583  
 Rev. Kevin Lantz, Pastor  
 Rev. Ralph G. Sager, Associate Pastor  
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May 2017



**ALL STARS** have been in full swing during the Lenten season with our participation in the Palm Sunday service and our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Barboursville Park. Our mission work has included donating supplies to fill cleaning buckets for UMCOR and helping the Girls of Faith with their mission work with Autism. Our studies focus on the talents of Joseph. We invite all parents and church friends to join us for our closing program on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:00 PM.

Cathy Conard

The GOF's Mother/Daughter dinner has been cancelled due to scheduling conflict.



**GRADUATION 2017**

If you, a child, or grandchild are graduating this spring or have graduated since June 2017, please contact Jim Boggess 304 736-1025 or the church office.



If you would like to place **altar flowers** in the church on a Sunday in memory or in honor of someone, please call the church office at 304-736-4583. The vases are \$35.00 and a center arrangement is \$15.00

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS- Come join us this year at Maker Fun Factory to learn about who God really is. We will have it June 12th-16th from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM for ages 3 years old to 8th grade. Please make sure all 3 year olds are potty-trained! We look forward to seeing your child for this fun-filled week!



**REMINDER** - Receipts are needed for pre-approved purchases made on behalf of the church. Note the reason for the purchase on the receipt, and place in the treasurer's mailbox/folder or turn in to the office. This will assure our records are in proper order and the appropriate expense account is charged.

We can't believe another school year has come to an end! We are sad to leave our friends but excited for our summer break. This month we will have Riding Toy Day, when our bees can bring non-motorized riding toys to school. We block off a section of our parking lot and our bees spend their play time outside riding around. They love it! Our End of Year Programs and Commencement will be on May 18 and 19. Our older classes will participate in Olympic Games where they compete against



each other in fun games in our gym. We will also have Busy Bees movie theater day, when we bring sleeping bags or

blankets and all watch a movie together. On this day, our older students set up a "concession stand" and our younger Bees use tickets to buy snacks to eat during the movie. We end our year on May 24 with a school wide party at Pump-Up the Fun. We want to thank everyone who prayed for us, loved on us, included us in your lives, and just all around supported us this year. Our little school could not make it without the support of our loving church family. Have a blessed summer, friends! See you in August!



**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** is a ministry that was founded in 2001 by John Baker at Rick Warren's Saddleback church. Celebrate Recovery is devoted to those with hurts, habits, and hang-ups (we all have them to some extent). It is based upon God's healing power in our lives.

We are seeing lives "changed" week by week as we share our experiences, strengths, and hopes with one another. We open our doors and hearts every Tuesday evening to embrace the hurting people of our community, assist them on their road to recovery and lead them to Jesus Christ. Our literature is based upon eight principles from the beatitudes and biblical comparisons to twelve step programs.

The Celebrate Recovery Team is a strong team of approximately 12 people who each bring something different to our group. We offer a warm meal, share a praise and worship time, teach a lesson and then break up into small groups where they share their deepest concerns. Perhaps the most important thing we do is to open our arms to people who haven't felt accepted or loved in a very long time. After all, isn't this what Jesus calls us to do?

We are thankful for the many meals our church family helps provide and for the prayers for this ministry. If you feel it in your heart to provide a meal, please let us know.

We are very excited as we look forward to sponsoring a free concert by JASON LOVINS who himself has turned his life's beginnings into a stirring testimony. The

concert will be held June 3rd at the Barbourville Park Amphitheater. Help us spread the word!

The Jason Lovins Band tours quite extensively throughout the US 40 weeks a year. Their journey has given the band members the chance to share the stage with such legendary performers as Michael W. Smith, MercyMe, Kari Jobe and Big Daddy Weave among others. The group has also performed at Billy Graham events that included writing the song *Journey* for a BGEA TV Special.

— for all have sinned an fall short of the glory of God: Romans 3:23



**MISSION TEAM NEWS** - Thanks to everyone who donated items for "flood buckets" and to the Girls of Faith for packing them for UMCOR! Also, we raised nearly \$1000 for UMCOR! Praise The Lord!!!

Many times, we give money or we donate items to people we may never have the pleasure of meeting. This year, one of our designated missions is very near and dear to our hearts. We often see these little faces at our VBS! Our mission support for April is Ebenezer Community Outreach Center in Huntington, WV. They provide state licensed childcare and have an after school program. They also have a clothing closet and supply baby bassinet items. Executive Director, Celes Sheffield shared their many needs with us a few weeks ago. There is a complete list of items on our bulletin board. Please help us support the children in our neighboring community by donating something from the list! If you prefer the hands-on approach, we would love to have you join us for a Princess/Superhero Party for the children in the summer months. (Costumes optional) :)

—A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling: Psalms 68:5



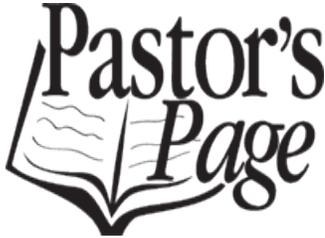
**CHURCH WIDE MISSIONS REPORT** - 'And he would answer and say to them, "the man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise".' Luke 3:11

That is certainly the actions of many here at Steele. The Singles class donated cookies to the VA Hospital; the Pennington class supported the City Mission with a cash donation; the Girls of Faith raised over \$400 with their bake sale and collected 60 children's DVDs for "Kids Flicks" (an organization that distributes these movies to hospitals); Busy Bees collected 253 pairs of children's underwear for ECCHO; and, the congregation donated over 200 personal care items to ECCHO as well. God continues to bless us with the desire to share.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"God actively seeks the lost and disconnected, and many people are waiting for a simple but personal invitation to your church." – Jim Burnett, pastor of Willow Pointe Church

Oddly enough – **The purpose of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church is to ENGAGE with people in order to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord!**



We declare it within our Mission Statement. It reflects the last word from Jesus Christ as

recorded by His disciple, Matthew: **Go and make disciples of all nations...** (Matthew 28:19)

Doesn't this tell us something about the passion and desire of God? He wants you and me! God wants a relationship with you and all the other "yous" out there! The idea of *making disciples* could be thought about in terms of rescuing people from the perverse or crooked opinions and values in the world so that we live into the godly lives for which the Father created us!

Disciple-making is a lifelong journey because of the nature of the world in which we live. It can be real hard to keep our compass set on the course that leads us to walk in the presence of our heavenly Father with so many other magnets distracting us.

Do you remember what it was like to be "controlled" by the passions of the flesh, the sinful nature? These passions were at odds with what God's deepest desire is for us. But now we are investing our time and energy into Kingdom work. I'm talking about the Kingdom of God! We are turning our attention to those who don't yet know how to find their way to the One who created them for a purpose and a plan. And so our ministry focus brings us to think about what it means to ENGAGE with others.

As Kingdom children, we want to *intentionally ENGAGE with people in their own lives in order to demonstrate God's love for them.*

What will this mean? It means we will learn to express ways to love others, to share God's love with others, to allow the love of God to overflow through our lives so that it spills out onto the people around us – whether it is our neighbors, clients, customers, or co-workers.

But this doesn't come naturally.

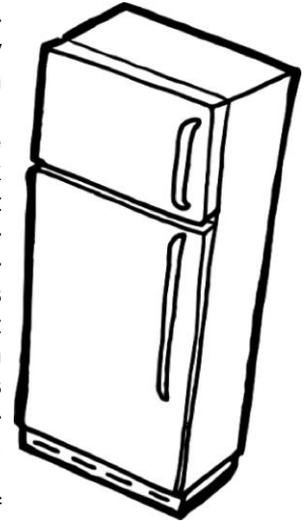
Join me in praying that the Father of Creation will pour into our hearts the love that was made flesh so that we experience the energy and excitement of sharing His love with others!

"Lost people are more amazed at our silence than offended by our message!" – Alvin Reid, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Pastor Kevin

## FROM MAMMA'S REFRIGERATOR

Does your Mom's refrigerator door look like a lot of refrigerators? My Mom has probably stopped posting new material on her refrigerator a long time ago. She must have it just the way she wants it! It has a bit of art work from some special loved ones. It has a few pictures of other special loved ones. It has the assortment of magnets with names of all the grandchildren. But what I like most are the cut-outs from magazines and newspapers through the years; the little anecdotes, prayers, profound wisdom, and the few classic funnies.



I intend to include a little bit of Mother's collected wisdom on the pages of our newsletters in the months to come, and to comment on the lessons I've learned or the insights I've gained into my mother's soul. Here's the first clipping found from a magazine:

**"Many people have eaten my cooking and gone on to lead normal lives."**

I noticed that Mom has several little notes of this nature that poke sarcastic fun at cooking. It dawned on me to ask, "Mom, don't you like to cook?"

With a laugh, she said, "No."

Unlike many of the Moms you brag about, my Mom does not like cooking. But you know, that's okay. She cooked for us anyway. I got fed. It was good. And then I hurried back outside to play!

For some of our Mother's, cooking was THE WAY they expressed love – to you, to their families! Many Moms enjoy cooking! Some are even good at it! But I never felt short-changed feeling loved because Mom wasn't a great fan of cooking. She expressed her love in so many ways!

As we think about Mother's this month I hope you'll reflect on the many ways your Mother expressed her love – and give thanks to God for the special gift of Mothers!

## ABOUT OUR SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

The United Methodist Church has a couple opportunities for summer camps for our children and youth. You can visit our Church website for links to the following camps.

[[www.steelememorial.com](http://www.steelememorial.com)] If expenses are a concern, please contact the Church office or Pastor Kevin for scholarship assistance.



**Spring Heights** near Spencer, WV – Get ready now for the highlight of your summer! Camp at Spring Heights is like nowhere else on earth and we would love to have you join us. Pick your own activities in Camp Outrageous – or join us for a classic or a specialty camp, the choice is yours! (Spring Heights has a variety of different camping experiences throughout the summer!)

We work hard to create an environment where God can easily work in the hearts of everyone here. Ready for an epic, life-changing experience? Jump on in! See you soon!

P.S. (**PARENT STUFF**) – Everyone knows that camp is tremendous fun, but its benefits are proven. Multiple studies reveal that camp fosters independence, builds self-esteem, strengthens faith, creates meaningful friendships and builds valuable life skills.

Through swimming, we teach water safety, horse-back riding builds confidence; nature study fosters interest in the stewardship of God's creation. The list goes on and on. All of our programs focus on faith, friendships and fun. Questions? Feel free to call us at 304-927-5865 or email us at info@springheights.org

#### **What Campers Are Saying!**

*"I have been coming for several years and every year just gets better. I know next year will be even better and I look forward to it."* – Corey

*"I want to come back because I love growing in my faith and making so many new friends."* – Abbie

*"This is my home away from home and I want to embrace new challenges. Not only did I make new friends, I made a new family"* – Hunter

*"It was so positive. It will change me forever."* – Lucas

*"Spring Heights is my one week of the summer when I get away from my personal life, where I have problems and stress. I get away from my usual friends and get to see camp friends. I get to experience new things and learn about God."* – Madison

#### **Asbury Woods**

The Camp website says the following: Located in Salt Rock West Virginia, Asbury Woods is a spiritual sanctuary of natural beauty where people can experience Christian community, God's love, healing, renewal and empowerment for mission and ministry in the world.

Our team provides a year round camping experience, with retreats in the winter, spring, and fall. Traditional camp programming runs for all grade levels throughout the summer.

Facilities (including pool and picnic shelter) are available for rental. Please call 304.948.1020 to schedule your reservation.

**What it doesn't say** is that your kids will have a ball as they take part with children from other neighboring United Methodist Churches! But camp is not only for our church members! Your kids can bring friends, too! A full schedule will be out soon and you'll want to see if a week fits into plans for your children!

High School and Middle School: July 9-14

Elementary and Day Camp: July 16-21

#### **WV Council of Churches –**

#### **CLERGY CONSULTATION ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

The West Virginia Council of Churches is sponsoring a *Clergy Consultation on Substance Use Disorder* on May 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at West Virginia Wesleyan College with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$15 registration fee to cover lunch.

The consultation will be an opportunity for clergy and friends in the Church from across the state to learn more about the central issues connected with substance use disorder, have discussion around those issues, and take concrete solutions back to their communities.

West Virginia has the highest rate of overdose deaths in our nation. Substance use disorder has become an epidemic in our state. It's because of this reality that the West Virginia Council of Churches has heeded a call to action. Through a generous grant from the Benedum foundation, we have met with people throughout West Virginia during listening events aimed at hearing the concerns, experiences, and stories of people affected in one way or another by the consequences of substance use disorder. The results of these events have become the motivation behind mobilizing clergy and churches around this issue. Those results will be presented and discussed during the Clergy Consultation. In addition, presenters from the front lines of the struggle as well share practical tips regarding Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery.

#### **About the West Virginia Council of Churches**

For 137 years, churches in West Virginia have come together in response to the need to improve the lives of the people of the state. In these times, we join as disciples united under the One who came, **"that all may have life, and have it abundantly"** (John 10:10).

As some of you may know, the United Methodist Church is addressing its biggest conflict in over 100 years as people of faith sort through their thoughts, feelings, and theology with regard to same-sex marriages. One place this is in the news this week comes from our denomination's session with the Judicial Council, the kind of "supreme court" of the Church, as it considers the Church's right to appoint ministers or bishops who are practicing homosexuality. Below are some thoughts to the Church from our resident Bishop, Sandra Steiner-Ball.

#### **A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP**

Dear Members and Friends of the West Virginia Conference:

This week, April 25 – 28, the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church will be meeting. One of the items on the Judicial Council's docket will be a petition from the South Central Jurisdiction requesting a declaratory decision on the election, consecration, and assignment of Bishop Oliveto. Bishop Oliveto, who is in a

same gender marriage, was elected, consecrated and assigned as a United Methodist Bishop in July by the Western Jurisdiction.

As the Judicial Council meets I invite you to be in prayer for their discernment and their work. There has been great interest and anxiety over how this Judicial Council might handle the petition from the South Central Jurisdiction.

To that end, let me share a few facts about the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council does not have the responsibility or authority to change the Book of Discipline. Only the General Conference of the United Methodist Church can change the Book of Discipline.

The Judicial Council consists of nine members, both clergy and lay, elected by the General Conference from both inside and outside the United States. The job of the Judicial Council is to determine the constitutionality and legality of actions taken by General, Jurisdictional, annual conferences, and individuals in relation to the current Book of Discipline and previous rulings of the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council only acts to interpret the constitutionality and legality of specific actions in certain circumstances upon request, and the work of the Judicial Council is defined by the request itself.

The meeting and outcome of the Judicial Council's discernment and decisions does not impact the on-going work of the Commission on a Way Forward. The Commission's work remains focused on discerning how The United Methodist Church can move forward in the midst of its differences regarding human sexuality. The Commission seeks to find a way forward that will help the Church to flourish in the Church's disciple making mission while growing vital congregations that both address the needs of God's people and become conduits of Christ's transforming power.

In the days ahead I invite you to pray with me. I pray for God's help in keeping us from being distracted from Christ's mission, and the Church's mission of reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I pray for The United Methodist Church as The Commission on a Way Forward does its work. I pray that I, and all of us who are followers of Christ, actively seek to have the heart, mind, and spirit of Christ.

May the power of God's Holy Spirit breathe life, love, and hope into us and into the Church that we might discern and courageously walk and live in God's will and God's way.

Grace and Peace,  
Sandra Steiner Ball  
Resident Bishop, WV Conference

It's important to provide our families and community with helpful information a variety of issues with which we struggle. Included here in today's installment is a short article from seedbed.com, a product from Christian leaders with an orthodox Wesleyan perspective, after the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley.

### **My Little Angel (the Porn Addict)**

– by Chris McKenna

By some estimates, there are around 1 billion websites (and the number is constantly growing). Others estimate that somewhere between 4-14% of all websites are pornographic. This means that there are somewhere between 38-140 million inappropriate places for our kids to stumble into. On October 2, 2015, I received this Facebook message from a local parent, who gave me permission to share this:

"Hi, I'm guessing I'm not the first parent to send an email like this. Last night we found out our 15 year old son has been looking at porn on his phone for the last nine months. My initial fury and horror quickly led me to shame that we hadn't protected him and that I was too arrogant and naive to believe my son would do this. He's a good kid, kids like him would never do this. Please feel free to share some of my story as an illustration that it CAN be your child. If I didn't worry about protecting his reputation I would be shouting out to everyone I know to set up the blocks on EVERYTHING! Don't be fooled into thinking your child could never do it."

For over 10 years working with tweens and teens, I'd say that most of the kids I've counseled are "good kids." They just made a bad choice. And the Internet allows them to make bad choices with blazing speed and ease. Yes, even your kids.

Every child deserves protection from the dangers lurking on portable, internet-ready devices. A balance between filtering, monitoring and conversation is the goal. For kids in the 4-14 age-range, I highly recommend Mobicip, which has been thoroughly tested as a filtered browser and monitoring tool. I also work with a group that has created age-specific, downloadable internet safety sheets for parents that are based on hundreds of hours of research on what we think works well whether they are in elementary, middle or high school.

If I can help you protect the young eyes in your own home and those of the families you serve, please let me know. You can contact me at

[protectyoungeyes@gmail.com](mailto:protectyoungeyes@gmail.com).

This article appeared in Seedbed; [www.seedbed.com](http://www.seedbed.com)  
**Chris McKenna:** After a 12-year career in business advising with Ernst & Young, Chris McKenna moved into church ministry. Chris has been with Cornerstone Church for 10 years leading middle school ministry and working as the Director of Generosity. Fueled by a steady stream of parent concerns, Chris created Protect Young Eyes, a website and ministry aimed at protecting kids from the dangers lurking on portable, internet-ready

devices. At home, he loves on four energetic kids, an amazing spouse, and he enjoys running while listening to God share wild ideas for his life.  
<https://protectyouneyes.com/strategies/>



- 04: David & Christy Hedrick
- 05: Jason & Beth Carney
- 11: Robby & Lois Baker
- 13: Robert & Kay Ratcliff
- 19: Steve & Janet Sebert
- 21: Terry & Robin Triplett
- 23: Ed & Sue Knisely  
Kevin & Kim Lantz
- 24: Brian & Angie Lingenfelter
- 26: Dan & Becki Harless
- 27: Paul & Vickie Short
- 28: Jim & Teresa Pickett



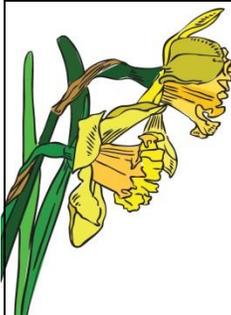
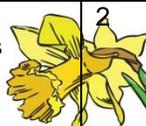

06: Ronnie Dolin Brandon McClung Jana Whitt	20: Julia Dickens Nathan Kinker Elizabeth Williams
10: Ethan Ball	23: Mary A. Howard
12: Jon Fannin Janet Sebert	24: Amy Adkins Pat Cornwell Sue Knisely
14: Evan Jarvis Doris Staton Steve Swann	27: Janice Eddy Georgann Holbrook
15: Maddie Nease	28: Richard Fillmore
17: Audrey Pickett Owen Smith	29: Sandy Boggess
18: Todd Lester	31: Karen Canfield Ella Fetty
19: Seth Adkins Sharon Hockenberry Terry Triplett	



**May**

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 07: Kim Stanley    | Kelly McGuffin |
| 14: Donnie Barbour | Mike McClung   |
| 21: Tony Ryder     | Pat Cornwell   |
| 28: Kelly McGuffin | Donnie Barbour |

# May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 -7:00 Trustees Meeting	2 	3	4 	5	6
7 Communion	8 -Adm. Council 7:00	9	10 -All Stars Closing Program 6:00	11 -1:00 Lydia Circle -7:00 Esther/Ruth Circle -7:00 Crew Scouts	12	13
14 <i>Mother's Day</i>	15	16	17	18 -7:00 Esther/Ruth in NFH	19	20 -9:15 Vision Team
21 -12:00 Adm. Council in OFH -Vision Team	22 -SPPR Committee 7:00	23	24	25 -7:00 Crew Scouts	26	27
28	29  <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives</i>	30	31			

## Weekly Events

### Sunday—

8:45 Early Worship  
9:45 Sunday School  
10:45 Morning Worship  
6:00 Youth  
6:30 Evening Worship

### Monday—

6:30 Sea Scouts/Cub Scouts  
7:30 Boy Scouts

### Tuesday—

6:30 Celebrate Recovery, SFH

### Wednesday—

5:30 All Stars  
5:30 Youth  
6:45 Bible Study  
7:45 Choir

### Thursday—

7:00 M. Call gym

### Friday—

### Saturday—

8:00 Men's Bible Study