

Memorial Methodist Messenger

Memorial United Methodist Church, Russell Cheatham, Pastor

P.O. Box 9, 403 Court Street, Appomattox, VA 24522 (434)352-5705 memorialumc5705@gmail.com

Our Mission is to help others grow in the love and joy of Jesus Christ

JANUARY 2020



Reaching Out with Russell... on a Happy *NEW* Year!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."
2 Corinthians 5:17 LB

Surely, the above scripture has to be one of my all-time very favorites. When I heard it for the first time, I thought this is certainly something I want to hope for. Could I dare believe it is possible? Surely God wouldn't lie!

E. Stanley Jones says "that in and out of Christ represent two worlds – the world of heaven and the world of hell, the world of creation and the world of decay, the world of life and the world of death.

"Take for example, the disciples: as long as they stayed in Christ, obeyed His will, caught His ways, and showed His Spirit they were happy, constructive and creative. The moment they stepped out of Him even in thought and attitude, they became unhappy, destructive, and noncreative."

So, as long as I am choosing to be "in Christ," I am a new person! He has made me new and when I *act* like that new person, I enjoy myself and I experience peace and contentment.

The thing is, though, my experience prior to knowing Jesus was that "new" always gets old. Puppies and kittens grow into dogs and cats. Babies grow up. I remember turning twenty-five years old and talking to my mom over the phone on my birthday and she told me, "Well, it's all 'over the hill' from here on out!" Things do grow old. Nothing ever stays new. How can that spark of newness continue?

What do we have to do to bring about newness in Christ every day as His followers? By faith we keep returning to Him. We think about Him. We thank Him and praise Him. We practice His Presence with us daily. We obey Him through what He has told us in His Word. We seek Him every day knowing that He is constantly seeking us and He loved us first. We feel blessed.

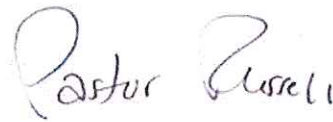
So how can we keep having a happy new year all year long? It is all about keeping our focus on our relationship "in Christ" first and foremost. We do it through worship, prayer, daily reading and studying God's Word in the Bible, fellowshiping with other believers, and passing our faith along through witnessing to others what Christ is doing in our lives.

Just as our relationships in this world are always needing attention, so it is in our relationship with the Lord. Hebrews 6:1 says, "Let us go on and become mature in our understanding." The circumstances of our lives are in constant flux. God, our Rock, remains the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He never gets old. He is always in control. He has wonderful plans for each of us that we don't know: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him"

(1 Corinthians 2:9). We can't out-dream God and what He has for each of us in our personal journeys with Him. Each day with Him really is a new adventure. It promises to be a new thing.

As you continue to choose Jesus Christ as the Source of all new life daily, may you experience a Happy NEW Year in 2020!

Praise the Lord!



Pastor Russell

Special January Dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2020*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2020*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2020*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2020*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2020*

MUMC SERMONS FOR JANUARY 2020

January 5

"A Song, A Star, A Savior"

Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion

We journeyed through Advent discovering again the gift of Jesus Christ. Epiphany marks the celebration of the truth of Jesus as God incarnate who came for the whole world as depicted in the visit of the Magi. The three things that make this a celebration of spiritual growth are a song we can sing, a star we can follow, and a Savior we can worship.

January 12

"An Invitation that Went Astray"

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism of the Lord

God uses the misunderstanding between John and Jesus to show us what it means to be a baptized follower of Jesus Christ.

January 19

"On Having the Right Credentials"

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

If we are to be believed and accepted by others, we each need the right credentials. They are important. As Christians our credentials are our calling by God, our changed life and strong character, and our faithful commitment to Jesus.

January 26

"Fans or Followers?"

1 Corinthians 4:18-22

Fans are persons who have an enthusiastic admiration of someone. Fans want a no strings-attached relationship. Christians are persons who follow the teachings of Christ. Jesus said the evidence of the actions of your love reveal yourself as a Christ follower. Are you a fan or a follower?



Christmas Decorations

The Flower Committee would like to express their appreciation to those who so generously donated to our Flower Fund in order that the church be decorated for the Christmas season.



In Honor Of:

Bryan & Megan Henderson
Given by Becky & Ronnie Henderson

Our Church Family
Given by Betty & Skeeter Armstrong

Trenton & Expectant Grandchildren
Given by Lisa & Blair Smith

Nelwyn Smith
Given by Lisa & Blair Smith

Elizabeth Jamerson
Given by Anne & Richard Robinson

Kathy & Rick Woodall
Given by Russell Moore

Anne & Richard Robinson
Given by Russell Moore

Rebecca Rosser
Given by Estaline McCraw

Peggy Lotts
Given by Estaline McCraw

Dr. & Mrs. William Burger
Given by Estaline McCraw

Dr. & Mrs. William Burger
Given by Kathy & Rick Woodall

Russell Moore
Given by Kathy & Rick Woodall

Daphne Jackson
Given by Kathy & Rick Woodall

Francis Knight
Given by Kathy & Rick Woodall

Elsie Ranson
Given by Cindy & Ronnie Ranson

Daphne Jackson
Given by Cindy & Ronnie Ranson

Our parents, Sandy & Gerald Wilbun
Given by Matt, David Wilbun & Betsy Ranson

Peggy Lawson
Given by Judy Smith

Jack & Pam Evans
Given by Kindle, Eli, Warren & Amal

Jack & Pam Evans
Holly, Seth, Ella Mae & Grady

Elsie Ranson
Given by Nancy & Ronnie Dawson

In Memory Of:

All Family Members
Becky & Ronnie Henderson

Janet & Robert Edginton
Given by Dawn & J.R. Elliott

Nick Dillon
Given by Marie & Ken Milton

Mother, Gladys Honig
Given by Deborah Long

The Arthur, Maxwell & Myers Family Members
Given by Lin & Tom Maxwell

Lucy & Joe Irvine
Given by Donna Irvine

Samuel L. Ferguson III
Given by Hilda Ferguson

Our Loved Ones
Jane & Charles Perdue

Neola Smith
Given by Peggy Lawson

Alice Moore
Given by Russell Moore

Rev. & Mrs. Richard A. Bergdoll
Given by Carolyn & George Bergdoll

Mr. & Mrs. W. Twyman Coleman
Given by Carolyn & George Bergdoll

Dan G. Coleman
Given by Carolyn & George Bergdoll

Rev. Thomas Jackson
Given by Cindy & Ronnie Ranson

Thomas Ranson
Given by Cindy & Ronnie Ranson

Seth Rothgeb
Given by Cindy & Ronnie Ranson

Mary P. & W.S. Gills
Given by Charles Gills

Marian & Charlie Carter
Given by Joyce & G.H. Jamerson

Loved Ones
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Brian Thomas

Our Grandparents, Dr. & Mrs. P.J. Winn and Hazel & Robert Wilbun
Given by Matt, David & Betsy Ranson

Susan Holland
Given by John Holland

Neola & Grover Smith
Given by Judy Smith

Alton Smith
Given by Judy Smith

Millie & David Trent
Given by Betty Hill

Millie & David Trent
Given by Brenda & John Giles

Sandra Trent Millner
Given by Betty Hill

Sandra Trent Millner
Given by Brenda & John Giles

Sarah Belle Evans
Given by Kindle, Eli, Warren & Amal

Sarah Belle Evans
Given by Holly, Seth, Ella Mae & Grady

Roxy Dennis
Given by Laura Dennis

John & Chris Dennis
Given by The Dennis & Romano families

Tom Ranson
Given by Nancy & Ronnie Dawson

June & Charlie Dawson
Given by Nancy & Ronnie Dawson

Seth Rothgeb
Given by Nancy & Ronnie Dawson

Nick Dillon
Given by Nancy & Ronnie Dawson

May Christ Be the Light in Your Christmas



WELCOME

New Members

Welcome to the
Memorial United
Methodist Family
Howlett & Faye
Hunter!!!

December 22, 2019



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

God Never Wastes a Hurt!

20/20 VISION

Can you believe it is 2020?

One picture I carry from childhood is of my grade school teacher talking about the turn of the century and how we would all live to see the next century. We were assigned to write an essay on what we saw ourselves doing New Year's Eve on 12/31/1999. I saw myself as so old in 1999 that I could not envision myself being able to do anything, just living in a nursing home, eating milk toast. Ok, my ability to see the future was not 20/20. And, her vision of us all living to see the turn of the century did not happen either. It turned out that the image of WWI being the war to end all wars, and the perception of WWII being the last great conflict were not accurate, several classmates did not come back from Viet Nam.

Then December 1999 came, we had been married for less than a year, and I was in management at a high tech company where we employed lots of highly educated people who frantically worked on fixing the Y2K bug. The generally envisaged concept was that all the computers were going to crash at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999. Friends had a 20 years supply of dry food in their basement because they had Ph.D.'s in computer science and could foretell a crisis coming. (Note to self, call friends to find out if they have eaten all those dried beans.) I stayed up to watch TV, not to see the ball drop but to see if mayhem occurred as the computers' internal clocks clicked to 12:01 AM 1/1/2000. First to register the click to the new century was Christmas Island, then New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Singapore.

Here is trivia for you, it takes 26 hours for the time to change around the world. And, no, I did not even stay up until the ball dropped in NYC. I figured if I had not witnessed the total collapse of the computer systems in the first several countries to enter the new century, we were safe here in the good old USA.

Now it is 20 years later. Yes, we've watched two decades pass in front of our eyes since the turn of the century. Yes, it is 2020, but is our vision any closer to 20/20?

The first turn we decode at CR is overcoming our denial. That is looking at ourselves with 20/20 vision; mistakes, hurts, hang-ups, harmful habits ... or as the saying goes ... warts and all. Denial is viewed as the primary roadblock to change, to recovery, to healthy living. Refusing to concede that something is wrong is an unhealthy way of coping with stress, conflict, painful thoughts, threatening information, fear, or anxiety. We can be in denial about many things. We can be in denial about events that make us vulnerable, actions that threaten, feelings that we are losing control, or struggles. Struggles include shame, addictions, eating disorder, grief, financial problems, co-dependency, depression, anxiety, body image, or relationship conflicts.

The good news, help to get the right prescription for 20/20 vision is available. Hope to see you Tuesday nights at 6:45 in Legacy Hall, where we take off our masks, put on our glasses and face our problems with God's help.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19





I wish to extend a special thank you to Gerald Wilbun for delivering a beautiful poinsettia to me on behalf of the church. Also, thanks to Dr. Burger for delivering a beautiful Christmas plant from himself and Joann. Your thoughtfulness always means so much to me and my family, and I truly appreciated both of you visiting me.

Loretta Layne



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

The Memorial United Methodist Church continues to be a tremendous success, touching the lives of many in the Appomattox Community! We should all be gratified that the Lord has given our church this opportunity to offer such a wonderful outreach to those who want to have a realistic approach to their life.

-George Bergdoll

Celebrating Israel

Memorial UMC Group Trip Apr 21-28, 2020

Let's celebrate ISRAEL in the Spring of 2020! The cost is \$3099 per person (double occupancy) plus \$163 optional trip insurance. Trip is all-inclusive except for lunch and insurance. The group is limited to 45 people. Downpayment to reserve your spot is \$500 (plus optional insurance \$163) per person.

If you'd like additional information,
contact Sue Eggleston at 434-664-7325
or sueeggleston918@gmail.com.



Just FYI, January 20, 2020, will be the absolute deadline for anyone interested in going with our MUMC group to Israel in April 2020. If your down payments haven't been received by that date, the spaces that have been reserved for our group will be released.

If you are still interested and pondering about this trip, please let me know. This trip is open to anyone that might be interested so you can share this information with your friends and family. I can send more information if you let me know. Thank you.

Final payment is due March 7, 2020.

Love, Sue



WALK WITH A DOC PROGRAM...
here in Legacy Hall!!!
January 18th 9:30- 10:30
3rd Saturday of Every Month
(Winter Nov-March inside @ MUMC LH!)



Walk with a Doc is a walking program for everyone interested in taking steps for a healthier lifestyle. What better way to start your weekend than on your feet making strides to help your heart and improving your general health to live longer! While you walk at your own pace, you'll have the opportunity to have questions answered by local physicians. This program was started in Columbus, OH in April of 2005 by Dr. David Sabgir and has now expanded throughout the country. You don't need any special gear and there are no special rules. Just put on a pair of comfortable shoes and walk alone, with friends, a partner or family or with a group. It's a personal preference.

<http://walkwithadoc.org/our-locations/appomattox-va/> Or find on Facebook Walk with a Doc Appomattox.

January:



Fun for Seniors

SUPER SENIOR NEWS:

Our active group of Super Seniors enjoyed Handel's Messiah & Hallelujah Chorus December 8 at Farmville United Methodist Church and then dined at The Fish and Pig. We will meet Tuesday, January 7, at 9 a.m. for a Dutch treat breakfast at Rail Yard Restaurant.

Mark your calendar.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year's Eve

Want something to do on New Year's Eve with your family that doesn't require you to stay up until Midnight? We will have a light dinner in Legacy Hall at 6pm and will play games and socialize until about 9pm. The gym area will be open for the kids to play. We will provide barbeque, slaw, rolls, chips and drinks. Feel free to bring any other snack item to share while we gather.

2019/ 2020 Holy Communion

At 9pm, we will have a short time together to reflect on 2019 and to look forward to the blessings of 2020. Holy Communion will be offered.

Dinner and fellowship, followed by Holy Communion at 9pm. Please consider attending any part of our New Year's Eve that would interest you.



SOUP LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Come hungry Sunday, January 26, 2020 and help the Missions Committee raise money to support our mission projects. There will be six different soups as well as dessert and you can eat either in Legacy Hall or choose carry out. The soups/desserts will be ready following Sunday School.



The Missions committee of Memorial United Methodist Church exists to reach out to the needy and to spread the gospel. Its main focus is to involve the congregation in

Missions. It is equally committed to local, national, and international needs. If you want to experience the joy of spreading the gospel and helping the needy, join us in one of our hands on Missions

Opportunity! If you are interested in finding out more information or giving ideas on missions opportunities, please contact the church office at 434-352-5705.

A LETTER FROM OUR COVENANT MISSIONARY, CLARA M. BISWAS:

What is a Covenant Missionary?

A Covenant Missionary is when the Church enters into and commits to a continuing relationship with that Missionary through financial and spiritual support. At this time Clara M. Biswas, Street Children Ministry in Cambodia, is our only Covenant Missionary. We have been covenant partners with Clara for the last several years. We hope that you will pray for Clara and her team throughout their missions in 2020 and beyond.



General Board of Global Ministries

Street Children Ministry

UMC, MMC Cambodia

Merry Christmas 2019

Dear Friends,

Once again, we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus, the reason of our being. He is also the reason of our loving and sharing. Most of all, Jesus is the reason of being here in Cambodia, the reason why the Board of Global Ministries have this mission, I thank God it also the reason why God has called me to get involved and have the opportunity to love and live with our sisters and brothers here in Cambodia. It is because that He first loved us that we who have received him as Lord and Savior love him as well. And by loving Him we obey his command, "Go therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world."...(Matthew 28: 18-20)

We are partners in this venture. We have been helping each other through the years. It is now 19 years that you and I have been sending your assistance for this ministry. Through your prayers and financial assistance the love of Gos is concretized through our work with the Street Children Ministry.

Blessings have been pouring out from your kind hearts in order to sustain our program. The Street Children in Cambodia, together with their families have been enjoying blessings upon blessings. We bring Christ to the hearts and homes of these less privileged children and their families. They come to know Christ not only through word, but through concrete assistance in their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Once again, the under-privileged children, HIV/AIDS patients, and the sick people of Cambodia, want to send you their heartfelt gratitude through this letter. Thank you so much. As we celebrate Christmas this season, we praise God through our simple activities of songs, dances, dramatization and sharing food together. Thank you for the gifts that are only possible because you have open hearts bountiful of love to share to the last, least and lost. Our activities are educational guided tours, Sunday school, orphanage visits, and celebrating national festivities. As we do this, we are joyful for the many changes that happen in their lives. They are all responsible family members and become good citizens, leaders in their respective communities. They become instruments of God to bring the Good News as they receive this good news from us. Thank you again and again. Attached are Christmas Cards painted and sketched personally by our gifted children who are recipients of our love. May God bless you more and more. A blissful Christmas and Prosperous New Year are all that we can do. We praise God for you.



God bless you.

Clara M. Biswas

Team Leader of
Street Children Ministries,
GBGM, UMC PO BOX 2493
Phnom Penh 3, Cambodia



January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 6:30 PM – Enter to Pray, Parlor CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:30 AM – Exercise Class, LH 6-7 PM – Ready, Set, Grow	3 Pray for the Guatemala Missions Trip Jan 3 rd -11 th	4
5 8:30 AM – Early Worship 9:30 AM – Holy Grounds 9:45 AM – Sunday School 9:45 AM – Confirmation Class Begins 11:00 AM – Worship 1:30 PM – Homebound Communion 5:30-7:00 PM – Youth United	6 Epiphany  6:30 PM – Men's Basketball	7 8:30 AM – Exercise Class 9 AM – Super Seniors' Dutch-treat Breakfast, Rail Yard Restaurant 9:30 AM – Church Office Staff Meeting 6:45 PM – Celebrate Recovery	8 4:45-5:30 – Feeding children at the Jesus Center 5:30 PM – Handbells 6:30 PM – Choir Practice 6:30 PM – Enter to Pray, Parlor 7:30 PM – UMM Meeting	9 8:30 AM – Exercise Class, LH	10	11
12 8:30 AM – Early Worship 9:30 AM – Holy Grounds 9:45 AM – Sunday School 9:45 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM – Worship 5:30-7:00 PM – Youth United	13 6:30 PM – Men's Basketball	14 8:30 AM – Exercise Class 9:30 AM – Church Office Staff Meeting 6:30 PM – Finance Committee Meeting 6:45 PM – Celebrate Recovery	15 5:30 PM – Handbells 6:30 PM – Choir Practice 6:30 PM – Enter to Pray, Parlor 7:30 PM – Church Council	16 8:30 AM – Exercise Class, LH 1:30- 3:30 PM – Mission Opportunity at Gleaning for the World	17	18 Walk with the Doc Community Program, Legacy Hall 9:30- 10:30am
19 8:30 AM – Early Worship 9:30 AM – Holy Grounds 9:45 AM – Sunday School 9:45 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM – Worship 5:30-7:00 PM – Youth United	20 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM – Men's Basketball 	21 8:30 AM – Exercise Class 9:30 AM – Church Office Staff Meeting 6:45 PM – Celebrate Recovery	22 5:30 PM – Handbells 6:30 PM – Choir Practice 6:30 PM – Enter to Pray, Parlor 7:30 PM – Worship Committee Meeting	23 8:30 AM – Exercise Class, LH	24	25
26 8:30 AM – Early Worship 9:30 AM – Holy Grounds 9:45 AM – Sunday School 9:45 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Missions Committee Soup Luncheon Fundraiser, Legacy Hall 5:30-7:00 PM – Youth United	27 6:30 PM – Men's Basketball	28 8:30 AM – Exercise Class 9:30 AM – Church Office Staff Meeting 6:45 PM – Celebrate Recovery	29 9:00 AM – Newsletter Mailing Team 5:30 PM – Handbells 6:30 PM – Choir Practice 6:30 PM – Enter to Pray, Parlor	30 8:30 AM – Exercise Class, LH	31	

Nursery Helpers



CHILDREN'S CHURCH



EW Leaders

January 5	Debbie & Delia Baine, Donna Irvine	Carrie Lewis
January 12	Shannah Wilbun, Beth Frady	Adam Dillon
January 19	Melanie Reel, LeeAnn Robinson	Jimmie Wells
January 26	Dawn or JR Elliott, Tori Rothgeb	Carrie Lewis

1/5	Dan Turner
Communion Assistants:	
	Barry & Debra Jones
1/12	Nathan Putney
1/19	Victor Vernon
1/26	Doug Webb



Worship Assistants

1/5	Skeeter Armstrong
Communion Assistants: Dow & Penny Mongold	
1/12	Tori Rothgeb
1/19	Sue Eggleston
1/26	Kathy Dickerson



1/5	Susie Barbour
1/12	Betsy Ranson
1/19	Lexi Ranson & Brennan Ranson
1/26	Sue Eggleston



EW Greeters

1/5	Barry & Debra Jones
1/12	Tom & Lin Maxwell
1/19	Doug & Sheila Webb
1/26	Chris Woodall & Victor Vernon



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Jan	Loretta Layne
2 Jan.	Mike Walsh
7 Jan.	Hannah Lee Baine
7 Jan.	Joyce Garrett
8 Jan.	Tom Maxwell
8 Jan.	Adam Dillon
8 Jan.	Lucy Harvey
8 Jan.	Benny Harvey
10 Jan.	Julie Cheatham
12 Jan.	Phil Bass
12 Jan	Rose Hall
13 Jan	Chris Blondak
13 Jan.	Dylan Slayton
13 Jan.	Evan Neiswander
14 Jan.	Bobby Waddell
14 Jan.	Debra Jones
17 Jan.	Hallie Drinkard
17 Jan.	Rick Blake
20 Jan.	Miranda Deaner
21 Jan.	Joanne Burger
21 Jan.	Chuck Nepage
23 Jan.	JR Morton (2017)
25 Jan.	Gary Mantiply
28 Jan.	Susie Barbour
28 Jan.	Richard Long
29 Jan.	Marie Milton
30 Jan.	Tom Gilliam
31 Jan.	John Holland
31 Jan.	James Garrison



11:00 GREETERS

All Month: Richard & Anne Robinson



SERVICE BUILDERS

1/5	Justin Rothgeb
1/12	Sam Morton
1/19	John Morton
1/26	Chris Dillon



Monitor Operators

	<u>Early Worship:</u>	<u>11:00 Worship:</u>
1/5	Mary Turner	Joe Davis
1/12	Mary Turner	Eddie Wells
1/19	Mary Turner	Skeeter Armstrong
1/26	Mary Turner	Joe Davis



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Jan.	Laura & Steve Lawson
31 Jan.	Betty & C.W. Guthrie

Prayer Ushers

Early Worship	
1/5	Cindy Ranson, Julie Cheatham
1/12	Brenda & Nathan Putney
1/19	Cindy Ranson, Joan Holt
1/26	Brenda & Nathan Putney

11:00 Worship	
1/5	Sue & Mitch Eggleston
1/12	Anne Robinson, Penny Mongold
1/19	Justin & Tori Rothgeb
1/26	Janet Noble, Marie Milton

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Recent Prayer Needs:

Tommy Bryant (Beverly Davidson's brother-in-law), back surgery
UMC leaders conducting MUMC Pastor Search
Pastor Russell & Julie's upcoming retirement season
MUMC 2020 Confirmation Class
Courtney Curry (friend of the Bergdoll's)
Tony Freedman (UM Rev. Freedman Kim's son)
Doug Doss Jr. (Father of Melissa Doss)
Jean Johnson (Joe Davis' mother-in-law)
Barbara Falwell (relative of Carolyn Bergdoll)
Nancy Horton (stoke, fall – relative of Mindy Blake)
Shawn & Jennifer Walsh (Jean Walsh's son & daughter-in-law)
John Kinnard (David Leckrone's friend)
Ethan Nadolson (Steve Nadolson's son)
Karen Ramsey (wife of Norman Ramsey, Breast Cancer)
Janet Lowery (Skeeter & Betty Armstrong's niece)
Carrie B. Lloyd (Rick & Mindy Blake's daughter)
Linda Thomas Turner (Beverly Thomas' cousin)
Walter David Jr. (Betty Guthrie's brother)
Robin Parsons (daughter of the Parsons- cancer)
Vicky Jones (Stroke- Peg Lawson's niece)
Timothy Lloyd (Skeeter & Betty's Grandson)
Frances Parsons (Bob Parson's mother)
Sally Rigby (Rena Baine's cousin – on hospice)
Dianne Marsh (stroke, heart surgery)
Doug Howard (relative of Pastor Russell)
Patricia Wallace (Melissa Doss' aunt)
Michelle Denis (Hospice, friend of Parson's)
Judy Ferguson (aunt of Dawn Elliott)
Cassidy Richardson
Cayden Walsh (Walsh's grandson)
Rick Blake
Doug Seamster
Mike Antower (Mongold's nephew)
Adele Richardson
Manning & Myrt Harrell
Phil & Connie Bass
Victor Vernon III.
Cheryl Skipper
Tom Conrad
Dorinda Grasty (PRAISE & prayer)
Myrtle White
Sharee Whitmer (cancer)
Gary Lindsay (cancer)

Continuing Concerns:

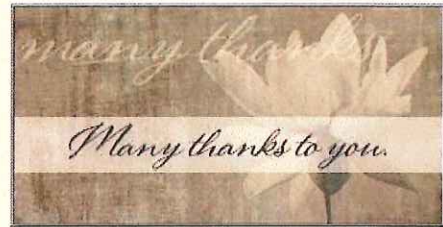
-Babcock Manor: Anne Weakley & Margaret Wilson & Lorene Lucado & Estaline McCraw
-Valley View Retirement Community: Mary Martin 401A
-Bentley Commons: Daphne Jackson
-Heritage Green Assisted Living, Rm. 101: Elizabeth Jamerson
-St. Joseph's Home: Frances Rogers

Margaret Moon, Victor & Susan Vernon, Manning & Myrt Harrell, Hazel Thomas, Sara Baine, Myrtle White
VA Conference Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, District Superintendent Denies Bates, Pastor Russell & MUMC Leaders,
Youth United, Members of our Armed Services stationed overseas and here at home, Police Force & Special Agencies,
President Trump/World leaders/ The United States of America, All Refugees

Our Missionary Partners:

YoungLife (Appomattox, VA) Central Virginia VA27, P.O. Box 3543 Lynchburg, VA 24503-0543; (giving.younglife.org)
The Jesus Center (Appomattox, VA) P.O. Box 322 Appomattox, VA 24522
Clara Biswas, Street Children Ministries (Cambodia) clarabiswas@online.com.kh (advance.umcmmission.org/p-1509-biswas-clara-mridula.aspx)
Chris & Paula McNutt, Hope of Life, Mt. Comfort (Guatemala) 445 Abbitt Branch Rd. Appomattox, VA 24522 (passion4guatemala.com)
Charles & Becky Jackson, Generous Hands (Philippines) charlesbeckyjackson@msn.com
Emi Monges, Ambassadors for Christ (Paraguay) emimonges@hotmail.com <https://afciworld.org/what-we-do/focus-on-the-heart/>
The Mathers, Stepping Forward Ministries (Romania) Stepping Forward Ministries, PO Box 20065, Salem, Oregon 07307

Our Ministry of Prayer: Anyone wishing to receive prayer requests for our church and community send your email address to Marie Milton at mcmorgan112@gmail.com. If you would like a name on our printed bulletin Prayer list, please contact the church office at 352-5705. At the end of each month the Prayer List will be purged. Your help in removing names (when appropriate) and giving updates is greatly appreciated.



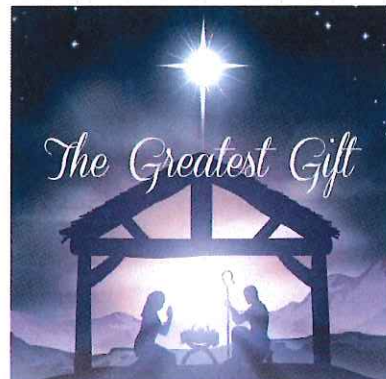
*To My Church Family, Pastor Russell & Julie,
Thank you Pastor Russell & Julie for attending
my Mother's funeral. Thank you to my Church
Family for all the cards, calls, and acts of
kindness during this difficult time.*

*Love,
Jeannie White*

Praise the Lord:

***The Cantata was a blessing as it helped us focus on the birth of Jesus.
Thanking God for all involved.***

***For the beautiful signs of Christmas in our church and throughout our town.
PTL for our children as they perform their Christmas play this morning!***





Special Prayer Requests

Lord, hear our prayer.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:12

Yes, God hears our prayers and I say (along with Pastor Russell), Praise the Lord! As your prayer chairperson, I am asking (with the support and encouragement of our Church Council) for each of you to pray for our upcoming pastoral change. The Methodist Conference has a mandatory retirement age of 72 for pastors and Pastor Russell is at that age. He and Julie will leave us in June ☹️ and the Conference will send us a new pastor then.

My prayer request is two-fold: First, let us pray for our District Superintendent, Denise Bates, our Bishop Lewis, and the Virginia Conference as they are already looking at pastoral changes across the state. They hope to complete all changes in a couple of months. Some of our church leaders have recently met with Denise Bates to talk about our church and its ministry and “what we wish to see in our next minister”. As a result of this, they believe she has our best interests in heart and mind. Let us pray, first of all, for a minister who is: outgoing, uplifting, and encouraging; open, receptive, inspiring; a dynamic public speaker who preaches from the Bible; models and encourages a strong prayer life; involved in the community; missions-oriented; supportive of the traditionalist plan and not the one church plan; and models and encourages us to follow our motto, “God’s love grows here”. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Secondly, pray for Pastor Russell and Julie as to move on to a “retired life”! Moving is stressful for anyone but to become a homeowner after a life of living in a church-supported parsonage presents new challenges and responsibilities for them. Pray for them to feel God’s peace and guidance throughout this moving process. Pray that they sense God’s love for them stronger than ever and that they know how much MUMC loves them and will always love them. Pray that we as their church family will know what we can do to help them with this transition. We love you, Pastor Russell and Julie, and are excited for you to enjoy retirement and this new stage of life! ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God, hear your people as they pray... Your will be done. Amen.

From your prayer chairperson, Marie Milton

*Thy will
be done*



COMPASS

A Message from Good News

Going our Separate Ways



In our book *Are We Really Better Together?*, Walter Fenton and I spent little time debating whether we United Methodists are better together.

Instead, we provided abundant evidence that progressives, centrists, and traditionalists are not together when it comes to our understanding of the Bible and its inspiration, our sexual ethics, or what it means to be in mission to the world.

Our book was part of a series of volumes commissioned by Abingdon Press. Others in the series contended that we needed to remain at the table and create a way forward together. No one is arguing for that any longer. Our thesis that United Methodists are not together has become the general consensus of the church. It took the most harmful General Conference the UM Church has ever experienced to make our irreconcilable differences clear to everyone. But now centrist leaders, church bureaucrats, and bishops are finally acknowledging what we have declared for decades – remaining at the table, listening to each other's story one more time, and pretending that our differences are just minor disagreements about relatively unimportant matters, cannot heal our divide.

The question the church must now answer is "How can we best part

company?" Our solution, supported by all the evangelical renewal movements within The United Methodist Church, is a respectful, negotiated settlement that creates two or three new denominations, each receiving its fair share of the assets of what is presently The United Methodist Church. Our main concern when it comes to the division of assets is that the church where it is the poorest and the fastest-growing (primarily Africa and Asia) be fully funded to continue its good work for Christ and his kingdom. Evangelicals receiving all we are entitled to is of lesser importance.

Unfortunately, many of those who so long denied the reality of our division, are now putting forth a solution that is neither fair nor amicable. Their proposal is that traditionalists leave the denomination. We can keep our buildings, after making certain financial payments, but the assets of the UM Church would remain with those who remain. And there are no guarantees that the church in Africa and Asia will be fully funded as we believe they should be.

The truth is that for decades we have been in touch with the reality that we are not together and have believed the best way forward is a respectful, negotiated parting of the ways. We will continue to work for this solution as we prepare for General Conference 2020. Please support us with your prayers and with your financial giving. Both are essential for our work and for the good of the church.

Rob Renfroe
President and Publisher

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A Christ-like Manner

by Tom Lambrecht

Over the last 20 years, I have witnessed friends and colleagues in other main-line denominations struggling with principled disagreements over the definition of marriage and the role of LGBTQ persons in the church. Will United Methodists deal with our differences in a Christ-like manner?

The United Methodist Church has an opportunity to do things differently – and better. At General Conference 2020 we can arrive at a fair plan of separation that allows annual conferences and local churches to choose their ministry direction. The Indianapolis Plan (indyplanumc.org) offers a framework for just such an equitable plan of separation.

It is time for the delegates to General Conference to acknowledge that separation is necessary, as well as beneficial for the church through the multiplication of different forms of United Methodist ministry. We need to let one another go in as fair and loving a way as possible. The United Methodist Church has the opportunity to show the world that we can resolve our conflict in a peaceful way, in the spirit of Jesus Christ. We can learn from the mistakes of those who have faced these issues before us and be the first denomination to take a different approach. After all, the world is watching.

Thomas Lambrecht is a United Methodist clergy person and the vice president of Good News.



Memorial United Methodist Church

Our Vision is to Help People Grow in the Love and Joy of Jesus Christ

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday:

8:30 AM – Early Worship

9:30 AM – “Holy” Grounds Breakfast

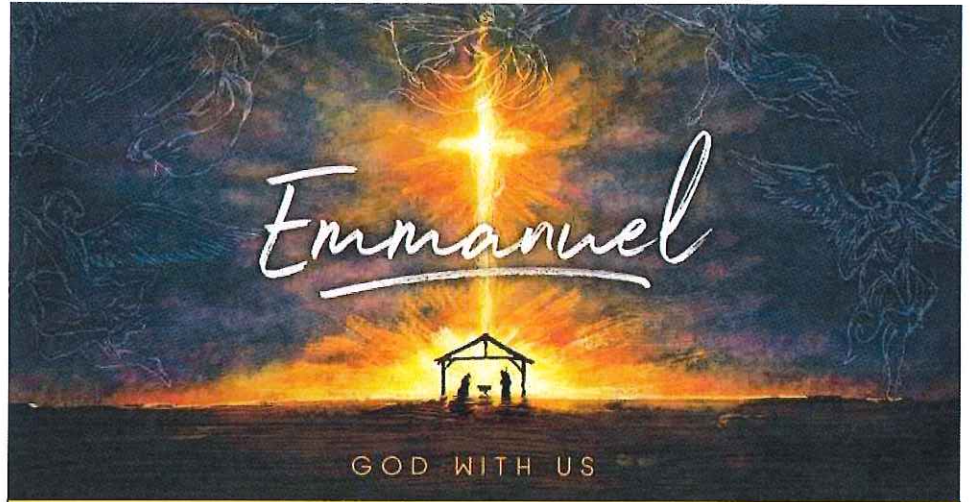
9:45 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship

5:30 PM- Youth United

Tuesday:

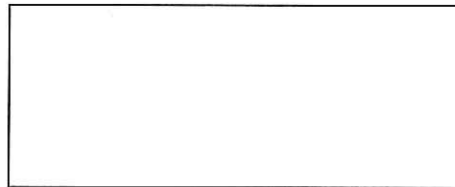
6:45 PM- Celebrate Recovery



2020

May God be with You & Bless You this New Year!

Look inside for more events happening at Memorial United Methodist Church!



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