

Thuse News

South Parkersburg United Methodist Church Newsletter

Sr. Pastor: The Rev. James Plyburn • 1813 Rayon Drive • Parkersburg, WV 26101
Jennifer Plyburn, DCE and Youth Ministries • 304-360-1373

Church Office: 304-428-1195 • Pastor Jim's Cell Phone: 304-360-3969 • Parsonage: 304-834-3521
Church email address: spumc1813@gmail.com • website: southparkersburgumc.org

MAY 2017

To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known

Pastor's Message

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:29b. That is the statement Jesus made to Thomas and the other Apostles in the Upper Room following Jesus' resurrection. Since Jesus' ascension, faith in Jesus Christ has been a matter not of "seeing is believing" but "hearing is believing". We believe based on what we have heard, read and experienced. Through faith, we have experienced God's mercy, forgiveness and love. Through faith, we have experienced the presence of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. For that reason, it is important, if not vital, that we share our experiences, our testimonies, our witnesses, with each other and with non-believers. The mission statement of South Parkersburg United Methodist Church states that we, as a body of believers seek, "To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known". My pray for this congregation is that each of us will seek to know Christ better through prayer and Bible study, participating in corporate study and worship when available, as well as daily seeking opportunities to invite others to know Christ, through prayer and sharing both the Gospel message and your own, personal testimony of how the presence and power of Jesus Christ was with you in the joyous times as well as the difficult times.

Let others hear the Good News, and "see" Christ in you!

Blessings and Prayers, *Pastor Jim*



The Magical World of Women

Saturday, May 13, 2017

5:30 p.m.

Christian Fellowship Center

Honoring All Mothers and Daughters

Meat and Drinks will be provided.

Please bring a vegetable salad or dessert to share.

Sign-up sheets are available in the sanctuary and
at the Visitors Center in the basement.

Please sign up so we know how many

Magical Women
to prepare for.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

HOMEBOUND:

Gerry Branch, Wilma Thompson, Maxine Custer,
Helen Boone, Roella Newbrough

NURSING HOMES:

WILLOWS: Owel Spencer (room 209);
phone 304-480-3071

WORTHINGTON: Betty Skinner

WYNGATE SENIOR LIVING: Mary Potts, Irene King,

CEDAR GROVE: 110 Nicolette Road (26104)

EAGLE POINTE:

LOVE AND CARE: Wanda Buckley -
5368 Dupont Rd, Room 16

Ohio Valley Healthcare: Phyllis McCormick

National Leaders; College Students; Students & Teachers in our schools; Police Officers & Firefighters; SPUMC Children & Youth; Scouting Ministry; SPUMC Outreach Ministry; Caregivers of those in Nursing Homes; The Unsaved.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Joseph Harris (Navy, Ed & Linda's son)
1250 Auwai Drive; Wahiawa - HI 96786

Travis Schade (Coast Guard)

Maria Schade (Navy)

Dylon Potts

Ryan Dean

David Williams



Pray Without Ceasing

Finance Committee Update

Below is a summary of the expenses and revenues in our Church's General Operating Fund through March of this year:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</u>
February YTD	\$41,974.32	\$39,299.11	(\$2,675.21)
March	\$22,973.45	\$16,350.87	(\$6,622.58)
2017 March Year-to-Date	\$64,947.77	\$55,649.98	(\$9,297.79)

As of the end of March, the General Operating Fund is "In the Hole" in the amount of \$9,297.79 for the year. Our expenses are greater than the funds we collected for the 1st three months of the year by nearly 17% resulting in this spending deficit.

Larry

KEEP SAVING THOSE "J"s!

Still saving J dollars even though we have purchased the refrigerator and ice maker!

Keep saving and give to Phyllis!

Please **DON'T** put them in the offering plate. Thanks!



Backpack Blessings

When our church family decided to minister to the hungry children of our community there were criteria applied by the school nurse and teachers who dealt with the children on a day to day basis. This same criteria is used today but the need has increased exponentially!

These children live below the poverty level and have been identified by their school nurse as not having enough to eat. They are the children who suffer from tummy aches, headaches and inability to concentrate due to being hungry.

Fairplains has 77% of children who are economically disadvantaged. Not surprising that we support more children there than the other two schools combined. Martin has 65% and Gihon has 50% economically disadvantaged.

It is clear the need exists and the schools confirm we are making a very real difference for these children. What is also clear is that increasing need equals increasing cost. When we started the program we served about 30 children now the need has grown to 190 children.

We have asked other churches about helping with this effort. Many other churches and civic groups already support backpack programs in other schools.

The need in Wood County is great. Out of 27 schools 17 have more than 50% economically disadvantaged students and 4 of them exceed the 70% mark. Unfortunately Food Pantries, (many of them also provide clothing and hygiene supplies) have been necessary in the middle and high school of our county.

The program has explored many cost reduction options and has settled on a healthier and slightly less expensive bag for the children. We have applied for and received grants over the last two years. The Riddle family also directed Memorial contributions to the program. All these things are helpful and sadly still not enough to support the increased need.

Our loving church family can no longer FULLY support the cost of this program.

We have received 2 grants so far for the 2017-2018 new school year but they are only a small portion of what is needed to continue in the fall.

As the Outreach Team faced having to eliminate the program Martin School stepped up with a way to help. They are sponsoring a Bingo event and donating all the profits to our Backpack Blessings program. It is

a win-win because it directly benefits their students as well as those at Fairplains and Gihon and allows our church to continue the program.

Your Outreach Team is working with Martin school to make their Backpack Blessings fund-raiser a success. There will be a flier in the bulletin with all the details and some ideas if you wish to help the Outreach Team help Martin School.



...“Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25: 40
NIV

Cathi



Stuffed Bags



Saturday, May 13

Martin School Cafeteria

Doors Open at Noon / Games Begin at 1:00

Special Theme Bags filled with Goodies!

20 Games for \$20

Early Bird • Raffles • Balloon Burst • 50/50 Concessions

Benefits **Backpack Blessings** Programs at Fairplains, Gihon and Martin Elementary Schools
(Provides bags of food for needy children for weekends)



Tickets Available at:
McCrary/Jones Insurance
Curtis Miller Insurance

and at the schools: Fairplains, Gihon and Martin

Christian Education News

from Jennifer Plyburn

Spring has arrived! What a beautiful season! Our children, youth and adults were involved in Lenten studies and we celebrated the beginning of Holy Week with palms waving and children parading around the sanctuary and singing! Holy Week services were held at Trinity United Methodist Church each weekday at noon with lunch following. It was a great time of worship and fellowship with our friends, neighbors, and even some family members from other churches in the South Parkersburg area. Our 2nd Annual Bunny Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 15th. Our youth did a great job planning and supervising the activities for the younger children and Pastor "Pancake" Plyburn and his crew of "flippers" served up some delicious pancakes and sausage! Thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way!

Easter Sunday dawned bright and beautiful and the sanctuary was filled with the fragrance of fresh flowers and the sights and sounds of our church family greeting one another with "Hosanna!" and "He is Risen!" Children - of all ages - were dressed up in new clothes and looked so colorful! The choir and Pastor Jim shared the Easter message in song and word... "Love Grew, Where the Blood Fell." Wow! Powerful!

And then, Monday came. Back to work. Back to school. No more egg hunts or special weekday services that include lunch. But wait! IT'S STILL EASTER!!! The celebration continues for 50 days! Christians around the world continue to remember and reflect and seek ways to renew their spirits and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! And what comes after 50 days? PENTECOST - the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church! That day falls on June 4th this year. How will we celebrate? How should we celebrate EVERY day?

SHARE HIS LIGHT AND LOVE! BE A BLESSING!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER – John 13:34

**DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.**

- John Wesley

As April comes to an end and we begin a new month, it will be busy with Spring sports, school activities, proms, graduations, vacations, and more. It will also be full of opportunities for you to be a witness...to shine His light...to love others...to DO something...to make a difference! And there will always be opportunities for you to learn and grow and serve Christ...by attending worship and actively participating in a class or study...volunteering to help on one of our ministry teams...reading God's word...praying! Let the celebration continue!

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS...

Sunday, May 21st – *Graduation Sunday* – Our high school and college graduates will be recognized during worship. Brunch will follow for the graduates and their immediate family.

High School graduates - *Madison Hoover, Sydney Staats, Katia Sadek, Yuna Yunadian*

College graduates - *Brittany Stephens (Marshall University),*

Megan Jones (West Liberty University)

Tuesday, May 23rd – 6:30 P.M. - VBS Training for all persons interested in helping in any way! Our Vacation Bible School will be held July 9th – 13th in the evening. The theme is HEROES.

SPARK continues through Wednesday, May 24th from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. for children ages 3 years old thru 5th grade. There will be a two week break before SUMMER SPARK begins in mid-June.

YOUTH GROUP meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. for Middle School and High School students.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first annual Spring Fling on April 8th. It was a great success and everyone had a good time. We raised over \$1,200.00 for both the United Methodist Women and the church for special projects, missions and outreach. We hope to do this again with our Cookie Caper in December and then again next spring. *Thanks again!!*