

THUSE NEWS MAY 2018

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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PASTORS MESSAGE

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Savior!

Signs of new life are all around. It is finally beginning to look like Spring! The pink dogwood tree in front of the parsonage is beginning to bloom, and I love the beauty it brings...and the reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for each of us. "The Legend of the Dogwood" reminds me that the blossoms are like His cross, with four "nail scarred and blood tipped" petals and a "crown of thorns" in the center. What a beautiful reminder of new life, following a long, cold winter and a slow start to Spring. Look around you and give thanks for the many signs of Spring and new life! As I am writing this article, I am giving thanks for the great privilege and honor of performing two baptisms during our worship service yesterday morning. Ella Faith Reed, daughter of Nick and Dani Reed, was presented for baptism and Allison Leach came forward for baptism and church membership. Lynn Leach, Allison's mother, joined our congregation by a letter of transfer from her former church. We celebrate and welcome these new additions to our congregation. Come celebrate this new season with your church family! There are many opportunities coming up in May. Take a look and add these to your calendar.

(continued on next page)

On May 9, 2018, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church will be hosting a “Way Forward Conversation” with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball beginning at 7:00 P.M. All are encouraged to attend this event to hear her share information and enter into conversation regarding the work of the Commission on the Way Forward.

Two important Sundays will be coming up in May (actually, all Sundays are important). May 13, 2018 will be both Mother's Day and Ascension Sunday. I invite you to wear shades of blue on this day in remembrance of the Ascension of the Risen Lord. The following Sunday, May 20, 2018 will be both Graduate Recognition Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. I invite you to wear shades of red, orange or yellow on this Sunday in remembrance of the “tongues, as of fire” that descended upon the Disciples, filling them with the Holy Spirit, and giving birth to the Church.

The month of May will conclude with a special evening of music and worship, as we host The Mark Trammel Quartet on May 27, 2018. The service begins at 7:00 P.M. Please plan to attend.

Finally, I have been asked to lift up the need for persons to fill some Church Officer positions. The Lay Leadership Committee is in search of a Chairperson of the Finance Committee (Larry Sexauer is serving as our interim Chairperson), Stewardship Chairperson, and Church Historian. If you are interested in one of these positions, please let me know.

Plan to join us each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening as we continue to celebrate, praise, and worship Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior!

Pastor Jim

IN MEMORY

In March we mourned the passing of a Saint of our Church Family – Larry Miller... We continue to cherish our memories of him and pray for his family.



D. Larry Miller

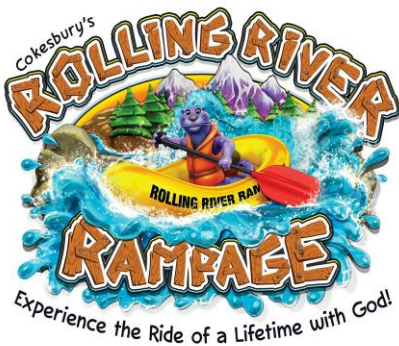
March 28, 2018

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

SPARK Schedule for May 2018

Our preschool and elementary children will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. on May 2nd, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. There will be NO SPARK on May 9th.

The children are working on special projects and will be singing during the worship service on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13th. SPARK will conclude on May 30th with special activities in the CFC. Watch the bulletin and next newsletter for announcements about SUMMER SPARK and summer camps for children!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8TH – 12TH

6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Ages 3 years old - 5th Grade
Adult Study 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Our church family is very proud of four young ladies who will be graduating this month. They will be recognized during the morning worship service on Sunday, May 20th. You will have an opportunity to greet them in the Gathering Area, following the morning worship service. Cards for our graduates may be placed in a basket on the counter in the Gathering Area throughout the month of May.



Lakin Hupp
Belpre HS



Jowel Naser
PSHS
International
Exchange
Student



Reide Prunty
PSHS



Hannah Deems
Belpre HS

YOUTH GROUP Schedule for May 2018

Our youth (grades 6 – 12) will meet on Sunday, May 6th and Sunday, May 20th from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. There will be NO YOUTH GROUP on Sunday, May 13th or Sunday, May 27th. All youth are encouraged to attend the evening worship service on Sunday, May 27th featuring The Mark Trammell Quartet. Watch the bulletin and next newsletter for announcements about our summer schedule and summer youth camps!

“LOADS OF LOVE”



One of our new ministries is providing quarters for our “Backyard Friends” to use at the nearby laundromat. Each plastic container holds approximately \$6.00 in quarters. That is enough to do two large loads of laundry. The mother of the five children who attend our church services, Sunday School, SPARK, and Youth Group regularly, is very grateful for this gesture of love. It means the world to her, to have clean clothes for her children. This is a luxury we take so for granted. Please help! You will find the empty plastic containers on the counter in the Gathering Area. Please take one and return it filled with quarters. Let's fill the washing machine with “Loads of Love”!

Jennifer Thyburn

Stuffed Bags



and More...!!!!



Saturday, May 19

South Parkersburg United Methodist
Christian Fellowship Center

1813 Rayon Drive

Doors Open at Noon / Games Begin at 1:00 p.m.

Special Theme Bags filled with Goodies!

20 Games for \$20 donation

Early Bird • Silent Auction • Pick-a-Prize •

Door Prizes • Concessions

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



Tickets Available at:

J & M Used Book Store

McCrary/Jones Insurance

Curtis Miller Insurance

and at the schools: Fairplains, Gihon and Martin

For Information call Annie Johnson 304-494-7012

UNITED METHODIST MEN



A reminder that the United Methodist Men are collecting travel sized toiletry products for the salvation army. The collection bin is located downstairs on the information center desk with sample products that you can view. Thanks for your support!!!

On Friday, May 4th the UMM will have a *Men's Night Out* in the CFC. A dinner will be provided and a Movie shown. ALL men of the church are invited for a great evening of fellowship!!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Calling all Ladies and Daughters!!! Come and join us for the Mother/Daughter Banquet on **Tuesday evening, May 8th** starting at 6:00PM in the CFC. The theme of this years banquet is "ALL THAT JAZZ". Meat, drinks, and bread will be provided. Just bring a covered dish to share. There is a form in the bulletin that you can use to RSVP so just fill it out and put it in the collection plate so we know how big of a crowd we need to serve... Thanks!!!

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
January	\$ 16,334.26	\$ 12,579.15	-\$3,755.11
February	\$ 21,356.44	\$ 13,608.46	-\$7,747.98
March	\$ 17,718.46	\$ 20,956.33	\$3,237.87
April	<u>\$ 16,639.97</u>	<u>\$ 20,418.38</u>	<u>\$3,778.41</u>
Total YTD	\$ 72,049.13	\$ 67,562.32	-\$4,486.81

As of the end of April we are currently showing a deficit balance in the General Operation Fund of **-\$4,486.81**. A couple of notes regarding the expenses and revenues through the first 4 months of the year. Bad weather caused the cancelation of one Sunday service in January. Inclement weather also had a negative impact on attendance in the 1st two months of the year. In March we received 2 financial gifts – One to help with van repairs and another a gift for our music program. There were 5 Sunday's in April and we also had our Easter Cash Day collection which had a favorable impact on revenue.

Larry

HUSTLERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



Front Row from Left: Pat Tucker, June McNickle, Mary Houck, Mary Knotts, Eleanor Wilcox... Back Row from Left: Baker Neal, Jim & Judy Jonas, Carolyn Martin, Sandy Sinnett... Absent when Picture was taken: June Hupp, Larry Carr... Photographer: Kathryn Miller...

The Hustler's Sunday School Class consists of Christians who have depended on the Lord through many life experiences. We use the KJV Standard Lesson Commentary as our class text. Our aim is to learn more about the Lord so we can love, serve, and worship Him even more fully.

The format of the class is lecture with questions asked of the members for their input. Additional research is done and usually passed out for each lesson. Our studies go back and forth between the Old and New Testament.

Come join us!

Submitted by: *Kathryn Miller*

CELEBRATIONS!!!



Ella Faith Reed (above), daughter of Nick & Dani Reed, was presented for Baptism, and Allison Leach (left) came forward for Baptism and church membership. Lynn Leach, Allison's mother, also joined our congregation by a letter of transfer from her former church. Welcome and Praise be to God!!!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- Friday, May 4th** – United Methodist Men will have a *Men's Night Out* in the CFC starting at 6:00 PM... A dinner will be provided and a movie shown...
- Tuesday, May 8th** –The Mother/Daughter Banquet starting at 6:00 PM in the CFC... Meat, rolls, and bread will be provided... Bring a covered dish...
- Wednesday, May 9th** – “Way Forward” at Mt. Pleasant UMC at 7:00 PM... Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball will speak at the event...
- Monday, May 14th** – Trustee's meeting at 5:30 PM and Finance Committee Meeting starting at 6:30PM...
- Tuesday, May 15th** – Church Council Meeting at 6:30 PM...
- Saturday, May 19th** - Backpack Blessings BINGO Fundraiser in the CFC... Doors open at Noon & games begin at 1:00...
- Sunday, May 20th** – Graduation Sunday!!!
- Sunday, May 20th** – District Conference at 3:00 PM at 7th Street UMC...
- Sunday, May 27th** – Mark Trammell Concert at 7:00 PM...

BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are from the first few chapters of the Gospel of Mark.

1. Describe the clothing that John the Baptist was wearing? (Mark 1:6)
2. What type of food did John the Baptist eat? (Mark 1:6)
3. As Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, what did the voice from Heaven say as he came out of the water? (Mark 1:11)
4. Where did Jesus immediately go after he was baptized? (Mark 1:12)
5. Why did the Pharisees deny Jesus the right to forgive sins? (Mark 2:7)
6. How did Jesus prove that He was able to forgive sins? (Mark 2:10-11)
7. When the Scribes and Pharisees had a complaint against Jesus Christ, to whom did they go? (Mark 2:16)
8. What did Jesus tell the man with the withered hand to do? (Mark 3:5)
9. What 2 groups got together in their attempts to destroy Jesus? (Mark 3:6)
10. Name all 12 Disciples that were appointed by Jesus. (Mark 3:16-19)

THE CHRISTIAN ARMY

Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, known as Monty, wrote in his memoirs. "I have always held the view that an army is not merely a collection of individuals, with so many tanks, guns, artillery, etc. The real strength of an army is, and must be, far greater than the sum of its parts; that extra strength is provided by morale, fighting spirit, mutual confidence between the leaders and the led, and many other intangible spiritual qualities...

In many ways, that describes a church. In our narcissistic world, we have to remember church is not about us – our tastes, preferences, desires, comforts, and conveniences. We're in a spiritual battle, and our churches need members who do not seek their own way. We must keep Christ as our commander and we must honor one another in gentleness and kindness. Rather than being harsh or opinionated, we need to be humble, gentle, and encouraging. The Church of God is a mighty army with one Commander marching to the rhythm of His Grace.

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God: Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod; We are not divided, All one body we— One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah – 11/10/17
"Onward Christian Soldiers" Sabine Baring-Gould 1864