

THUSE NEWS

APRIL 2024

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

EDGELAWN UMC

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



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JESUS SUFFERED FOR ALL

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Never was someone treated so unjustly as Jesus was. Absolute good was attacked by absolute evil. And that evil was our evil, shared by all humanity. Our sins, along with those of the whole world, were like the nails that pinned him to the cross.

Sometimes in our churches we skip over the excruciating suffering that Jesus endured for us on the cross. When he took our place to pay the price of our sin, Jesus was pierced and crushed and afflicted, “led like a lamb to the slaughter.” He was mocked and ridiculed. He was forsaken by God. Yet Jesus chose to take on that suffering for us. Even the thought of the agony he would experience caused him to sweat drops like blood (Luke 22:44).

Our salvation was made possible through Jesus’ agonizing physical pain. Our salvation is a very physical event. God did not just “save souls”; he saved whole human beings. In the new heaven and earth we will have perfected and restored bodies (1 Corinthians 15). We will live in a renewed, physical creation.

Christ’s salvation for us was a gruesome, physical affair. Thank God that our bodies and our physical world are saved through Jesus, who not only died for our sins but also suffered for them.

IN MEMORY



A Saint of our church, Reginal "Garry" Gumm, entered his heavenly home on March 15th at the age of 83. He is survived by his loving wife Dora Jean and his daughter Kim. Garry was an active member of our church and could always be found at the top of the Sanctuary steps greeting and hugging those coming in for our Sunday morning services. Garry loved the Lord and his church family...

I NEVER LEFT YOU

As I sit in Heaven

And watch you everyday,
I try to let you know with signs
I never went away.
I hear you when you're laughing,
and watch you as you sleep.
I even place my arms around you
to calm you as you weep.
I see you wish the days away,
begging to have me home.
So I try to send you signs
so you know you are not alone.
Don't feel guilty that you have
life that was denied to me.
Heaven is truly beautiful,
just you wait and see.
So live your life, laugh again,
enjoy yourself, be free!
Then I know with every breath you take
you'll be taking one for me.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE MARCH 1ST & 2ND



This month has been busy for our Women's Bible Study group. March 1st and 2nd we held our annual Women's Conference. Our theme verse was Micah 6:8. Our theme for the weekend was "To walk in humble fellowship." Friday evening, we worshipped by singing several songs and had a short devotional. Saturday, we had worship music and two speakers from Season's Ministry for Women. Both days were full of the Holy Spirit and women coming together to worship God. It was a great weekend for all who attended. For the weekend, we formed a women's worship team. They all stepped out of their comfort zones and sang beautifully. A special thanks to all that were involved in making this conference a success. We are looking forward to the next conference.

We have started our Bible Study on Gideon, by Priscilla Shirer. We will be starting week 3 when we meet on April 11th. Please come and join us! It is never too late to join us. The Lord is doing many exciting things in our church, and we want YOU to be a part.

Dani Reed

PALM SUNDAY



Parade of Palms through the Sanctuary & the kids singing

BUNNY BRUNCH & EGG HUNT



Fun, Good Food, & Fellowship were had by all at the Bunny Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt!!!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER



Thursday, March 28th we held our first Maundy Thursday service. We had 65 in attendance. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word "mandatum" which means commandment. This day, Maundy Thursday, is named after Jesus' commandments to his disciples to love another. We had a meal by candlelight. The Pastor explained all the elements and meanings of the meal like if we were in Jesus' time. We sang four hymns together as a church and had the special music by the Adult Choir. The Holy Spirit was moving throughout the evening. We are excited for this event being a every year event. Thank you for all that helped, donated food and made this meal a success. A special thanks to Jan Kinder for having this vision and making our church see the importance of sharing a meal together as the disciples did.

Dani Reed

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



Easter Sunrise Service at Edgelawn United Methodist Church followed by refreshments for all of the attendees...

EASTER SERVICE



The combined Adult and Children's Choir performed at South Parkersburg United Methodist Church on Easter morning...

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



Girl Scout Sunday was celebrated at our Sunday morning service on March 10th... In addition the Girl Scout Cookie distribution is now in full swing!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR EDWARD!!!



SPARK and the Youth of our church help celebrate Pastor Edward's 70th Birthday!!!

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

A big Thank You to scout leaders, Joel and Angie Thompson, and Troop 17, for their generous donation in the amount of **\$2,267.00**, given to our church general operating fund... This gift was given in appreciation for SPUMC sponsoring and supporting Troop 17 scouts and cubs over MANY MANY years !!!

COLLEGE STUDENT MINISTRY

Easter Greetings have been sent to our college students! In early April, a card will arrive with encouragement for the finish of the Spring Semester. That's right, the college school year will be wrapping up in early May! We look forward to congratulating our graduates during the Morning Worship Service on May 19 when they receive a devotional book from the Church. College graduates will be featured in the May Thuse News.

As another college school year draws to an end, some wonder what does the college outreach consist of? Well, this school year...

- August Blessing Bags that were delivered to students before they started classes (See August 2023 Thuse News).
- In September, cards of encouragement included Job 7:8 and bookmarks featuring Ephesians 1:16.
- Halloween greetings featured Psalm 27:1, Halloween stickers, and Wendy's Boo Bucks, which are Junior Frosty coupons for each student and a ghoulish friend.
- Thanksgiving cards contained Philippines 4:6-7 and a bookmark with 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
- Christmas cards featured 2 Corinthians 9:15 and included best wishes for those fall semester final exams with a \$5 gift card to their favorite fast food or coffee place for a quick pick-me-up.
- New Year's Greetings included Lamentations 3:22-23 with "Grow with a Plan" Bookmarks (see February 2024 Thuse News).
- Valentine's Day brought bookmarks featuring Romans 8:38-39 and a wallet card reminding them that "special people like you make life sweeter" with 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- St. Patrick's Day cards delivered more bookmarks to share with friends or classmates that featured Matthew 6:20.
- Additionally, each student has received or will receive a Birthday card featuring Psalm 20:4 and 3 John 2 along with a \$5 gift card to their favorite coffee or fast-food stop.
- ALL SENT WITH "LOVE & PRAYERS FROM YOUR SOUTH PARKERSBURG UM CHURCH FAMILY"

COLLEGE STUDENTS (& THEIR FAMILIES): Please be sure to check those 'old school' mailboxes before leaving campus for summer to get your cards & goodies!



Melissa Kuhl-Hupp



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW are helping the Evangelism Committee with a luncheon on **Saturday, April 20th at Noon in the CFC** before the Reunion Revival Service that day. The menu will consist of a variety of soups, sandwiches, chips with cookies for dessert. Beverages will be Iced Tea, water and coffee. **We are still in need of donations. If anyone would like to donate to the meal, please see Jill Youell. Please have donations to the CFC by 11 am that day.**

The Women will be doing a work day in the CFC on **Saturday, April 27th beginning at 9am.** All are invited to come out and help!

Mark your calendars! The Annual "Daughter's of the King" Banquet will be held this year on **Saturday, May 18 at 1 pm in the CFC.** The theme is "Everlasting Love". All Women of SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend. It will be a covered dish!

The next meeting will be on **April 9th at 6 pm in the church basement.** All women of SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend.

Jill

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Next meeting will be held on April 9, 2024 at 6pm in the church basement. All Men of SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend.

The men will be doing a work day at the church on **Saturday, April 27th beginning at 9am** along with the UM Women. All are invited to come out and help!

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FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Easter bags with cards were delivered to all the Faithful Friends. "THANK YOU" to all those who contributed cards and to the children for coloring pictures/bookmarks that were also included; they loved opening and looking at each and every one.



BIG CLOTHING SALE



At the March BIG CLOTHING SALE there were plenty of clothing and food items available for sale to our customers... THANK YOU to all who planned, set up, ran, and cleaned up the CFC room and kitchen areas!!!



A "Blast from the Past" as Pastor Rick Brown returns to South Parkersburg United Methodist Church to lead us in Revival starting on Friday evening, April 19th, continuing on Saturday, April 20th, and finishing at our Sunday morning service on April 21st...

Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, & relatives to these Revival events!!!



Potato Bar Fundraiser
May 5, 2024
 Following worship or Sunday School

FUNDRAISERS

There were several significant fundraisers held during the month of March... Below is a summary of the financial results of these events... Thanks to everyone who participated in any role in these activities!!!

- The Craft Show raised **\$1,280** of which \$420 came out of sales from our kitchen...
- The BIG Clothing SALE raised **\$3,065** of which \$490 came out of sales from our kitchen...
- Our Youth raised **\$527** at their Bunny Pancake Brunch...

MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISMS

Currently, the addition of 7 new members to our church and 4 Baptisms are being planned for April 14th...

THERMOSTAT TEMPERATURE ADJUSTMENTS

When temperature adjustments (heating or cooling) are made in buildings for activities/events, those adjustments should be made as TEMPORARY, not PERMANENT adjustments that expire when the activity is over and the temperature returns to pre-event levels... Any questions should be directed to the Trustees...Thank You...

IDEAL PLACE & TIME

For consider your calling brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

1 Corinthians 1:26

*Once my life is running smoothly.....
If I didn't have toddlers underfoot.....
When I get enough money.....
As soon as I (fill in the blank).....
THEN I can be used by God.*

We are where we are when we are because our Father chose us for such a time as this. Our steps are ordered by Him. Whether He has called us to teach a Sunday School Class, pray with other people, lead a Bible Study, be a committee, or sing in the choir---we need not wait for the ideal time and place to serve Him. The only "ideal" is where you are right now.

God delights in using His people—right in the middle of all that appears crazy and wrong and hopeless. Now is the time to serve God, not next week, or next year or when things get better. He wants our cheerful, obedient service right in the midst of—even in spite of—our difficult circumstances.

Submitted by *Jill Youell*

JESUS GIVES US LIVING WATER

“Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:14

Water is basic and fundamental to life. I once heard a biologist say that when God decided to create water, the rest of creation was details. This is not meant to minimize all the complexities of God’s creation, but it can help us to see how important water is.

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, he was breaking two social taboos. He was talking to a woman, and he was talking to a Samaritan. Jewish people thought of the Samaritans as half-breeds and heretics, and the Samaritans did not have much respect for the Jews. But by asking the Samaritan woman for water, Jesus wanted her to reconsider all the things she thought she knew.

She said, “You have nothing to draw water with and the well is deep. . . .” But Jesus wasn’t talking about H₂O; nor was he talking about the kind of life that H₂O makes possible. He was talking about himself—the water that brings eternal life.

Jesus offered the woman everlasting life. And when she drank in the living water of Christ—that is, the good news of eternal life in him—she was filled with new life.

Though we still have to drink enough H₂O each day to keep our bodies going, we need only to drink the living water of Jesus to receive eternal life.

PRAYER LIST



Ann Thorne
Ron Sams
Kristi Sams
Doug Dudrow
Roger Thorne
Betty Neal
Jo Emrick
Ginny Dudley
Ronald & Marie Walker
Dave Akers
Jim Shutts
Beth Baker
Clifford Sadler
Bruce Bumgarner
Andrew Butler
Linda Long
Wanda Starkey
Mark Ways
Jim Young
Ralph McNemar
Doug Jones

Dora Jean - Kim
Lori Parsons
Jim Gilmore
Arthur Minx
Chance Kelley
Vernon Stephens Sr
Mikey Griffin
Tylar & Brittany Marlow
Chris Madison
Debbie Spencer
Rev. Don Beeson
Angie Thompson
Jeff Linch
Brannan Family
Bill McEndree
Jack Sinnett
Dalton Heart
Larry Sexauer
Carrie Smith
Carol McMahan



Remember the Families of:

Garry Gumm
Butch Carpenter
Georgia Grace Marlow
Matt Plum
Sheila Spencer
Jack Hunley
John Moellendick Sr.

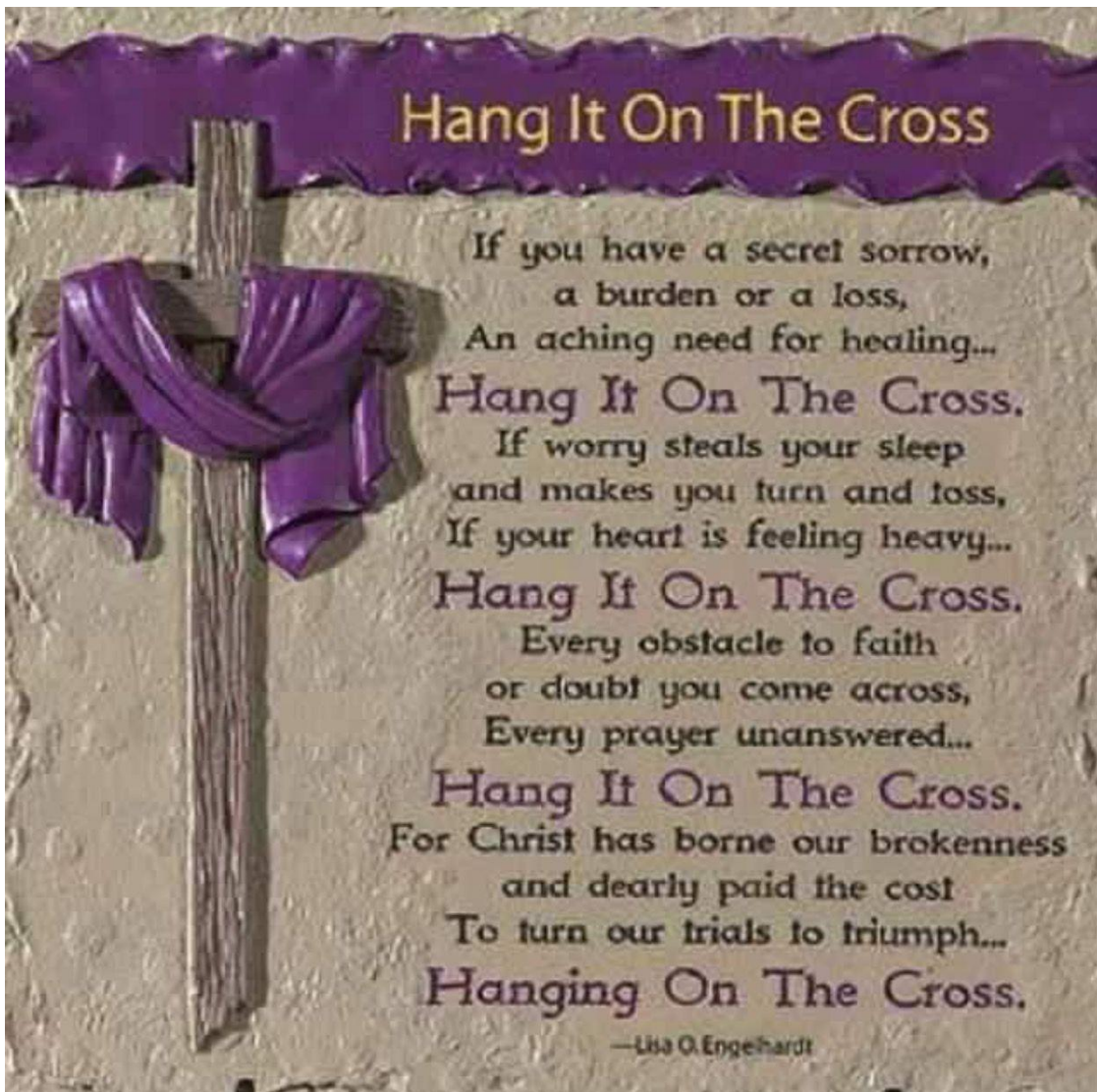
What A Glorious Promise



Revelation 21:3
And God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

What a day that will be!

HANG IT ON THE CROSS



God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you."

Billy Graham

BIBLE QUIZ

The answers to this Month's quiz come from the story of David & Goliath – 1 Samuel 17... You can find, or check, your answers in that Scripture... Good Luck!!!

1. What was Goliath's hometown?
2. Who were Goliath's people?
3. Who was David's Father?
4. How many days had Goliath challenged Israel?
5. How many times a day did Goliath challenge Israel?
6. What was Goliath's proposal to avoid a war between the 2 nations?
7. What food did David bring his brothers on the battlefield?
8. What previous successes made David confident that he could defeat Goliath?
9. Goliath came against David with what 3 weapons?
10. What 3 incentives did Saul offer for the one who killed Goliath?