

THUSE NEWS AUGUST 2018

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Greetings in the name of the Risen Lord!

Let me begin by thanking those who made this year's Vacation Bible School a huge success. Jennifer Plyburn and her team of volunteers (including one adorable purple river otter named “Romper”) spent months planning “Rolling River Rampage” so that many children, youth and adults could learn more about how God is with us wherever we go! It was a great experience for all! Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.

I would also like to thank those who attended the Parish Picnic this past Sunday. It was a beautiful afternoon to be outside and a great time was had by all, especially those of us who took advantage of the swimming pool following the meal and vesper service. A special thanks for those who helped with the setup and cleanup of the event. I had a great time and I hope you did as well.

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At the Church Council meeting held on July 17, 2018, a great deal of time was spent discussing the financial situation of South Parkersburg United Methodist Church. It was shared that during the first half of 2018, our expenses have exceeded our revenue (income) by over \$10,500. If this trend continues for the entire year, we will end the year with expenses exceeding revenue by over \$21,000. As the pastor, I am hesitant to talk about the finances of the church, but I was reminded in the meeting that Jesus did not hesitate to talk about money with His Disciples. Many of Jesus' parables dealt with money – the necessity to pay fair wages, the paying of taxes, the proper use of riches, etc. This caused me to remember that John Wesley preached a sermon entitled, “The Use of Money”. In this sermon, Wesley instructed followers of Jesus Christ to: First, gain all you can. Be employed in such a way as to gain all you can gain, being careful not to do so at the expense of your health or life, nor that of your neighbor. Second, save all you can. Do not be wasteful with the riches you have gained. Spend only what is necessary. Finally, give all you can. Remember that we are only stewards of the riches we have gained. All that we have, even the riches we gain, are from God and belong to God. Let us return to God what belongs to God, when called upon to do so.

In order for South Parkersburg United Methodist Church to move forward with our vision “To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known”, we depend on your generosity. Let each of us prayerfully consider how well we are upholding our membership vows to support the Church with “our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.”

Blessings and Prayers,

Pastor Jim

PARISH PICNIC AT DUPONT PARK



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

SUMMER SPARK - (Ages 3 years old - 5th Grade) continues on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. on August 8th and 22nd. Regular weekly SPARK will resume in September. Parents are encouraged to bring the children and attend the Adult Bible Study in the sanctuary for the same hour. This is a great opportunity for God's children of all ages to grow and learn as His disciples! Join us!

Sweet Frog visits SPARK!!!



SUMMER CAMPERS - 13 of our children and youth and one guest participated in district and conference camps during the month of July. They loved the fellowship, making new friends, learning more about Jesus, gathering around the campfire, participating in new activities, praying together, and sharing in communion. New commitments to follow and serve Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior were made, as well as lifelong memories of summer camp.



ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE VBS

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2

140 children, youth, and adults participated in VBS the week of July 8th.

Everyone enjoyed the Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, and appearances by Romper the purple river otter A.K.A. Pastor Jim! Together, we learned how God is with us in good times and difficult times, as we found adventure, acceptance, joy, rest, and peace “on the river.” Thanks to everyone who participated by attending, leading, helping, making donations, bringing children, inviting others, or prayerfully supporting this special time.



YOUTH GROUP

Eight of our youth traveled to Huntington on a mini-mission trip earlier in July. Handmade baby blankets and caps were delivered to The Ronald McDonald House near Cabell Huntington Hospital and Prayer Squares were given to the director of The Lifehouse, an addiction recovery center. We also toured Ebenezer Outreach Center, one of our annual conference mission sites.

Pastor Jim and I were very proud of our youth who participated and demonstrated their love and care for others and a true desire to grow as disciples. It was a joy to spend time together, sharing stories and showing them special sites in our hometowns of Huntington and Barboursville. We look forward to future opportunities to travel within our annual conference and beyond, to share God's light and love with others.



Jennifer

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY



This month George McNemar is featured as a member of our church family at South Parkersburg United Methodist Church.

I was born in 1951 to Ralph and Roberta McNemar in Parkersburg and I have lived on the southside of Parkersburg all of my life. I come from a large family - 5 brothers and 2 sisters. I attended Marrtown elementary school, Franklin Junior High, and Parkersburg South High School where I graduated in 1970. After graduating from high school I went to work for Ames Company as a production worker and later moved into their maintenance group.

I grew up with family members who drank and unfortunately I followed in their foot steps at a very early age. Through my work I joined the union and quite a few of my co-workers also drank and drinking was commonplace at our social events. My drinking continued for almost the next 30 years of my life. During that time I did a lot of foolish things with the people I associated with. I had confrontations with the law, but I had friends on the police force who kept me out of major trouble.

Things went from bad to worse when I started having physical problems associated with my substance abuse issues. I became a diabetic and had problems with my liver. During this time I met a woman in Marietta who I began to date. I would spend the weekends with her and her kids, but as they went to church on Sunday morning I told them I would see them when they got home. One Easter her kids asked me if I would go to church with them and I went. It was a Methodist church near Barlow and I started to go to that church regularly. The preacher talked about things that I could relate to in my life. However, I eventually left the relationship with the woman and came back to Parkersburg.

But now I realized that I was "lost" and I went to South Parkersburg United Methodist Church where Pastor Poling was preaching. I asked him if I could attend his church. He smiled and told me that it wasn't his church, but rather it was God's House, and that I would always be welcome in the Lord's house in South Parkersburg.

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I got interested in the Bible and got more involved in church activities. I came to see, and feel, the importance of God's presence in my life. Unfortunately, my physical condition worsened and in December of 1999 I went to Pittsburgh for a liver transplant. As I was being wheeled in for the operation a woman in a white gown took my hand and asked me "Is there anything I can do for you?" I replied "the only thing I know for you to do is to pray for me". I spent 2 months in Pittsburgh recovering before I returned home to Parkersburg.

I had a local doctor who cared for me, but sometimes I was hesitant to go to all of my appointments. Fortunately, there were women in this church who prodded me and wouldn't let me miss them. They were kind of a nuisance, but I loved and needed them all. I continued to help wherever I could at the Church. Rick and Cheri Brown then came to SPUMC. I liked Rick and told him my life story and I was very surprised that he knew what I was going through and how to help me grow in my relationship with the Lord.

In 2006 I had a heart attack and my doctor sent me to Pittsburgh to have surgery to correct the issues with my heart. Three days later they sent me home good as new (I hoped!!!). In my heart I knew that the Lord had brought me through this and that he had a plan for me to be on this earth awhile longer. I am not quite sure what the Lord's plan is for me, but I am doing everything I can to listen to Him and follow his lead. Later on I lost my job due to the plant closure, but because of my new beliefs I knew the Lord was with me and that everything would be alright. Today, I have endured other multiple health issues including the insertion of stents, the amputation of most of my toes, and 3 days of dialysis per week in 3 ½ hour sessions each. However, with God in my life there is nothing I can't face or deal with in my life with the help of my family and my church family. So many people in this church have supported me that I can't even start to name them all. People ask me how come I am always smiling and in a good mood even after all the things that have happened to me during my life. I tell them:

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

George

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN



A reminder that the United Methodist Men are collecting travel sized toiletry products for the Salvation Army. We received a note of "Thanks" from them recently, and we want to continue this ministry. The collection bin is located downstairs on the information center desk with sample products that you can view. Thanks for your continued support!!!

Jerry

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We did not meet in July due to Vacation Bible School, but we will have our August meeting on Tuesday, August 14th at 6:30 in the CFC. All ladies are invited to come. Bring a favorite snack to share and drinks will be provided. There are a few things we need to discuss regarding events in the upcoming months and we encourage your attendance and input.

Even though we are no longer saving plastic caps, we ARE still saving pop, soup, and any other aluminum tabs. This is for our mission work going to the Ronald McDonald House. We will deliver them at our Fall meeting of the UMW. Thanks for your participation.

Sandy

CHURCH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Friday, August 3rd & Saturday, August 4th – Lifetouch pictures for the new Church Directory

Tuesday, August 7th – SPRC Meeting at 6:30PM

Tuesday, August 14th – UMW and UMM meetings in the CFC at 6:30PM

Saturday, August 18th – Parkersburg Half Marathon Water Stop at the Church

Tuesday, August 21st – Project Planning at 6:30PM...

Thursday, August 23rd – Christian Education Meeting at 6:30PM

Monday, August 27th & Tuesday, August 28th – Lifetouch pictures for the new Church Directory

BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are again from the Gospel of Mark. After each question is the Chapter and Verse in parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. Who was the one disciple that said he would always be true to Jesus? (Mark 14:29)
2. Who were the three disciples that were with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Mark 14:33)
3. What were the disciples doing while Jesus was praying in the garden? (Mark 14:37)
4. By what title did Judas address Jesus as he betrayed Him? (Mark 14:45)
5. Who suggested that Barabbas be released and not Jesus? (Mark 15:11)
6. Who helped Jesus carry the cross? (Mark 15:21)
7. What does "Golgotha" mean? (Mark 15:22)
8. Who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus? (Mark 15:43)
9. Who brought spices so they could anoint Jesus' body and prepare Him for burial? (Mark 16:1)
10. Where did Jesus say He would meet his disciples? (Mark 16:7)

A COWBOY IN CHURCH

One Sunday morning a cowboy walked into a church, and to his surprise, discovered that he was the only person in the congregation. The pastor walked up to him and asked him if he wanted to hold the church service with only him in attendance. The cowboy replied, "Yes, if I went out to feed a herd of cattle and found only one cow, I would feed that cow."

The preacher went up to the pulpit and began the service. Then it was time for the sermon... One hour passed... Then another 30 minutes went by before the Pastor finished up the sermon and gave the Benediction. As the cowboy was leaving the church, the pastor approached him and asked for his thoughts on the service. The cowboy replied, "I still think it was the right thing to do in feeding the one cow, but I wouldn't have given him all the hay."