

THUSE NEWS FEBRUARY 2018

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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PASTORS MESSAGE

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

By the time you read this newsletter, Groundhog Day will have taken place for 2018. Whether Phil saw his shadow or not, I predict that we will experience several more days of cold and possibly snowy weather over the next few weeks. In the event of slick roads and poor travel conditions, please be careful. If the Parkersburg area is placed under a travel emergency and we are instructed to stay off the roads, church activities will be cancelled until conditions improve. Please stay safe this winter and use your best judgment before traveling. God will understand, and so will I.

Also, this has been an extremely bad year for the flu. If you think that you may be experiencing flu symptoms, I give you permission to stay home and rest. We have discontinued "Hospitality Time" during the Sunday morning Worship until this situation improves.

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It is hard to believe that winter is nearly half over and Easter is just a few weeks away. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, the day that marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Lent is a time to reflect on the fact that God loved us so much that “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!” As you may have already figured out, February 14th is also Valentine’s Day. Therefore, we will offer a Valentine’s Day Pancake Dinner (a traditional meal for the beginning of Lent) in the CFC at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 14th, followed by our annual Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 P.M., also in the CFC. As a part of the Ash Wednesday service, I will offer an imposition of ashes, making a mark of the cross on your forehead as a sign of penitence and unworthiness. I invite you to join us for this special meal and meaningful service in the life of the Church.

On the following Wednesdays, beginning February 21st and continuing until March 21st, I will be leading a Lenten Study entitled ***He Chose the Nails***, by Max Lucado. This study will begin at 6:30 P.M. in the sanctuary and last approximately one hour. Study books will be available for \$9.00 each, but are not required to participate.

I encourage you to be a part of these Wednesday evening services and study, as together we continue “To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known!”

Blessings and Prayers,

Pastor Jim

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY



This month we are featuring The Gumm family – Garry, Dora Jean, & Kim – as this month's SPUMC family that you can get to know better!

The Gumm's are very happy to be active members of South Parkersburg United Methodist Church for many years. Garry is the son of the late Wanda (Fredrick) and Orda Gumm of Smithville, WV. Garry is the middle of five children. He has three brothers and one sister. Garry and his brothers have always enjoyed hunting and spending time together at the family cabin in Ritchie County. Dora Jean is the daughter of the late Harold "Pete" and Bernice (Fox) Goodnight of Davisville, WV. Dora Jean is the youngest of four children and the only daughter. She has three older brothers. Dora Jean has always loved spending time with her many nieces and nephews. She loves being known as a "Great" aunt to many of them.

Garry and Dora Jean were married at the home of the bride's parents over 50 years ago. They are the parents of two daughters, Kimberly and Julie. They began attending South Parkersburg United Methodist Church when their neighbor, Mae Summers, invited them to attend because she thought Kim, who was about three at the time, would enjoy singing in the Children's Choir under the direction of Helen Riddle and the late Helen Brannon Simpson. Kim and Julie both enjoyed singing in the choir, attending Sunday School and both wanted to play the piano just like Helen Riddle!!

Garry retired from DeBarr Trucking with 40 years of service. He enjoys helping at the church with whatever projects he can assist with and enjoys working in his yard. Dora Jean retired from Verizon Communications of Parkersburg with 22 years of service. Dora Jean was a stay at home Mom until Kim went to high school. She was a caregiver to Eric Boise (son of Lois and Carl Boise) for 10 years. Eric is still known to all as "Dora Jean's Boy". Dora Jean is an avid reader and currently volunteers at the Grace of God Food Pantry.

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Kim is currently employed with the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Public Debt) as a Management and Program Analyst assisting with Training. Kim loves shopping, all things Christmas and is known as “Alan Jackson’s number one fan”. Sadly, Julie passed away in May, 1979 of Reyes Syndrome. She is still greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. The Gumm’s enjoy going to concerts, traveling with friends and spending time with their family and church family. Four years ago, the Gumm’s made a big change. After living in the same house for 41 years they moved two miles to 56 S Meadow Drive in Mineral Wells, WV.

BIG SALE – BIG SUCCESS!!!



Over \$4,100 raised for Backpack Blessings!!! Thanks to everyone who donated goods, set up and priced the items for sale, worked the sale, and helped clean up the CFC after the event!!!



Where did all of the “leftover” stuff from the Big Sale Go? This year Steve Clay, Director of Latrobe Street Mission, with 2 volunteers gathered all the clothing and shoes into 6 large bins. Those items will be given to the homeless or those who have lost homes due to fire. Some items will be sold in their store or sent to 3rd world countries.

Another group came from ESSENTIALLY YOURS and took dishes, mugs, and glasses for the homeless or formally homeless who are now transitioning into homes. Greta and Kevin Champ took the rest of the items to several needy families and the Salvation Army... As you can see, your contributions benefit people in our community & around the world!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

SPARK

Every Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. Bible stories and activities, crafts, music, and a snack are offered for three age groups – PreK (3, 4, & 5 year olds), K - 2nd Grade, and 3rd - 5th Grade.

Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me...”* (Matthew 19:14)

Please bring your children to **SPARK**. It is a great hour of growing in faith and enjoying fun and fellowship for the youngest members of our church family. Our theme for January was “Jesus is the Light of the World” and our February theme will be “Jesus Loves Me”. While the children attend **SPARK**, adults are encouraged to grow in their faith at our Wednesday evening Bible study in the sanctuary. Pastor Jim will be offering a really great Lenten Study He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado beginning February 21st. Please plan to participate!

YOUTH GROUP

Every Sunday evening from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. For youth in Middle School and High School (6th - 12th Grade). Our youth just completed several months of reading and discussing BELIEVE – Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus. In February, they will begin a confirmation study to explore their personal journeys of faith. This group has grown in the past year...not only in the number participating, but in their relationships with Jesus Christ and one another. They are a very active and special group!

Please support their **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** on **Sunday, February 4th** by bringing donations of canned or boxed foods or money to the morning or evening worship services. Youth will be standing at the entrances of the church to collect your donations. These donations will be given to our local Grace of God Food Pantry and our Backpack Blessings Ministry.

FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Friday, February 9th in the CFC from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Join your church family for good food, fun, and fellowship! All ages are invited to bring a snack to share and come enjoy playing games, working a puzzle, or just visiting with others. There will be an opportunity for those who wish to learn how to knit or crochet to give that a try and we will be assembling cards to present with our prayer shawls and prayer squares. Everyone welcome!

Jennifer

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

HEART FRIENDS 2018 – Sponsored by United Methodist Women

Adult members of the congregation who are willing to be a mentor to one of the children or youth in our congregation are asked to fill out a form (available in the Sunday bulletin or in the Gathering Area) and return to Karen Dent, Jennifer Plyburn, or the church office this month. You will be matched with a child or youth to be their “heart friend” for 2018. This is a special way for the children and youth to get to know their church family and a wonderful opportunity to encourage these young people in their faith. All that is required is your willingness to send a card, give them a call, or have a conversation with them on a regular basis. Thank you very much!

United Methodist Women Meetings

We want to invite all women of the church to attend UMW meetings. Our organization strives to help children, teens, and women. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 in the CFC. Please bring your favorite drink. We will need help in setting up and decorating tables for the Ash Wednesday dinner, February 14th at 5:30. During our March meeting, Cathi Wermter will be speaking about her missionary trip to Nicaragua. We will also be discussing ideas for our Daughters All Banquet.

United Methodist Women – Meals

We prepare meals for our loved ones in the church family at the time of death. We need your help in preparing food, setting-up meals, serving, and clean-up. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry, please contact Karen Dent or Sandy Sinnett.

Reading Program

A Reading Program Catalogue will be placed in the ladies church files in the basement of the church this month. You can read books from this catalogue, or other sources you choose, and at the end of the year you will receive a certificate for all that you have read.

Sandy Sinnett – Responsive Reading Chair

IN MEMORY

In January we mourned the passing of 2 Saints of our Church Family - Rolla Daugherty and John Russell... We continue to cherish our memories of them and pray for their families.



Rolla Daugherty January 12th, 2018



John Russell January 20th, 2018

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Committee Chairpersons & Ministry Leaders need to submit their 2018 Calendar of Events to the office as soon as possible. These events need to be placed on the Church calendar and included on the 2018 CFC calendar if needed. Events can then be posted on the monthly church calendar and THUSE News.

BIBLE QUIZ

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

1. What food did God provide that was white and tasted like wafers with honey? (16:14,31)
2. What happened to the manna when some of the Israelites tried to store it? (16:20)
3. How many days a week were the Israelites to gather manna to eat? (16:26)
4. How did the Israelites first receive the Ten Commandments? (20:1)
5. When God spoke to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai, what was their response? (20:18)
6. What did the Israelites sacrifice as a peace offering to God? (24:5)
7. What did Moses do with some of the blood from the sacrifices? (24:6)
8. What was the Ark of the Covenant made of? (25:10)
9. What was the name of the covering or lid of the Ark of the Covenant? (25:17)
10. In what part of the tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant kept? (26:33)

INSPIRING STORY

A Son took his elderly father out for supper at a nice restaurant. The father, being very old and weak, dropped a lot of food on his shirt and trousers. Other diners watched and were rather disturbed at the scene, but the son remained calm. After the meal the son, who was not embarrassed at all, took his father to the washroom where he wiped off the crumbs from his clothes and did his best to remove all the food stains. He then combed his father's hair and adjusted his glasses firmly on his face. As they returned to the table, many in the restaurant stared in dead silence and could not grasp how someone would embarrass themselves like that in a public place.

The son settled the bill and started walking his father towards the door of the restaurant. As they neared the exit, a man in the diner spoke up and said, "I think you have left something behind?" The son turned toward the man and replied, "No sir. I haven't". The man stood up and said, "Yes, you have! You have left behind a lesson for every son, and a hope for every father... To care for those who once cared for us is one of life's greatest honors."