

# THUSE NEWS

## JULY 2019

### SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known*

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## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

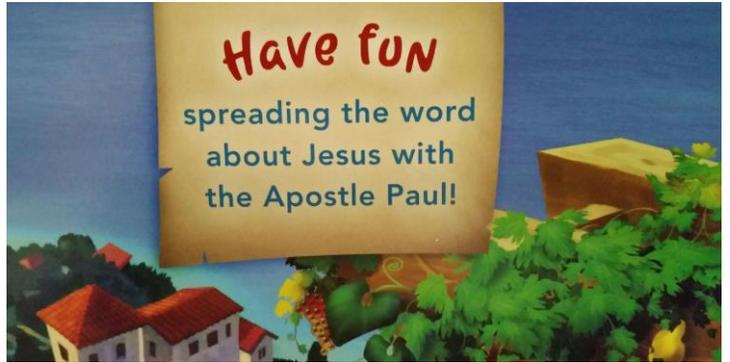
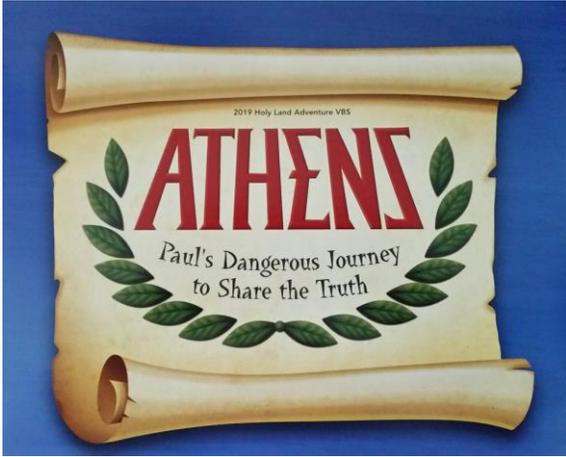
At a church program a little boy was to recite a Scripture he had memorized. When he got in front of the crowd, the sight of hundreds of eyes peering at him caused him to forget his verse. Every line that he so carefully rehearsed faded, and he stood there unable to utter a single word.

In the front row, his mother was almost as frantic as the little boy. The mother gestured, moved her lips, trying to form the words for the boy, but it did no good. Finally, the mother in desperation, whispered the opening phrase of the memorized scripture: "I am the light of the world."

Immediately the child's face lit up and a smile appeared on it as he said with supreme confidence: "My mom is the light of the world!"

Of course, everybody smiled and some laughed out loud. Then they soberly reflected that the boy, in some ways, was not far from wrong. For the mother is a light of their child's world."

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Welcome to Athens! Join us on this Holy Land Adventure as we join Paul on his dangerous journey to share the truth! During Athens VBS, kids and adults will be challenged to share their faith in Jesus – just as Paul did – with Shopkeepers in the Marketplace and others. All ages are welcome to participate and enjoy Bible-times crafts, games, food, songs and more! Register now and plan to join your church family at **Athens VBS July 21-24 (Sunday – Wednesday) from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.** Everyone welcome!

*Jennifer*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will NOT be meeting in July and August... Instead, we will be assisting with Vacation Bible School in July, and the Ice Cream Social in August.

## HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to help take care of the landscaping around the church and the CFC... If you are interested in helping, please see Rick Deem...

## THANK YOU!!!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your prayers, cards, and helping me with tasks. I appreciate this very much. I am still under the surgeon's care, I have been released from using the neck brace. What a relief! I will start therapy soon. I can only wish for God's blessing for each and every person. It is very humbling to have to ask for help when you're an independent person.

*Sandy Sinnott*

## IN MEMORY



A Saint of our church, Roella Newbrough, 82 of Parkersburg, passed away June 22, 2019 after an extended illness. She is survived by her husband, Bob, and many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

*We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen, but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:1

## SHELTER IN THE STORM

A young man named Gus was taking a walk in the English countryside one day in 1753 when a sudden storm swept across the landscape. Running for cover, he spotted a wide rock formation with an opening where he sought shelter until the storm passed. He had been fortunate to find this hiding place so quickly, and he began to muse on the connection between his shelter and God's help in life's storms.

As he contemplated this scenario, the words for a poem began to form in his mind, but he had no paper on which to write them. Looking down on the floor of the cave-like structure, he saw a playing card – considered a sinful thing by the young cleric. Nevertheless, he picked it up and began to formulate his thoughts and write them on the card.

(continued on next page)

Sometime later, the life of the writer of those words, Augustus Toplady, was cut short by tuberculosis. On August 11, 1778, he passed from this life and was buried in Tottenham Court Chapel in London. In his memory, a stone was erected; it was inscribed with the words he had jotted down on that playing card years before.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.*

These words had become the beloved Christian hymn – “Rock of Ages.” As Gus found shelter under a rock formation, so you and I can find “Shelter” (forgiveness) from the “storm of sin” in the Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ. Through his blood, we receive the “double cure”: we are cleansed from the guilt and the dominion of sin.

*- David Sargent, Mobile, Alabama*

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Worship Team Meeting... 6:30PM...

**Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** – Welcome Back Dinner for Pastor Jim & Jennifer... 11:00AM in the CFC  
(No Sunday School)...

**Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** – Trustees Mtg @ 5:30... Finance Mtg @ 6:30...

**Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>** – Church Council Meeting... 6:30PM...

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> thru Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>** – VBS... 6:00 – 8:00PM...

**Every Wednesday Evening** – Bible Study starting at 6:30PM

# REPORT

## 2019 WVUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Pastor Jim and Jennifer will be returning to SPUMC for the upcoming year.
- The focus of the annual conference this year was “Invitation.” Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball challenged us to invite everyone to the table of grace and remember the Great Commission. We are not to choose the people that God loves. He loves us all. By learning to love those we don’t like, we can become more Christ-like.
- Our conference treasurer, Jim Berner, who retired from that position this year, reminded us that the MISSION of the church is not to build buildings, or pay apportionments, or pave the parking lot. Our MISSION is to make disciples for Christ. And to do that we must invite everyone to the table of grace



- On Sunday we ordained 1 deacon and 5 elders. They are living out their call as ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church. Please keep them and all of our WVUMC clergy in your prayers. On Friday afternoon several clergy retired after many year of service to the Lord.

- At the general conference in February many issues were discussed and decided. The bishop provided a PowerPoint presentation to the churches which is available and explains the key take-aways from the conference. Our church is in a transitional phase in it’s life, and it is up to us to carry out the Great Commission which is the core of our faith.



- On Friday night we had a sing-along and a campfire to celebrate 60 years of faith, friendships, and fun at Spring Heights. As you can see from the picture on the left, Jennifer really enjoys a tasty s’more.

Thank you for allowing me to be your lay delegate again this year. I highly recommend that everyone try to attend at least one conference.

*Jan Barnes*

## “UNUSUAL” FACTS ABOUT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY



1. John Trumbull's 1819 painting "Declaration of Independence." It might make for an iconic painting, but that famous image of all the Founding Fathers and Continental Congress huddled together, presenting the first draft of the Declaration of Independence for July 4, 1776 signing, isn't quite how things really went down. As famed historian David McCullough wrote, "No such scene, with all the delegates present, ever occurred in Philadelphia."

2. It's now generally accepted that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on the Fourth of July—that's just the day the document was formally dated, finalized, and adopted by the Continental Congress, which had officially voted for independence on July 2nd (the day John Adams thought we *should* celebrate). Early printed copies of the Declaration were signed by John Hancock and secretary Charles Thomson to be given to military officers and various political committees, but the bulk of the other 54 men signed an official engrossed (finalized and in larger print) copy on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, with others to follow at a later date. Hancock (boldly) signed his name again on the updated version.
3. Three US presidents have died on July 4 — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. In a bizarre twist of fate, Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the country they helped found.
4. July 4th wasn't deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years after the nation was founded. On June 28, 1870, Congress decided to start designating federal holidays with the first four being New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. This decreed that those days were holidays for federal employees.
5. Over 150 million hot dogs will be consumed by Americans on the Fourth of July according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council. Lined up end-to-end, that amount of hot dogs would stretch from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles more than five times.



## Stewardship Alert !

### Stewardship Committee Members

*Jan Barnes, Jerry Baum, Jim Braden, Anna Deem, Stephanie Gibbs, Michaela Hupp,  
Mike Kidd, Pastor Jim Plyburn, Sam Sams, Kay & Brent Wilhelm  
Ex officio – Tammy Lewis – non-attending*

□ 2nd Mile, Silver Plate offerings year-to-date have provided \$11,312.00 :

- Jan. - \$ 3,100** - For a member of our congregation who suffered a serious home fire
- Jan. - \$ 871** - For “Latrobe St. Mission” to help our fellow Parkersburg citizens in need
- Feb. - \$ 1,099** - “Grace of God Food Pantry” to help the needy with food or home utilities
- Mar. - \$ 1,597** - For “Young Life,” introducing young lives to Jesus Christ
- Apr. - \$ 990** - For Celebration of Missions Event (C.O.M.E.) – UMC WV Conference Missions
- Apr. - \$ 1,786** - Annual Easter Cash day to benefit our SPUMC Building & Improvement Fund
- May - \$ 1,869** - SPUMC Children and Youth to Church Camps
- June - \$ 933** - For High on Hope (with the June 30 offering still to be added to that total)

□ The **July** Silver Plate offerings will go to “Backpack Blessings” – a mission to feed elementary school children in need of food for weekends. Bags of food are assembled and delivered to 3 local schools – Martin, Fairplains and Gihon – to be sent home in the students backpacks for the weekend. These bags provide nutritional meals and snacks for the child through the weekend. School nurses and principals identify students who they feel would benefit from Backpack blessings and send notes home for parental approval.

□ The year-to-date weekly Gold Plate offerings to date are averaging **\$3,683** – That is nearly \$200 per week short of our needed weekly average of **\$3,825** to meet the 2019 budget for General Operating Expenses (utility bills, supplies, fees, insurance, maintenance, salaries, all children and adult ministries, apportionments and CFC expenses).

□ The Memorial Fund project of replacing the lamps in the CFC ceiling with new energy-saving LED lamps and surge protectors has been completed. Total cost was just under \$1,500. The project was funded with existing money in our Memorial Fund. **The new lighting is in memory of Kathryn Miller’s father, Abe Wright.** Thank you, Kathryn for the donation in memory of your father. Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this project a reality.

□ In addition, an anonymous donor provided 4 new digital thermostats to enable the CFC heating and A/C to be controlled electronically, a further enhancement to energy-saving in the CFC. Thank you to the volunteers who installed those new thermostats !

□ A new piano bench was purchased with existing money in our Memorial Fund. **The piano bench is in memory of Helen Riddle.** Thank you to the Riddle family !



*Submitted by Kay Wilhelm*

## GO AHEAD AND SAY IT

One day a teacher asked her students to list on two sheets of paper the names of the other students in the room, leaving a space between each name. She told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each classmate and write it down. It took the remainder of the class to finish, and as the students left the room, each handed in the paper. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down on a separate piece of paper the name of each student, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really," she heard whispered, "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and "I didn't know others liked me so much," were some of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and with each other. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Afghanistan, and his teacher attended the funeral. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last in line.

As she stood there, a soldier who was serving as a pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded. Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, and waited to speak to his teacher. "We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it." Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded, and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said, "As you can see Mark treasured it."

Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list, it is in my top drawer of my desk at home." Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album." "I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary." Vickie reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet, and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me at all times," she said, and without batting an eyelash, continued, "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him on earth again. We all forget that life will end one day, and we don't know when that one day will be. Tell the people you love and care for they are special and important to you. Tell them before it is too late.

*Article in Church of Christ Newsletter*

## BIBLE QUIZ

The questions in this month's newsletter are from the Book of Revelation... After each question, there are parenthesis showing you where you can find, or check, your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. Who wrote the Book of Revelation? (Revelation 1:1)
2. What island was the author of Revelation exiled on when he wrote it? (Revelation 1:9)
3. What did Jesus have in His right hand when he first appeared in Revelation? (Revelation 1:16)
4. How many elders were seated around the throne in heaven? (Revelation 4:4)
5. How many creatures were around the throne? (Revelation 4:6)
6. Who said, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." (Revelation 4:8)
7. In the right hand of him that sat on the throne was a book with how many seals? (Revelation 5:1)
8. The horseman named Death rode what color horse? (Revelation 6:8)
9. What was the name of the star that fell on the waters which made them bitter? (Revelation 8:11)
10. A great wonder appeared in heaven. It was a woman clothed with the sun. What was on her head? (Revelation 12:1)

## THE BEST WAY TO PRAY

Three ministers were discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the first one said.

"No," said the second. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor with your arms stretched out in front of you."

The telephone repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole!"

# LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST

## Long Term Prayer List

Acosta, Eberly—Eli's Mom  
Archer, Anna—brain tumor—Lois Boise  
Baker, Julia—leukemia—Mike Miller  
Baker, Oren—cancer  
Beeson, Jeff  
Bennett, Michelle—cancer—B. Terrell  
Bonner, Dan—lung cancer—Kathryn Miller  
Bradley, Randy  
Bradley, Raymond—cancer—R. Bradley  
Branch Family  
Brandjes, Robert—cancer—B. Pratt  
Brooks, Joli—ALS  
Brown, Emma—liver/thyroid—Linda Knopp  
Buffington, Dave—stroke—Terry Jefferies  
Burgard, Jeff—stroke—Carl Turner  
Burdette, Jenifer—cancer—P. Bradley  
Burns, Chuck—Mary Miller  
Butler, Kevin—mass in stomach—V. Shuman  
Campbell, Randy—cancer—Nancy Russell  
Carpenter, Trenton  
Cosner, Brenda—heart—A. Dotson  
Cremeans, Beulah—Vickie Pritchard's Mom  
Cunningham, Alan—leukemia—Mike Miller  
Daggott, Carter—brain cancer—M. Hupp  
Davis, Carrie—stroke—B. Pratt  
Deem, Betty—lung cond.—A. Dotson  
Dent, Kara  
Durst, Erica—MS—Brad Lewis  
Enoch, Jessie (5)—leukemia—K. Lucas  
Estep, Jody—cancer—Kathryn Miller  
Flinn, Ruth—Eleanor Wilcox Sister  
Fridley, Paul—leukemia—Ken Pritchard  
Fortney, Amy—T. Lewis  
Gagne, Baby Nathan—born with cystic fibrosis  
Galland, Fred & Sue  
Gilmore, Eddie—cancer—Beth Baker  
Goodrich, John & Lois  
Grimm, Andrea—colon cancer—J. McNemar  
Gross, Donna—T. Jefferies  
Hamrick, Lewis—heart—Barbara Terrell  
Hendricks, Peggy—cancer—Jennifer Hupp  
Hendrickson, Orville—cancer—Sandy Sinnett  
Hickman, Sonny—cancer—Steve Stanley  
Hobbs, Darlinea—breast cancer—B. Rowe  
Hudson, Sharon—stroke—Jill Youell  
Jenkins, Bill & Sharon—Jan Kinder  
Jefferson, Betsy—heart—Carolyn Kesterson  
Jones, Glenda—at the Willows—B. Terrell  
Kirk, Greg—rare cancer—Phyllis Bradley  
Leasure, Barb—Judy Jonas  
Levine, Baby Nolan—needs surgery—Jan Kinder  
Lowthers, Rev. John—cancer—St. Johns UMC  
Lucas, Shelly—cancer—J. Whitlatch  
Luck, Greg—cancer—T. Jefferies  
Matthess, Hunter—leukemia—B. Lewis  
Mayes, Vic—cancer—Jill Youell  
McCartney, Matthew—heart—Valma Adams  
McCoy, Randy—cancer—A. Baum  
Miller, Carder—dive accident—Jennifer Plyburn  
Miller, Curt—heart attack—Mike Miller  
Milhoan, Dave—cancer—Mark's Brother  
Moeck, Norm—blood disorder—M. Adams  
Morgan, Bryan—Mitch & Patty Morgan's Son  
Morrison, Bill—CHF—Kestersons  
Morrison, Tammy—breast cancer—Jill Youell  
Mugrage, Linda—esophagus—Jennifer Hupp  
Nutter, Betty—lung cancer  
Ogden, Sherry—cancer—Tiffany Dowler  
Parsons, Gary—lung condition—A. Deem  
Phillips, Paul—prayers to walk—M. Miller  
Poling, Duane (Beaver)—Marie Williamson  
Reed, Shelia—Jennifer Hupp  
Reese, Carol—brain tumor—Pat Tucker  
Roberts, Gary—cancer—A. Baum  
Roberts, Jennifer—Brad Lewis  
Rogers, Dale & April—cancer—Brent Wilhelm  
Sayre, Alice—seizures—Jill Youell  
Sink, Danny—leukemia—Mark Adams  
Janet & David Smith—Bruce Bumgarner/Ann Thorne  
Sprouse, Ashley—brain tumor—C. Barnes  
Stanojevic, Bessie—Pat Tucker  
Stallman, Mary—heart—Pat Tucker  
Stidham, Kenny—throat cancer—Ken Pritchard  
Talerico, Altha—rec. from surgery—Linda Knight  
Tanner, Adam—cancer—Hoover  
Tanner, Raymond & Beverly—Anita Baum  
Terrell, Barbara—Stroke  
Thorne, Roger & Ann  
Tibbs, April—cancer—Nancy Russell  
Tice, Kelly  
Tice, Kim—cancer—Mike Miller  
Tucker, Richard Sr.—cancer—P. Tucker  
Turrill, John—cancer—Melissa Hupp  
Walcutt, Larry—chemo—Melissa Hupp  
Watts, Myke—blood pressure—Patti Morgan  
White, Fred—cancer—Mitch Morgan  
Whitehead, Jeanette—lung—J. Whitlatch  
Whitlatch, JoAnn  
Williams, Rich—kidney transplant—Linda Knopp  
Withum, Mary—fibrosis of the lungs—Nancy Russell  
Wigal, Cole—B. Terrill  
Wilson, Vivian—tumors—Jennifer Plyburn  
Wolfe, Donna—cancer—J. McNemar  
Wolfe, Gary—tumor—J. McNemar  
Wolfe, Terry—lung cancer—N. Russell  
Wood, Cece—Jan Barnes  
Wood, Gary  
Woolwine, Charlotte—rec. from liver transplant—Karen Sexauer  
Yoak, Tom—cancer  
Zimmer, Dorothy—Judy Jonas  
**Military Personnel**—Joseph Harris, Dylon Potts, Maria Schade  
Travis Schade