

THUSE NEWS

MARCH 2023

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

*TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIMARST
KNOWN*

EDGELAWN UMC

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



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FULLNESS OF JOY

*You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy
in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Psalm 16:11

She was young and pregnant and out of options. When she arrived at the home for single moms, she was not thrilled and wanted to take on the world alone. Or at least that is what she thought. Beneath the façade was someone who longed for a family, a house with a yard for kids to play in, and a husband who would love her. She wanted happiness. She wanted all that the movies told her was possible.

When that story wasn't working out the way she expected, she discovered something different. She learned that Jesus loved her and that his plan for her was different from what she had thought. She started to listen and change, and she discovered there was a difference between happiness and joy. She began to realize, as she let God lead her, that he was giving her joy. The Lord's steadfast care and strength would get her through the days of being a single mom. It became the foundation that her new family would build on.

This is true for all of us. The more we head in the direction of faith with our eyes and heart open, asking God to guide us, the more we find joy in the Lord's steadfast care and strength. We find encouragement to live into our real life today and to set fairytale dreams aside.

Beth Fellingner – info@todaydevotional.com - 1/21/23

IN MEMORY



A Saint of our church, Oren W. Baker, 82, of Parkersburg, WV, died Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Stonerise of Parkersburg. He was born in Beatrice, WV, a son of the late James A. and Lena Alice (Layfield) Baker.

He was a United States Army veteran and a member of DAV Chapter 32. He worked at Viscose before retiring from the United States Postal Service.

He is survived by his son James Wesley Baker (Bev) of Poquoson, VA; three daughters, Sharon Hewitt (Daryle) of Columbia, SC, Rhonda Cooper (Gary) of Washington, WV, and Brenda Dye (Roy) of Washington, WV; eight grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; brother Edward Ray Baker (Patricia) of Washington, WV; brother-in-law Bob Burwell; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, J. Owen, Boyd R., and Carol L. Baker, and a sister Lorna K. Burwell. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery South with military honors by American Legion Post 15.

The Celebration of Your Life

*We are here to celebrate your life
And the measure of its worth
And every single life you touched
While you were on this earth.*

*We wish to pay our last respects
That's why we are all here,
To thank you for your friendship
And all the memories we hold dear.*

*It's been a privilege to have known you.
We were family, not just friends,
And we will carry you in spirit
Until we meet up once again.*

Jodi L. Daly

SPARK & YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Spark & Youth groups delivering Valentines to our Faithful Friends...



The SPARK kids celebrate winning the food drive over the Youth on Sunday, February 12th with 478 items collected



The Youth came in "2nd Place" in the Food Collection drive with 228 items collected... Please note that Brad is smiling in this picture before the pies were "delivered" ...



For those who don't recognize the person sitting in the chair with a face full of pie, it is our Youth leader, Brad Lewis... Brad lost the food collection competition to the SPARK kids & collected his "reward" with 3 pies in his face (& hair & ears)!!!



On Sunday evening (after the "pie in the face" ritual) the food was loaded up for delivery to the Food Pantry



On Monday morning the food collected was taken to The Grace of God Food Pantry

PARKERSBURG SOUTH SAXOPHONE QUARTET



Our church family enjoyed the music of the Parkersburg South High School Saxophone Quartet at the February 19th Sunday morning service. A very talented group of young musicians - Superior Rating at Solo and Ensemble



Ali Evans – Played one of the leading roles as Evie in the Actors Guild production of Descendants. Also 2nd place for 9th grade at Math Field Day (daughter to Jason Evans)



Jantzen Karcher - part of the PSHS Swim Team that won state championship.

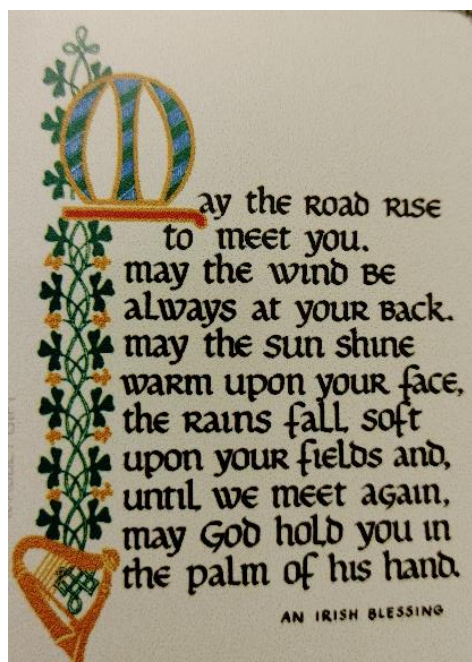
GIRL SCOUT ACTIVITIES



We had 9 little Kindergarten and 1st graders make 100 Valentine's for the Willow Nursing home. Spreading a little cheer. They did a great job assembling and gluing the valentines together.

Ruth Bradley

COLLEGE STUDENT OUTREACH



March greetings are being sent to our college graduates from their SPUMC family which will include this Irish Blessing! The updated College Student Address list is available at the welcome desk in the basement.

Please grab one to send an encouraging note to your favorite college student! All of us can remember them in our prayers as they continue their studies, they are...

Sarah Craft

Abbie Gibbs

Makenna Gibson

Davon Hampton

Michaela Hupp

Caleb Lucas

Sadie Nelson

Jamison Ramsburg

Drew Sams

COLLEGE STUDENTS!!! (& THEIR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS!!!)

ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS MAY??

DID YOU GRADUATE IN DECEMBER 2022??

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!!! Please make plans to be present for Sunday Morning Worship on May 21, 2023 so we can celebrate your accomplishments along with the high school graduates! Please share the following information: Your Name, Current Address, Phone Number, and Email (in case we have questions), College, Major, Degree, along with any honors or special recognition, current/future plans, as well as any other information you'd like to share with your SPUM church family!

Please email the above information and a recent photo of the graduate to either the church office at spumc1813@gmail.com or Melissa Kuhl-Hupp, College Student Outreach Coordinator, at makuhl304@gmail.com Questions? Either email or call the church office at 304-428-1195 or Melissa at 304-588-0465! **Please kindly provide your information by April 15th** in order to be included in the May edition of the Thuse News!

Melissa Kuhl-Hupp

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Easter is coming soon and we will be collecting Easter cards to deliver to our Faithful Friends. There will be a basket downstairs along with a list of names. These names are the only ones who will have cards delivered. We had very good participation from the congregation at Christmas, and we would like to do as well - or even better for Easter. Please remember our church family who cannot always be in our church services, but are here in spirit. They each have played a very important part in the life of our church and have helped build and sustain the church for many years.....and they still do. Let's share the love of God and shower them with blessings and cards. The deadline for bringing in your cards will be April 2nd. Thank you.

Bonnie

CLOTHING BIG SALE – MARCH 2023

The clothing sale will be held on the last weekend in March:

FRIDAY, MARCH 24th – 9:00AM to 5:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th – 9:00AM to 3:00PM

A BIG SALE Calendar showing the **DROP-OFF DAYS & TIMES** will be sent out early in March... Items in the sale also include shoes, purses, scarves, belts, and other accessories worn with clothing. Items should be in fairly good wearable condition.

The kitchen will also be in operation during the sale with food & drinks being served. FINANCIAL DONATIONS to support food purchases would be greatly appreciated. In addition, baked goods such as cookies & brownies can also be donated for the sale...

Larry Sexauer

SPUMC OUTDOOR LIBRARY



Our Little Free Library outside the church welcomes donations of books for both children & adults. We need to keep our library restocked so those who wish to borrow and read them have a good supply of reading material to choose from. Thank you for your support!!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Women met on Tuesday, Feb. 14 with the meeting beginning with a guest speaker, Teresa Racer, founder of Momma T and Warriors, to talk about her mission on the streets of Parkersburg (Lynn/Charles) which was very enlightening and hopefully we as a church can help her at some point. Next month, on Tuesday, March 14 at 6 pm we will again have a guest speaker, Taylor Phillips, Wood Co. Deputy Sheriff and her dog talking about safety for women. Women of the church are welcome to attend.

Jill Youell

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMW/UMM fundraiser luncheon held on Sunday, March 12th raised \$742 for the General Operating Fund at the church. Thanks to all those who donated food for the lunch, those who set up & served the meal, and those who cleaned up after the event. We also greatly appreciate all those who made financial donations to the church...

Jimmy Youell

PLEASE NOTE THAT STARTING ON MARCH 14TH, THE START TIME FOR BOTH THE UMW & UMM MEETINGS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 6:00PM

CRAFT SHOW

I am excited for the craft and vendor show coming up on March 11th. 2023. We are completely full for the show. The hours for the craft and vendor show are 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Come out and see what the crafters and vendors have to sell. It's going to be a big day. Hope to see you all. Thank you...

Dale Mc Mahan

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023

BOTTOM LINE - **\$605.23** NEGATIVE YEAR-TO-DATE
(NOT INCLUDING FUNDRAISERS)

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January Big sale net = \$7,042, February UMM & UMW soup luncheon net = \$727. A Big thank you to all who participated in any way in these fundraisers. The Troop 17 Boy Scout trailer, which was purchased by a church member and titled in the church's name has been sold for \$500. That amount was given to the church. It will be deposited in the Building and Improvement Fund.

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Silver Plate Ministries for the remainder of 2023 have been chosen. Please remember the passing of a second offering plate on Sunday



mornings has been replaced with wooden offering boxes located on the wall by all exits. Please place your offering for these special, local ministries in the box as you enter or leave the church. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

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- Jan - Latrobe Street Mission - \$797.50 received
 - Feb - Women's Care Center
 - Mar - Grace of God Food Pantry
 - Apr - Celebration of Mission Event (C.O.M.E.)
 - May - Youth to Camp
 - Jun - SPUMC Building and Improvement Fund
 - Jul - Campus Ministry
 - Aug - Old Man Rivers*
 - Sept - Wood County Society
 - Oct - North Place Maternity House
 - Nov - Adopt a Family (Families)
 - Dec - Salvation Army*

(Please note: *Previously announced April and May Ministries have moved down to last half of the year)

Submitted by: *Kay Wilhelm*, Finance Committee

THE TRUE MEANING OF HBO

To most people, the above letters mean something different from what is meant by them here...

H—means **Hear** the Word of the Lord. This is the beginning of obedience (Romans 10:17).

B—means **Believe** the Word of the Lord. This is essential if we intend to please our Creator (Hebrews 11:6).

O—means **Obey** the Word of the Lord. There is no substitute for obedience (1 Samuel 15:22; John 14:15).

In New Testament times, sinners heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel. As this was pleasing to God then, it is now also (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16). Hear, believe, and obey is God's simple plan for saving us...

Bill Dillon

A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

The church is so much more than a building... It's made of "living stones" from the past and present – faithful believers who came before us as well as the people we worship with today (1 Peter 2:4-6). We're called to encourage and strengthen one another as we live out the Christian life, using our gifts so the church continues to flourish...

Charles Stanley

DO WE REALLY NEED ONE ANOTHER?

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we are all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

As believers we are called to worship and serve God. Where and how we serve is based upon our talents, skills, and calling. But we are all expected to give of ourselves in the local church.

When you were saved, God baptized you by the Holy Spirit into His church. You then chose, in accordance with the Lord's will, to become part of believers. He placed you there because He knows that you are needed (1 Cor. 12:18). You are significant to your home church.

The church is more than a community. It's an interdependent body with individual members who were created by God to function in communion with one another. Christians, like the world at large, are a diverse group, so we won't always agree with each other. That means we have to pursue unity. But our differences are actually something to be celebrated, because each person uniquely contributes to God's purpose. A church that is truly operating as a unit – with all its varied gifts, talents, personalities, and intellects aimed toward kingdom goals – must be a beautiful sight from the Lord's perspective.

Christianity isn't a spectator religion. We all have jobs to do in God's kingdom. The body of Christ functions best and most beautifully when all members serve God and each other to the best of their ability.

How are you serving your church?

INTOUCH.ORG – Submitted by *Jill Youell*

CAREGIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Approximately 53 million Americans provided informal (unpaid) care in 2020...
- Approximately 24% of those are caring for more than one person...
- 2 out of 3 caregivers are women...
- 61% of those caregivers have additional work responsibilities...
- 10% of the caregivers are taking care of a spouse with dementia...
- 66% of the caregivers live with the loved one they care for...
- 1 in every 4 of the caregivers is a member of the "sandwich generation" caring for both an older adult and children under the age of 18...

Source: Mayo Clinic Health Clinic Supplement – February 2023

PRAYER LIST



Ron Sams - Lisa	Garry Gumm -
Katy Roberts	Dora Jean & Kim
Roger Thorne	Scott Summers
Dale McMahan	Ezekiel Mayhew
Dora Jean Gumm	Lori Parsons
Tim & Cindy Evans	Alice Hall
Sue Galland	Kevin Ross
Beverly Adams	Frances Sharp
Mark Adams II	Terry Crislip
Felix	Bill & Deanna Lutz
Jim Clemente	Nicole Buleza
Jim Gilmore	Diane Conrad
Kyler Gabriel	Pastor Lance Hill
Jerry Cantwell	Bob Wright
Rev. Verlin Camp	Jan White
Arthur Gilbert	Sarah Craft
Edward Kennedy	Diane Conrad



Remember the Families of:

Oren Baker
Lou Haught
Sierra Cumpston
Cody Easter
Milan Stanojevic



LOVE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE

*I'd gladly walk across the desert with no shoes upon my feet
To share with you the last bite of bread I had to eat
I would swim out to save you in your sea of broken dreams
When all your hopes are sinking let me show you what love means
Love can build a bridge
Between your heart and mine
Love can build a bridge
Don't you think it's time?
Don't you think it's time?*

*I would whisper love so loudly, every heart could understand
That love and only love can join the tribes of man
I would give my heart's desire so that you might see
The first step is to realize that it all begins with you and me
Love can build a bridge
Between your heart and mine
Love can build a bridge
Don't you think it's time?
Don't you think it's time?*

*When we stand together it's our finest hour
We can do anything, anything
Keep believing in the Power*

The Judd's "**Love Can Build a Bridge**" – The song was written by Naomi Judd, Paul Overstreet, and John Barlow Jarvis

BIBLE QUIZ

The answers in this Month's quiz come from Matthew Chapter 23 – Jesus' Warning Against Hypocrisy ...You can find, or check, your answers in the scripture noted after each question... Good Luck!!!

1. Jesus told the people to do as the Pharisees directed, but to not _____ (Matthew 23:2-4)
2. What 3 names does Jesus say we should not be called? (Matthew 23:8-10)
3. Who does Jesus say will be humbled? (Matthew 23:12)
4. Who does Jesus say will be exalted? (Matthew 23:12)
5. What are the 3 important matters of the Law? (Matthew 23:23)
6. Jesus said the Pharisees appeared righteous on the outside, but there were full of _____ (Matthew 23:28)
7. What do the Pharisees like to be called? (Matthew 23:7)
8. Over what city is Jesus lamenting as Chapter 23 closes? (Matthew 23:37-39)