

# THE GOOD NEWS



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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

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From Isaiah 55:11 come these words: “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Some years ago a friend in the church I was serving showed me a treasure he had found in his great-great-grandmother’s Bible: a “quarterly ticket.” It was dated 1884, and signed by her Methodist preacher. Once each quarter, the circuit-riding preacher came through the small towns to boost the faithful and verify patterns of attendance. Two signatures verified that the member had been faithful in worship attendance at his or her church during the most recent three-month period.

Can you imagine collecting tickets for a worship service today? We can scarcely imagine the power or the discipline of such a practice.

Such faithfulness is difficult to sustain in our day. Weekend leisure becomes the norm. “Night and day” sales draw huge crowds to the shopping malls. Leisure activities of all kinds lure us and then sometimes remake us into tired, cranky people who face the new week without being refreshed.

*(Continued on the next page —>)*



St. Marys UMC

Northern District

West Virginia Conference

Northeastern Jurisdiction

*(Continued from page 1)*

For some Christians, even the slightest distraction gives us an excuse to stay away from the worship gathering of the church family: I am too tired; it's my only day off; I have company visiting this weekend; I have too much to do to take the time. These are all familiar to me, because I have been tempted by them all!

In order to be “card carrying” believers today, we have to be very intentional about the spiritual discipline of weekly worship. Religious author James Smart once said, “Worship is the Christian’s vital breath.”

Join me and your brothers and sisters in our household of faith in making sure we breathe well this week and as we move into the summer months!

Blessings & Love,  
*Clare*

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## LIFT UP THE WORLD LIGHT UP THE WORLD



The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual National  
Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 2 at 7 PM  
First Baptist Church  
425 Barkwill Street  
St. Marys, WV

Come and Pray With Us!  
Everyone is Welcome!

(Sponsored by the Pleasants Area Ministerial Association)

## What is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

*Pentecost Sunday is May 19<sup>th</sup>. It is traditional to wear red to celebrate the Holy Spirit.*

And all of them  
were filled  
with the  
Holy Spirit

Acts 2:4





## United Methodist Men

Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning for breakfast  
at 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

All men are welcome



**Next Breakfast meeting - May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM**

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## **2024 DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL - 6 PM**

May 14 - July 9 - September 10 - November 12

### **TRUSTEES - 5 PM**

May 19 - July 14 - September 8 - November 10

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE - 6 PM**

TBA

### **LAY LEADERSHIP & NOMINATIONS - 6 PM**

June 18 - July 17

### **SPRC - 6 PM**

July 16 - November 13



## United Women In Faith News

### MAY

Leadership Team - Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM  
General Meeting & Circles - Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM  
Program: ***Mother's Day Tea***  
***Tea and goodies provided***  
***(Wear something white)***

**Program:** Grace Circle  
**Flowers & Greeters:** Peace Circle

### June

Leadership Team - Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM  
General Meeting & Circles - Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM  
Program: ***Food Insecurity***  
Guest Speaker: ***Jennifer White***  
***(Bring non-perishable food items)***

**Program:** Kindness Circle  
**Flowers & Greeters:** Grace Circle



*Congratulations, SMHS Baccalaureate - May 19 at 2 PM*  
*Graduates! SMHS Graduation - May 26 at 7 PM*

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> we will be honoring our graduating students. We will have special recognition during worship and a meal afterwards. Please plan to join us!

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

**Lara Fetty** - *West Liberty University - 12/2023*

**Emily Hadley** - *West Virginia University at Parkersburg - 12/2023*

**Jaden Hatcher** - *Fairmont State University - 12/2023*

**Blakelyn Mote** - *West Virginia University - 12/2023*

**Adam Bennett** - *SMHS - 5/2024*

**Virginia Haddox** - *SMHS - 5/2024*



# Vidalia Onion Festival



The “Sweet Breath of Spring Vidalia Onion Festival” will be on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** from **11 AM - 4 PM**. The Pleasants County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting it this year. There will be onions, food, farmers market, crafts, music, and activities for adults and youth held throughout the day. It will be held downtown.

The United Methodist Women will be selling candy (or cookies, snack mix, other goodies) again for \$1 a bag, we will also be selling pies by the slice. Donations pre-packaged in snack sized bags and pies are appreciated and can be left in the Chapel Kitchen before the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP**

Our Summer worship in the Chapel begins Sunday, June 2nd. We currently have a survey being distributed to determine the congregation’s preferred time for worship. Please make sure you complete one. Thank you.

## **WELCOME!**

We have hired a custodian! Lorie Masters comes to us highly recommended and the SPRC feels she will be a good fit with our church.

We had another candidate who was an outstanding applicant as well, but we only had one job to offer. However, if you or someone you know are looking for a house cleaner, we would gladly get you her information. Just call the church office at 304-684-3018. References and background checks were completed on Lorie and the second applicant, so the SPRC feels confident in recommending them both.

## GIVING

### TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

March 31	\$3,772.00
April 7	\$5,203.00
April 14	\$4,608.00
April 21	\$2,236.00

## ATTENDANCE

### IN PERSON

### ONLINE

March 31	136	101
April 7	73	104
April 14	64	110
April 21	75	75

**YTD Gifts received for our Budget - \$63,998.92**  
**YTD needed for our Budget - \$60,630.77**  
**Building Fund Balance - \$20,192.87**



**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a  
Celebration of Life remembering  
Susan Eisenman from 4 PM to 6 PM  
in the Chapel.**

### **The United Methodist Church General Conference**

continues through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please continue to hold them and their work in your prayers.

Pastor Clare, Beverly Stutzman and Pat Mays will be at **Annual Conference** in Buckhannon June 6-9. Please keep them and the Conference in your prayers.



## Neighbor Network Highlights for the Month of March

Total Donations: 199

Total Customers: 725

Total Families receiving services: 157

(Gabriel Project - 11 , total of 13 children)

(food - 304 individuals)

(utility assistance - 7 families)

Total Thrift Store Transactions:     \$7,159.78

Total Donations to NN:             \$8,080.20

Total Expenses:                     \$12,473.36

Number of Volunteers this month: 30+

**Volunteers are  
always needed,  
please call the store  
at 304-684-3990 if  
you can help.**

### **NEIGHBOR NETWORK FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Our Neighbor Network partners with Mountaineer Food Bank for a monthly food giveaway. It is held at the Marina beginning around 10:30 AM. Volunteers are always need and ask to be at the Marina by 9:45 AM. You may also know someone who would benefit from the distribution. Pleasants County residents only please.

*Our next giveaways are  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup>,  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Did you know that our weekly radio broadcast airs on Sunday mornings at 9 AM on 93.9 FM. Our weekly worship video posts at 10:30 AM on our 2 Facebook pages and on YouTube. These are outreach ministries the church supports through its budget. Please share this information!**

# Birthdays

## MAY

Corbin Bussey	5/1
Wendy Loughner	5/3
Paula Lewis Corbin	5/4
Marci Davis	5/8
Marcia McCullough	5/11
Adam Carpenter	5/11
Cayla Stephens	5/14
Jan Brewer	5/15
Beckie Barton	5/16
Ethel Ross	5/19
Carla Conaway	5/19
Lily McKnight	5/20
Paul Ingram	5/20
Richard Moore	5/20
David Braun	5/21
Mike McGee	5/21
Todd Lewis	5/22
Jenny Brewer	5/23
Dick Reed	5/23
Derek Johnson	5/24
Jessy Moore	5/25
Sarah Holt	5/26
Nina Ogdin	5/29
Mae Lewis	5/31
Mary Frances Park	5/31

## JUNE

Judy Roden	6/1
Kohner Loughner	6/3
Terry Carpenter	6/4
Sue Morgan	6/4
Brett Colyer	6/4
Bill Maiden	6/5
Mary Hooper Snyder	6/7
David Henline	6/7
Pat Mays	6/7
Donald Dearth	6/8
Evelyn Neely	6/10
Tammi Nichols	6/13
Adam Bennett	6/14
Blakelyn Mote	6/15
Jim Henegar	6/15
Gregory Arnott	6/17
Randy Nutter	6/18
Liam Loughner	6/21
Rick McCullough	6/22
David Robey	6/23
Becky Arnott	6/23
Ashleigh Bonner	6/23
Wilma Bailey	6/24
Deena Hatcher	6/27
Casey Barron	6/28

## MEETINGS

### MAY

- 14 Church Council - 6 PM
- 19 Trustees - 5:00 - PM

### JUNE

- 18 Lay Leadership & Nominations - 6 PM
- 19 Trustees - 5 PM

### EVERY MONTH

- First Mon. - UWF - 6 PM
- Third Sun. - UMM - 8 AM

### OTHER GROUPS MEETING AT OUR CHURCH

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. Habitat for Humanity 6 PM
- & Middle Island Ramblers 4-H 7 PM
- Every Tuesday Boy Scouts 7 PM
- Every Thursday AA / AI-Anon 8 PM



The church office  
will be closed:  
Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
for  
Memorial Day



Do we have your  
birthday listed?  
Please call Lillian at  
304-684-3018  
if we do not have it!

## PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Moorhead  
Ginger Poling  
Suellen Simonton  
Caroline Hill  
Shirley Seaboy  
Avery Clickenger  
Joe & Thomasine Troisi  
Benny & Ruth Wagner  
Philip Starks  
Dwight Davis

Maddie Collins  
JD Williamson  
Evelyn Neely  
Duane Larsen  
Dwayne Barnes  
Martha Poling  
Dan McSpadden  
Carol McSpadden  
Sheila Scadden  
Jennifer Furr

Webb Carpenter  
Greg Hill  
Mary Brewer  
Eleanor Pierce  
Kohner Loughner  
Adam Mallett  
Debbie Bailey  
Matthew Beard  
Martha Hoyt  
Mike McGee


Mary Alice Shafer  
Jim West  
Cheryl West  
Ruth Blauser  
Jim McLaughlin  
Terrie Gellner Huls  
Will Poling  
Howard Whelchel  
Destinee Gray  
Matthew Clovis  
Teresa Davies



*Christian Sympathy  
is extended to the  
friends & family of  
Carolyn Ashkar*

**iT'S A  
GIRL**

*Congratulations to  
Steven & Victoria Nutter  
On the birth of their  
Daughter Cori Dawn  
born on April 11, 2024*

*Thank you*  *Dear Church Family and Friends,  
Thank you so very much for the beautiful bag of  
goodies I received for Administrative Assistant  
Day! I truly appreciated it. And I am so very  
happy to be back working for all of you once  
again. SMUMC has a very special place in my heart.*

*In Christian love,  
Deb*

## Outreach Ministry Opportunities

- Neighbor Network food pantry needs:  
Boxed Mac. & Cheese, small pkgs. of Hamburger & Hot Dogs, Soup Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Syrup, Soup, Instant Potatoes, Crackers, Pork & Beans, Canned Milk, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, oil for cooking
- Size 5 diapers for Neighbor Network

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St. Marys, WV 26170  
(304) 684-3018  
[www.smwvumc.com](http://www.smwvumc.com)  
[smumcww@outlook.com](mailto:smumcww@outlook.com)



## Upcoming Dates

- May 1*      **Choir at 7 PM**
- May 2*      **National Day of Prayer at 7 PM**  
**First Baptist Church (In the Sanctuary)**
- May 3*      **NN Board Meeting at 1 PM**
- May 4*      **Onion Festival 11 AM - 4 PM**
- May 5*      **Youth Group 5 PM - 7 PM**
- May 6*      **UWF Leadership Team at 5 PM**  
**UWF General Meeting/Circles at 6 PM**
- May 8*      **Choir at 7 PM**
- May 10*     **NN Food Distribution (Marina) at 9:45 AM**
- May 14*     **Church Council at 6 PM**
- May 15*     **Choir at 7 PM**
- May 19*     **UMM Breakfast Meeting at 8 AM**  
**Pentecost & Graduation Sunday**  
**Meal after Worship**  
**Trustees at 5 PM**
- May 21*     **Parish Meeting at 9 AM**  
**Ministerial Association at 10 AM**
- May 22*     **Choir at 7 PM**
- May 25*     **Susan Eisenman's Celebration of Life**
- May 26*     **SMHS Graduation at 7 PM**
- May 27*     **Church Office Closed for Memorial Day**

**KEITH & BECKY BARTH**  
**5042 TYLER HIGHWAY**  
**SISTERSVILLE, WV 26175-7110**