

Smoke Signal



December 2018 Newsletter
Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
Stephenson, VA 22656
C. Steven Melester, Pastor

"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Sharing the Love of Christ with All People!



As I write this newsletter article, the trial of a man accused of murder begins in Charlottesville. He is charged with purposely driving his car into a crowd of people; a crowd of people who happened to disagree with him. Because of hatred, a young lady was killed needlessly and a man has thrown his life away. Two police officers were killed in the line of duty that day. Families have been devastated and lives have been torn apart --- For what?

As I write this newsletter article, I am still reeling from one mass shooting after another. In fact there have been so many mass murders in our country that I am ashamed to say, I can't even keep up with all of them. I still remember Columbine and who can forget Va. Tech.? But since then, there has been hundreds more. We just hear about the worst. A Bible study in Charleston; a church on Sunday morning in Texas; a concert in Las Vegas, nightclub's in Florida and California; Sandy Hook; a Synagogue in Pittsburg --- the list goes on and on and on and on! Why? Mental illness, pain, isolation, hatred, anger, godlessness -- all seem to be some of the excuses given. Where is this madness coming from?

As I write this newsletter article, our country is as divided as it has ever been in my lifetime and the polarization has re-booted and re-established fierce and unrelenting loyalty to extremism. Why?

The world we live in today, when push comes to shove, is really no different from the world our Lord was born into more than 2,000 years ago. We still practice racism, we still judge, we still hate, we still look for someone to blame, we still have thousands starving to death, many are still dying from diseases we can cure and prevent. Why?

Perhaps, we should consider not asking why but start asking who --- not who can answer these challenging questions but who can heal us, protect us, walk with us, redeem us, forgive us and grant unto us eternal and everlasting life --- maybe, just maybe we should be seeking who can help us make sense of our lives, who can give meaning and purpose for our lives, who can calm the storms of our lives, who can make us whole and bring peace into our lives. Maybe we should be yearning for who will love us through our doubt, love us through our anger, love us through our self-righteousness, love us through our disillusionment, love us through our back-sliding, love us through our pain, love us through our lack of faith and love us through our sin!

Maybe friends, we should travel through the season of Advent and go to the manger of our Lord this year, with a renewed trust in God and God's plan for our salvation! That plan began with the birth that we celebrate every Dec. 25th! Jesus came to bring us hope, love, joy and peace! He came to show us a new way and to one day, make all things right. He came to show us that love will win and that we do not live out our lives in vain but in the truth of God's unchanging and dependable Word! Don't give up hope, trust in God.

The 28th Psalm has served me well in attempting to navigate some of these difficult questions or at the very least has served to give me strength and comfort in times of trouble. I hope you will receive these words this Advent/Christmas season with hope and joy and peace and love in your heart. We have a shepherd who loves us! We have a savior who will not leave or forsake us!

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUES ON FOLLOWING PAGE.....

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUES.....

"To you I call, O Lord my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit. Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve. Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for the anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be the shepherd and carry them forever!"

From our family to yours: Melanie, Ben, Abby and I wish you the very best that life has to offer! A life grounded and rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ! We wish blessing upon blessings upon each of you as you faithfully seek God's truth! May this be a Christmas that brings hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ into your family afresh and anew! May the warmth of the light of Jesus Christ; may the grace of our Lord and the love of God surround, nurture, and keep you now and forever!

Merry Christmas! Pastor Steve

**PART-TIME
YOUTH
DIRECTOR
OPENING**

Burnt Factory United Methodist Church has an opening for a part time youth director to join our team. This position would begin as a part-time, paid position, averaging 20 hours per week, reporting to the Pastor. This position may have the potential to become a full time, paid position. The youth director would be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing youth activities as well as mentoring and counseling our youth. This position would require the candidate to have a vision and creativity for building and leading a strong youth program by encouraging the youth to respond to God's call to serve.

Experience in leading small groups, mission trips, skills in communication and the ability to work well with youth, staff, and parents are essential.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR RESUME TO:

Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
Attn: Becky /PPRC Chair
P.O. Box 399
Stephenson, Va. 22656

OR EMAIL RESUME TO:

burntfacume@yahoo.com

Thank you, Becky Dennis, PPRC Chair

Ladies, it is almost time to pick new prayer partners for the year. If you are new to our congregation, you have the opportunity to have another woman pray for you all year and to remember your birthday and anniversary. We will be revealing our current prayer partners and picking new ones at the UMW meeting on December 13.

If you haven't participated previously and you would like a prayer partner, please contact Kathy Dixon at kjdixon7@msn.com or call 703-407-2441.



UNITED



METHODIST



WOMEN

The year moves on and we are looking forward to our December meeting on Thursday, the 13th in the social hall. Our hostesses will be Christina Rohrbach, Jani Shope, Diann and Doris Duvall. The program leader will be Debbie Walker. We hope we will have good attendance as we donate to several organizations, talk about a winter craft activity for Project Esperanza, fill baskets with articles women will need when they transition from Laurel Center to a place of their own. If you want to help out with this and are not aware of certain needs, WalMart gift cards are always in order – any amount. They can be brought to the meeting. Winchester Together is of interest to our group, also. We help Valley Shine and Valley Light, as well as Fremont Street Nursery.

Since we are bringing in donations for several groups, we will not be exchanging gifts among ourselves this year. You have been so generous all year for the projects we have been involved in. If you wish to bring in a gift for your current prayer partner, just make sure it is clearly marked and we will find a special place for those. Also if you want to participate in drawing for a prayer partner for 2019, Kathy Dixon will be our contact person. See the accompanying article about this in this newsletter. Prayer partner names will be revealed during our meeting and new ones drawn.

You won't want to miss our meeting! Don't miss out on being a part of the fellowship, and the joy of helping those less fortunate. It's such a joy to be able to share from our treasury to help various groups. It's also fun to be with friends for a couple of hours. Continue to bring in cancelled stamps and BoxTops for Education.

This is the time we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child and stay focused on the fact that Christ is the Reason for the Season.

God's blessings to each of you! Polly Duvall, president



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec 2 | Kathy Feight | Dec 19 | Angela Renner |
| Dec 3 | Maureen Dick
Wyatt Nail | Dec 21 | Naomi Hahn
Brantley Neff |
| Dec 4 | Avery Mae Goode | Dec 24 | Christian Fairbanks |
| Dec 6 | Sam Lentz | DECEMBER 25 | JESUS |
| Dec 11 | Jean Blankenship
Austin Luttrell | Dec 26 | Polly Duvall |
| Dec 12 | Emily Rees Hartman
Rylee Jenkins | Dec 27 | Tom Duvall |
| Dec 13 | Rob Moss
Colton Anderson | Dec 28 | Don Duvall
Dave Pool |
| | | Dec 29 | Bonnie Henry |
| | | Dec 30 | Melissa Clemons |



- | | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Dec 21 | Jay and Anne Kackley |
| Dec 28 | Tim and Anne Perault |

Pastor Steve has special notices he needs to send to those who attend Burnt Factory. The notices will include not only prayer concerns, but also schedule changes during bad weather.

Have You Given Your E-Mail Address to Keith Roberts, yet?

Keith keeps an e-mail list in his computer for just such purposes. Your e-mail address is protected and e-mails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your e-mail address to Keith Roberts at john.k.roberts@comcast.net with the message:

"ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST"

Thank You

December Faith Community Nurse Article

Top 12 tips for a happy, healthy Christmas

The New Year is often a good time to think about making positive changes in our lives, so why not focus on how incredible you'll feel next month if you've taken a little extra care of yourself this **Christmas**. Here are the top 12 tips to help you enjoy **Christmas** AND set yourself up for a great 2019.



1. **RELAX, BUT DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.** "What the heck, it's Christmas!" – It's a tempting excuse but one that won't lead you anywhere healthy! Resist the temptation to throw caution to the wind at Christmas – there are too many opportunities to overeat and pile on those pounds that so many people never lose the following year.
2. **KEEP ACTIVE.** Even just a daily walk will help to prevent your already over-burdened digestive system from becoming sluggish. Not only will walking help you work off the extra calories, but it's great for your mood.
3. **MAKE LUNCH OR DINNER LIGHT.** If you know you'll be having a heavy lunch or dinner, switch one of them for light, healthy snacks. Eating light will leave you with some energy for social occasions, and help counter some of the rich and heavy meals you'll be eating over the holidays.
4. **SEEK OUT VITAMIN & MINERAL-RICH FOODS.** Many of the commonly consumed festive treats are nutrient-depleting, so try to include some foods rich in potassium, magnesium, zinc and iron, which are vital for keeping energy levels high.
5. **KEEP BREAKFAST HEALTHY.** You'll need plenty of energy in reserve so start your day with a healthy breakfast that won't spike your blood sugar levels and send you into an energy slump or knock your mood off balance. Use breakfast as an opportunity to eat plenty of fruit and top it off with immune-boosting antioxidants.
6. **DRINK RESPONSIBLY.** There's no way to disguise the fact that more than moderate amounts of alcohol can overload the body with toxins, deplete us of important nutrients, suppress the immune system, disrupt sleep, upset digestion...the list goes on.
7. **JUST CHILL.** Christmas is busy enough without putting additional pressure on ourselves; accept help from others or lend a hand to someone else.
8. **SLEEP MORE.** Many of us reach Christmas fatigue because we don't prioritize sleep. Try to get real sleep every night and avoid over-committing yourself.
9. **SWITCH BAD FOODS FOR GOOD.** Look around and there are, almost always, healthier choices to be found.
10. **SWITCH OFF THE TV!** Christmas is a great time to catch up and have quality time with family. Turn it off now and again. Do something that involves quality interaction.
11. **IT'S OKAY TO SAY "NO"!** We tend not to enjoy those things we feel obliged to do. Do you really need to say yes to every invite? Slow down, take in your surroundings, observe and listen. Have some "me" time. Rest and relax.
12. **RESOLUTIONS AND GOALS.** Try to see the New Year as an opportunity for re-evaluating where you are in life, and where you're headed. If you're setting resolutions, don't be too ambitious. Successful resolutions need to come from intrinsic motivation – so choose carefully.

It can be tempting to stray from your health goals, especially this time of year – we know because we've all been there. It's important to make sensible choices to maintain your health. Above all, I hope you stay fit and well this Christmas and enjoy it!

"God is with us today. All day long! Every day! His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, gives us guidance and power to live life, God's way. When we live God's way, He is glorified and made more famous... and this is our reason for living, to glorify God."

Until the next time ... Blessings to you and yours, Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or theresa.h.seddon@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 247-5612. As your Faith Community Nurse, I am here to serve as a bridge to better health, meeting the wholistic healing mission of the church by partnering with the Pastor as a healer of the spirit, mind and body.





RELAY FOR LIFE

December Newsletter

Believers Happenings

- Homemade soup sale in early 2019 after both church services – more details to come. (Brenda Drumheller and Allie Goode co-chairs)
- In January or February we will be hosting a Valley Shine jewelry making party. For \$40.00 you will be able to make your own piece of jewelry “Making Broken Beautiful.” Half of the proceeds will go to our team and the other half will go to Valley Shine.
- April 13th 2019 Spaghetti Dinner/Theme basket auction
- Yard sale in the spring

Winchester/Frederick County Relay Happenings

- Cancer Survivor Cookie Exchange – Wayside Inn (7783 Main Street, Middletown, VA) Thursday, December 13th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM *Cancer Survivors and Caregivers are invited to join in Crafts, Caroling, Games, Fellowship and COOKIES!!!! (The cookie event is FREE).*
- American Cancer Society 2nd Annual Soup Per Bowl Contest, February 11, 2019 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Soup Entries: \$20.00 per entry, 2 entries per person/team, Entry deadline January 31st.
See Theresa or Christina form entry forms
Tasting Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, includes 5 soup tastings, salad, bread & drinks. Additional soup tastings and soup to purchase for additional cost.

If you have not joined our team and would like to you can register on line at relay.acevents.org and then,

- Click on “Join this Relay”
- Create an email account or log in if previously registered
- Choose Winchester Frederick
- Choose team “The Believers”

If computers are not your thing, you can call (877-957-7848), or fill out a registration form and give it to either Theresa Gilbert or Christina Rohrbach.

Cancer does not differentiate one day from the next, so during the Christmas season please make sure that you keep those battling cancer and their caregivers at the top of your prayer list.

Theresa Gilbert and Christina Rohrbach, Co-Captains

GREETINGS TO ALL MEN OF ALL AGES OF THE CHURCH!

Retreat with us in the hills of Camp Overlook. One night. One week before BFUMC New Year Prayer Service. Start the New Year off with grace and blessings.

Allow the peace and inspiring setting of the Blessings Lodge to be a blessing to you. Discover renewal through fellowship and worship with United Methodist Men as we journey in faith together. Take a little time to listen for God.

Our speaker, Peter Moon, was born in Nashville, TN. He served as a Naval Flight Officer aboard the aircraft carriers USS Kitty Hawk and USS Ranger, flying A6E Intruder aircraft, and also completed a DMIN at Wesley Theological Seminary. Pete has been a delegate to General Conference in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019. In 2015, he was appointed as the Richmond District Superintendent. He is currently writing a book about the hope we find in the basic and enduring message of the gospel as seen in the Methodist tradition.

We will begin with supper at 6:30 and conclude with worship at 2 pm on Saturday. Register by December 20th for a \$10 discount!

Let's go to the mountain! Sign-ups at church hall or you can contact either Tim Heinlein or Steve Cunningham at tim.heinlein@gmail.com or Steve Cunningham at Stephen.Cunningham@fema.dhs.gov.

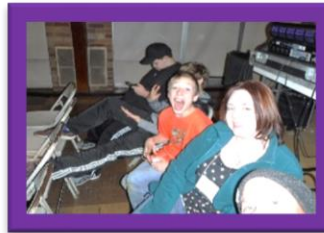
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." Isaiah 2:3

Tim Heinlein Cell 540-450-6716



Shout out to the Youth who served lunch to our Motel Ministry friends early on Saturday morning, November 3rd. Thanks to the faithful Parents: Ada, Kara, Jason, Ben and Karen. See Jesus ~ be Jesus. Thank you, great job!

We were victorious at the 2018 Virginia Conference Middle School Retreat! John, Jefferson and Teddy were great, and we all should be proud of them. A special thank you to Angela Wiseman who went above and beyond to chaperone (no sleep, no privacy, no problem).



What does Jenga have to do with Youth Group? You can be a champion at one thing, yet, in humility, see yourself as not better than others. Be the best that God made you to be. *Galatians 6:4 - Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else.* Great Young people and a fun time. Thanks Crystal and Rachel for helping.

Off to the High School Retreat!

Upcoming Youth Events:

- ☛ **Sunday, December 16th Salvation Army Angel Shopping 4 – 6:00pm**
 - Meet in Fellowship Hall
 - Each Youth is asked to donate \$10 towards purchasing gifts

- ☛ **Thursday December 27th End of Year Party 5:00 – 8:00 Fellowship Hall**
 - Cookie Exchange and Thieves Christmas (\$10)

Pastor Steve: 540-550-3189/ pastorsteve58@comcast.net

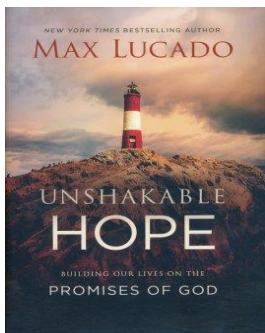
Mr. Rob: 540-303-7161/ ram288@comcast.net

From a branch on the Vine,

Hear the satin voice of Karen Carpenter, “We’ve only just begun to live.” And hear the words of Saint Paul, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17.* New again. We feel it at communion; at each baptism – every time our soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit. Does that mean our circumstances have changed? The world miraculously is a warm and loving place? Not likely.

New again is renewal of the grace and mercy we need for the difficult challenge to be followers of Jesus Christ. We need patience for the distracted driver; and compassion for those who always seem to be in need. We need understanding for people who have put Jesus aside or who have never met Him. To the family member who seems to thrive on drama, we need a dose of peace (we may be that person). All these can be found in the Hope of Jesus Christ for He is the fulfillment of our hope for a good, fruitful and abundant life.

Hope may be in short supply. In the richest society in history, the hopelessness of people choosing to take their own lives has risen 24%. How can we have so much stuff to make us happy and still not have hope. It is hope in Who not in what. It is blessed assurance in Jesus over the treasures of the world. In the midst of these challenging times, how do we keep hope alive? How do we embrace **Unshakable Hope**?



In January, our church is launching a small group study by Max Lucado titled ***Unshakable Hope***. The study will be offered at different times and locations so that as many as possible can study and grow in their connection to Jesus and to their brothers and sisters in Christ (for we do not journey alone). More information will come very soon. Please consider this opportunity to dig deeper into your faith and to join in a richer fellowship with the body of Christ.

*What is shaking in your world? Possibly your future, your faith, your family or finances? Could you use some **Unshakable Hope**? Because life is filled with problems, God’s Word is filled with promises. When the winds and waves of life rage, God’s promises are like lights on the shoreline, guiding us home. ~ Max Lucado*

In the scriptures, God has made over 7000 promises to humanity, and God is a promise keeper. When Paul was on trial in front of King Agrippa for blasphemy, his defense was his hope in the promises of God (Acts 26). Abraham believed. Isaac believed. Jacob, Moses, Joshua all believed that God keeps his promises, and He has promised to love you no matter what – love you back to Himself.

The circumstances of life or the promises of God, which will renew you? Which will you stand on as the source of **Unshakable Hope**?

Friends, may God richly bless you during this Season of Emmanuel, God with Us. Please open yourself to His call on your life. All your problems will not go away, but you can stand on the promise of God for a better life. You will have Hope.

In Christ, *Rob*



December
2018

CCAP Corner

CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of 45 area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need. CCAP is located at 112 and 106 S. Kent Street.

November was an awesome time for CCAP collections at Burnt Factory UMC!!!

- We were able to supply enough food for 17 complete Thanksgiving dinners for CCAP. We also donated an additional 10 turkeys. The food was distributed to CCAP clients the Saturday before Thanksgiving so they could prepare a meal for their families.

- We collected 28 blankets, 1416 diapers, and 956 wipes for CCAP from our Thanksgiving Eve service collection. These donations will be gratefully received by the clients at CCAP. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped load up these gifts. A Big thank you Jo Anna and Jimmy Grayson for loading up, counting and getting these donations to CCAP.

In **December**, CCAP will have a **Christmas Giveaway** and asks that you consider donating the following **NEW** items for the Giveaway on Saturday, Dec 15: **BLANKETS (SIZES FULL, QUEEN, KING); PILLOWS; SHOES; WINTER BOOTS (MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS); WINTER COATS (TEENS/ADULTS); SOCKS (MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS); UNDERWEAR (ALL); WATER RESISTANT/PROOF WINTER GLOVES; WINTER COATS (MEN, WOMEN AND TEENS); WINTER CLOTHING FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, CHILDREN, MEN AND WOMEN (& TEENS IF YOU UNDERSTAND THEIR FASHIONS); THE BABY/TODDLER ROOM WISHES FOR WINTER PJS, SOCKS, AND UNDERWEAR FOR TODDLERS UP TO SIZE 5T; GIFT CARDS TO PLATO'S CLOSET; COLOGNE/PERFUME; BODY WASH FEMALE & MALE; BODY SPRAYS/LOTIONS; MAKE UP, NAIL POLISH/DECALS; FOOTBALLS, BASKETBALLS, SOCCER BALLS; FISHING POLES/TACKLE; LEGOS, DUMP TRUCKS, MATCHBOX VEHICLES; DOLLS & ACCESSORIES; INFANT/TODDLER TOYS; CARD GAMES (UNO, PHASE 10, OTHERS); SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS - CROCK POTS, COFFEE POTS, GRIDDLES, TOASTERS, TOASTER OVENS, ELECTRIC KETTLE TO HEAT HOT WATER QUICKLY; SHEET SETS TWIN, FULL, QUEEN, KING; TOWELS/WASHCLOTHS; BOARD GAMES (YAHTZEE, MONOPOLY, LIFE, Pictionary OTHER POPULAR BOARD GAMES); MODEL KITS (CARS, PLANES, SHIPS); CRAFT PROJECT KITS; REMOTE CONTROL CARS, TRUCKS, PLANES OR BOATS; RIDE ON TOYS FOR TODDLERS; WINTER SLEDS; BICYCLES THAT WILL BE GIVEN AWAY AS RAFFLE ITEMS); BAG WITH HOUSEHOLD/HYGIENE ITEMS LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, TOILET PAPER, CLEANING SUPPLIES, SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER, DISPOSABLE RAZORS, DEODORANT, ADULT/CHILD TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, HAIR BRUSHES); COSTUME JEWELRY, EARRINGS, WATCHES; MEN/BOYS WATCHES; PURSES/WOMEN'S WALLETS; MEN'S WALLETS; CAR CARE ITEMS; TOOL BAGS WITH ITEMS.**

On Sunday, Nov. 18, our church served lunch at CCAP to over 40 clients. We served soup, rolls, sloppy joes, fruit and desserts. The clients really enjoyed the soup and came back for seconds and thirds. Thanks to Donna Gallagher for leading and coordinating this meal. **The next opportunity to help with this Outreach mission will be on Sunday, December 16.** Our friends at CCAP know we serve on the third Sunday and look forward to our visits. We start setting up at 12:15 and are finished by 1:30. Debbie Walker will be the team lead for this meal. If you can help, by preparing food and/or serving, please contact Debbie at 540-664-0908 or dswalker1@yahoo.com.

Specific needs for CCAP at this time are for **DIAPERS, SOCKS, HATS AND MITTENS FOR SIZES NB – 5T. THE PANTRY NEEDS: CANS OF HEARTY SOUP, DRIED BEANS AND RICE. THE CLOTHING AREA ALWAYS NEEDS NEW UNDERWEAR FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**

Volunteers are always welcome at CCAP. Drop by during operating hours, 8:30 – 2 M-Th and 8:30 – noon on Friday, to see all the activity and work done for those in need. If you would like to serve this ministry and would like a tour, just let me know and we can set it up. I can be reached at ricpat5@gmail.com or 540-664-6973 if you have questions about CCAP.

Thank you for all you do for CCAP. Your continued prayers for their many clients are always appreciated.

Patty Leonard

Kid-Min Connection!



Glory Be to God! We have had a wonderful year in Children's Ministries and I look forward to an amazing new year to come! Thank you to all who have helped, volunteered and prayed for Children's ministries this past year!

It's that holiday time again and I look forward to coming and seeing the kiddos in their holiday concerts, talent shows, sports activities and birthday celebrations! So... let me know schedules and I will do my best to come and see them in their awesome activities!

December 5 at 6pm we will gather here at the church to head over to Hilltop House to sing carols to the elderly! We will also pass out crafts we have made this summer! This will be carpool style transportation! Anyone wishing to join us (ahem choir folks) is welcome to come along!

December 9 will be our Children's Christmas Musical "Straight Outta Bethlehem!" 6pm in the sanctuary. This show is amazing! You won't want to miss it!

December 16 some of our children are singing in the Cantata so we will not have Children's Church that Sunday and families can all sit together! We will have nursery available as usual. Also, on this Sunday, there will be no Sunday School so our children will be having a Christmas Party in the Faith Seekers Classroom!

The Children's Church Curriculum will be a fun theme "Incredible Christmas." They will be learning about the Incredible night the savior was born!

Christmas Eve Services are 5pm and 8pm. We will have Nursery and Children's Church available for the 5pm service. We will have a movie night, "The Star," with popcorn and lemonade in the Faith Seekers classroom. There will be no nursery nor Children's Church available for the 8pm service.

This is a time of blessing and I am truly blessed in this wonderful position I hold here at Burnt Factory! I wish you all a very Happy and blessed Holiday season!

*Merry Christmas,
Carrie Fair, Director of Children's Ministries*

FROM OUR FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

As we head into the close of 2018, let us take a moment to reflect upon a couple of blessings brought forth to our church.

- The beginning of the year presented the opportunity to acquire the property across the street that includes 15 acres of land. For the sum of \$395,000, we purchased 1934 Jordan Springs Road in April. Through a grant from the Winchester District, and generous donations, our loan balance is \$148,000.
- In August 2018 our electronic giving system hit a financial milestone. Our cumulative giving since the system launched in 2014, exceeded \$100,000. Since August, that number has grown to \$110,000. Electronic giving offers the convenience of automation and allows the opportunity to give while away on vacation or if watching via our live stream services.

Your practice of extravagant generosity of time and resources allows for many vital missions in our church and community. In January there will be some important documents provided to you. We will provide you with statements of giving for weekly offerings and a statement of contributions made on our estimated giving initiatives (EGI). If you are using the electronic tithe system, your ongoing emails serve as your receipt.

If you are looking for tax planning opportunities, we offer the ability to receive required minimum distribution payments from retirement plans or conversion of appreciated stock. Such strategies may help you lower taxable income or avoid capital gains tax.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. I Chronicles 16:34

Angela Wiseman, Finance Chairperson

United



Methodist



Men

Our church is busier than ever. We have WATTS in early December, the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell ringing the first three Saturday's in December, we have an Advent Study going on, we have the wonderful Children's Christmas program upcoming, our wonderful Choir will be doing this year's Christmas Cantata during worship services so we can all enjoy their wonderful program, we will be collecting food for families provided by Social Services, our youth have their High School retreat the first weekend in December.

The men are still busy with a couple of projects for Miss Betty at Pinnacle Living and we have a ramp that we need to get built once we can get a warm dry spell. And the church calendar has so much more going on. Put that with the busyness of Thanksgiving and all of the things needed to get ready for Christmas at your house, it makes for a very busy time of the year.

Take time to participate in the ministries that our church offers, and do all of your Christmas household chores. But do remember that in everything that we do, this month we are celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Among the hectic schedules and busy activities let us remember the arrival of the baby Jesus and what that means to each of us each and every day. We have a loving Savior, who God put on this earth so that evil would be conquered and we would have the opportunity to be saved from our own sins. So each day this Advent Season remember that we have a God who loved us enough to send his own son so that we could be saved from ourselves and have the chance to be closer to our God. Be thankful this season that we have an active church that gives each of us the opportunity to be in mission that we may make a difference in our community and our world.

Please have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God has a lot in store for Burnt Factory UMC and I am so very excited for all that is going on.

Our UMMen meeting that was postponed due to snow has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM in the church fellowship hall. We need to finalize Apple Butter 2018, make plans for our Church Prayer Breakfast which will be January 12th at the Stonewall Ruritan Building and we need to set our 2019 UMMen officers.

And don't forget about the Tri-District Retreat that Tim Heinlein has mentioned in this newsletter. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship and relaxation at Camp Overlook.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comcast.net.

Steve Cunningham

President, Burnt Factory UMMen



December 2018 Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday, December 16th - 12:15-1:30 -BF serves CCAP		Sunday, December 23rd – Bell Choir & Choir- Both Services				1 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan Salvation Army Bell Ringing
2 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30am-Worship 9:45-10am-Children's Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 11am-Children's Church 4-5pm-Children's Christmas FINAL Play Practice	3 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan 7:00pm-Advent Study	4 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan PRACTICES: 6:00pm-Choir 6:30pm-Cantata 7:30pm-SONrise Singers	5 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan 10:00am-Advent Study	6 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan	7 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan	8 BFUMC Hosts WATTS at Ruritan Salvation Army Bell Ringing
9 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30am-Worship 9:45-10am-Children's Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 11am-Children's Church Blood Pressure Clinic 6pm-Children's Christmas Program	10 6:00pm-RFL Captain's Meeting at Calvary Baptist 7:00pm-Advent Study	11 PRACTICES: 6:00pm-Choir 6:30pm-Cantata 7:30pm-SONrise Singers	12 10:00am-Advent Study 7:00pm-UMMen meet In Fellowship Hall	13 7:00pm-UMW meeting in Social Hall	14	15 Salvation Army Bell Ringing
16 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am- Choir performs Cantata 11:00am- Choir performs Cantata 4:00pm-6:00pm-Youth Salvation Army Angel Shopping	17 7:00pm-Advent Study	18 6:00pm-Choir 7:30pm-SONrise Singers	19 10:00am-Advent Study	20	21	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30am-Worship 9:45-10am-Children's Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 11am-Children's Church	24 5:00pm & 8:00pm Christmas Eve Services 5pm-Nursery & Children's Church 8pm-No N & CC	25  NO CHOIR PRACTICE	26	27  5pm-8pm-Youth End-of-Year Party Fellowship Hall	28	29
30 8:30am-Worship 9:45-10am-Children's Praise & Worship 9:45am-Sunday School 11am-Worship 11am-Children's Church	31 	Need January Newsletter articles by 3:00pm, Wednesday, JANUARY 9 Printing January Newsletter Friday, JANUARY 11				

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Burnt Factory
United Methodist Church
Newsletter



2018

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