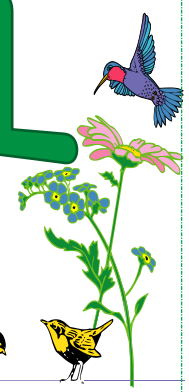


SMOKE SIGNAL



March 2021 Newsletter

Burnt Factory
United Methodist Church
Stephenson, Virginia 22646
C. Steven Melester, Pastor

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:~

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

"LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN." ~

MATTHEW 5:16



On the Easter just before he died, William Sangster, a deeply spiritual Methodist, painfully wrote a short note to his daughter. After W.W.II, Sangster was instrumental in spearheading a revival and renewal movement in the British Isles. Then, without warning, his ministry was ended by a disease which progressively paralyzed his body, even his vocal cords. But on this last Resurrection day he was still able to use his fingers. He wrote to his beloved daughter, *"How terrible to wake up on Easter Sunday and have no voice to shout, **He is risen!** Far worse, to have a voice and not want to shout!"*

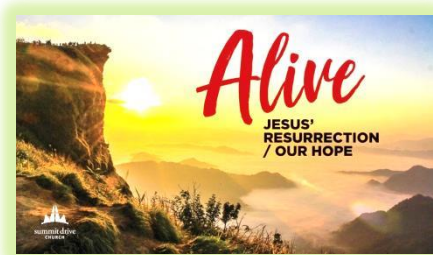


It is almost incomprehensible to me that Easter is a month away! It seems as if we have just finished packing away the Christmas decorations. I am so very privileged to be in ministry with all of you at Burnt Factory United Methodist Church and I am so very excited to be spending my 16th Easter with the congregation that I love so much. The most important day in the Christian year is right around the corner and I hope and pray that all of us are ready to shout the good news of our faith; the news that separates our faith experience from all others, the news that **"He is risen!"**

The world is desperate for hope, it is desperate for truth, and it is desperate for love. As Christians, we are called by Christ to proclaim that there is an answer to the world's desperation, and that answer is, **"He is risen!"** Because of the Resurrection we have eternal life, we have victory over sin and death, and we have that most precious gift of all; the gift of HOPE! The season of Lent will come to an end in about a month and then; it will be time to stop crying and start shouting! Praise be to Jesus our Lord and Savior!

HE IS RISEN!

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Steve*





Hearts of Grace
Caregiver Support Group
Contact: Debbie Walker
Email: dswalker1@yahoo.com
(540)664-0908 Cell / (540)667-6711
Home
Monthly/Second Tuesday @ 7:00

STRENGTH FROM WEAKNESS

Do you ever have days where it feels like life is just dragging on? You have a project at work, getting a house repair done, made it through the week with 3 soccer games, baked cookies for child's class, got the report ready for your club meeting, finally got groceries, paid the bills, attended Bible study, taught Sunday school, helped with CCAP meal, etc. etc. Do you wake up and think, how long has it been like this? After you complete the week, do you think *I made it! Whew!* But for caregivers, their BC (before caregiving) life becomes foggy memories. For a caregiver, it's like that most every day, isn't it? They may have some of these things to accomplish, but add in taking your loved one to the doctor, helping to feed them breakfast, lunch, dinner, helping them to the bathroom and bathing, giving medicine, keeping them safe. How about answering a question, for the 25th time "TODAY" - "when will Dave be home"- Dave is her husband, but has been deceased for 5 years. How far do I have to go? Maybe it's just me, but that's how I feel many days. Navigating caregiving isn't easy - but it's do-able. There are far too many of us doing it to refute that fact!

We can all say - *I've made it this far*. God has carried us this far and today is NOT the day He's going to stop. We've all seen bad days, better days - and some good days; and God has been there through every single one of them. He has not - and will not abandon us on our caregiving journey. He never wrings His hands in **my** worry - and never says to **me**, *well, I'm not sure what you're going to do*. (Sorry - that's a funny image in my mind. lol) It's funny because it's so impossible. Do you take time to be in awe just thinking about how God has provided?

He always has a plan. His goal is always to get us to the other side of what we are facing so we can say **with Him - We made it!** Take a minute to read Jeremiah 31:3. It's where God told Israel through the prophet - *I have loved you with an **everlasting** love*. They were in the midst of captivity. Yet God was extending His love and mercy to them still. Every once in a while, honestly, caregiving feels a little like being a captive. They feel like a captive of love - a bond slave to the situation since they choose to care for a loved one. But God's love and mercy transcend the circumstances and still reaches out to our hearts to express **His deep love**.

Today, meditate on what it's like to **rest in His love**. Let His unending love wrap your heart and your wounds and rest in that. Think about how He reaches past circumstances of all sorts to extend His love to us. He is ruthless in His pursuit of us. This truth will carry you through today and every day. Rejoice in it!

"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished." —1 Chronicles 28:20

Our next meeting will be: Tuesday, 9th, March 9th, 2021 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall.





March BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Chubby Weir
Donna Bonjo
- 3rd Melanie Melester
Ezra Cisneros
- 4th Greg Bigler
- 6th Logan Clemons
Nicholas Wagoner
- 7th Charlene "Charly" Winter
Gary Dixon
- 9th Johnny Morrison
Ariella Cisneros
- 10th Joy Melvin
- 12th Tara Flinchum
- 14th Gavin Tran
- 15th Ben Perrault
Katie Moss
Ed Simmers
- 16th Boo Snider
Jack Mowery
- 20th Rennie Earhart
Tyler Beaver
Millie Hood
- 24th Casey Heinlein
- 25th Beth Beaver
- 27th Carter Gerometta
- 28th Joe Hulver
- 29th Charlie Woods
- 31st Jordan Clemons
Cynthia Ward



March ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th Ray & Frances Taylor
- 17th Chubby & Helen Weir
- 25th Ed & Deanna Simmers

Upcoming DEADLINES

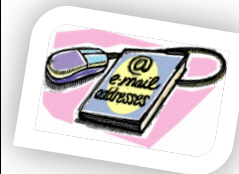
Here is your "Friendly Reminder" for those people who regularly send me their newsletter articles and for anyone who may have an article for the **APRIL** newsletter, please send me your articles by...

3:00pm on Wednesday, March 24th.

I will be printing and sending the newsletter on....

Friday, March 26th

Thanks, Charly



Have you given your email address to Keith Roberts, yet?

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.

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

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

"ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST"

If you know of anyone in our church who would like to receive the monthly Church Newsletter in the regular mail (or snail mail as some call it), would you let me know and I'll be glad to send them one.



All I need is their name and address.

Thanks, Charly



UPDATE ON PROJECT ESPERANZA AND COLEGIO COSTAMBAR



Excerpt from Caitlin Floreal-McHale's January Blogpost:

"In November 2019,.....A woman from Canada volunteered with us for a few days. She taught art and physical education in our school in Padre Granero, accompanied by a translator. We have well over one hundred volunteers come each year, except for 2020, and a small percentage turn into student sponsors. However, this woman contacted me shortly after and decided to sponsor 14 of our students at level 3, which is our highest commitment at \$50 per month. She became our most generous monthly sponsor ever, by far.

Once everything began to shut down in March 2020, due to the coronavirus, she started sending extra funds to help with food distributions. In June 2020, we started fundraising to pay a down-payment on a building to serve as the permanent location for Colegio Costambar where we send our top students to high school. This woman was responsible for almost half of the \$38,000 raised, plus she chipped in to help redo the rotted roof in the school in Padre Granero!

A few months later we caught up over the phone. She was wanting to do more!! I mentioned that we should not invest too much in the structure of the Padre Granero building as we still owe a mortgage on it. She asked how much we owe. I said \$40,000 US. She asked what I thought if she would pay that off!!! By the year's end, she sent that amount and even more to help pay off our debt for our other school in Muñoz!!

Here is part of what I wrote in a letter that went out with our 2020 giving reports:

"42% of our 2020 income came from a series of donations from one person who first got involved with Project Esperanza volunteering in late 2019!! She is a Canadian woman who wishes to remain anonymous. She gave at this level without even the absolute security of a tax deduction, as we are still in the process of registering as a charity in Canada. Although she wishes that her name remain anonymous, she does want one name to be celebrated and receive the honor for this wonderful news. That name is Jesus Christ."

If you would like to read the entire blog post, please use the link below:

<https://caitlinmchale.blogspot.com/2021/01/haiti-cheri-part-ii.html>

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Project Esperanza. If you would like to learn more or become a sponsor, visit Project Esperanza's website <https://projectesperanza.giv.sh/>

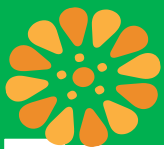
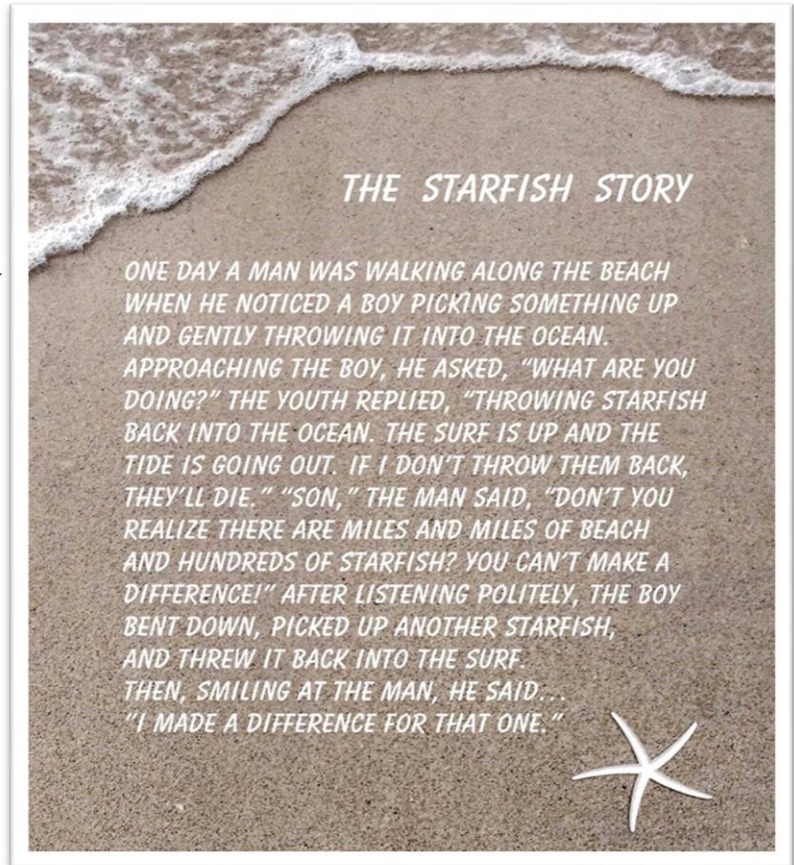
PENNY CROLL'S ARTICLE CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.....

PENNY CROLL "S ARTICLE CONTINUES.....

Caitlin's work shows what a person can do when hearts and minds are open to hearing God's call. Her work with the children in the Dominican Republic reminds me of the story of the starfish which was adapted from "The Star Thrower" by Loren C. Eiseley.

***We can all find some way
to "make a difference for that one."
Just ask God to show you.***

***Peace and Blessings,
Penny Croll***



Here's Buddy's "P" unnies for March



Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth.
Then it's a soap opera!

What type of music are balloons most afraid of? *Pop Music!*

Why are horses such terrible dancers? *They have two left feet!*

Hypochondriac: "Doctor, what's the best way to prevent diseases caused by biting insects?"
Doctor: "Don't bite any!"

Why couldn't the pony sing himself a lullaby? *He was a little hoarse!*



This is the way...

I am a huge Star Wars fan. It is probably one of my favorite entertainment genres, right up there with Star Trek series, and most science fiction series. The Mandalorian is one of the new series from the mind of George Lucas's Star Wars series. He is of an ancient order of bounty hunters that follows the laws and traditions of his people. They often say the tag line, *this is the way*, when encountering other people who don't understand their customs. The early Christians were named followers of The Way. Because it was *the way* they followed Jesus' teachings and told His story. I find myself in a unique situation to be a minister to Children AND Youth! I kind of have my own *way* to be ready for them each week. I have had the wonderful opportunity to have four youth for a Zoom Bible Study each Friday evening. I have had the wonderful opportunity to chat with children on Facebook Children's Messenger, Zoom Children's Church alongside our in person children's church. Yes we are in some unique days with the pandemic, but *The Way* Burnt Factory does a pandemic is unique too! We have adapted, we have learned, we are overcoming the obstacles that are put up in front of us. My Way.....connecting with our Youth and Children and having such great joy from their conversations that I am constantly refueled to keep going onward. I guess you could call me a "bounty hunter" as I am collecting kids and youth for Jesus! Jesus is *THE WAY*.

Carrie Fair—Minister of Youth and Children

Children's Ministries

- Sunday Morning Zoom Children's Church 11:15 am Check the Church Facebook page for the link. I can email the link if requested.
- KIDS/Family BINGO NIGHT!!! In person AND virtual. **March 20, 4-6pm**
 - PLEASE NOTE: if you chose virtual, I need to know ahead of time to get the bingo cards to you and know the virtual format to use.

Youth Ministries: ACTS 29: We Are The Next Chapter

We will begin resuming in person meetings and activities in March!

- Shenandoah University is putting on a Summer Camp July 18-31 for the Youth Theology Institute. This is a guided leadership summit for High School Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. The two-week camp is set up for in person on the Shenandoah Campus Dorms, Camping on the Shenandoah Cool Springs Campus, and Wesley Theological Seminary in D.C. Dorm rooms. Each segment is filled with leadership activities through study, play, exploration, and project learning in a classroom, outdoor, and city scape surroundings. More information can be found at www.su.edu. Youth Theology Institute. Log on there to register for this amazing event for our High School students. Please let me know if they are interested so I can write a letter of recommendation. Thanks.
- IN-PERSON MEETING 4-5:30 (message and prep for Motel Ministry)
- MOTEL MINISTRY: March 27 9am-1pm
 - We will visit two local motels, set up to provide essential necessities to those in poverty. Any donations of toiletries, paper towels, TP, etc. as well as Easter goodies for kids and pets are very welcome.

God Bless!
Carrie Fair



Unfortunately, the weather did not permit us to have our February meeting as planned. We have seen several snowfalls this year, but they are best enjoyed inside looking out!

We wanted to share with you the exciting, heartwarming news about Project Esperanza when we met. A Canadian who wishes to remain anonymous was a very generous donor. And so you don't miss out on this, Penny Croll is including an article in this newsletter. Be sure and read it!

Diana Smith is in the process of updating our membership list. Unfortunately we lost Audrey Thomas a couple of years ago, then Ruby Beck, and Nancy Hulver in January this year. They were all active members of our unit and we miss them. They could always be counted on to participate in anything we did. We have welcomed some new members and when we were able to meet before the pandemic, they were taking an active part. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you are receiving info about meetings, etc. through e-mail and you have gone inactive, please contact Diana Smith (Dksmith48@comcast.net). We want to have an accurate list for our unit and correct, active numbers for the district. If you are inactive at this time, you can always return when the time is right for you.

***HERE'S AN UPDATE ON A FEW THINGS
WE WOULD HAVE TALKED ABOUT AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING.***

Our kits were transported mid-February to a warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA where they are badly needed. Thanks to Braddock Street UMC for taking the lead in getting them there.

Thanks to Jani Shope for sending out cards from our unit to shut-ins.

The missionary names showing their birthdays have been placed in the Narthex for anyone to take. If you are at the church for any reason, pick one up. They have a pencil attached. Also remember to pray for your local prayer partner. Any gifts can be left in the Social Hall and I, and others, will contact the intended person.

We are to continue collecting the cancelled stamps. They are hoping someone will replace the person who had been doing this.

We missed the program Debbie Walker had planned. She always comes through with interesting, thoughtful programs. Hopefully, she'll present it at another time. And we still want to have our annual Call to Prayer program.

Many of our members have been active in areas of outreach in the church. Thanks for your dedication in caring for those in need. In the midst of this pandemic and the sorrow and fear it has brought, what better things can we do than to pray for healing in our land, check on others, make good choices like wearing masks and social distancing, and thanking God for the MANY blessings we do enjoy every day. There's hope!

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1



Blessings, Polly Duvall, president





March 2021 Faith Community Nurse Article



On February 17th, Virginia launched the **Virginia COVID Information Center**, a dedicated interagency effort to provide Virginia residents with an integrated, comprehensive solution for timely and accurate COVID-19 general information, in alignment with CDC guidelines, and to simplify vaccination pre-registration and scheduling services.

- Residents can get information, pre-register, and verify that they have pre-registered online 24/7 at vaccinate.virginia.gov or by calling **1-877-VAX-IN-VA (1-877-829-4682)** 7 days a week, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- **People aged 75 & older will have priority access** to information. They'll be in the express lane when calling the VCIC phone line.
- The VCIC phone line has **hundreds of agents** available to answer questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and help people get pre-registered. These include **English and Spanish speaking agents**, as well as a call-back service in the more than **100 other languages**. **TTY service is available** to assist people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired.

With Coronavirus cases on the rise, there's an opportunity to help by donating blood, as usual, but also in donating Convalescent Plasma if you've had the COVID-19 virus.

If you have fully recovered from COVID-19, you may be able to help patients currently fighting the infection by donating your plasma. Right now, donors are critically needed as COVID-19 cases rise. Individuals who have contracted and fought COVID-19 now carry the antibodies. By donating your plasma, you can help others fight the disease and save lives!

If you have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least 14 days, you are encouraged to donate blood. Plasma can be donated by any recovered individual who meets donor qualifications.

Below see the list of requirements for donating plasma for the treatment of COVID-19.

- **At least 17 years old**
- **Weigh at least 110 pounds**
- **Must be in good health and meet regular blood donation requirements. To see if you are eligible:** <https://www.redcrossblood.org/faq.html#eligibility>
- **Have a prior diagnosis of COVID-19**
- **Be symptom free**

Eligible individuals can donate their COVID-19 plasma with the Red Cross as often as every 7 days for up to three months - donating a maximum of eight times. The Red Cross urges all convalescent plasma donors to take advantage of this new opportunity - frequent convalescent plasma donations will help meet the growing need - and save lives!

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

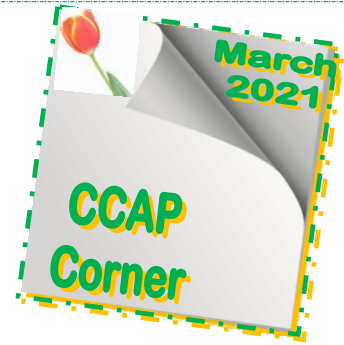
Wishing you an abundantly, healthy, blessed year!!! Theresa

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or theresahgilbert@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.



CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of 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.



Our next CCAP collection will be for the EASTER FOOD BASKET GIVEAWAY on March 27th. We will not be collecting Easter Baskets as we have in the past. The CCAP Board feels that people are more in need of food; however, the food baskets will include items for Kid's baskets. Our church has been asked to provide canned Sweet Potatoes for the food baskets, so we will be collecting just Sweet Potatoes this year. Cans can be dropped off in the collection bins through Sunday, March 20th. CCAP orders a lot of canned goods from the Food Bank, but Sweet Potatoes are not one of those items.

We served 48 chicken dinners at our February **CCAP lunch**. Thank you, Karen and Randy Willis and your team for your leadership and prayers for all who prepared, served and received these delicious meals. Our next Sunday Lunch will be on March 21st. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we are serving outside at CCAP and preparing the meals off-site at Hope's home. We will start packing the meals at 11:15am and should be finished serving by 1. Cheryl and Mark Jones are the team leads for this meal. If you would like to be part of this Outreach; please contact Cheryl at 540-247-5700 or cheryl_b_jones@yahoo.com. We have a lot of fun and fellowship when we meet together to share these meals with those in need.

Volunteer Opportunities in March:

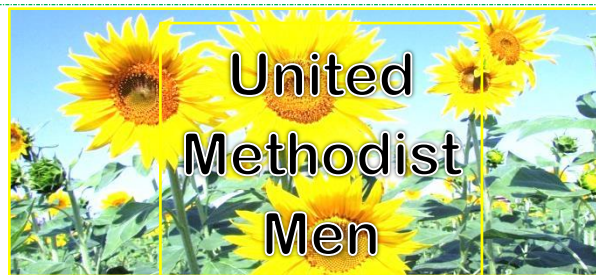
With Spring right around the corner and warmer weather coming; we will be clearing out the clothing house to make room for lighter clothing. We will then hold a community clothes Giveaway on 3/13. Help is needed to move the clothing to the main building, set up for the event, and help at the Giveaway. There are also opportunities on 3/17 and 3/29 to volunteer in the clothing area. Sign-up Genius is available if you can work any of the times. Please let me know if you would like to receive the Sign-Up Genius. Masks and social distancing are required for all events.

Our BFUMC team continues to pack bags and do misc. work on Tuesday nights from 6-7:30 at CCAP. Please let me know if you would like to join our team.



***Thanks so much for all you continue to do for this Outreach,
Patty Leonard, Outreach Rep***

Ready for Spring?



Having been sheltering in place all winter and even longer makes the coming of Spring much more anticipated. It seems like with all of the extra time on my hands that I have gotten less accomplished. With the vaccination program picking up its pace, hopefully vaccines will be available for anyone that wants one by mid-summer.

We are moving forward with getting our potato patch planted early this year. We hope, depending upon weather, to get our potatoes planted between St Patrick's Day and Good Friday, giving 2-3 week window to get the potatoes planted. So be on the lookout via our Burnt Factory Facebook page or an email from Keith for when we will be ready to plant our potatoes. If you are unfamiliar with our potato patch, we plant 250 pounds of Kennebunk potatoes on the land across the street from the church and when they are ready to be harvested we will donate the potatoes to the Lord Fairfax Area Food Bank. It is a project that all ages in the church can participate in. We will need to schedule a couple of work days to rototill, hoe and weed the potatoes.



Cleanup day at the Shenandoah Valley Community Residence's Saratoga House will be scheduled sometime in April, so be on the lookout for that opportunity. The home is located at 3050 Saratoga Drive in Winchester. We did a lot of work with the beds last fall, but there are still a couple of chores needed to be done.

I have been in contact with Camp Overlook about the possibility of doing some spring refurbishing to get the camp ready for campers to return in the summer of 2021.

I am hoping that once the shelter is opened up that we can hold our UMMen meeting there that can be held in accordance with Virginia Annual Conference guidelines. We will get something scheduled once the shelter is opened.

If you are new to our church, please mark your calendars for October 15 – 16th for our church wide Apple Butter project. We are hoping that if vaccinations are widespread and we achieve herd immunity that we will be able to hold Apple Butter 2021. We need lots of help to assist us to pull off this big event. More details will be coming forward later in the year.

If you have any questions concerning our Burnt Factory UMMen fellowship and ministries, please reach out to me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comcast.net. I am hoping that we can soon return to our widespread mission opportunities to support our church and community.

Steve Cunningham.
President Burnt Factory UMMen



March 2021 Relay for Life Newsletter Article



March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is highly preventable and treatable when caught early. Below is a list of things that you can do to decrease your risk of **Colorectal Cancer**.

- **Get Screened!** All adults should be screened at age 45 or earlier if you are at higher risk for colorectal cancer. There are several tests you can choose from. Talk to your health care provider about the one that's best for you.
- **Eat Healthy.** Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Eat less red meat and processed meats.
- **Stop Smoking.** Talk to your health care provider about ways you can quit.
- **Maintain a Healthy Weight.**
- **Add Calcium and Vitamin D to your diet.**
- **Get regular exercise.** As little as taking a brisk walk on a regular basis can help.
- **Cut down on alcohol intake.** No more than 1 -2 drinks per day.
- **Know your family history.** Knowing if members of your family have had colorectal or other types of cancer can help you take control and see how you can decrease your risk.

Do what you can to reduce the risks for **colorectal cancer** you CAN control.

My Cologuard test just came in the mail and I will be completing the test and sending it back to the lab for analysis in March. Ask your doctor about getting one too!!

At Relay for Life, no donation is too small. Each and every dollar counts. Your donations help fund groundbreaking cancer research, patient care programs and can make a difference in communities like ours. With every donation, you are helping the American Cancer Society save lives. Please feel free to send any donations that you wish for The Believers to the church mailbox.



Fundraiser 1 The chunky blanket workshop is going to be on Saturday, March 20th from 11:30 to 4:30 pm at the Stonewall Ruritan building. If you are interested in learning how to make a beautiful warm chunky blanket while supporting our Believers Relay for Life team, please call or message Lisa at (540) 664-4169 or me at (540) 247-5612. The cost of the workshop (you supply the yarn) is \$25.00. Lisa will teach us all the steps we need to make a warm and cozy blanket and all of the proceeds will go to our team. Make sure that you get 8 oz. chunky yarn (make sure it's 8 oz. chunky yarn and at least 28 yards). You will need 6 skeins to make a 40 x 50" blanket. Please make sure to let one of us know if you are interested and we will definitely let you know when we re-schedule the workshop.

Fundraiser 2 I am going to run/walk 100 miles in March to raise money for the ACS. If you would like to donate to this, you can go to my Facebook page, send a check to my home address or go directly to our team page on the Winchester/Frederick County Relay for Life website and donate there. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support!

If you haven't joined our team yet, you can go online to secure.acsevents.org and register to become a Believer team member. Choose the Winchester/Frederick County event and the Believers team. It's so easy and it doesn't cost anything to join.

Check out **The Believers** Facebook page for updates.

Stock up on bags of **Dum-Dum lollipops** if you can so that once we start having Relay for Life team captain meetings Lisa and I have them to take with us. The DumDums are for Cancer patients while they are being treated.

Our mission is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.

We thank you for your support!

Theresa Gilbert and Lisa Patterson, Co-Captains



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BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



2021



**Sunday, March 14,
Daylight Saving Time
Begins!**

DON'T FORGET
to turn your clocks
ahead **ONE HOUR** before
retiring Saturday night,
March 13!



**FIRST DAY
OF SPRING
IS
SATURDAY,
MARCH 20!!!!**