

SMOKE SIGNAL



JUNE 2021 Newsletter

Our Mission Statement ~
Sharing the Love of
Christ with All People

Burnt Factory
United Methodist Church
1943 Jordan Springs Road
Stephenson, Virginia 22656
C. Steven Melester, Pastor

*"Let your light so shine before
men that they see your good
works and glorify your Father who
is in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16*

Our Pastor's Message...

Pollsters predict that following this pandemic, 2/3 of churchgoers will leave their church and never return. Similar statistics exist for pastors, who are considering actually leaving the ministry every day. 2020-21 definitely stirred up havoc in the Christian church, and everyone is still reeling. Isolation, politics, and polarization is undoing the very fabric of the church universal. There is an ever-increasing trend occurring now that is defined by the notion that worship is an extra-curricular activity, instead of a daily act of discipleship! How disturbing to believe that there are many Christians who are regulating the biblical mandated practice of a defined weekly worship gathering to just another activity to fit into their schedule. God would not be pleased!

Worship is how we express our love, adoration, admiration, and wonder at God's presence. Worship humbles us and helps us to fight off apathy. It grounds our faith in unity of spirit. It gives us hope in the midst of difficult times. We are strengthened by fellowship and the gathered community of faith!

The author of the book of Hebrews says, *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the rock and anchor that we have stood upon during these difficult days. Jesus will not abandon or forsake us! If you are afraid, angry, bewildered, disillusioned, disgusted and just plain old worn out --- let me tell you something! God is still God and Jesus is still the Lord of Lords! His church is still alive and God still desires to be worshiped and Jesus still is worthy of our praise!

A.W. Tozer said, "I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven."

Turn your eyes upon Jesus! Turn your hearts upon Jesus! Turn your minds upon Jesus! Turn your hope upon Jesus!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Steve



Happy Birthday, Everyone!

1st Marcia Darsie
2nd Madison & Megan Bursey
3rd Naomi Buddenhagen
5th Norma Duvall
7th Sue Swimley
9th Hannah Heinlein
Sam Melester
Lucinda Lentz
10th Diana Smith
11th Tom Müller
12th Bob Rodeffer
Wade Bryant

15th Richard Henry
18th Tim Perrault
Judy Wolk
19th Megan Smith
21st Greg Powell
Rylee Repine
22nd Mark Duvall
24th Carrie Fair
Julia Boudier
25th Kim Bursey
27th Charlie Beaver
Charlotte Goode
30th Amy Jenkins
Pat Dawson



2nd Jay & Harriett Hanke
4th Rob & Debbie Moss
8th Mark & Aimee Taylor
10th Lander & Paige Manuel
11th Sonny & Iris Sibert
14th Paul & Susie Gerometta
21st Randy & Karen Willis
29th David & Charlene Winter

**Happy Anniversary,
Everyone!**



Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift offered to us without price.

On Sunday, May 23rd, we celebrated the baptism of Emily Woodard.

Also, on Sunday, May 23rd, we welcomed into our church family the following new members

Craig & Charlene Falkner
Dennis & Janet Loeffler
Everett Oakes
Simon & Vicki Newlin





June 2021 Relay for Life Article



It took a long time to get started on our fundraising, but boy are The Believers moving now!!!

In March we held a workshop where Lisa Patterson taught 5 of us how to make chunky blankets. We raised **\$150.00** and had so much fun that we have decided to do another one in the fall for those that missed it and those that want to make another one.

We also did a Daffodil Days fundraiser in March and raised **\$475.00** while spreading blooms of sunshine and beauty.

In early April we sold "He is Risen" yard signs for Easter and made **\$972.00!!** Thank you to Keith Roberts for the idea and for Carrie Fair for facilitating getting the signs for us to sell.

On April 17th we held a drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner. Lisa and I want to thank all of The Believers that came out to help us on Friday night and on Saturday. We couldn't have done it without you. We also want to say a big thank you to everyone that drove through and purchased the dinners. We hope that we are able to go back to our in-house dinner and basket auction next year. We certainly missed the fun and fellowship, but other than \$111.32 we were able to get all of the rest of the dinner ingredients donated!!! We made a grand total of **\$3,231.00!!**

The Virtual Basket Auction was so much more successful than we ever dreamed. We had quite a bidding war going on for our beloved Tommy Duvall's rocking chair, bench and sofa table!!! We want to thank everyone who donated items for the auction and also for all of you who bid and kept bidding whether you ended up the winner or not. Lisa did a great job setting all of this up on [Rallyup.com](https://www.rallyup.com) and thank you Glen for videotaping us showing off all of the items. Pictures really did not do any justice to the beauty of the items. We raised an amazing **\$3,572.74!!**

On Thursday, June 3rd we will be fundraising by serving dinner to the Stonewall Ruritan Club. Most of the food has been donated, but we will need to purchase salad and ground beef. We have received a few monetary donations to go toward those purchases. We also need 3 more homemade pies (3 donated). Please let me know if you can help in any way. We will meet at the Stonewall Ruritan Building at 4:00 p.m. on June 3rd to begin preparation. Including prep and cleanup, we should be done by 8:00 p.m. Don't forget to wear your Believers t-shirt if you have one.

We are also looking to do a "Junk in the Trunk" Yard Sale and a Motorcycle Run as summer fundraisers. More information to come as we hammer out the details.

The main Relay for Life of Winchester/Frederick County Event has been scheduled for Friday, September 10th at the Stonewall Ruritan Club grounds. The theme will be Dr. Seuss. Time and more details to come.

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



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

Alzheimer's Wandering Series

Part 1: Alzheimer's wandering is dangerous

Getting lost or accidentally wandering away is a serious issue for people with Alzheimer's or dementia and a major worry for families.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6 out of 10 people with dementia will wander. It can happen at any point in the disease, even if they've never done it before.

It might seem unbelievable that seniors who are frail, slow-moving, or use a walker could get very far without anyone noticing. But it really does happen!

The scary thing is that some older adults who wander away are never found and some pass away due to accidents and exposure. That's why it's so important to keep your older adult safe and try to prevent them from wandering.

What causes Alzheimer's wandering?

There are many reasons why someone with Alzheimer's might wander, including:

- **Fear or stress** – they might not recognize where they are, the environment is overstimulating, or a loud noise or confusing situation could upset them.
- **Basic needs** – they might be looking for food, a bathroom, or just want to get some fresh air
- **Searching** – they might get lost while looking for someone or something
- **Boredom** – they could be looking for something to do
- **Old routines** – they might be trying to go to work, do chores, or run errands like they use to

Next month Part 2 of the series will cover ways to prevent Alzheimer's wandering.

We will not be having our monthly meetings for the summer—June, July and August. I will continue to submit helpful information and spiritual enrichment for the newsletter. As well as, keeping you informed on updates with the support group.

Please remember, I am always available to you. Whether it's to discuss a certain issue or concern, or you simply need the friendship of someone who has walked in your shoes, as a caregiver. We can meet for coffee, take a walk, whatever would be helpful for you. I'm happy to meet at your home, my home, the church, the park, wherever is the most convenient for you. Friends, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by phone or email.

Father, I thank you for this day. Bestow upon me the energy I need to accomplish the tasks you've set before me. In your Holy Name we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Amen

Wishing you peace, love and joy –

Debbie Walker

June 2021 Faith and Health



June is cataract awareness month. Please see some of the myths and facts about cataracts from the Prevent Blindness organization.

MYTH Only older Americans develop cataracts

FACT While cataracts affect more than 24 million Americans age 40 and older, cataracts can occur among young adults and children. Risk factors that may lead to getting cataracts at a younger age include:

- Intense heat or long-term exposure to UV rays from the sun
- Certain diseases, such as diabetes
- Inflammation in the eye
- Hereditary influences
- Events before birth, such as German measles in the mother
- Long-term steroid use
- Severe long-term nearsightedness (myopia)
- Eye injuries
- Eye diseases
- Smoking

MYTH Taking Vitamin E or Vitamin C can prevent cataracts

FACT Some research centers are studying the link between these vitamins and cataract prevention. However, it will be many years before the studies can determine if vitamin C or vitamin E actually reduces a person's risk of cataracts. Until then, it is best not to take these vitamins in large doses unless directed to do so by your physician.

MYTH The best time to have cataract surgery done is when it is first diagnosed.

FACT Cataract removal is elective surgery, which means it is the patient's choice when to undergo the procedure. Most people need surgery when the cataract causes enough vision loss to interfere with work, play or other day-to-day tasks.

MYTH Taking aspirin can prevent cataracts

FACT There are not enough facts or evidence to say whether aspirin prevents cataracts. Aspirin in large doses can be harmful. Unless your doctor prescribes aspirin for an ailment, it's best to avoid taking this medication on a regular basis.

MYTH Lasers are used to remove cataracts

FACT In cataract treatment, the clouded lens is surgically removed and then replaced with an artificial lens implant. If a patient has a cataract in both eyes, separate surgeries are scheduled. Sometimes the membrane behind the implant may become cloudy after cataract surgery. Laser treatment may be used to open up the cloudy membrane.

MYTH Cataracts can be treated with eye drops

FACT Surgery is the only proven treatment for cataracts. Cataracts cannot be treated with medicines.

IMPORANT INFORMATION ABOUT CATARACTS CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CATARACTS CONTINUES.....

MYTH Cataract surgery is dangerous

FACT Cataract surgery is a delicate operation. Yet, it is one of the safest operations done today. More than 95% of surgeries are successful. Fewer than 5% of cases have complications such as inflammation, bleeding, infection and retinal detachment.

MYTH It can take months to recover from cataract surgery

FACT In many cases, patients often can see well enough to resume normal activities a few days after having cataract surgery. Your vision will continue to improve over the following weeks and months. However, if you have additional eye problems, such as glaucoma, your recovery time might take longer.

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road." Mark 10:52

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.



Here we go again, good people! Buddy has some new jokes for the month of May

Question: How do **vegetables** cheer for their teammates?

Answer: By **rooting** for them!



Question: What do you call a potato wearing glasses?

Answer: A **Spectator!**



Very Punny Did I ever tell you about the guy milking a cow?

A fly flew into the cow's ear, and a few seconds later, he milked out the fly!

But you know what they say, in one ear, out the udder!



Ron: You'll never guess who I bumped into on the way back from eye surgery.

Rhoda: Who?

Ron: Everyone!

Very Punny I've been going to the gym a lot lately, working out on the stationary bike. But it doesn't look like it's getting me anywhere!



Very Punny I gave all my dead batteries away today...free of charge!



PROJECT ESPERANZA

A few updates from the Dominican Republic!

Just as our teachers in the U.S. tried to keep the students engaged throughout the pandemic, Project Esperanza faced similar challenges. One way to keep the students motivated was by providing math and writing workbooks.

Reagan Snead, the volunteer coordinator, shared the following in her last update:



“As we near the end of the school year, our students have been busy completing their math workbooks. Just in the past month, we have had seven more students complete their workbooks and begin their next ones! This includes one student that completed our highest current workbook for 6th grade.”

If you are interested in learning more about the #FreeHaiti movement, feel free to read [Caitlin's blog](#) on it from the beginning of the month.



Finally, we currently have one week of English camp planned for this summer. Blacksburg Baptist Church will be running camp on July 10-17. If anyone is interested in coming for a different week, perhaps the following week, please get in touch!”

PROJECT ESPERANZA CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.....

PROJECT ESPERANZA CONTINUES.....

Do you like to embroider, or would you like to learn so that you can help support Project Esperanza?



The United Methodist Women will be helping to support,

“S-T-I-T-C-H-E-D, Rescued Shirts for a Cause.”

We would love for you to help with this project. This involves a simple embroidery stitch and can be easily learned. Penny Croll and Jani Shope will be starting this project in the next few weeks and teaching others who are interested. If you would like to learn more, please let Penny know. All work may be done at home, in your free time.

Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for Caitlin and her teachers who are working in the Dominican to help families find a better life through education. If you would like to learn more about Project Esperanza, visit their website <https://esperanzameanshope.org/> or feel free to contact Penny or Tom Croll ptcroll@hotmail.com.

Peace and Blessings,
Penny and Tom Croll
Outreach Committee

Burnt Factory has made Project Esperanza a signature ministry of the church and generously donates \$2,250 each year to support 15 students at Level 1 so they can attend the school. If you feel led to individually sponsor a child, there are 3 levels of support:

Level 1 - *an annual donation of \$150 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, and some materials.*

Level 2 - *a monthly donation of \$30 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, some materials, and contribution to the teacher's salary.*

Level 3 - *a monthly donation of \$50 which covers daily lunch, a uniform shirt, some materials, contribution to teachers' salaries, and contribution to the facilities.*



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 Burnt Factory Team is still **packing food every Tuesday night** and will be until the Food Pantry can open to the public. Our process is more stream-lined and doesn't require as much lifting. We meet at CCAP at 6PM and finish by 7:30. Volunteers are always welcome.

Lunch at CCAP on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Thanks, Laine Everhart, for leading our lunch serving team in May. Thirty meals and snack bags were given out at CCAP and 12 more were delivered to the Salvation Army. We had a little drizzle, but everyone was thankful for a warm meal. We enjoyed great fellowship with one another and those we served. Thanks to everyone who served, provided food and helped packed the meals. In June, we will make a change to these Meals. We will be delivering food trays for 50 people to the Salvation Army and their staff will serve the meals. We started the 3rd Sunday Lunch Ministry when no other site was offering Sunday meals; now, the Rescue Mission and Salvation Army both serve meals 7 days a week. More information on how to help with these meals will be sent out in our Church Email.

Donations Needed:

- Gently used jeans and t-shirts, Summer clothes, and shoes – all sizes
- Adult Backpacks
- Tents, tarps, and sleeping bags

Take a look at CCAP's new more interactive website: ccapwinchester.org

Our next CCAP collection Sunday will be in mid-July. More information on this collection will be in the Church Email and in the July Newsletter.

Volunteers are still needed in the Clothing House and the Main Building. Please contact Hope Owens, Penny Croll, me, or anyone on the Outreach Committee if you would like to volunteer.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep



BIKE TOUR FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT CCAP



Saturday, August 28th, 7 am to 6 pm – Ride begins at The Wellness Center on the Valley Health Campus, continues down to Middletown and on to Strasburg and returns to the Wellness Center. How you can help--

- If you enjoy bicycling, you can help by joining the event to support CCAP. Visit the website <https://fcprdrun.wixsite.com/runatthetop> to get more information and register. There are 4 different routes, a 10 mile, a 30 mile, a 50 mile and a 70 mile. Snacks will be served at Middletown and Strasburg.

FCPRD, CCAP, and the Winchester Wheelmen are excited to present a ride through the countryside of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The scenic ride starts in Winchester on the campus of Valley Health at the Wellness Center and rolls through beautiful Frederick County, VA taking in breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and scenic country landscapes. This is a self-paced ride for everyone from the recreational to the serious cyclist.

BIKE TOUR FUNDRAISER CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.....

BIKE TOUR FUNDRAISER CONTINUES....

All routes will start and finish at the VH Wellness Center located at 401 Campus Blvd., Winchester, VA 22601. All proceeds from the bike tour go to the Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP) making it more than just a one-day bike tour but also an inspirational event where each cyclist's participation has an impact on the Frederick County community and beyond. We hope this becomes one of the premier cycling events in the area providing a lasting experience for all levels of cyclists. This is a rain or shine event and SPACE is LIMITED so reserve your spot today!

- If you would like to join the Outreach Team and help at one of the locations where the bikes will be gathering, either to begin or to receive snacks, please contact Penny Croll (ptcroll@hotmail.com). We would like to provide at least 5-10 volunteers to cover a 3 hour time slot from 7am-10:30am at the Wellness Center. If you cannot help during that time slot, but would still like to volunteer, let Penny know and she will coordinate another time with CCAP.

Thank you so much for your prayers and volunteer support of this first bike tour fundraiser for CCAP.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep



United Methodist Women News

What a blessing that we are finally able to see some friends we haven't seen for several months!!

Many are coming to church, BLT, volunteering in various capacities and getting around to the grocery store, shopping and even eating in restaurants! Many of us have been vaccinated, but some continue to wear their masks.

I hope you are looking forward to our next UMW meeting! We will probably meet again in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Put June 17th on your calendar and we will have our annual Call to Prayer program. Doris Duvall will have charge of that program. She always has a very informative, interesting program. We'll also have an update on Project Esperanza. Look for an article about them in this newsletter.

Our kits will have been put together at BLT the previous Tuesday. They are being done a bit differently this year. Since Annual Conference will be virtual, we will be having District drop off locations for our collections. The Winchester District Drop Off location will be Duncan Memorial UMC. Collection will be from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 19th. School Kits will be modified – they do not have to be exact specifications that are usually asked for. Since we will be supporting local agencies this year we do not have to be as uniform with all aspects of the collection. We have a nice supply of items for the kits in the storage room downstairs. Susan Hyatt is gathering up boxes. Next year, we will go back to collecting for UMCOR and their directions are very specific. We will also be collecting canned food and non-perishable food items to go to local food pantries/ministries. So you might want to bring a few items along these lines to our meeting. Everything will be taken to Duncan Memorial Saturday afternoon.

Take care, be safe and stay healthy. Being with friends is truly a joy!

Blessings, Polly Duvall, president

A scroll with text on it. The scroll is unrolled, showing a white surface with black text. The scroll is held by four wooden rollers, two at the top and two at the bottom. The background is a light brown color, suggesting a parchment or paper texture. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Dear God,

So far today,
I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped.
I haven't lost my temper.
I haven't been greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that.

But in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed,
and from then on, I'm probably
going to need a lot more help.

Amen

C. Steven Melester, Pastor
Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
1943 Jordan Springs Road
P. O. Box 399
Stephenson, VA 22656
Tele. (540) 667-4993
www.burntfactory.org

Sharma Lewis, Resident Bishop
Virginia Conference
Richmond, Virginia

The Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez, District Superintendent
Winchester, VA 22601
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



June 2021



**DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES!!**

June 23rd by 3:00pm - July articles due!

June 25th Printing & Sending Newsletter

*Father's Day is
Sunday, June 20th!*