



Smoke Signal

March Newsletter 2022

Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL people.

Burnt Factory United Methodist Church

1943 Jordan Springs Road

P. O. Box 399

Stephenson, Virginia 22656

burntfactory.org

PH: (540) 667-4993

"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



Pastor's Message

I'm Sorry Lord. I've Fasted & Waited Enough!

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begin on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent is an old Anglo-Saxon word that translates loosely as "Spring."

This church season has been designated as a time of preparation for celebrating Easter. It has traditionally been a time of fasting, repentance, and waiting. It is a more somber season but not completely void of enthusiasm.

During the last two years of the pandemic, the church is well acquainted with fasting and waiting. Fasting and waiting requires patience, reflection, and self-control. I am reminded of Psalm 13 especially in this pandemic year where David writes these words: "Lord, how long must I wait? Will you forget me forever? How long must I struggle with my thoughts? Lord my God, look at me and answer me. Give me new life, or I will die But I trust your faithful love. My heart is filled with joy because you will save me. I will sing praise to the Lord. He has been good to me." NIRV

We have been fasting and waiting for two years! At times over the last 24 months, we have fasted from congregating, we have fasted from eating together, we have fasted from visiting, shaking hands and hugging. We have fasted from the sacraments and especially Holy Communion. We have fasted from Sunday School

and fellowship. We have fasted from mission trips. We have fasted from seeing each other's faces. We have fasted from the joy of watching all the wonderful children in our congregation grow up over the last two years. We have fasted and waited for the return to normalcy. To tell you the truth, I'm tired of fasting and waiting! We have already given up so much over the last two years, I don't feel like giving up anymore! I have reflected enough! I still need to repent, but other than that Lord, I'm sorry, I've got no fasting and waiting left in my heart! Yet, I know what our Lord prayed in the garden and will be obedient.

“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

The cup that is COVID 19 will not defeat us! The cup that we have all had to endure will not steal our joy or diminish our hope! The cup that is the Pandemic, will not have victory over the church! Lord, forgive us and give us strength, courage, resolve and an extra measure of faith as we enter into the Lenten season of 2022. This Lenten season, I will continue to pray every day and every night. I will continue to give and serve. I will continue to be present in my church. I will continue to give witness to the truth, mercy, hope, grace, and love of Jesus. I will continue to fulfill my call to the best of my ability. I will repent and I will wait, and I will fast!

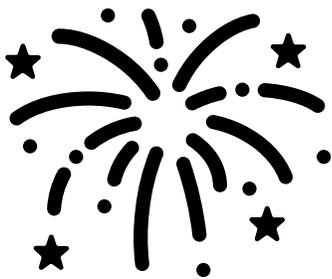


BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Chubby Weir Donna Bonjo
3 rd	Melanie Melester Ezra Cisneros
4 th	Greg Bigler
6 th	Nicholas Wagner
7 th	Charlene Winter Gary Dixon
9 th	Johnny Morrison Ariella Cisneros
10 th	Joy Melvin
12 th	Tara Flinchum
14 th	Gavan Tran
15 th	Ben Perrault Katie Moss
16 th	Jack Campbell Mowry
20 th	Rennie Earhart Tyler Beaver Millie Hood
24 th	Casey (Heinlein) Caudill
25 th	Beth Beaver
27 th	Carter Gerometta
28 th	Joe Hulver
29 th	Charlie Woods
31 st	Cynthia Ward

Anniversaries

17th Chubby and Helen Weir



BUDDY'S



JOKES

Charly, Thank You for 12 years of a Job Well Done on the Newsletter!
Buddy

Question: Where do Fish like to sleep?
Answer: On their Water Beds!

Question: Have you ever seen a Catfish?
Answer: No, they can't; they eat the bait!

Question: Have you ever hunted Bear?
Answer: No, but I went fishing in my shorts!

Question: What did the Dog say when he sat on Sandpaper?
Answer: Ruff, Ruff!

Question: Where do Skunks like to sit in Church?
Answer: In the Front Pew!

Question: What kind of keys never unlock anything?
Answer: Monkeys, Turkeys and Donkeys!

Question: What do you get when a Barn full of Cows won't give milk?
Answer: Udder Chaos!

Question: What is the best way to communicate with a Squirrel?
Answer: Climb up a Tree and act like a Nut!

That's all Folks. Keep Smiling until I see you again!

Buddy



Congratulations to Candice and Will Jones on the birth of their daughter, Oakley Sue. She is healthy 6 lb 15 oz and 20 1/4" long. Siblings, Layla and Bubba are over the moon.



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"



Friends, it is a great joy to receive our new members into the Burnt Factory UMC family. Please extend a warm welcome to:

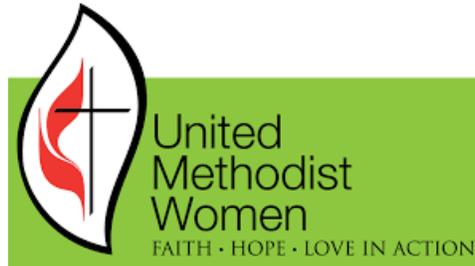
Lisa and Jay Garver
Renee Stump
Betsy and Dave Newlin
Christie and Larry Yates
Michael Seabright
Craig Stultz
Connie Stultz
Kim Mowrey
Judy and Jim Miller

We would also like to recognize **Ann Ellington, Dolores Emmart and Joan Bush** who joined previously.





Embracing the Uncertain by UMC Pastor Magrey R. deVega will be our 2022 Lenten Study. The study will be offered Monday evenings at 7pm beginning February 28th or Tuesday mornings at 10:30am beginning March 1st. Sign-ups and books are in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Rob Moss at admin@burntfactory.org.



UMW MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

There was no news for February since we haven't met since December 16th, 2021. We never meet in January, but usually have our *Call to Prayer* program in February. With things being as they are (still struggling with COVID numbers and "iffy" February weather) we made the decision to hold off until March when, we pray, things will be better.

Many of us contributed kitchen items needed for the ministry helping an Afghan family resettle into the Winchester Community. So, even though we haven't met together in January or February, we have been active.

I was present at a Zoom UMW executive meeting January 9, 2022. The District Prayer Breakfast was discussed. It was decided to cancel after having been set for Saturday, March 19th at Braddock Street UMC. It will be cancelled in person for 2022 but will visit the idea of an outdoor gathering when the executive committee meets again. They said Box Tops can still be mailed to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Stamps are a dead issue and no longer being collected.

Our unit will meet in the fellowship hall Thursday, March 17th on St. Patrick's Day! We look forward to Doris Duvall leading our *Call to Prayer* program and she will be providing firsthand information about the Afghan family. You won't want to miss this program! Our treasurer, Anne Perrault, will be glad to assist you in making a pledge for 2022, if you haven't already. Kathy Dixon has graciously agreed to be our refreshment hostess – switching from Valentine's Day theme to St Patrick's Day! So, get your green on and come to our meeting. Remember, "More than all the shamrocks in Ireland, that's how much God loves you. Ye are special!"

Blessings, Polly Duvall, president





Kids and Youth Ministries!



A REASON TO CELEBRATE!!!!

March 6th both services we will restart Children's Time in the Sanctuary at the beginning of the service! Gather in the sanctuary with your families and then come down to the amazing voices of the congregation singing our children down to the altar area! I am sooo excited for this!!

Children's Opportunities

March 2nd is our Ash Wednesday service 7pm. We will have a special Children's Church that evening during the service. Nursery is also provided!

March 11th—KIDS BINGO NIGHT!!!!!! 6-7:30pm in the Social Hall. We will play bingo, snack, and dance.

April 14th—Maundy Thursday Service 7pm. Special Children's Church and nursery provided.

April 10th—At the Early Service the children will parade in at the beginning of the service with palm branches!

April 17th—Easter Sunday! We will have an Egg Hunt for children, and craft stations set up 9:45—10:45am.

Save the Dates!

VBS June 20-24

Summer Camp July 11-13

Youth Opportunities

March 13th Regular Meeting—Youth Cottage 5-6:30

March 27th—Youth Activity—TBA

April 9th—Motel Ministry 10am-12pm





CONDOLENCES

As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:

Gallagher Family, passing of Bob

Blankenship Family, passing of Jim and Jean

Bush Family, passing of Joan

Melester Family, passing of Edna

Sibert Family, passing of Shirley

Dixon Family, Marie

Loeffler Family, passing of Dennis Jr.



Thinking of You
and asking God to
surround you with His
Perfect Peace
And Love



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them. For the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6



Path Finder Ministry

Contact: Debbie Walker

E-mail: dswalker1@yahoo.com

(540)664-0908 Cell / (540)667-6711 Home

Monthly: 3rd Wednesday @ Noon

Fellowship Hall

Jesus wants his love for you to be your foundation as he walks with you through this emotion-filled season of grief. We welcome you to join us on March 16th in fellowship, comfort and support.



Pathfinder Luncheon

Wed. March 16th, 2022

BFUMC Fellowship Hall

12:00 Noon

RSVP: Debbie Walker

By Fri. March 11th, 2022

(540)664-0908 / (540)667-6711

dswalker1@yahoo.com

Please Join Us

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. You may also contact me by email or phone. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me. If you are not sure ahead of time that you can make it, but on the day of the meeting you would like to come - PLEASE COME! Sign-up or not - **YOU ARE WELCOME!**

The Pathfinder Ministry is a safe space of compassion, respect, and encouragement for those currently experiencing the loss of a loved one, or have previously experienced loss. We will gather as a community of empathy, acceptance, and emotional support.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

**May God keep you in his warm and comforting embrace,
*Debbie Walker***



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

God of All Seasons

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven"
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As a member of the boomer generation, my kids were growing up. One was graduating from high school, the other starting high school. My life was changing and easing, as they were becoming more self-sufficient. Soon they would be leaving home and making their own place in the world. Their Dad and I looked forward to the time we would be able to do the many things we always talked about, time as a couple, date nights, travel, and eventual retirement.

I soon began those full circle moments, when the child takes the role of the parent while caring for my mother. While we were eating out, she went to the restroom, and we quickly realized that she would need to change her undergarments. I had left my backpack with things she needed and had to get it from our table. As I came back into the restroom, I had the realization of how my mother used to carry a bag for my things when I was a baby. She took great care of me as I was growing up. My next thought was how I used to carry around a bag full of items to care for my own children. Now, I was carrying a bag for my mother.

It's so interesting to think about being in the role of mother and daughter at the same time, in the same space. Without a doubt, there are times when these two worlds or roles clash. However, there are times when they blend beautifully. I loved those days when I could be the mother to my children and the daughter of a mother with dementia. When life was peaceful. These were the happy times. These were the times when I felt like all was well with the world.

Then, there would be the moments when relationships didn't blend as well. The times when I felt like I wanted to be rescued from the responsibilities. The times I felt like I can't do anything but fall to my knees and pray. It was in those times that I thought about the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven."

I prayed I would experience more seasons of peace and solace in my future. As Mom and I walked hand in hand with God, we were able to endure the many different experiences of life, knowing He was present in every single one.

God, you are present with each of us, in all the seasons of our lives. When we face the unknown, difficulties and joys, we can trust that you are in control.

Amen

Friends,

If you have the need to talk to someone who has walked in your shoes, please contact me. I'm available to meet with you, any place or time.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy -
Debbie Walker



March 2022 Faith Community Nurse Article

The Red Cross needs you to please ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis, its worst shortage in over a decade. This shortage is forcing doctors to decide which patients receive blood transfusions and which ones must wait. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments.

The Red Cross has experienced a 10% decline in the number of people donating blood since the beginning of the pandemic and continues to confront relentless issues due to the pandemic, including ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. Individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are still eligible to donate blood and platelets. Knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining blood donation eligibility.

One of the most important ways to support the Red Cross is to roll up a sleeve to help ensure people receive the care they need. Make an appointment to give blood or platelets as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donors can complete pre-reading material and donor health history questions BEFORE coming to the blood drive. This can reduce donation time by at least 15 minutes. More information is available on redcrossblood.org/RapidPass.

A big thank you to Marcia Etu, Dennis Loeffler and Lisa Wilt, of the Red Cross for their help with this article.

Continually **praying** for your health and well-being.

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.





March 2022 Relay for Life Newsletter Article

Cancer is one of the medical conditions that the CDC has determined places a person at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. After completing the primary vaccine series, moderately or severely compromised people should get an additional primary shot. Please speak to your healthcare provider about your risk.

Please put **Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** on your calendars!

We will **kick-off Relay for Life of Winchester/Frederick County** at the Stonewall Ruritan Building. There will be guest speakers, refreshments, prizes, and the theme for the 2022 Relay will be announced.

If you have an idea for a theme for the 2022 Relay, please let me know so that we can include your idea.

The website for 2022 is on the Relay for Life website. **Please go on the website and register for The Believers team as soon as you can.** You must register every year. We are hoping to grow our team this year. The event will be on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Stonewall Ruritan grounds.

Lisa and I look forward to getting our team together soon and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support of **The Believers!**

#NothingWillStopUs in the fight to #EndCancer

Please let Lisa or I know if you have any questions.

theresahgilbert@gmail.com or (540) 247-5612

lisapatterson423@gmail.com or (540) 664-4169

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





CCAP Corner

March 2022



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 GIVEAWAY. We are no longer 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 green beans, boxed potatoes and gravy packets or cans (no glass please) for the food baskets. These items can be dropped off in the collection bins through Sunday, March 20th.

Food Box packing Team – Our team spends about 2 hours on Tuesday nights packing food boxes for the Pantry. These boxes are key to feeding our CCAP families. In December, 443 families were served using our boxes along with other items. Two other churches have now joined in this mission; we are now packing just two Tuesdays a month. If you would like to be part of our team, please let me or anyone on Outreach know and we will add you to our mailing list.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Drivers are needed to pick up food at local stores. Food is picked up Mon-Thurs and Sat from 8-11am. We are hoping to extend the Pantry hours to better serve our clients. To do this, we need volunteers in the Pantry from 8:30 to 2:30 Monday – Friday. Volunteers are also needed in Finance and Reception. We are always looking for volunteers to help in the clothing area. Kathy Dixon, Cheryl Jones, Penny Croll and I currently work in Clothing.

In March, we will be receiving large donations from the Rhea Lana and Mom2Mom consignments. Volunteers will be needed to sort these donations. The donations we receive are wonderful. This is a fun time to meet other volunteers. Sorting will be done 3/8 – 3/17 from 9-2 and again on 3/28 – 4/7 from 9-2. Any hours you could spend here would be greatly appreciated.

For more information on helping at CCAP, go to the updated CCAP website at www.ccapwinchester.org. This site has a lot of information about CCAP and what it offers to clients. There is also more detailed information about volunteer opportunities. On the HOME page, scroll down to the Become a Volunteer section and enter your information to become part of the pool of volunteers. Once you're signed up to volunteer, you will receive email notifications of volunteer opportunities.

Please contact me or anyone on the Outreach Committee if you are interested in helping at CCAP and we can give you a tour and talk more about what goes on there.

Thanks so much for your continued support of this Ministry.

Patty Leonard, Outreach Rep

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Mahatma Gandhi



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This March will mark the two-year anniversary of the pandemic. Burnt Factory UMC has weathered the storm of COVID very well. We have not experienced an outbreak. Our attendance (including live stream) has been good only experiencing a 20% decline from mid-March of 2020. Our giving and mission output has been tremendous. The latest variant has certainly been very contagious and many of our congregation members have been sick. I was able to dodge the virus for 22 months even after being exposed several times and getting tested many times. My family finally succumbed to the omicron variant but weathered the virus with minor symptoms for the most part. I thank God we were fully vaccinated for I believe it would have been a very different experience without it.

It has become obvious, at least to me, that this virus will not be eradicated. It is something we hopefully will be better able to fight with the advent of new medications and treatments that are being developed. We also are hopeful that more people will come to understand the importance in being fully vaccinated. One thing is for sure, vaccinations keep the vast majority of people out of the hospital (not taxing our health care system) and more importantly, out of the funeral home. These statistics are not political and not biased. They are without dispute. The HCT has prayed and discerned how best to move forward at BFUMC and believe the time is now to initiate a mask optional protocol for all the congregation. This will come with the following recommendations, encouragements, and direction.

- BFUMC will no longer require face coverings. They will be optional for all the congregation. Many people will still choose to wear face coverings regardless of their vaccination status and we will still encourage the use of face coverings. It is not the church's intent to make anyone feel isolated, judged, guilty or set apart. Our desire has always been to keep people safe. We encourage everyone who feels more secure and safe with a face covering to continue to wear one. Everyone who needs to wear a face covering to protect themselves and others should continue to wear one for everyone's safety.
- The Global/Universal United Methodist Church, including BFUMC, strongly continues to encourage vaccinations and boosters. We realize that even with vaccinations, those with compromising health issues can experience serious illness and will need to continue to take necessary pre-cautions.
- BFUMC encourages those who are sick with flu or cold symptoms on Sunday mornings to stay home, watch the service online, and get well. We encourage the continued use of hand sanitizers and hand washing. We encourage those who are not comfortable with engaging in certain acts of worship and fellowship to make decisions that are best for them.

Blessing in Christ,

Pastor Steve

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on." Philippians 3: 13-14

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Lenten Study 10:30-11:30 am Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	2 Ash Wednesday Pastor's Office Hours 9:30 am -1 pm Lower Cottage	3 Boy Scouts 7-8:30 pm Shelter Outreach Team 7-8:30 pm	4	5 Roof Wreckers 9-10 am Fellowship Hall Edna Melester Service 1-5 pm
6 8:30 am: In-Person Worship 11 am: In-Person Worship Private Jean Blankenship Service. 2-3 pm	7 Lenten Study 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	8 Lenten Study 10:30-11:30 am Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain" 2/4 BLT 12-1pm Fellowship Hall	9 Pastor's Office Hours 9:30 am -1 pm Lower Cottage Church Council 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall	10 Boy Scouts 7-8:30 pm Shelter Nature Meeting 7-8 pm Lower Cottage	11 Children's Bingo Night 6-7:30 pm Sanctuary	12
13 Daylight Saving Begins 8:30 am: In-Person Worship 11 am: In-Person Worship	14 Lenten Study 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	15 Lenten Study 10:30-11:30 am Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	16 Pastor's Office Hours 9:30 am -1 pm Lower Cottage Pathfinder;s Ministry 12-1:30 pm Fellowship Hall	17 Saint Patrick's Day Boy Scouts 7-8:30 pm Shelter United Methodist Women 7-8:30 pm Fellowship Hall	18	19 Roof Wreckers 9-10 am Fellowship Hall
20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) 8:30 am: In-Person Worship 11 am: In-Person Worship Salvation Army Lunch 12-1pm CCAP 112. S. Kent St. (Cheryl and Mark Jones)	21 Lenten Study 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	22 Lenten Study 10:30-11:30 am Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	23 Pastor's Office Hours 9:30 am -1 pm Lower Cottage	24 Boy Scouts 7-8:30 pm Shelter	25	26
27 8:30 am: In-Person Worship 11 am: In-Person Worship	28 Lenten Study 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	29 10:30-11:30 am Lenten Study Fellowship Hall "Embracing the Uncertain"	30 Pastor's Office Hours 9:30 am -1 pm Lower Cottage	31 Boy Scouts 7-8:30 pm Shelter	Saturday, April 2, 2022 Roof Wreckers 9-10 am Fellowship Hall	

C. Steven Melester, Pastor
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BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 2022



Sharma Lewis, Resident Bishop
Virginia Conference
Richmond, Virginia

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

WELCOME SPRING.



May God's blessings
spring forth in your life.