



February

SMOKE SIGNAL 2023

Our Mission Statement
Sharing the love of Christ with ALL
people.

Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
1943 Jordan Springs Road
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Stephenson, Virginia 22656
burntfactory.org
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE Pastor Steve Meelster

In an article from the Christian newsletter, *Crosswalk*, Laura Baily shares “5 Ways to Disagree” I thought it might be relevant for the times we find ourselves living in. I am sharing the first of the five in detail.

1. We Can Disagree without Being Divisive

We must understand the difference between disagreement and division. A disagreement is defined as a lack of consensus or approval. Divisiveness happens when a disagreement ends with hostility between the parties involved. However, every disagreement doesn't have to finish in division. Even though disagreements are unavoidable in life, and some may end with division, we can do so in a Christ-honoring way.

Looking at the interaction with Paul and Barnabas, Scripture doesn't tell us precisely the words spoken, but we do know there was "a sharp disagreement" (Acts 15:39). Here were two godly men doing ministry for the glory of God, yet they were still human and prone to disagree. It was merely a result of two fallen men working together. While their approach differed, they were united in the truth of the Gospel. The men ultimately decided to go separate ways, but we see that their separation strengthened the churches, and Christianity grew as a result (Acts 15:41). We, too, will have interpersonal quarrels, and there might be times we need to separate, but we can do that in a Christ-honoring, God-glorifying, peaceful way.

The other 4 ways to disagree are as follows:

2. Be Quick to Forgive and Move On.
3. Remember We Are on the Same Team.
4. Choose Humility Over Pride.
5. Strive for Peace.

“Let us be people who strive for unity as we seek to glorify God in all we say and do. Conflict will arise, but we choose how we respond with disagreements among believers and non-believers. If you find yourself dealing with divisiveness, try practicing these five principles from Scripture and humbly seek God's direction and guidance through prayer and His Word.”

Laura Baily



February

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Larry Dick
- 3rd Layla Hall
- 5th Sonny Sibert
- 6th Sondra Boudier
- 8th Charlie Shepley
- 10th Sue Wells
- 11th Buddy Willis
- 15th James Clayton Hardesty
- 16th John Nevitte Renner
Hayden Stinnett
Ken Wales
- 17th Lillian Hardesty
- 18th Ruth Ann Snyder
Bob Gallagher
- 19th Ed Cooper
- 20th Evan Taylor
Rhonda Snyder
- 21st Mark Repine
Zoe Carroll
Jackson Carroll
- 22nd Chad Earhart
- 23rd Denise Repine
- 26th Mary Lou Wales

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th Bob and Kathy Hunt
Ron and JoAnne Baker
- 18th Dave and Marica Darsie



Hannah & Bruce Keenan welcomed their first child into the world, Poppy Reese Keenan. Tim & Danette Heinlein are proud grandparents.

Sean & Laine Everhart welcomed another grandchild into the world, Jameson William Tolson, son of Matt and Katie Tolson.

BUDDY'S JOKES

1. How many hard-boiled eggs can a man eat on an empty stomach?
2. What is the longest word in the English language?
3. What kind of dog does a vampire have?
4. Formed long ago yet made today and most employed when others sleep. Few would like to give it away; and fewer still to keep it. What is it?
5. I don't have any time to waste, but I counted the bricks on my house. How many did it take to finish my house?
6. WHAT IS IT?
There is a thing that nothing is, and yet it has a name. Tis sometimes tall and sometimes short, it joins our walk, it joins our sports. And it plays at every game.

Ha Ha Ha!



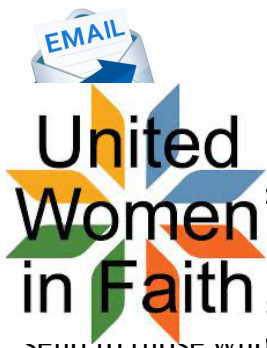
Be not stingy of kind words and pleasant acts. Manners are cheap, they cost nothing. Use them!

Be happy always. Love you all.
Margie and Buddy

Answers on next page.

Look for the heart.





United Women in Faith
 Your email address to Keith
 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”



The church would like to recognize birthdays and
 anniversaries. We want to be given the opportunity
 to ask God to bless you with every kind of joy and
 happiness on your special day. With the new year,
 please submit birthdays and anniversaries that you
 would like to have printed in the church newsletter.
Shyatt54@gmail.com



1. One, because after he has it, his stomach will not be empty.
2. Smiles, because there is a mile between the first and last letters.
3. A bloodhound
4. A bed
5. Only one to finish it.
6. Shadow

What about that groundhog?

February 2, 2023

The Groundhog’s Day tradition travelled a long way. It comes from German roots. In the early 1800s, German immigrants to America brought the tradition of predicting winter weather on February 2. In their native Germany, they used Hedgehogs to predict the weather. As they settled in the hills of Pennsylvania, they began the tradition, of using the Groundhog to predict the arrival of Spring. The tradition is based upon Candlemas, the day that is the midpoint between Winter and Spring.

According to legend, if the groundhog sees his shadow (a sunny morning), there will be six more weeks of winter. He then returns to his den and goes back to sleep. If however, he does not see his shadow (cloudy days), he plays around outside of his hole for a while. If he does not see his shadow, spring is just around the corner.

Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania is the site of the annual Groundhog event. Our little rodent friend (yes, Groundhogs are classified as rodents) is called Punxsutawney Phil. He has been making this annual winter prediction since 1887. There are a few other “predictors” around the country, but they all pale in comparison to Phil’s ability to predict the remainder of winter.

For the Record Phil sees his shadow about 9 out of 10 times.



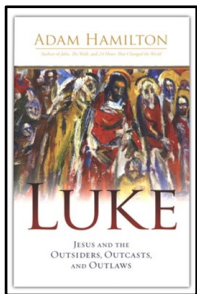
The United Women in Faith will be offering soup for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 12th. Lots of delicious soup is being prepared by our members; potato, chicken noodle and vegetable beef will be available for free will offering before, after, and between the 8:30 and 11:00 services. All proceeds will go to Project Esperanza which serves the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 25th at 10:00 am in the social hall. Polly Duvall and Susan Hyatt are our hostesses and will provide snacks for the meeting. Jani Shope will be helping us tie and make felt blankets to be donated to the Salvation Army.

All women of the church are invited to attend as we seek to connect and nurture each other as we work to impact our local community. I hope you will join us!



Debbie Moss
President



Wednesday, February 22nd begins the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. With Lent, we have the opportunity to gather for a Lenten Study held Monday evenings at 7pm and again Tuesday mornings at 10am. This year we will be studying Adam Hamilton's *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. Through Luke's stories, we find Jesus's care and compassion for ALL as he welcomes sinners and outcasts, and we hear an inspiring word for our lives today. Sign-ups and books will be in available in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

February 4th: Meeting in the Youth Cottage with hot cocoa bar, dinner, and games!









February 18th: Jubilee Soup Kitchen. Youth will meet downtown at First Presbyterian Church from 10-12:30

Questions/comments please text Miss Erin 540-535-5283





February 2023
Faith Community Nurse Article
"Show your heart some love."

 <p>Enjoy a variety of fruits and vegetables</p>	 <p>Choose whole grains</p>	 <p>Limit Alcohol</p>
 <p>Use canola, olive, or other oils low in saturated fat</p>	 <p>For protein look eat more seafood, beans, peas and nuts</p>	
 <p>Eat fewer processed foods</p>	 <p>Eat less salt and added sugar</p>	 <p>Balance calories with activity</p>

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:23

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.





The Believers Reinvented

As many of you know, the BFUMC Believers have valiantly fought cancer in support of the American Cancer Society for many years, as a top fundraising *Relay for Life* team. This past year we made the decision as a team to discontinue this mission and to find another way to battle cancer in our own community.

Please join Lisa Garver, Lisa Patterson and me in the fellowship hall on Monday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m. as we share information about a new organization that provides 100% of their proceeds to cancer patients in Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, Warren and Fauquier Counties.

We will be discussing how we can move forward with fundraising in our continued battle against cancer.

We hope to see you at the meeting, but if you are interested and cannot attend the meeting let me know and I will share the information to you.

Theresa Gilbert, RN
Faith Community Nurse

FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY *BUILD A SNOWMAN*



The world's biggest snowman was actually a snow *woman* made in Bethel, Maine, in 2008. Called "Olympia" (after Maine Senator Olympia Snowe), the 13-million-pound snow beauty towered 122 feet and could be seen from 4 miles away. Thus, the snowwoman's creators broke their own *Guinness Book of World Records* record of 113 feet back in 1999. Olympia is only about 30 feet shorter than the Statue of Liberty (minus the statue's base). In order to construct Olympia, it took 60 volunteers, ranging in age from kindergarteners to senior citizens, as well as the cooperation of the whole town.

CONDOLENCES

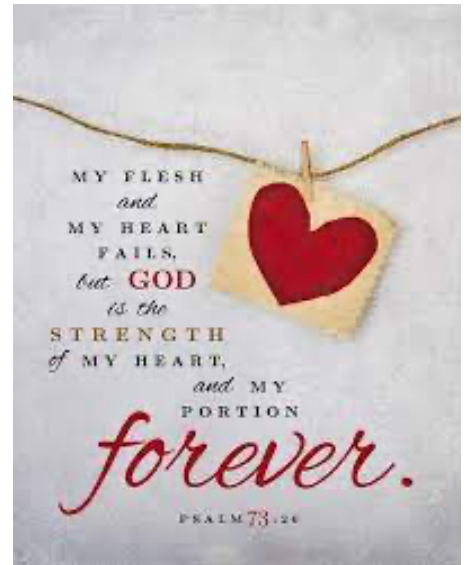
As many have experienced the loss of a loved one, please remember them in prayer:

Robin Merke family at the passing of her mother, Katy LaFollette.
Katy was also Kaitlyn Shepley's grandmother.

The Debbie Rohrbaugh family at the passing of Aunt Donna Sue Stonebraker.

The Carlisle family as Gary Carlisle claimed the promise of the resurrection.

The McKinney and Liggett families at the passing of Danny Liggett's uncle, Jeff McKinney.



“And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.” -Maya Angelou



Pathfinder Ministry

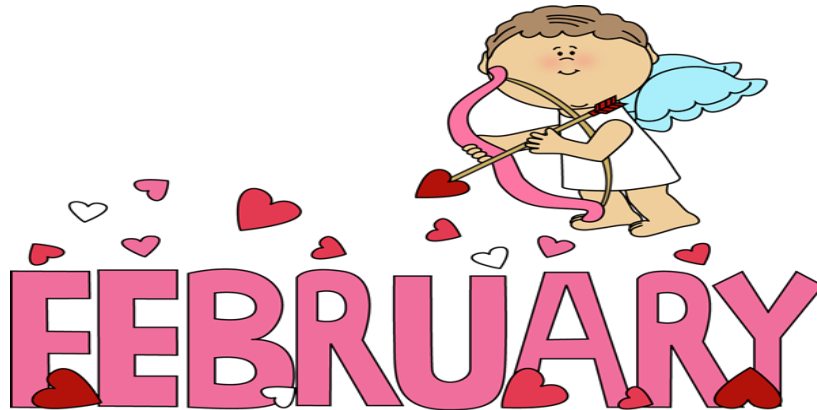
Contact: Debbie Walker

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 in fellowship, comfort, and support.



Pathfinder Luncheon

Wed. Feb. 15th, 2023

BFUMC Fellowship Hall

12:00 Noon

Info or Questions contact:

Debbie Walker

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

dswalker1@yahoo.com

Please Join Us

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. 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 - 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.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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

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



When is Leap Day? The next Leap Day is February 29, 2024. Leap Day is every four years.... almost. It's every four years except years ending with "00" that are not divisible by 400. The year in which Leap Day occurs, is called a Leap Year. There are no other February 29 holidays or events.

Why the fancy calculation? The earth rotates around the sun once every 365 and about 1/4 days. So, by adding an extra day every four years, we get mighty close to keeping the calendar consistent with the earth's annual trip around the sun. And to be very precise, the earth orbits the sun every 365.242190 days. So, on years ending in "00", (except those not divisible by 400) we skip Leap Year and Leap Day. With all that fancy calculating out of the way, let's just celebrate the day.

Did you know? There are occasional "Leap Seconds". We will spare you the detail on those, except to say it helps to correct minor variations. On December 31, 2015, the folks who maintain the official time for the planet, added an extra second to the day! Did you enjoy the extra time?

If your birthday is on Leap Day, congratulations, you finally get to celebrate your birthday on your birth date. Just how many of us are celebrating our Birthday on Leap Day? Only about one in 1461 people. If you were born on this day, consider yourself very, very special.

Christian Calendar

02/02/20--Candlemas Day

Christians remember this day as the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem 40 days after his birth.

02/16-22/20- Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week

A week dedicated to people of all faiths, a call to come together and reaffirm the humanity that underlies the variations in their religious beliefs.

02/25/20 - Shrove Tuesday

It means forgiveness. A day in February or March, preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in some countries by consuming pancakes.

02/26/20--Ash Wednesday-Lent Begins

The seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, which lasts 40 days.

"How is it with your soul?" A powerful and important question, to be sure, and Lent is the perfect time to take this inward journey and to spend some time in solitude and reflection. "How do you live in the world around you? How do you impact, or better, how does your faith impact your community, your church, your family?"

Ash Wednesday is an inside-out act of worship. We come and confess and are reminded of both our sinfulness and our mortality. And yet we are given a visible mark in the imposition of ashes, a way of letting the world know that we are people of faith. Our hope is that such a symbol is a welcome sign, a sign of acceptance and hospitality. Indeed, our pledge to God is that we will live in such a way that we bring honor to the name of God and glory to Jesus the Christ. We live outwardly the inner beliefs that we hold.



Saint Valentine is the patron saint of Valentine's Day. The holiday was named after him. Also, he is the patron saint for lovers. St. Valentine was born around 220 and died on Valentine's Day in 269 or 270. At the time of his death, he was the Bishop of Rome.

During the early days of the Roman empire, Christianity was discriminated against. Christian marriages were forbidden in the third century. St. Valentine, then the Bishop of Rome, continued to preach Christianity and to perform Christian marriages. He was imprisoned for disobeying the cruel Emperor Claudius II. While in prison, he continued writing letters and even converted convicts in jail to Christianity. He befriended Julia, the daughter of the jailer. When the emperor Claudius discovered that he was still preaching Christianity from his jail cell, he was executed (270A.D.). In his last letter to the jailer's daughter before his execution, he signed it "From your Valentine", which is where this holiday then got its name.



President's Day



George Washington was the Commanding General of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He led the army to defeat British forces freeing the 13 new states from colonial rule. He went on to become the first president of the fledgling United States.

Abraham Lincoln's birthday is February 12. Every American knows President Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. He is one of America's greatest presidents. "Honest Abe", as he was commonly known, was born in the wilderness country of Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809. In modern times President Lincoln and all the U.S. Presidents, are celebrated.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is on February 17th. Almost any kind of good deed will do. This is a favorite day of many people and groups. People like the idea of showing a little kindness to others. It's a fun and good thing to do. Schools have used this day as an educational event, and to promote the value of kindness. Organizations have used this day to promote their cause and for fundraisers.

Kindness is contagious. There are countless ways you can be kind to others. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Say nice, complimentary things to people. Spend some time with the elderly or people who are shun-in.
- Go out of your way to help someone.
- Be hospitable.
- Send a greeting card to someone who is depressed and in need of cheering up.
- Forgive others for their errors and shortcomings.
- Prepare and deliver a meal or baked goods to someone...anyone.
- Help a neighbor or friend with a chore or task.

CCAP Corner

February 2023



CCAP is a cooperative effort of individuals, civic groups, businesses, and religious communities in Winchester and Frederick County. They have unified to provide financial, material, and supportive assistance in a loving way. Even with the help of existing social service programs, CCAP clients are unable to meet their needs and responsibilities. CCAP's desire is to do God's work in a world where many basic human needs are simply not met.

A few **CCAP statistics from 2022**: There was a 20% increase in people served vs 2021; \$560,000 was given out in financial aid.

Food Box Packing – First Monday of each month. Our next pack date is Monday, February 6th starting at 5:30. A little over an hour is all it takes to pack enough boxes for several days of food giveaways at CCAP. Please let me or anyone on Outreach know if you would like to help out.

Pickleball Tournament – A one-day pickleball tournament on **Saturday, 2/11** is being organized by the Winchester Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with CCAP. Everyone is welcome to play!! The entry fee per two-member team is \$75 plus 5 canned food items. All proceeds will benefit CCAP. Bam Bam's BBQ of Stephens City will have food available for purchase and there will be a silent auction of items donated by area businesses and organizations. You can sign-up on the CCAP website: www.ccapwinchester.org.

Opportunities to Serve – There are many ways to volunteer your time at CCAP. Drivers and Driver helpers as well as clothing house volunteers and receptionists are needed. Go to www.ccapwinchester.org and click on the donate/volunteer tab at the top of the page for a description of the many opportunities to share your talents and time. You can also reach out to me or anyone on the Outreach Team if you have any questions about what we do as volunteers at CCAP.

Remember, The Neighborhood FREEDGE is open 24 hours a day. Drop off and share any extra, fresh produce or items you do not want to go to waste. The FREEDGE is located at 419 N Cameron St and you can drop off your items directly to the refrigerator at any time. To sign up to be part of a cleaning crew for a day or week; go to www.ccapwinchester.org and click on the link to Our Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGE at the top of the website.

Donations needed: Gently used winter clothing, especially Toddler and Children sizes. Men's jeans, belts, T-shirts, hooded sweat jackets, sweatpants and sweatshirts; Women's purses. Tennis Shoes (all sizes men, women and children); Gently used Linens including bedsheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels; tents and sleeping bags. All donations may be dropped off Monday – Friday from 10am-1pm at 212 S Kent St. Winchester.

Any questions, please contact me at 540-664-6973 or ricpat5@gmail.com

Thanks so much for all you do for CCAP and our community.

Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep

Burnt Factory WATTS Ministry

February 2023 Newsletter



it's cold out there
feb. 25, 2023
#cnoy23

WATTS is excited to host our first annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) Walk!

The walk is held in February (a typically snowy and often frigid month) to allow folks to step outside the warmth and comfort of home and experience a little bit of what it might be like to be homeless - the purpose of the walk is to raise awareness and funds for people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. It works similar to Relay for Life or the Out of the Darkness Walk to fight suicide, where you commit to walk and ask family, friends, etc. to sponsor your mileage.

WATTS NEEDS YOU! Walkers, teams, volunteers, donors! ANYONE can participate in this event - the routes (choose the 2k or 5k) are within Winchester city limits, on sidewalks, with easy intersections. February 25 is a Saturday - check in starts at 4pm and walkers are sent off starting at 5:00 PM and back by 7:00PM (longest route.) There will be a 'soup kitchen' at the end where you can warm up!

Visit the 'ticket' link to go to our site where you can register to walk, create a team to walk, donate, or sign up to volunteer on February 25. We hope you'll join us to raise funds for the homeless that we serve!

<https://cnoy.com/location/winchester>

If you have any questions about the WATTS ministry, please contact me.

(540) 207-7404 or tamtut@comcast.net

Steve Cunningham

Burnt Factory WATTS Lead Volunteer





Burnt Factory United Methodist Men

February 2023 Newsletter

We held our first meeting in a long while to discuss many ministries that we are participating in.

The church is bringing back our **Annual Prayer Breakfast** which has always been a wonderful way to bring in the new year. We will be a little later this year with the Prayer Breakfast being held on February 18th at the Stonewall District Ruritan building in Clear Brook and will be our pre-kickoff of the Lenten Season. The time is 9am. Please make plans to attend this great event and a wonderful breakfast.

We will be planting potatoes in the church's potato patch again this spring. We hope to get the potatoes planted earlier than the last couple of years to enhance our harvest. Be on the lookout for ways that you can participate in this church ministry. We will be looking for families to sponsor rows again this year.

We have also decided to bring back our Apple Butter project under a condensed format with about half of the capacity of our former projects. We have some planning to do but keep an eye out for more information for this project that will take place in October once we finalize a couple of details. This is a huge project which requires the assistance of everyone in the church to be successful. This event is also a wonderful time of fellowship and comradery which everyone enjoys.

If you have any questions concerning Men's Ministries at Burnt Factory UMC, please contact me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comcast.net

Steve Cunningham

President Burnt Factory UMMen



February 18th at 9:00 am

Stonewall District Ruritan
Building in Clear Brook

From a branch on the Vine,

Do you follow Jesus? After the “Sons of Thunder”, James and John, asked Jesus for the right to sit on his left and right, Jesus says, ...*whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”
Matthew 20:26-28

To Serve - be in the service of; work for; to be useful or of service to; to help.

Jesus asks those who follow him to help others, be of service to them. Not to serve themselves; not withhold help. Put others first! Your first thoughts are to provide aid when needed; to be engaged in the comfort of others; to act in compassion. Do this in His name for it is by His Spirit you CAN be kind to the ones who revile you, leave your comfort zone for the benefit of others, sacrifice your time to be the face, heart, hands, and feet of Christ.

Everyone (not someone) is called, gifted, empowered to be a minister in the faith. You don't have to go to seminary to make the effort to help others. Being a minister of the faith does not require a theology degree. It does require faith in Jesus which is what we profess by baptism and membership in the body of Christ, the church.

Does it give you pleasure to explain God's word in such a way that others learn how to live righteously? You could be a teacher.

Do you have blessed assurance that God is involved in everything, small or great, and is working out a divine plan? Your powerful faith could be the message God wants you to share.

Do you enjoy doing most anything for the church and others as long as it serves Christ's purposes? Your gift of service to the church magnifies the Lord.

Do you feel the discomforts and pains of others and get relief by doing something to relieve their suffering? Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

God calls us to be in the game of life, to be active as His ambassadors. Watching from the stands is not being in the game. When you say I believe in Jesus, you entered into His family and into His service. When you say but I can't do what that person does. Fine, we are not made the same way to do the same thing. We are enabled differently by God's design. What CAN you do? Do it.

Remember the runt of the litter who slew the giant and become the greatest King in Israel. His first step was to get involved. We are all Ministers. Join in a ministry. Start a ministry. Live up to your position in the Kingdom of God. You, yes you, are needed. The kingdom is less, the church is less, Burnt Factory is less when you are not serving.

In Christ, *Rcb*

*When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:12-17*

Get Your Blessing





PROJECT ESPERANZA

Project Esperanza primarily (but by no means exclusively) serves the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development.

The United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) will be offering homemade soup for sale on February 12th to support Project Esperanza in their effort to educate/sponsor all their students. Below is some information on how Project Esperanza started as they approach their 16th year of serving the children in Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic.

Almost 10 years ago, Pastor Steve was approached by Kristi Rodgers and asked to consider supporting Caitlin McHale Floreal, a local Winchester woman, who started a non-profit children's school in the Dominican Republic. During 2005, while attending Virginia Tech, Caitlin took a mission trip to the DR where she volunteered at an orphanage in the town of Esperanza. Caitlin is a friend of Kristi Rodgers and Kristi felt called to bring the idea of supporting Project Esperanza to the Burnt Factory Congregation. After prayerful consideration, the UMW decided to commit to sponsoring 16 children for two years (2015-2017) by donating \$3200 over those 2 years. In 2018, through the support of the Outreach committee and the congregation, Project Esperanza was taken on as a Signature Ministry of UMW and the church budget currently contains a line item of \$2700 for Project Esperanza to continue sponsoring students at the Level 1 sponsorship.

Caitlin first became aware of the many homeless Haitian boys living on the streets of the Dominican Republic when she took a mission trip to the DR during the winter of 2005 while attending Virginia Tech. She returned to the DR in the summer of 2005 and she along with several other students from VT formed Project Esperanza. During a return mission trip in 2006 she was involved in conducting a census trying to understand the situation of hundreds of boys that walked the streets daily shining shoes or street vending. What she learned from the census was that none of the boys were in school mostly because the Dominicans rejected the Haitians. The boys came to the DR to "search for life" as Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Like so many immigrants in our country, these young boys were trying to help support themselves and their families by finding a better life in the DR.

During Caitlin's mission trip to the DR in 2006, she and the other VT students began a program to help the "street boys" during the afternoon by providing lunch, tutoring and a recreational program as well as spending time getting to know the boys and their stories of homelessness. They learned that many of the Haitian boys came to the DR as their parents had been convinced that they would have a better life. Instead the boys were used in human trafficking and often beaten if they did not provide the money expected from their vending at day's end. Caitlin and her fellow missionaries were able to rejoin 50 youth with their families back in Haiti and get them free from the enslavement.

While finishing up her studies at VT, Caitlin continued to return to the DR and in 2008 Caitlin moved to Puerto Plata to live full time and raise her family. Here is a link to their story.

<https://esperanzameanshope.org/our-story/>

Today, Project Esperanza serves the Padre Granero & Muñoz communities with two elementary schools, including preschool. They also help with scholarships to a local secondary school, for students who wish to continue their learning at a middle to high school level and eventually receive a high school diploma.



Here are a few of our students who received their new uniform shirts at the start of Semester 2. As we said in December, it is thanks to an anonymous donor, that we are able to begin semester two with uniforms for all!

As of January 24, 2023 – 148 out of 250 students have been sponsored for school year 2022-23 which started September 19th. Will you help Caitlin achieve her goal of having all students sponsored this year? As little as \$15/month (\$180 per year) can help a child attend school.

Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for Caitlin and her teachers who are working in the DR 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 on behalf of the Outreach Committee

Burnt Factory, in support of the United Women in Faith, has made Project Esperanza a signature ministry of the church and generously donates \$2,700 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 \$180 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. (May be paid annually - \$360)

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 and educational farm field trips. (May be paid annually - \$600)

<https://esperanzameanshope.org/become-a-sponsor/>

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Psalm 122:1

BFUMC

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	2 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	3	4 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage
5 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	6	7 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	8 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage 7pm Church Council	9 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter 7pm-8pm Long Range Planning Lower Cottage	10	11 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage
12 Scout Sunday 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	13	14 12pm 2/4 BLT 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	15 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage 12pm Pathfinder's Ministry	16 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	17	18 9-10am Grief Study Lower Cottage 9 am Prayer Breakfast 10am Youth Jubilee Soup Kitchen
19 8:30am-In Person 9:30 Blood Pressure Checks 9:45 Sunday School Worship 11am-In Person Worship 12pm Salvation Army	20 President's Day Believer's Meeting 630pm	21 12pm 2/4 BLT 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	23 12-5pm Blood Drive Fellowship Hall 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	24 Print newsletter.	25 9am Grief Study Lower Cottage 10 am Women In Faith
26 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	27 7pm Lenten Study	28 10am Lenten Study 12pm 2/4 BLT 5:30 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Choir Practice	March 1 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	2 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter 7pm Outreach Team	3	4 9am Grief Study Lower Cottage 10am Youth Conference (SU)

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