



## SMOKE SIGNAL MAY 2023

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### 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

Burnt Factory United Methodist Church

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### *The Pastor's Message*

Two of my favorite privileges that are bestowed upon me as a Christian pastor, are officiating at the *Sacrament of Holy Baptism* and at *The Service of Christian Marriage*. These Christian practices in some form or function have been around for two centuries and have been accepted as a bedrock of Christian piety. I will spare you in this article the long and extensive historical and biblical evidence for the practice of these two beloved and God ordained worship services and rites of passage.

It is such an honor to represent Christ when an adult decides to publicly declare their belief in Jesus Christ through their baptism covenant. It is a joy unlike any other to be a witness to someone repenting of their sin and committing their life to Jesus by accepting him as their Lord and Savior. It is especially joyful when parents bring their children to be baptized, agreeing to raise them in the church, and to guide them, as they come of age, toward making their profession of faith through confirmation. Friends, there is nothing better than when a mother and/or father offer their child back to God and place that child in my arms for the sacrament to be fulfilled. In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we do not celebrate our actions but celebrate God's action, through the Holy Spirit. This signifies the new life that is found in Christ and his church. Our sins are washed away.

The Holy Baptism Covenants are in the United Methodist Hymnal on pages 32 through 54. The liturgy is worth reading from time to time to remind us of the beauty of God's mighty acts of salvation and of his amazing grace poured out upon his people. The Profession of Faith is the bedrock of the baptism covenant and our membership vows. Let me share the historical, faithful, and holy questions that are our Profession of Faith. *Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms*

*they present themselves? Do you confess Jesus Christ as your savior, put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives on the world?*

Likewise, there is nothing quite as joy filled as representing Christ at the *Service of Christian Marriage*. When a man and woman come to me and desire to enter into a binding covenant with each other and with God through Holy Matrimony, it is truly a cause for celebration. I have been very fortunate to officiate at seventy-two Christian marriages to date. I have five more scheduled for this year. There is no greater joy to me than celebrating and embracing the ceremony that was established in the *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549. The United Methodist Church and many other Protestant denominations, with some minor variations, still use this marriage liturgy today.

*The Service of Holy Baptism* and *The Service of Christian Marriage* and other Protestant liturgical practices, such as *Holy Communion*, *Services of Death and Resurrection*, and *The Basic Pattern of Worship* for the Sunday Service, provide biblical truth these liturgies. These long time established and affirmed liturgies that have been ratified and accepted by the church for over 1000 years, still hold true today. These liturgies are holy and sacred and are established by God. I am so grateful to God for His word of truth! *The Service of Marriage* is found in the UMH on pages 864 -869. Let me share just some of its beautiful words. They are worth remembering.

*"Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and woman in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God, who created us male and female for each other. With his presence and power Jesus graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and in his sacrificial love gave us the example for the love of husband and wife."*

What beautiful words of truth!

Pastor Steve





May

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Shepley  
Dan Hayton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Eloise Woods
- 5<sup>th</sup> Danette Heinlein
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gianna Cisneros
- 9<sup>th</sup> Susie Gerometta
- 13<sup>th</sup> Emilia Rodgers  
Regina Baldwin
- 17<sup>th</sup> Gracyn Corron
- 19<sup>th</sup> Ben Melester  
Jerry Baldwin
- 21<sup>st</sup> Rob Clemons
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jason Smith  
Annellee Buchele
- 28<sup>th</sup> Harriett Hanke  
Debbie Moss
- 29<sup>th</sup> Lizzie Miller  
Lily Hayton
- 31<sup>st</sup> Lilly Thompson  
Vickie Thompson  
Beth Kerns  
Dave Darsie

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 16<sup>th</sup> Edgar and Doreen Coffelt
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dan and Rachel Hayton
- 25<sup>th</sup> Mike and Denise Repine



## BUDDY'S JOKES

1. Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?
2. What does a train and bubblegum have in common?
3. What do night crawlers do before they go on a run?
4. Why did the softball pitcher save all her money?
5. Which is heavier, a pound of feathers or a pound of rocks?
6. What do airplanes and football players have in common?
7. Why did the banker quit his job?
8. Why should you never tell a secret in a bank?

*God's love is flowing toward each one of us, as a deep, wide, beautiful, and never-ending river. It's up to us to jump in.*

*-Charles Stanley*

Love,  
Margie and Buddy

Look for the 😊 to find the answers.

**May 20, 2023**



**“VETERANS ARE A SYMBOL OF WHAT MAKES OUR NATION GREAT, AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET ALL THEY HAVE DONE TO ENSURE OUR FREEDOM.”– RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN**



**May 29, 2023**

Memorial Day is observed in America on the last Monday of May, and it is a day to commemorate and remember the men and women who lost their lives while in service for the US military. Honor our Burnt Factory United Methodist Church veterans.

### **Armed Forces Day History**

Armed Forces Day is a day to recognize members of the Armed Forces that are currently serving. In 1947, the Armed Forces of the US were united under one department which was renamed the Department of Defense in 1949. President Harry S. Truman supported the creation of a day for the nation to unite in support and recognition of our military members and their families. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced that Armed Forces Day would take the place of other individual branch celebrations, and all branches of the military would be honored this single day. Armed Forces Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in May.



1. Because you'd be pressing your luck.
2. They both Chew-Chew.
3. They worm-up.
4. She was a penny pitcher.
5. They both weigh the same.
6. They both have touch downs.
7. Because he lost interest.
8. It has too many tellers.



Hey Families!

Are your kids ready to get “spaced out” this summer? STELLAR VBS is coming soon, and it is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Sciency-Fun gizmos, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats await the kids who are ready to shine with the light of Jesus! This year we will reach for the stars, be over the moon, and look to the “Son”, as we travel out of this world learning fun and exciting Bible stories. This hands-on experience will be not only fun, but great for deepening their faith and showing them that God is their guide in all aspects (and places) of our lives.

- Pre-school ages 3yrs-5yrs (must be potty trained)
- Elementary mixed groups- 5yrs/K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

June 19, 2023 – June 23, 2023 (6-8:30 pm)

Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/stellarbfumc>

Or see me for a registration paper!



# WE NEED YOU!!!!

Come volunteer with us and lead children to Christ!  
Station Leaders, Kitchen Crew, Registration Table, Crew Leaders  
(youth), nurse/medical  
Youth Helpers 6<sup>th</sup>-12 Grade

Come and join us,

Love,

Miss Carrie





*All youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the following events:*

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

**May 27-** Harpers Ferry Youth Trip!! **Time: 11-4**  
We will meet at the church to take the bus to Harpers Ferry. Please bring a bag lunch and money for ice cream. We will be doing lots of walking, so dress appropriately.



Please RSVP to Miss Erin for any of the above events [youth@burntfactory.org](mailto:youth@burntfactory.org), or text 540-535-5283

**YOUTH BUS DRIVER WANTED:** ARE YOU SOMEONE WANTING TO HAVE AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE ON ONE OF OUR FUN YOUTH TRIPS? LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WILLING TO DRIVE THE BUS FOR CERTAIN EVENTS AND TO HELP CHAPERONE. IF YOU CAN DRIVE A MINIVAN, YOU CAN DRIVE THIS BUS; NO CERTIFICATION NEEDED! **ALL YOU CAN EAT SNACKS/BEVERAGES, AND INTERACTION WITH AMAZING YOUTH GUARANTEED!!** PLEASE LET MISS ERIN KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED ([YOUTH@BURNTFACTORY.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@BURNTFACTORY.ORG), OR TEXT 540-535-5283)



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](mailto:john.k.roberts@comcast.net) with the message:

“ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST”



## Greetings from the Outreach Team!

Spring is my favorite time in the Valley. Warmer weather and the gorgeous blooms make me want to get outside and *do* something! If you feel like that too, we have many opportunities through Outreach to do something good for someone else.

- There will be a collection for the Laurel Center through May and bins will be in the Narthex for your donations.
- The Salvation Army has begun serving a community lunch and Burnt Factory provides a hot meal for it every third Thursday of the month. If you'd like to contribute to the meal, volunteer to serve, or be a Team Lead, contact Penny Croll.
- CCAP is also looking for volunteers and there is a variety of ways you can help. See Patty Leonard if you are interested.
- Burnt Factory is going on a mission trip. A team is preparing to travel to Pennsylvania to help repair damage from Hurricane Ida. If you want to find out more about that effort, contact Marcia Etu.

Opportunities to serve are varied and you can help as little or as much as you like. Hope to see you soon.

Peace and Grace,

Sharon Woodard  
Outreach Committee Chair

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The **United Women in Faith** met on Saturday, April 22nd. Regina Baldwin and Christina Rohrbach were our hostesses and provided delicious refreshments. We had a speaker, Betty Sue Unger, from *Operation Remember* telling us about her ministry with residents in nursing homes. Operation Remember works with nursing homes and assisted living facilities to bring smiles to their residents. They fill wish lists at Christmas and assist throughout the year. Our group decided to donate and will plan a collection for items aimed at this project.

United Women in Faith will be serving dinner for the Stonewall District Ruritan Club on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, as a fundraiser for our group. More information will be emailed about signing up to help and provide desserts for this meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, July 15th at 10:00 am. Doris Duvall will lead us in the Call to Prayer program and we will discuss options for collecting items for Operation Remember.

President, Burnt Factory United Church Women in Faith  
Debbie Moss



## May 2023 Faith Community Nurse Article Blood Pressure and Heart Health

*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26*

As blood moves through your body, it pushes against artery walls. The amount of force it exerts is called blood pressure, and ideally it will be below 120/80.

### What happens when blood pressure is too high?

When blood pressure is high, your heart is working hard. This can weaken it over time, and lead to heart disease, a heart attack, or a stroke. In addition, high blood pressure can damage kidneys.

### What is too high?

Normal	Less than 120/80
At risk	120/80 to 139/89
High	140/90 or higher

*Some health care providers diagnose high blood pressure at 130/80.*

### How do I know if I'm in the danger zone?

High blood pressure typically does not have any signs, so have it measured to learn your numbers. If it's higher than it should be, work with your health care provider to bring it under control.

I hold blood pressure clinics in the social hall after both services on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (if I am not out of town). I would also be happy to meet you at the church at other times to check your blood pressure



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

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at [tgilbert@afpdocs.com](mailto:tgilbert@afpdocs.com) or [theresahgilbert@gmail.com](mailto: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 - May 2023

Our first fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner/themed basket auction on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale at the end of May/beginning of June. Pastor Steve will be the emcee/auctioneer. Keith Roberts is chairing the basket auction. Please think about donating a themed basket or silent auction (prior to the basket auction) item to donate. We are hoping to have a lot of children's items for the silent auction so that they can participate too. Please see me or Keith if you have any questions about the auction.



Our next Believers meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!! You do not have to be a member of the church to be a "Believer", you just need to have the desire to fight cancer!!

We have decided as a group to support the non-profit, [Helping Hands Cancer Outreach](#). The mission of this organization is to help relieve financial burdens to help patients relax during treatment, and to help those who have lost a loved one to cancer through help with funeral expenses. 100% of money raised on their behalf goes to the patients. All applicants are eligible for assistance up to \$3000.00 per year. All payouts are made directly to the billing company, with the exception of medical bills.

*"The human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it." C. C. Scott*

On behalf of Lisa Garver, Lisa Patterson and myself we appreciate your support.

Theresa Gilbert, RN  
Faith Community Nurse



## 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.

### March/April Activities

- Thank you to all who supported the United Women of Faith Soup Fundraiser in February. Caitlin shared how some of the donation was used:

*We put in a door at a space in Padre Granero for the psychologist office, which is required by the Ministry of Education. Then we also made a little chained link space to enclose the trash and broken desks at the recess area, otherwise the kids drag the broken desks all over and play with them. Some can be repaired and some not, but we needed a place to store them. . . the glass door to the office where we store all our books, donations, and uniforms was broken so we fixed that too. Lastly, our head gasket needed to be replaced on the van motor. . . I can't thank you all enough for continuing to sponsor your students, increasing your contribution as the costs have increased, and even doing this soup sale. If only we could clone Burnt Factory!!*

- Celebrated Pi Day on March 14<sup>th</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade-- "We measured diameters and circumferences of circles to find that circumference/diameter gave us close to 3.14 every time! It was a blast!"
- The Easter bunny and egg hunts are not common here, but one of our teachers did introduce this to her class.



- School is out next week for semana santa, which means holy week. As is the tradition, we finished this week with habichuelas dulces, or sweet beans, a tradition unique to the Dominican Republic. The kids were overwhelmed with excitement! School will resume Monday, April 10th.

- Students celebrated Earth Day by planting several plants at the school.



- We are planning for a fantastic summer English camp this year! Camp will run from June 26th to August 4th. We are very excited to already have volunteers committed for four of the six weeks!
- As of March 26th – 171 out of 250 students have been sponsored for school year 2022-23 which started September 19, 2022. 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](mailto: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 \$2,700 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/>



The third Thursday of each month, the Outreach Committee plans and provides a hot lunch for the community meal at the Salvation Army on Fort Collier Road. We provide enough food to feed 30-40 individuals. If there are leftover meals the Captains of the Shelter deliver the meals to the Winchester House (Senior Living Apartments) on Cameron Street. We would love to have a few more volunteers help to provide food for this ministry. If you are interested and would like to receive more information, please contact Penny Croll [ptcroll@hotmail.com](mailto:ptcroll@hotmail.com).



Dear BFUMC Friends,

We will be blessing **The Laurel Center** in May by supplying some items on their wish list.

- Cases of bottled water
- Individual snack bags
- Juice boxes
- Phone chargers and charging station
- 2023 planners
- Reading glasses
- Baby wipes
- Ethnic hair products
- Gift cards from grocery, drug, and retail stores



The red bins are waiting in the narthex.

The Laurel Center empowers and supports the victims of domestic and sexual violence by providing emergency housing, advocacy, support services and education through awareness programs. For more information you can go to their Face Book page or website, <https://thelaurelcenter.org>.

Thank you.  
Peace & Joy,  
Donna Gallagher





## Burnt Factory United Methodist Men May 2023



A nice group of 23 church members came out on April 15 and we planted 19 rows of seed potatoes in our church potato patch. We will once again be looking for volunteers to adopt a row of potatoes to keep them weeded and clean. A sign-up sheet is in the church fellowship hall. We have a volunteer to rototill the patch so you will only need to keep the weeds out of your adopted row. Potatoes germinate in 4 -6 weeks so sometime around Memorial Day we should be able to begin working in the potato patch. It should need weekly or bimonthly care should be a pretty easy task to help out potatoes to thrive. All our potato harvest is donated to area food pantries.

The Burnt Factory Missions team will be undertaking a mission trip this summer from Sunday June 25 to Friday June 30 in southeastern Pennsylvania to work on some homes devastated by Hurricane IDA in September 2021. The first Team Meeting is **Monday, May 15, 7pm** in the Lower Cottage.

For more details get in touch with Marcia Etu by email [marciametu@gmail.com](mailto:marciametu@gmail.com) or call (518) 744-5150



Mark your calendars now for Apple Butter 2023 to be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> so mark your calendars. Our fun will begin on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> with apple peeling and snitting and will culminate when the project begins at 12:00 AM on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> with the delicious product coming off to be jarred in the early afternoon. Look for more details coming this summer.

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

*Steve Cunningham  
President Burnt Factory UMMen*



Be a cool potato!  
Join us in the  
BFUMC potato  
garden.

©DESIGNALIKE

## CCAP Corner

May 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.*

**Diapers for Red Wagon Ministry:** Thank you church for the wonderful collection of 2900 diapers, 900 wipes and some additional cash for the Red Wagon Ministry. This donation will serve many clients. Jodi Stephenson, the founder of Red Wagon, was on-site to pick up our big donation. Jodi and Rob helped "stuff" Jodi's van with our big donation!!

**Our CCAP Volunteer Team** – Four members of this team are scheduled for yard work at the CCAP Clothing House before Apple Blossom. This team is willing to do whatever is needed to help CCAP. If you would like to join us for any upcoming activities, just let me know and you will receive emails whenever there is an opportunity to help.

### **Needs at CCAP:**

- Toddler, Children, Teen and adult summer clothes, new underwear and socks for all, Jeans and t-shirts for men, Tennis Shoes (all sizes and genders), adult backpacks, and gently used bath towels and bedding.
- The Clothing House needs volunteers to give 3 hours of their time weekly or monthly. The House provides free clothing to clients who are struggling to pay their bills. We also help the homeless with their clothing needs. We receive many wonderful clothing donations and volunteers are needed to sort the items, display them at the House & greet & assist our shoppers. The House is open Mon, Tues, & Thurs from 9 until noon.
- Drivers, Driver helpers and receptionists are needed. Go to [www.ccapwinchester.org](http://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.

**The Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGE, Winchester, VA** is a community refrigerator that is open 24 hours a day for all to enjoy. You can drop off and share any extra, fresh produce or items you do not want to go to waste. We were going out of town recently and made a stop by The FREEDGE and dropped off some fresh fruit we did not want to throw out. It was a great feeling knowing we had helped others and that we had not wasted food. The FREEDGE is located at 419 N Cameron St. Your food can be dropped off 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](http://www.ccapwinchester.org) and click on the link to Our Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGE at the top of the website.

Thanks for your continued support of this wonderful organization. Please contact me, Sharon Woodard, Kathy Dixon, Cheryl Jones, or anyone on the Outreach Committee if you would like to volunteer.

Patty Leonard – Outreach CCAP Rep



## *From a branch on the Vine,*

*1 Timothy 6:10-12*

*<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> **Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Paul is instructing and encouraging his young protégé, Timothy. The beginning verses of chapter six address a common trap for all of us – money. Money itself is not bad; it is the love of money – its place in our lives. Paul says flee from this and pursue the virtues of a Christian life. He also says “fight the good fight of the faith”. Those are great words, ones you can rally around, motivate you. What do they mean?

As the team is preparing to take the field or the wrestler approaching the mat, the coach gives last words to pump them up - to succeed and win the prize. “Stay strong, remember your training, you can do this.” Paul is motivating Timothy. Are you motivated to follow Jesus? Christians don’t go through the motions. They enter the world with the strength of the Holy Spirit, with training from the scriptures and the fellowship of the Church. We can and will be victorious.

Disciples of Jesus Christ have made their profession of faith (*good confession*) as the beginning of their relationship with the Savior. And then? For some, it is life-long relationship building with Jesus. But for some, it is a profession that is forgotten as soon as the words leave their lips. The good confession is the start followed by the good fight of the faith. It is the good fight that is the life-long sanctification of a Christian.

No, we are not beating-up people who aren’t followers of Jesus or may be luke-warm and marginally invested. Although, the instinct may be to “knock some sense into them”, we are to love them. We love people. We help people. We put others first. All of this goes to focus light on Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith. He is how we can do the things we do. Those who are not looking for a deeper relationship with the Almighty, are missing out like someone who finds paradise, but only stays for an hour.

Luke’s gospel echoes the good fight of the faith – the relationship with Jesus.

*<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable (the Sower or the Four Soils, Luke 8): The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. <sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. <sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.*

Which soil are you? Are you building your bond with Jesus? Are you in the game or on the sideline? Hear the word, retain it (let it fill you and direct your actions) and persevere. That is the good fight of the faith. Grasp and hold and receive eternal life with our God and our Savior.

In Christ, *Rob*

## CONDOLENCES

Rick Stinnette has claimed the promise of the resurrection. Please pray for Don Stinnette, his brother and Tim Stinnette his nephew, and their entire family.

Larry Dick's Aunt Ilene claimed the promise of the resurrection. Please keep the Dick Family in your prayers

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*

*God has called home another blessed and faithful saint. He will also embrace you with His love at this time.*







**Mother's Day** is observed in America every year on the second Sunday of May. It is a day for celebrating mothers and showering them with gifts and treats. It is not a public holiday, only businesses follow normal Sunday hours.

Anna Maria Jarvis is the creator of Mother's Day in America. She founded it in 1908 but it was made into an official holiday in 1914.

Unfortunately, by 1920, Mother's Day had become a hugely commercialized holiday. This went against Jarvis' wishes of it being a holiday where people merely spent time visiting their mothers, going to church, and reflecting on the importance of motherhood.



*To Burnt Factory Women*



**National Nurses Day** is a commemoration of the important role that nurses play in our lives that happens every year on **May 6**, and it is a day to show them appreciation. It is the start of National Nursing Week, which ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. Thank a nurse today!

**Teacher's Day** is observed every year on **May 8**, and is part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank a teacher today!

- There is a theme each year and the theme for 2023 is "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers."
- As per statistics, around 74.3% percent teachers in the United States are women.
- The average age of a teacher in the United States is 42 years old.
- The first public school in the United States was Boston Latin School founded in 1635.
- Teacher's Day is celebrated in now over 100 countries with each country having its own date.



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

# BFUMC

May 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-11 am Dodson Termite Inspection	2 5:30pm Praise Team Practice  6:30pm Choir Practice	3 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	4 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	5 Apple Blossom May 5-7 	6
7 8:30am-In Person Worship 11am-In Person Worship  Apple Blossom Last Day	8	9 12pm 2/4 BLT  5:30pm Praise Team Practice  6:30pm Choir Practice	10 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage  7pm Church Council	11 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	12	13
14 Mother's Day 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	15	16 5:30pm Praise Team Practice  6:30pm Choir Practice	17 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage  12pm-1:30pm Pathfinders Ministry	18 12-1pm (CCAP) Salvation Army Luncheon  7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	19 6-7pm Patterson Rehearsal	20 Armed Forces Day 10am-12:30 pm Youth/Jubilee Soup Kitchen (First Presbyterian Church) 1-3pm Patterson Wedding 4-7pm Loudon Emmaus Gathering Shelter/Sanctuary
21 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:30-10am Blood Pressure Checks 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	22	23 12pm 2/4 BLT  5:30pm Praise Team Practice  6:30pm Choir Practice	24 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	25 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	26 Print Newsletter	27 10am-3pm Straw Vote Fellowship Hall  11am -4pm Youth Harper's Ferry
28 8:30am-In Person Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11am-In Person Worship	29 Memorial Day 	30 5:30pm Praise Team Practice  6:30pm Choir Practice	31 9:30am-1pm Pastor's Office Hours Lower Cottage	1 7pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts Shelter	2	3 10am-3pm Straw Vote Fellowship Hall



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*National Day of Prayer  
May 4, 2023*