



February

2024 SMOKE SIGNAL

Our Mission Statement

Sharing the love of Christ with ALL
people.

Burnt Factory 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

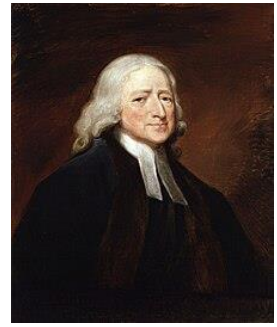


Sometimes in the hectic world of ministry, I sometimes take for granted that everyone knows about our Methodist history and Wesleyan heritage. I thought I would share a short history about our founder, John Wesley

(1703-1791) in hope that we all may either develop or find a renewed appreciation for this enthusiastic, brilliant and devoted man of God. John Wesley was born June 28, 1703 and he died March 2, 1791. He was the principle founder of the Methodist movement. His mother was important in his emotional and educational development. John's education continued at Charterhouse School and at Oxford, where he studied at Christ Church and was elected in 1726 to a "fellowship" at Lincoln College. He was ordained in 1728.

After a brief absence (1727-29) to help his father Samuel (also an Anglican priest) at Epworth, John returned to Oxford to discover that his brother, Charles, had founded a Holy Club composed of young men interested in spiritual growth.

John quickly became a leading participant of this group, which was dubbed the Methodists for the methodical approach they made to discipleship. His Oxford days introduced him not only to the rich tradition of classical literature and philosophy but also spiritual classics like Thomas a Kempis' "Imitation of Christ" Jeremy Taylor's "Holy Living and Dying," and William Law's "Serious Call."



In 1735, John and Charles accompanied James Oglethorpe to the new colony in Georgia, where John's attempts to apply his then "high" church views aroused hostility. Discouraged, in 1737, he returned to England. He was rescued from despair by the influence of the Moravian (German) preacher Peter Boehler. At a small religious meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, on May 24, 1738, John Wesley had an experience in which his "heart was strangely warmed." After this spiritual experience, which centered on the realization of salvation by faith in Christ alone, he devoted his life to evangelism. Beginning in 1739, he established Methodist societies throughout the country. He traveled and preached constantly, especially in the London-Bristol- Newcastle triangle, with frequent forays into Wales, Ireland and Scotland. He encountered much opposition and persecution, which later subsided.

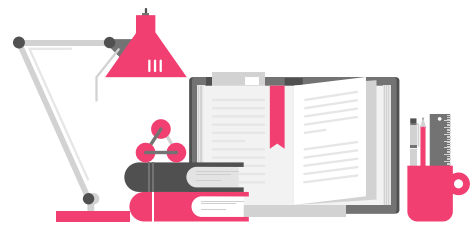
Late in life John Wesley married Mary Vazeille, a widow. John had no children. He continued throughout his life a regimen of personal discipline and ordered living. He died at 88, still preaching, still traveling, and still a clergyman of the Church of England. In 1784, however, he had given the Methodist Societies a legal constitution, and in the same year he ordained Thomas Coke for ministry in the United States. This action signaled an independent course for Methodism.

John Wesley said: "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can. Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come from miles to watch you burn."

As we endure this cold winter together, let us all warm ourselves with the fire of enthusiasm; a fire that is lit by the love of Jesus Christ. As we minister together, let us burn with desire to please our Lord and seek the lost! Let us be set ablaze with encouragement, devotion, and faithfulness as we endeavor to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! God bless you all!

Pastor Steve

Administrator Notes



Blessings,

Time is already flying by, and I am really enjoying this additional role! If you have any change in your information, address, email, phone etc. please let me know! We keep a master roster for office use and would love to give it a good update! All are welcome to come in and have a cup of coffee and chat! I'm in the office Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-3:30pm. Other times I'm in and out so if you need something, just let me know!

Love,

Carrie Fair

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”

Have something you would like shared in the next edition of Smoke Signal?

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:

“Smoke Signal Newsletter Article Request”

Would you like to receive the Smoke Signal Newsletter by email?

Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:

“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”



Exciting News!

The Servant Board of Burnt Factory Church is very pleased to announce the addition of David Bilowus to our staff as our new pianist! We are so very blessed to welcome David, his wife Sarah and their son Andrew. We believe that God has sent this wonderful family to Burnt Factory and we have already been blessed by their presence among us. We thank God for hearing our prayers.

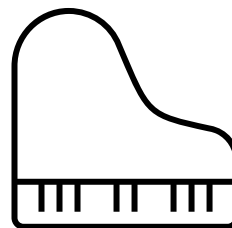
David received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Piano and his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Voice from State University of New York at Buffalo. He went on to earn his Master of Fine Arts in Piano Accompanying from State University of New York at Buffalo also.

David has served as the full time Instructor of Music at Ambassador University in Pasadena, Ca. and in Big Sandy, Texas. He also served as Choir director, piano instructor and band director. He was the full-time assistant Professor of Music at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas where he also taught music appreciation, theory, conducting and voice.

David has served on staff in various churches as a vocalist and accompanist (Piano and Organ) since childhood and has been recognized with many awards and achievements over the years. We are extremely blessed to welcome the Bilowus family to Burnt Factory Church. May God be praised.

Judy McIntire
Personal Coordinator

Keith Roberts	Board Chair
Janie Shope	Lay Leader
Rev. Steve Melester	Pastor
Diana Smith	Music Director





February Birthdays

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



Happy Anniversary

- 14th Bob & Kathy Hunt
Ron & Jo Anne Baker
- 18th Dave & Marcia Darsie

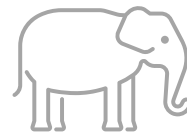
Remembering Buddy's Jokes

Question

Why can't an elephant's trunk be 12 inches long?

Answer

Because then it would be a foot!



*Pulled from the February 2021 Edition of
Smoke Signal.

WORSHIP ROAD FOR FEBRUARY 2024

2-4-24 We will finish our sermon series on Jonah by concentrating on Chapter 4. The sermon is entitled, “*Do You Want Some Cheese With That Whine?*”

Also, we will celebrate Holy Communion!

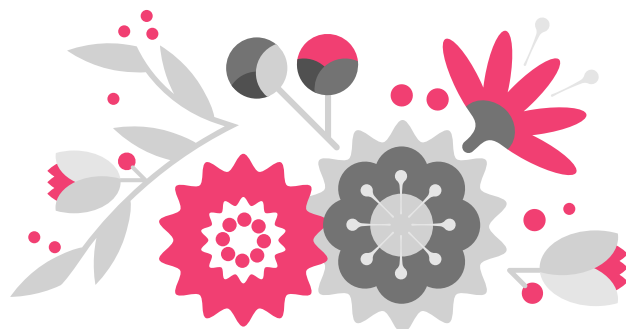
2-11-24 We celebrate *The Transfiguration* this Sunday and also recognize our partnership with the Boy Scouts. Sermon texts are Mark 9: 2-9 and 2 Kings 2: 1-12

2-14-24 Easter is early this year so that means Ash Wednesday is early too. We will gather at 7:00 this evening for the *Imposition of the Ashes* as we begin the season of Lent.

Text is 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

2-18-24 The First Sunday of Lent asks us to explore Mark 1: 9-15. Jesus begins his ministry by being tested by the evil one in the wilderness.

2-25-24 The Second Sunday of Lent, we will be unpacking Mark 8: 31-38. Jesus is teaching his disciples (and us) about the cost of discipleship.





Hey families!

We have a lot to be pumped about! February is the month of love, and this is a time for us as Christians to be reminded that Jesus loved first. Do you remember long ago there were bracelets that had the saying "WWJD" on them? What would Jesus do? Well today, we know. He would love first.

1 Corinthians 16:16 says, "Let all that you do be done in Love". Sometimes its hard to do when we come across angry, disgruntled, and rude people, but Jesus would take time to love those who we encounter like this. Chances are a little love and kindness can change everything. WE love because He FIRST loved us!

Happy Valentines Day,

Love,

Miss Carrie



PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!!

February 16th from 6-8:30 pm. For ages 2 and up. Children are invited to come hang out in the social hall for dinner and a movie, maybe some games and fun too! You can sign up for this downstairs in the Children's Wing, on the Parent Resource Board. You can also email Miss Carrie.

n2dscriptions@hometown.com

SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!!!!

March 15th

Kids Bingo Night!!

March 31st

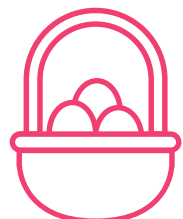
Family Easter Event

June 17-21

Vacation Bible School

July 8-9-10

Summer Camp





Youth Group Dates

February 11th: Confirmation begins for those in grades 7 and up

Time: 12:30-2:30

Youth will meet in the upper cottage



February 17th: Jubilee Soup Kitchen

Time: 10-12:30

Youth will meet downtown at First Presbyterian Church

February 24th: Snow Tubing at Harpers Ferry



Time: 10:15 - 2pm

Youth will meet at the church and need to bring a packed lunch or money for food. Snacks will be provided.

Need to RSVP by February 4th

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

CONDOLENCES

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



- Dolores Knight is a lifelong member of Burnt Factory Church. Dolores claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 4th.
- Our Nursery Directory Tammy Meeks' mother claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- After a courageous and long battle against lung cancer, Phil Shobe has claimed the promise of the resurrection.



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30





Cardiovascular disease is the Number 1 killer of women

Since 2004, the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative, **Go Red for Women**, has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease (CVD).

- Nearly 45% of women ages 20+ are living with some form of cardiovascular disease.
- Less than half of women entering pregnancy in the U.S. have optimal cardiovascular health.
- Women experience unique life stages, such as pregnancy and menopause, which can put them at an increased risk for CVD.

If you have any of these signs, call 911 and get to the hospital right away.

1. Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than few minutes or goes away and comes back.
2. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
4. Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
5. As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women may experience other symptoms that are typically less associated with heart attack, such as shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

Even when the signs are subtle, the consequences can be deadly, especially if the person doesn't get help right away.

Even though heart disease is the number 1 killer of women in the United States, women often chalk the symptoms up to less life-threatening conditions such as acid reflux, the flu or normal aging.

A heart attack strikes someone about every 40 seconds. It occurs when the blood flow that brings oxygen to the heart muscle is severely reduced or cut off completely. This happens because the arteries that supply the heart with blood can slowly narrow from a buildup of fat, cholesterol and plaque.

Many women think the signs of a heart attack are unmistakable, but they can be subtler and sometimes confusing. Some women experiencing a heart attack describe upper back pressure that feels like squeezing or a rope being tied around them. Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting are other symptoms.

Take care of yourself

Heart disease can be mostly preventable. So be sure to:

- Schedule an appointment with your health care provider to learn your risk for heart disease.
- Quit smoking. Just one year after you quit, you'll cut your risk of coronary heart disease by 50%.
- Aim for at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking) or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity (such as jogging), or a combination of both, preferably spread throughout the week. It's also good to include moderate-to-high intensity muscle strengthening activity (such as resistance or weight training) at least twice a week.
- Modify your family's diet if needed. Make smart substitutions, healthy snacking ideas and better prep methods.

As always praying for your health and well-being. Praying that today you will be both blessed and be a blessing.

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.



Greetings from the Outreach Team!

The Outreach Mission Statement

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."



Here is what we at Outreach have been doing to share the love of Christ

February 4th, we will begin collecting for the Laurel Center. A list of requested items will be printed in the bulletin. The last day of collection will be February 18.

Despite snow, ice and bitter temperatures, our team gathered on January 21st to assemble meals of beef vegetable soup, sandwiches, fruit, cookies and chips to take to families in motels who are being helped by Family Promise. This organization works to rescue families on the brink of homelessness. Our team members donated, assembled and delivered 66 meals to 18 families (32 adults, 31 children) at 9 different motels throughout the city of Winchester and Frederick County! Thank you to all team members and to Robin Russell for being our Family Promise point of contact and delivery coordinator.

At the request of the Red Cross, due to an urgent need, Dennis Loeffler organized a blood drive on January 9th in the Fellowship Hall. We collected 26 units of blood, surpassing our goal of 20. Many thanks to Dennis for leading this effort. Our next drive will be held March 14.

On the second Wednesday of February, we will "Fill the Fridge". This is an ongoing effort to raise awareness and participation in donating to the CCAP "Fridge" at 419 N. Cameron Street in Winchester (in the alcove in front of the Our Health building) and at 700 Aylor Road in Stephens City (at Abundant Life Church). Just drop by anytime during the day. If you have extra food that may go bad or cleaning out your fridge to go away. You can drop those things off and they will *not* go to waste. I encourage everyone to contribute to this effort. It is such an easy and gratifying way serve. See the CCAP page <https://www.ccapwinchester.org/about-3> for details.

If you would like to know more about Outreach and would consider joining us, you can contact me at the address below. Thanks so much!

Grace and Peace,
Sharon Woodard, Outreach Chair
sfwoodard111@gmail.com

We need your help!

The Laurel Center's wishlist for February includes the following items:

Twin size air mattresses

Twin size comforters

2024 planners

Storage containers

Ethnic hair products

Phone chargers

Cake mix and frosting for children's birthday cakes.



The red bins in the Narthex are for your donations.

The LC empowers those affected by domestic and sexual violence by providing emergency housing advocacy, outreach, support services, education and awareness.

Working together in our community to stop the cycle of domestic and sexual violence.

Thank you for supporting this worthwhile organization.

Peace & Joy

Donna Gallagher



“This is the day that
the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:24



CCAP Corner February 2024

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 2023**: 7207 individuals received food, 3973 individuals received financial help and 4590 individuals received clothing assistance.

2nd Annual Pickleball Tournament – A one-day pickleball tournament on **Saturday, 2/24** 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.

Our next CCAP collection will be for the EASTER FOOD GIVEAWAY. We will be collecting items for the Easter food boxes to be given away on Saturday, 3/23 at CCAP. Signup sheets for particular items will be in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, 2/25 and 3/3. Items should be delivered to the Red CCAP bins in the Narthex by Sunday, 3/17.

Opportunities to Serve – There are many ways to volunteer your time at CCAP. There is a big need currently for clothing house volunteers. 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.

A third Friendly Neighborhood FREEDGE will be dedicated on 1/31: The original at 419 N Cameron St, the 2nd located at 700 Aylor Rd at Abundant Life Church, and a third on Montague Ave to be dedicated on 1/31. All are open **24 hours a day!!** These are intended to serve low-income residents. Items needed: Fresh fruits and vegetables, granola, cheese, soups, prepackaged sandwiches, garden foods, and yogurt.

Donations needed: Gently used winter clothing, especially Toddler and Children sizes. Men's jeans, belts, hooded sweat jackets, sweatpants and sweatshirts, tennis shoes (all sizes men, women and children); Gently used Linens including bedsheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels; adult backpacks and personal hygiene items. All donations may be dropped off Monday – Friday from 10am-1pm at 212 S Kent St. Winchester.

Thanks so much for all you continue to do for this important ministry. Any questions, contact me at 540-664-6973 or ricpat5@gmail.com.

Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep

Burnt Factory Men's Fellowship

February 2024

Soon we will have a Men's Fellowship meeting to discuss the future of Men's Ministry at Burnt Factory Church. It is an exciting time in the life of our Men's Ministry that we have the opportunity to shape where our ministry will be heading in the future. Of course, we still have our wonderful church ministries that we will continue to support such as CCAP, WATTS, the Laurel Center, Promise of Hope, our Believers cancer fighting ministry and of course our famous Apple Butter project.

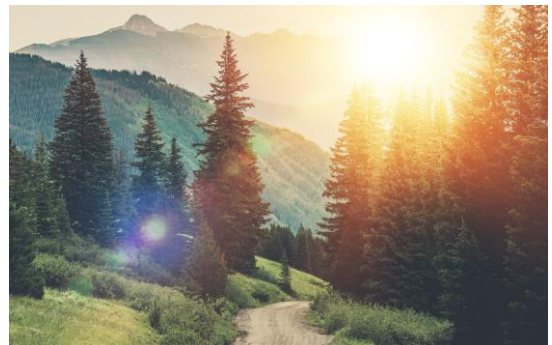
We will be looking for new leadership for our group as it seems an opportune time in the life of our Men's Ministry for someone new to lead us as we move forward in our walk with Jesus. My time as President of the old UMMen Fellowship has run its course and as we transition to an independent, traditional Methodist Church a change in leadership will be a welcome transition to our new role in God's Kingdom.

Be on the lookout for a meeting time to discuss the great things that God has in store for our Men's Ministry.

God is good, all of the time. All of the time, God is Good

If anyone has any questions feel free to contact me (540) 207-7404;
tamtut@comcast.net

Steve Cunningham
President Burnt Factory UMMen



coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR



it's cold out there
feb. 24, 2024
#cnoy24

Intentional Prayer Group

Prayer is a powerful and effective weapon in our lives as Christians and in the life of our church. Jesus told us that wherever two or three are gathered in his name he is in their midst. A group of us have been getting together monthly to pray for Burnt Factory Church, for our Pastor and staff and for all of our members. Please consider joining us! We meet once a month on Saturday mornings for about an hour. During that time, we share prayer concerns from our membership as well as personal concerns. We take turns praying and we fill out prayer cards so we can remember to pray for these concerns until our next meeting. Our next two meetings will be Saturday, February 10 and Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. Praying together can be such a blessing. We hope you will think about making time for this ministry.



If you have any questions, contact Kathy Dixon at
703-407-2441.

New Bible Study!

The Lenten Bible Study entitled “*The Last Week*” begins Feb 19th and will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 and again at 6:30 on Mondays. It will run for five weeks.

- Feb. 19th
- Feb. 26th
- March 4th
- March 11th
- March 18th

Sign ups are in the Fellowship Hall but you can just show up too!
Hope to see you!

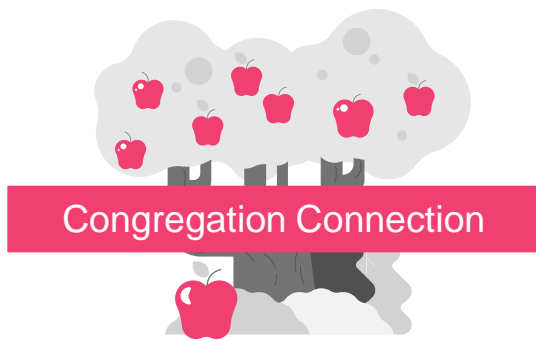
Good God Almighty

David Crowder
(2021)

Chorus Spotlight



“ Good God almighty
I hope You'll find me
Praising Your name no matter what comes
'Cause I know where I'd be without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs ”



Name: Sandy Burkhart

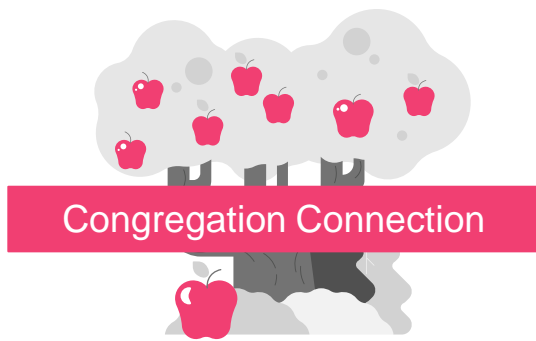
Hometown: I grew up in Springfield, VA and moved to Winchester in 1993.

Time attending Burnt Factory Church: About 15 years

What would you encourage others to get involved with? I think that is a personal decision based on your interests and talents. There are so many activities that Burnt Factory offers. If you are interested in getting to know other people in the church, attend the Methodist Men's meetings or the Women's meetings. BLT offers you a chance to have lunch with others and socialize. Meet and Eat is another way to meet new people while sharing a meal. Join the music program or get involved in the children's ministries! Bringing donations for the organizations highlighted for the red bins is also a way to be involved! Check the newsletter for all the latest groups, classes and activities!

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church: My favorite part of Burnt Factory Church is coming on Sunday morning and greeting, and being greeted by, all of the people. It is a wonderful, caring atmosphere that always lifts the spirit.

Favorite scripture or hymn? I always have a hard time coming up with a favorite of anything! I like so many different songs, scriptures, books, movies for different reasons. But the hymn *Pass it On* would be high on my list. It takes me back to my teenage years (and I won't say how long ago that was!) when we sang it in youth group. If we could pass God's love to everyone and everyone would accept that love, then we might have a much more peaceful, loving world.



Name: Polly Duvall

Hometown: Maysville, KY

Time attending Burnt Factory Church: Since 1958 (65 years)

What service do you regularly attend: Both

What would you encourage others to get involved with? The choir welcomes anyone who loves to sing and the women's group is reorganizing and looking for new members.

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church: I loved my time of teaching Sunday School, doing the newsletter from 2003-2008, was pianist and choir leader from 1960 – 1992. I have participated in playing for services and singing in the choir and was president of UMW two different times for a total of 10 years. I was also involved with our Relay for live team many years.

Favorite hymn: "How Firm a Foundation"

*1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

Favorite scripture:

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

February 2024 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Thur 1 st	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 4 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 6 th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 7 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 8 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 11 th	Scout Sunday	
	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 13 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 14 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Thur 15 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

Date/Time		Event
Sat 17 th	10:00 AM	Jubilee Soup Kitchen
Sun 18 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 20 th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 21 st	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 22 nd	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sat 24 th	10:00 AM	United Women in Faith
Sun 25 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tue 27 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 28 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thur 29 th	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63

For more info, view the calendar on our website: [CalenderNew | Burnt Factory Church](#)