



March

2025

SMOKE SIGNAL

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

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One of the most sacred and holy places in the world is found all around us. They are found in the city and country. They are found on main streets, suburbs and in the countryside. They are found in rich neighborhoods and poor neighborhoods. They are found in ethnic groups and among those who speak different languages.

They are found in every county in this country. They are found all over the world from the remote islands of the South Pacific to the deserts of Ethiopia. They are present in the arctic and in the rainforests. They are large, small, and everything in the middle. They are found in hiding and in homes. They are found among calamity and war.

One of the most sacred and holy places in the world is found all around us, for it is found in the sanctuary of every Christian church! Sanctuaries are holy and sacred. They are places of safety and refuge. They are consecrated and ordained; set aside by God for God!

Sanctuaries are places of peace. They were created for the worship of God! They were made by human hands to honor God, to praise the name of Jesus and to share the Gospel. They are not to be desecrated and abused and treated like they were just another place. Sanctuaries are to be always respected. It's the way God wants it.

I'm so glad that the sanctuary at BFC is a holy and sacred space where everyone is welcomed and embraced and where everyone is offered a safe and peaceful space.

"And let them make a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8

"Praise God in his sanctuary. Praise him in his mighty heavens." Psalm 150:1

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them & increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God & they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever." Ezekeil 37: 26-28

In today's world, thank God for sanctuaries!

"Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you." John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

During the season of Lent for 2025, I pray everyone will embrace their inner sanctuary!

In honor of St. Patrick's Day coming up in March, I offer the traditional Gaelic prayer.

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rains fall softly upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand." Amen.

Pastor Steve

Worship Road for March 2025

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| March 5 th | Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 this evening. This is the beginning of the season of Lent. If you have never been to an Ash Wednesday service, now is the time! We have a special soloist too! | |
| March 9 th | First Sunday of Lent | Luke 4: 1-13
The Temptations of Jesus |
| March 16 th | Second Sunday of Lent | Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14 |
| March 23 rd | Third Sunday of March | Luke 13: 22-30 & Matthew 7: 13-14 |
| March 30 th | Fourth Sunday Lent | Long time lay speaker, Marty Barley, will bring the message today. His sermon is entitled, <i>"Are You Really Hungry and Thirsty?"</i> |



March Birthdays

- 1st Donna Bonjo
- 3rd Melanie Melester
- 4th Rick McClinton
- 7th Charlene Winter
Gary Dixon
- 9th Addison Russell
Johnny Morrison
- 10th Joy Melvin
- 12th Tara Flinchum
- 13th Janet Phillips
- 14th Gavin Tran
- 15th Ben Perrault
- 16th Jack Mowery
- 17th Matt Neff
- 20th Millie Hood
Rennie Earhart
Tyler Beaver
- 21st David Marchand
- 23rd Cheryl Jones
- 24th Casey Caudill
- 27th Cater Gerometta
- 28th Joe Hulver
Ronnie Snapp
- 29th Jim Borrer
Charlie Woods
- 30th Vicki Newlin
Ada Seabright



Happy Anniversary

- 8th Junior and Sadie Blanchfield

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”

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

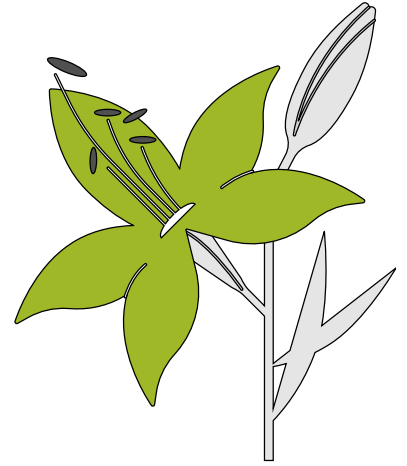
Kindly send an email to Becca Ratliff at beccalea.ratliff@gmail.com with a subject:



“Add me to the Smoke Signal Newsletter email distribution”

CONDOLENCES

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



- Diana Smith's uncle, Dickie Miller, claimed the promise of the resurrection.
- Wade Johnson's mother, Joan Johnson, claimed the promise of the resurrection.



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)



From the Administrator

I know that everything going on in the world can rattle us, can depress us, can make us feel hopeless. Here is a prayer I found that we can pray BEFORE we take in the daily news, or even before we get up out of bed. Let's all try praying each day for the happenings in this world.

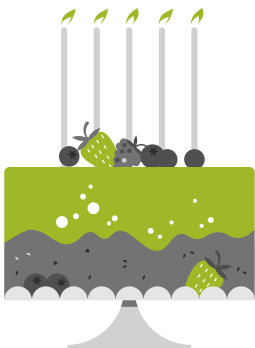
My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful. Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself. Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair. I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys. Amen

Rabbi Irwin Keller

May we pray in all things, over all things, and for all things.

Peace and love be with you all,

Carrie Fair



We want to issue a special apology to Everett Oakes on the misspelling of his name in last month's newsletter. Everett celebrated his birthday on 2/20.

Children's Ministries!!

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY!!! What joy in our hearts! The next few months have some AMAZING stuff in them! Make sure you mark all these dates for some fun!

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!!!

MARCH 14TH 6-7:30PM

All family members are welcome to come out for some fun, snacks, and prizes!

Youth and Kids Mulching
the Playground! April
12th

EASTER EGG HUNT!! SUNDAY APRIL 20TH!!!
This will take place at 10 am down at the church shelter. There will also be some crafts and activities for kids in the fellowship hall after the egg hunt!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 16-20TH 6-8:30pm

SUMMER CAMP
JULY 7-9TH

CAMP OVERLOOK OPPORTUNITIES

MINI SUMMER CAMP JULY 13-16TH

Grades 1-5th

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 8

March 15

March 8th: Skyzone Trampoline Park in Hagerstown!

Time: We will meet at the church at 1 PM and return approximately 4:30 PM

Cost: \$15 (tickets are 30, so asking each youth to put in half) if cost is an issue just let me know and we will make it work! Miss Carrie will be our chaperone for this event! Jumping socks and snacks will be included!



March 15th: Making Kits for Church World Services

Time: 2-4

Where: Youth Cottage

What: We will be going to Target to get supplies to fill a few backpacks and hygiene kits for Church World Services!



Greetings from Outreach

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.”



I am always happy to see March coming up on my calendar because it means Spring is on its way! Even though we may have a few more weeks before we can kick winter to the curb, I know we are getting close to crocus, daffodils, tulips and sunny days. This is encouraging especially after the winter we have had. The bad weather has kept us from providing our Family Promise Sunday Meal more than once. However, in February we were able to deliver fried chicken, mac & cheese, green beans, clementines and Valentine cookies to the families in motels. Our next FP meal is on March 16. We have moved our assembly and delivery times so that you can volunteer no matter which service you attend. Look for the email from Keith that has the link to sign up to volunteer. We'd love to have you join us!

There are several ways you can serve this month. Dennis Loeffler is organizing a Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on the 6th, Patty Leonard is collecting items for the CCAP Easter food boxes in the Narthex, and there are plans being made to get a mission team together to go to North Carolina and help with hurricane victims who are still very much in need. If you would like to learn more about our ministries, you may contact me or anyone at Outreach. Or better yet, come to our next meeting!

Join us at our next Outreach meeting on Thursday, March 6 at 7p.m. in the lower cottage. Hope to see you there!

Sharon Woodard
Outreach Committee Chair
sfwoodard111@gmail.com

CCAP Corner

March 2025

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.

CCAP collection for the EASTER FOOD GIVEAWAY. We are collecting items through 3/30 for the Easter food Giveaway at CCAP. Signup sheets with items needed will be in the Fellowship Hall through Sunday, 3/9. All Items except the meats should be delivered to the Red CCAP bins in the Narthex by Sunday, 3/30. Meat items can be left in the kitchen at the church. Please contact me with any questions.

Opportunities to Serve – There are many ways to volunteer your time at CCAP. 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.

Donations needed: In Mid-March we will be changing over to Spring Clothing at the Clothing House. At that time, we will no longer accept winter clothing. Year-round needs are; hooded sweat jackets, sweatpants and sweatshirts, men's jeans and women's jeans in smaller sizes and tennis shoes. Also needed are baby wipes, gently used Linens (including bedsheets, pillowcases, blankets and towels), adult backpacks and personal hygiene items.

Three Friendly Neighborhood FREEDG Locations: (1) - 419 N Cameron St; (2) - 700 Aylor Rd at Abundant Life Church; (3) – 102 Montague Av at Montague Ave Methodist Church. 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. Please label and date your items.

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

CCAP so appreciates all our Church continues to do.

Patty Leonard, Outreach CCAP Rep



Flu Season 2025

The current flu season is shaping up to be the worst in more than a decade. So far, there have been at least 29 million illnesses and 370,000 hospitalizations related to the flu. There have also been at least 16,000 deaths caused by the flu, according to the CDC.

The following are a few reasons why the CDC feels that this season has been so bad:

- Some of it may be some lingering effects from the COVID pandemic, in that folks are just starting to be out and about more and spreading more communicable diseases.
- The flu is peaking late this year, so it feels like it's dragging out the winter season.

The CDC feels that the flu season has now reached its peak, and that cases should start subsiding soon. In the meantime here are some ways that you can prevent the flu in addition to getting your flu shot (IT'S NOT TOO LATE!):

- Wash your hands! Use soap, water and friction and wash your hands for as long as it takes to say The Lord's Prayer. Viruses and bacteria are spread primarily by hand to hand contact.
- Don't touch your face. The only way those germs get to your face is if you put them there.
- Don't stop sneezes and coughs with your hands. Use a tissue and then throw it away or cough into your sleeve.
- Drink plenty of fluids, especially water, to keep hydrated and flush out toxins.
- Get aerobic exercise – it enhances the immune system.

March 2025 Faith and Health Corner Cont'd

- Don't smoke – it zaps the immune system, dries out the nasal passages and paralyzes the cilia that clean the respiratory system.
- Get plenty of rest! Relax and do things you enjoy.
- If you feel ill with a cough, fever, headache, achy joints, etc. do yourself and your co-workers a favor: STAY HOME!

People who get prompt treatment for the flu, which can now include antiviral drugs are likely to shorten their illness. If you think you have the flu, if you test positive for the flu it is best to get started on treatment within the first 48 hours.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

I wish each and every one of you a healthy and joyous 2025. As always I pray that you will both be a blessing and be blessed.

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.





A huge thank you to Burnt Factory Church for their donation of \$3,000.00!!

Thank you also to Carl Spurlock and Ron and Linda Snapp for their generous donations as well. Cancer patients in our community are very thankful for Helping Hands Cancer Outreach and the money that they receive to help reduce some of their “bill burden” so that they can concentrate on their health and healing process.

We are in the early stages of planning a paint night as a FUN fundraiser in June. Stay tuned for more information.

If you feel led to donate at any time, you don't have to wait for a major fundraiser. You can put a check directly into the collection plate at church with “The Believers” in the memo line and it will be deposited directly into our back account. You can also contact me directly and I will get the donation from you.

“Cancer can touch you, but not your soul; neither your thoughts, nor your heart.”

Theresa Gilbert
(540) 247-5612
theresahgilbert@gmail.com

Pathfinders Ministry

Pizza Lunch
Wed. March 19th, 2025
Burnt Factory Church
Fellowship Hall
12:00 Noon

For more information, contact
Debbie Walker
(540)664-0908 / (540)667-6711
dswalker1@yahoo.com

Grief Support Group



Romans 12:15
encourages believers to
"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn,
highlighting the role of the
community
in sharing and alleviating
individual grief."



They'll Know We Are Christians

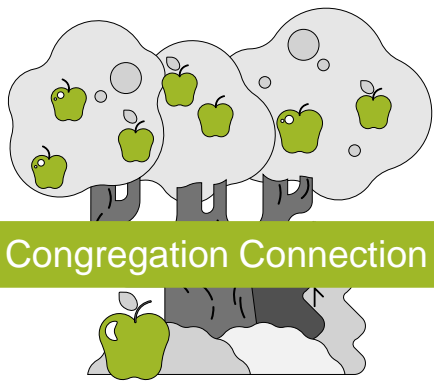
Peter Scholtes
(1966)



Chorus Spotlight

We are one in the Spirit, we are
one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are
one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one
day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are
Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.



Name: Sharon Woodard

Hometown: Born in Boston but grew up in Lisbon, Maine.

Time attending Burnt Factory Church: Began attending in 2018 and joined in 2019.

What service do you regularly attend? 8:30 Service

What would you encourage others to get involved with? I would encourage everyone to try an Outreach ministry. We have so many areas that we serve, and it is so rewarding to get involved. You can serve at whatever level you are comfortable. It is a joy to fellowship with other BFC members and I think everyone should try it!

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church: I remember when we began attending services, it was such a warm and welcoming place. I loved the pastor's message and Jani's hugs :)

Favorite Hymn:

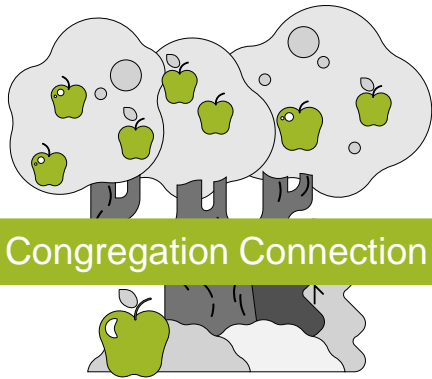
It Is Well With My Soul.

“When peace like a river attended my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul”

Favorite Scripture:

”Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace
of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and
minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:5-7



Name: Dana Woodard

Hometown: I was born in Norfolk VA but grew up in Winchester.

Time attending Burnt Factory Church:

Began attending in 2018 with my wife, Sharon.

What service do you regularly attend?

We usually attend the early service (8:30)

What would you encourage others to get involved with?

I would encourage others to reach out to the local community to help others. The Outreach Program is a great place to start.

Favorite part of Burnt Factory Church:

It is so difficult deciding which event or memory is my favorite, since there are so many. I imagine making apple butter, and Christmas services.

Favorite Scripture:

"From now on I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his Lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known to you."

John 15:15

March 2025 Calendar

Date/Time		Event
Sun 2 nd	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
	1:30 PM	Cantata Practice
Mon 3 rd	7:00 PM	Handyman Team
Tues 4 th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Outreach Team
Wed 5 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs 6 th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	12:00 PM	Blood Drive
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
	7:00 PM	Outreach Team
Fri 7 th	12:00 PM	Youth Trampoline Park
Sat 8 th	Fellowship Hall Reserved	
Sun 9 th	Daylight Savings Time / First Sunday in Lent	
	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 11 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 12 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
Thurs 13 th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Fri 14 th	6:00 PM	Family Bingo Night
Sat 15 th	10:00 AM	Intentional Prayer Group

Date/Time		Event
Sun 16 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
	1:30 PM	Cantata Practice
Tues 18 th	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 19 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours
	12:00 PM	Pathfinders
Thurs 20 th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 23 rd	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship
Tues 25 th	12:00 PM	2/4 BLT
	5:30 PM	Praise Team Practice
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wed 26 th	9:30 AM	Pastor's Office Hours Canceled
Thurs 27 th	8:00 AM	Homeschool Group
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 63
Sun 30 th	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	In-Person Worship

For more info, view the calendar on our website:

[CalendarNew](#) | [Burnt Factory Church](#)

