



TIDINGS

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A Far Country

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”
John 12:26

Every time I read this statement by Jesus, I have to stop and wonder whether he’s talking directly to me. There are times I feel I’ve lost the sound of the Master’s footsteps, I’ve missed the boat because of my obsession with comfort and convenience, or I’ve just gotten so tired and worn out that I sat down too long. Where exactly is Jesus going, what kind of people will he associate with and what kind of work is He doing? Perhaps I already know the answers, I just don’t like where they lead. Henry Blackaby, in his best seller “Experiencing God”, says that immediately after the will of God is made known to us, we face “a crisis of belief”. A crisis of belief is a moment of doubt or indecision as to whether we will follow and do what God is calling us to do or simply fall back.

When I stop to consider my own faith journey, I find myself wondering less about where Jesus is and more about where I am. When Jesus was at work in the world 2000 years ago, very few people had any doubt in their minds that something from God was happening, they just weren’t sure what. As a matter of fact, whatever Jesus did, so upset the people who saw it that many wanted to kill him in order to get him to stop. You may not like what he did, but you couldn’t deny it was unlike anything you’d seen before. Wherever he went, Jesus drew a crowd because something was happening. In these days of overwhelming demands and unrealistic expectations, it’s easy to get lost, to lose sight of where Jesus is going and even harder to follow and serve.

Thank you Tom O’Donohue!

FUMC Youth Ministries wishes to thank Tom O’Donohue for 15 years of faithful service to the teenagers of our congregation and our community. Tom will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical from week-to-week leadership but will still be around for special activities and events. Current youth, graduates, parents, and fellow leaders salute Tom for his dedication and commitment!

At the beginning of February, I will be making a personal journey to follow Jesus again to a place I believe He is at work, an orphanage outside of Port-a Prince, Haiti. Why there? Well I know that when Jesus was in Israel, He went to where the poor and the broken people gathered and He healed them, He went where there was no hope and taught them about the love of God, and He went where there were children and told them the Kingdom of God was theirs.

So during the first week of February, I will be traveling to a far country that is broken beyond my imagination in order to love on some children that will probably never know a mother’s hug or the confidence of having a family behind you. I’ll teach local pastors about the meaning of the Sacraments as God’s Means of Grace, and help build a place of hope and security for children for years to come. But if you really want to know why I’m going, I’m going to follow Jesus.



With Sincere Sympathy...

To the friends of Elouise Blouir
following her death on January 10, 2011

To Josh Ankrom and family following the
death of his Grandmother

John Burge and family following the death
of a family friend, Earl.

To the family of Dee Fischer following her death
on January 17, 2011

To the family of Warren Epperly following his
death on January 21



Elouise Blouir, Warren Epperly

2011 LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Chip Pickering	Church Council Chair
Betty Ball	Secretary
Raymond Parrish	Trustees Co-Chair
Brian Burge	Trustees Co-Chair
Jon Dehmlow	Finance Chair
Cyndi Pyles	Staff-Parish Relations
Kriss Bodnar	Program Ministries
Jerry McCallister	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Pam Middleton	Member at Large
Matt Young	Member at Large
Jim Hostottle	Member at Large
Emma Jean Dobbins	Member at Large

Staff-Parish Team

Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013
Ed Engle	Karen Young	Linda Altmann
Cyndi Pyles		Carolyn Wells
		Fred Burge

Nominations

Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013
Jennifer Fenton	Sandy Mahaney	Tonia Bohnen
Jean Pickering	Jerry McCallister	Mike Albertson
*Program Chair		Bill Cieslewski

Trustees


Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013
Dee McCallister	Kevin Cutright	Linda Riddle
Raymond Parish	Brian Burge	Ron
Ron Anderson	John Shaffer	Nicewarner
		Bob Tallman

Finance

Jon Dehmlow (Chair), Stefanie Nelson, Lorie Webb, Evan Bohnen —Ed Engle-Treasurer, Stefanie Nelson, Finance Secretary
Program Ministries—Kriss Bodnar

Worship Ministry	Betty Ball
Compassion Ministry	Marilyn Croucher
Hospitality Ministry	Jennifer Fenton
Children’s Ministry	Kianna Anderson
Youth Ministry	Joe Webb
Missions Ministry	Cathy Engle

If you have any questions about joining a ministry team or would like to reach a ministry team chairperson, please contact the church office for information.



The Second Annual Chili Cook Off will be Saturday, February 19, 5-7pm in the MPR.

The categories will be Traditional chili, Alternative chili, and Dessert. For more information or to sign up please contact Jennifer Fenton at 304-375-6494.

All proceeds will go to UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, for Haiti Recover.


January 12 marked one year since the devastating earthquake that shook the impoverished nation of Haiti, affecting more than 3 million people and leaving more than 1 million without homes. While progress has been painstakingly slow, signs of hope are springing up for those affected by the earthquake. Through school construction, health, livelihood, water and sanitation support, UMCOR is pressing forward in partnership with the people of Haiti to keep hope alive as the recovery work continues.

Support UMCOR’s relief and long-term recovery work in Haiti by partnering with the people of Haiti as they work to rebuild their nation.

Proceeds from the chili cook off will go to UMCOR and 100% of that gift to UMCOR will support this important work.

JOIN US! Help a nation in need progress with hope!

DON'T MISS OUR YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON—FEB 4,



Menu: Baked Chicken, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Dessert. The entertainment for the day is Jan Bigger and friends.

For those of you that have expressed a desire to donate money to the Sr. Lunch, please make your check out to FUMC and write “Sr. Lunch” in the Memo. Thank You!

A NEW YEAR IS BEGINNING AT FUMC!

New Year, New Way of Giving

As we begin a new year, lots of things are starting anew. Why not think about a new way of giving? Last year we began a new process of receiving tithes and offerings through electronic giving. For members who travel frequently or who are not able to attend worship due to sickness or other reasons, electronic giving allows them to feel secure that their gift will be received on the right day no matter what events (like bad weather this time of year) may arise.

Signing up for electronic giving is quick, secure, and easy. Simply fill out a simple form available Sunday Mornings at the Welcome Center(ground level) and turn it in to the church office (or, if you are not able to come to worship, contact the office and we'll send you one), and we'll process it for you. Begin giving electronically today!

Celebrate United Methodist Women - February 20 at Both Services

The United Methodist Women will be celebrating the outstanding women of our church for their servant hearts . If you are a United Methodist Woman, please plan to attend! 2011 officers will also be celebrated with an installation service.
~Jean Pickering, President of UMW

Busy Bees Nursery is Buzzzzzing with NEW Curriculum!

FUMC Children's Ministry believes that it is possible to share the love of Christ with a child from the day he/she is born. Age appropriate curriculum is introduced by volunteers in all of our Sunday School classes and Nursery areas. **Sunday School begins at 10:00am for all ages.**

Babies thru Pre-K learn spiritual truths the same way they learn everything else—through their senses, by doing and through the relationships they encounter. **The Busy Bees Nursery** offers a safe and loving environment that allows children to explore and discover God's world. The following foundational and spiritual truths will be taught in a variety of ways. **SELF:** God made me. I am special and growing, I can make choices. **CHURCH:** People at church love me, take care of me, talk and sing to me about Jesus. **FAMILY:** My family loves and cares for me. **GOD:** God is a name and a person, and God loves me. **NATURAL WORLD:** God made me, God made things I can explore with my senses. God made things I can discover and enjoy. **BIBLE:** The Bible is a special book. I hear about Jesus when the Bible is used. **JESUS:** Jesus is a name and a person. Jesus was a baby and had a family. Jesus loves me.

We believe it's very important that children are exposed to these foundational building blocks from their Birth Date and hope that you will allow us to share in their growth! It's an integral part of their faith journey as they move through our Sunday School Classes into Adulthood.

If you have any questions regarding our infant and Pre-K Sunday School class or volunteer opportunities, please contact Kianna at the church office.

FEBRUARY ACOLYTES

9am Blended Service

- February 6:
Liz Sexton
- February 13:
Roni Huggins
- February 20:
Jacob Huggins
- February 27:
Caleb Young

11am Traditional Service

- February 6:
Corey McClung & Brady Ankrom
- February 13:
Katie & Allison Pickering
- February 20:
Jillian Leo & Davis Haynes
- February 27:
Luke Nelson & Emily Pickering



On January 10, 2011, we lost a good friend. Elouise Blouir was the recipient of many expressions of kindness from FUMC. She waited in great anticipation for a bear to arrive each Christmas. It meant so much to her to have the young people visit. She looked forward to the Mothers and Others Dinner at the Holiday Inn. It was a great night out for her at a time in her life when nights out were scarce. She liked being remembered on special occasions and the UMW circles did that so well when they would visit and deliver goodies. Her 100th Birthday Party was the event she lived for. It was a goal she set and she made it! What a day it was—balloons, cake, photos, friends, and FLOWERS that filled her room. In fact, she received many more flowers on her Birthday than she did at her death. That’s just how it should be! Let’s celebrate the living!

In conclusion, let me quote from **Love Beyond Reason**, by John Orberg:

“In a contagious world, we learn to keep our distance. If we get too close to those who are suffering, we might get infected by their pain. It may not be convenient or comfortable. But only when you get close enough to catch their hurt will they be close enough to catch your love.”

~Marilyn Croucher, Compassion Ministry Leader

Choir Director Needed

Music is an important form of worship that speak directly to the heart of God. Music is both a prayer and an expression of the heart in a language all its own. First United Methodist Church is committed to providing new opportunities for all who are willing to share their gifts and talents to the glory of God. As a community of faith we have grown in numbers and talent; and it is becoming increasingly important to coordinate and develop the musical talent of the church. We are, therefore, looking for a choir director to develop the adult choir at the 11 am service. We believe a choir director will enable us to grow the music ministry of the church and invite greater participation by congregation. This position will report to directly the worship committee, the pastor and administratively to Staff Parish. A tentative salary of \$50/wk is offered. A job description is available upon request.

GIRL SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS IN WASHINGTON DC IN 2012

Girl Scout Troop 5522 wants to join the celebration! You can help. Order Girl Scout Cookies today! \$3.50 a box Don't eat cookies? Send some to soldiers in Afghanistan! Thanks for supporting Girl Scouts!!!

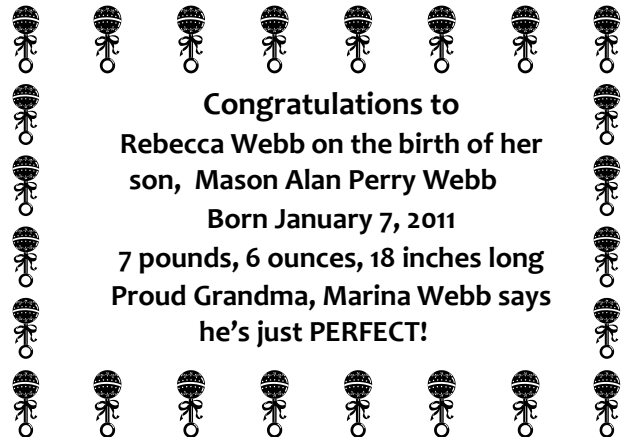
Troop Leader, Tammy Burge
304-375-2020

The Reason for God, Lenten Study

Timothy Keller meets with a group of skeptics to address their doubts and questions about Christianity. Using literature, philosophy, real-life experiences, and the Bible, we'll explore the truth of Christianity. This course will train you on how to deal with six of the most common questions from skeptics.



(6 sessions)
Thursday evenings—6-7pm
beginning March 10 thru
April 14th—Cost \$7
Register by E-mail at
stevegedon@yahoo.com or
call the church office.



**Congratulations to
Rebecca Webb on the birth of her
son, Mason Alan Perry Webb
Born January 7, 2011
7 pounds, 6 ounces, 18 inches long
Proud Grandma, Marina Webb says
he's just PERFECT!**

Great Job!
Congratulations to Liz Sexton and Isabelle Erb
for placing 1st in the Social Studies Fair!!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Weekly Activities

Community Walking	M-F, 8:30am
Praise Band Practice	TH, 8:00am
Leap Ahead Learning Center	M- TH, 9:00am
Wednesday Women's Bible Study	Wed, 9:30am
Girl Scout Troop	Mon, 3:00pm
Praise Band Practice	Fri, 4:30pm
I.H.S. Youth Group	Sun, 5:30pm
French Class	Tues, 6:00pm
Boy Scouts	Mon, 6:30pm
Handbell Practice	Tues, 6:30pm
Choir Practice	Wed, 6:30pm

Monthly Meetings

February 7	Trustees (7:00pm)
February 7	Program Leadership (7:00pm)
February 8	Children's Ministry Meeting (5:00pm)
February 9	Church Council (6:30pm)

Monthly Activities

February 3	Faithgirlz (3:30pm)
	Sr. Lunch Set Up (5:30pm)
	Evergreen Strings (6:00pm)
February 4	LALC Teacher Training (9:00am)
	Senior Luncheon (12:00pm)
February 5	Williamstown Strings (10:00am)
February 10	Cub Scouts (6:00pm)
	Evergreen Strings (6:00pm)
	RSU Meeting (6:30pm)
February 17	Faithgirlz (3:30pm)
	Cub Scouts (6:00pm)
	Evergreen Strings (6:00pm)
	Soccer Club Meeting (7:30pm)
February 19	Community Breakfast (8:00am)
	Williamstown Strings (10:00am)
February 23	Sarah Circle (7:00pm)
February 24	Mary Martha Circle (1:00pm)
	Esther Ruth Circle (1:30pm)
	Cub Scouts (6:00pm)
	Evergreen Strings (6:00pm)

Special Activities

February 12	Girl Scout Thinking Day (12:00pm)
	Parent's Night Out (4:00pm)
February 18	Girl Scout Lock In (5:00pm)
February 19	Chili Cook-Off (5:00pm)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

February 1	Katie Delaney, Connor Erb
February 2	*Wayne & Janet King, Melanie See
February 3	*Don & Linda Riddle
February 4	Cathy Male, Betty Ball
February 5	*Larry & Marilyn Croucher, Bill Cieslewski
	Kent Constable
February 6	Katie Cox
	Faith Constable
February 7	Lois Fenton
February 9	Layla Constable
February 12	Teresa Martin, Becky Moore
February 13	Virginia Johnson, Clarke Stephan
February 16	Kiley Wilfong
February 17	Linda Altmann
February 20	Robert Laird, Brennon Watt
February 22	Shirley Stoveken, Missy Varner
February 24	Randy Gates
February 25	Kianna Anderson
February 26	David Roberts
February 28	Donna Parrish, Don Riddle

FEBRUARY USHERS

9am Contemporary Service

Brian Burge, Fred Burge, Steve Bodnar

11am Traditional Service

February 6

Rex Bush, Ken Cox, Chris Henderhan, Jim Schmidt, Bob Woodford

February 13

Wayne King, Jeff & Pam Middleton, Charles Pickens, Warren Epperly (WA)

February 20

Rick Blauvelt, Larry & Marilyn Croucher, Tim Sayre, (Helpers Requested)

February 27

Wes Clarke, Gene Duncan, Karen Fenton (WA) (Helpers Requested)

Join us for Worship

9am Blended Service
11am Traditional Service

Contact us at

304.375.6386
Email: fumcwmst@yahoo.com

**First United Methodist Church
304 West Fifth Street
Williamstown, WV 26187
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Boy Scout Troop 215 News

2010 was the 100th year of Boy Scouting and it was a good one for troop 215. Last January we went cabin camping at Camp Kootaga, where we participated in the Allohak Council Klondike Race and took 1st place. Our plaque is on the wall in the FUMC Youth/Scout room. In the Spring, we attend the Allohak Council 100th Anniversary Camporee with over a 1000 other scouts, at Hocking Hills College. In the summer, Troop 215 week spent a week at Camp Kootaga Summer Camp and earned the Bladen Powell Award. We have also done some smaller camping trips, bike rides, swimming, visited the LST ship, marched in the Memorial Day Parade/Program; we did the Sternwheeler Festival Boat Ramp trash pickup, landscaped the FUMC area where the trash cans used to be and the Fall Area Community Food Drive; helped with the Fireman's Ice Cream Social, the WES Santa Shop at FUMC, moving the presents to be sold; took apart and loaded the voting machines at WES polling location on the evening of the election, did a active display at the Williamstown Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge Center Fall Open House, and a couple of leaders did trash pickup at the Relay for Life . We also went to a Wheeling Nailer Hockey game and all night program, and had a Christmas Bowling Party with our Brother Cub Scout Pack 299, who also participated in some of our other activities.

We had two Boy Scouts [Collin Van Horne and Andrew Essig] that went to the 100th Anniversary National Jamboree in Fort AP Hill, Va. These two young men also started their Eagle Scout Projects, both of which are improvements to the Williamstown Recreation League Soccer Field. Collin is building a nearly 1000' chain link fence to separate the soccer fields from the railroad tracks and Andrew is repairing and converting a old shed into a concession stand.

Troop 215 wants to thank FUMC for sponsoring us and providing the terrific facilities your Church has, to us.

Cliff Essig ~ Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 215