



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia December 2018

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

Pastor Ken's Corner

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)

³ *I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.*

⁶ *I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

Hallelujah!!! Praise be to the Lord!!! We are headed into ADVENT. Our Bible Study, *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break*, is moving forward with Thursdays at 2 p.m. as our meeting day and time. Session 3 is on Thursday the 6th, followed by Session 4 on the 13th, and Session 5 on the 20th. This five-session study is filled with great tools for meditation as well as reflection on how precious these unbreakable gifts of **HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE and CHRIST** are. Feel free to join us, even if you haven't purchased a book. We can share or I'll order more books.

In this season remember who the reason for the season is. JESUS is the REASON for this season and every season not just because of a study or what the calendar or society tells us. Because HE is the REASON we all celebrate and hope beyond all hope that He has already saved us. PAID IN FULL is the stamp on our sin debt. Enjoy a very Merry Christmas because HE is the REASON for the SEASON.

Our Mobile Food Pantry with the Cryer Center is on Saturday, December 1. Philippi has the lead. As always there is more than enough work for all those interested in serving the needy in our community. Come check out what goes on and lend a hand if/where needed or just visit.

The Warming Tree as well as the Coat Closet from previous years kicks off on Saturday as well. These ministries will run through February, providing people with gloves, hats, mufflers

and scarves as well as coats, jackets and sweaters. If you have any questions regarding the Warming Tree or the Coat Closet contact Warren or Kathy Wright.

A topic still on most minds is the Called General Conference Session on Feb 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. Wherever or however the “Way Forward” plays out next year for the United Methodist connection, we Christians, yes **us**, will still have the same commandment from Jesus to love one another as He has loved us and to go into all the world and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our prime directive, as it were, is still the same.

Access the Conference web page for more detailed information on the “Way Forward” at the site below.

<https://vaumc.org/WayForward>

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I do thank God every time I remember you and I am constantly praying with JOY in every one of my prayers for you. You do share the good news in so many meaningful ways. The JOY of prayers for you all each day and the constant reminder of how precious you all have become to Terry and me is what buoys me up and gives me the drive to press on.

Speaking of which, December will be another month for our Prayer Warriors to keep our prayers headed heavenward for all those in need. Medical procedures and treatments are a very common theme and occurrence in our congregation and our community.

I reiterate ...follow the Prayer Warrior e-mails as we get more information and updates. If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive the Prayer Warrior updates, please let me know and provide your e-mail address.

Please remember to be faithful in letting me know if you hear or find out about one of “ours” who is headed to the hospital or is having an issue and is at the hospital or has been to the ER. I would much rather hear twice about those in need than it is assumed I already know.

⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel ⁸

We are collectively committed to do a good work among those we encounter. Our Savior is waiting for us on that day of completion. Unlike Paul I’m not imprisoned, but believe me I covet your prayers for our joint ministries to the congregation, the community, and those precious children and youth with whom we have been blessed these recent months. We can press on to the goal that Jesus has for each of us.

We will have our annual business meeting where we cover church leadership and other topics from our Charge Conference on Sunday, December 9, after church, followed by a potluck luncheon. Come and enjoy...there will be plenty of good food and good information to share.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers our Soup Ministry and the people who are receiving a blessing from lovingly prepared soup, basic crackers and other simple foods. Loving care is never just simple...so long as Jesus is in that ministry the soup will be GREAT.

⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

May each of you this SEASON of CELEBRATION and JOY have an overflowing LOVE pouring out of you for those you encounter. May the Lord give you discernment on how best to be productive in this harvest of righteousness as we **disciple** those we encounter, deliberately presenting the Good News in a manner and fashion blessed through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

We must remain alert and keep on persevering as we pray for ALL of God's children. Keep those impacted by the fires in California and even here in our own community (St. Paul's Baptist Church) in your prayers.

Nurture and Outreach to our community and our congregation are instrumental in faithfully serving our Lord, not just at Dockside, but throughout the community in various ways. Talk to Jerry Dant about cards or letters or contacting one or several of our shut-ins. Volunteer for work at Dockside. **See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.** We are blessed **TO BE** a blessing.

Jesus is alive, and we're forgiven!

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Merry Christmas to all of you and all of yours. May his GRACE, MERCY and LOVE be with you every day, and may every day your awareness of HIS presence through HIS unbreakable gifts to you grow. **Happy New Year** is just around the corner...more on that next year.

We, together, have pledged OUR prayers, OUR presence, OUR gifts, OUR service and OUR witness for Christ and His Church.

Peace & Grace
Pastor Ken



Annual Budget for 2018 Operating Funds:	\$112,331.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of November, 2018:	105,337.00
Total Income Needed to Meet Budget:	102,970.00

COFFEE HOUR FOR December

December	2	Dawn Wilt
December	9	Lucy Blevins
December	16	Linda Bartz
December	23	Becky Foster
December	30	Terry Cleveland



*If you would like to be a part of this church ministry,
please contact Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569*



United Methodist Men News
Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will not meet in December, returning on Monday January 28, 2019 at 7 PM. The UMM/UMW BBQ fund raising dinner on Friday November 9th was a huge success, with net receipts of \$2208.00. Once again, we offer our sincere appreciation to Brother Bryan Motes for providing all of the food for this dinner.

Remember that there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

A Message from Your Lay Leader

Warren Wright



Christmas is a time of giving. And that means Christmas is a time of shopping. Ever since the wise men from the east showed up at the stable carrying gold, frankincense, and myrrh, people have been exchanging gifts at Christmas. Today it's much more complicated than it was for the wise men. For one thing, they didn't have to contend with shopping malls, all packed full of parents going from store to store to store to find the latest and greatest new toy. The magi didn't have to worry about sizes, or colors, or return policies. There were no i-phones, big screen 4K televisions, hand held computers, and all of that new "stuff" in those days. Just plain old gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Well, this year, just like every year, millions of people, both children and adults, will open millions of gifts. Some won't fit. Some will be the wrong color. Many will be returned or exchanged. But there's one gift that meets everyone's need, one gift that will never wear out, never break or need repairing. A gift that is appropriate for a small child, or a teenager, or an adult, or a senior adult. Boy or girl, man or woman, it makes no difference. The gift we all need, the most valuable gift of all, is that baby in the manger. The one that this whole season is about. On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God gave us the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 (NIV)

Have a great Christmas season and may the love of our Lord and Savior radiate through you like the brightest light on your Christmas tree.



Worship Committee

David Dobson

Worship Committee cancelled its previously scheduled meeting but will meet **January 3, at 6pm**. Discussions will center around what theme we will use for Vacation Bible School, seating a special committee to execute the program, and selection of dates and times for the event.

Opinions or comments about a theme can be sent directly to me for consideration by the committee. I will be suggesting "making disciples of Christ to transform the world." There are sure many ideas, and there is no "set" requirement on what or how VBS must be, so the table is open.

Once things move forward, we will be requesting volunteers and resources to make the Clarksbury VBS one to remember!



EY Circle

Fran Miller



The EY Circle will have their annual Christmas social on Tuesday, December 11, at 6 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. All the women in the church are invited. It will be a covered dish dinner so each participant is asked to bring a dish to share. We will also have an ornament exchange. If you wish to participate in the crazy fun we always have trying to steal favorite ones from each other, bring a wrapped ornament costing \$10 or less! If you need a ride, please let Fran know.



The Warming Tree

Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley

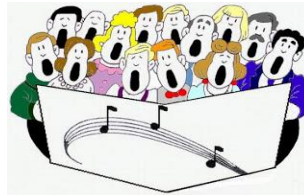
With much success last year with our warming tree ministry, at Clarksbury U.M.C., the warming tree will be in the church fellowship hall beginning Saturday, December 1 through the first week in January. You will remove an angel from the warming tree with the needed item printed on the angel, purchase or make the item, and then return the needed item. You will place the item under the tree and replace the angel with an ornament for the tree. We will be focusing on this ministry through the winter season, at our winter food pantry, and the first Saturday of each month when we have the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry at Clarksbury. We would like to THANK EVERYONE who will be contributing to the warming tree by purchasing items, making items, or contributing financially for this very successful mission. If you would like to help in any way, just contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.

Coat Ministry

Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley



Clarksbury U.M.C. will be in its second year with our coat ministry. We are collecting new and **SLIGHTLY used** winter coats **ONLY** (PLEASE no sweaters or sweatshirts). These coats will be available to those in need during the cold months beginning November through March 2019. They will be on a rack in the church fellowship hall the first Saturday of each month at the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry held at our church and at the winter food distribution. THANK YOU for contributing to this very important ministry of Clarksbury U.M.C. If you have any questions or would like to contribute in any way, please call Kathy Wright, chairperson, 757-373-9166 or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net or one of the members listed above. God Bless.



Christmas Cantata

Becky Wilhite

Please mark your calendars for Saturday night, December 15, 2018 at 6:00 pm for the annual Christmas cantata by the Chancel Choir. This year they will be sharing "Sing Christmas" by Joel Raney and Mary McDonald. Original music by both composers is combined with favorite carols to create a perfect blend of familiar and new. Combined with narration, it provides a complete re-telling of the Christmas story.

A traditional Christmas pageant by the children and youth of Clarksbury will also be included in this music presentation. Vocal and instrumental solos as well as spoken lines by the characters will enhance the story line. Please come to see and hear this Christmas story as retold by all ages at Clarksbury!





Community Outreach Box Tops for Education

Just another way Clarksbury UMC can reach out to our community. Simply cut out those little logos from cereal & snack boxes, cans & jars of food, paper goods, food & trash bags, a wide variety of things -- and bring them to church. A Big Jar in the social hall is awaiting them. With your donations St Clare Walker Middle School will gain the financial benefits schools can earn in this program.

Measure the size of the obstacles against the size of God.



Nurture and Outreach Committee Jerry Dant



The Nurture and Outreach committee would like to thank all for sharing your love to our home bound members and community friends in 2018. We are Blessed to have great members and friends in our community. We have big plans for 2019 for the community children of Middlesex County. A group of churches have formed a committee and a movie was shown at MES and another one will be shown in the spring of 2019. A truck or treat was held at MES the week of Halloween and enjoyed by all. This is a community event and all are welcomed to attend the activities and meetings. A meeting is forthcoming to select a name and logo for the committee inviting others to join in this effort for Christian activities for our children. There will be an after school program to help children in need of extra help with homework. Pastor Ken, Terry and members have helped in this program and see one of them if you would like to help with this Ministry. We have had a great year with our Nursing Home Ministry. Fred and David go up to bring a message two Sundays a month, Virginia Clark goes up each month to play music and sing with the residents, Terry volunteers going shopping with the residents, Diane has made gifts for the residents and Linda Dobbins has shared some warm clothes with the residents. Several times a month the church provides cookies for coffee hour on Friday. If you would like to volunteer just ask one of us and you will have a great time with those who will make you have a great time. The committee would like to thank all for their help this year and we hope you and your family and we look forward to a great 2019. May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas.

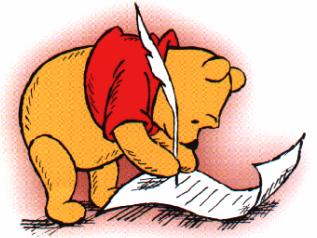


Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed.

Why not make a home bound member smile by sending them a card often as well as on their birthday.

If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.



A-C

Roegean Speight 09/10 #208 Commonwealth Sen Living 460 South Main Street Kilmarnock, VA 22482	Ivey Huff 10/12 233 Mae Lane Wake, VA 23176	Jane Crittenden 8/22 P.O. 30 Hardyville, VA 23070
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D-G

Sue Myers 09/30 Westminster Canterbury 132 Lancaster Drive Irvington, VA 22480	Reggie Jackson 7/12 Riverside Convalescent Ctr. P.O. Box 303 Saluda, VA 23149	Melvin Hawley 11/25 17504 General Puller Hwy Deltaville, VA 23043
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H-L

Betty Morris 9/27 221 Sturgeon Point Loop Deltaville, VA 23043	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22524
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M-Z

Annette Johnston 3/17 Riverside Convalescent Center P.O Box 303 Saluda, VA 23149	Jean Cree 651 Riverwalk Parkway Apt # 37 Chesapeake, VA 23320- 6819	Joyce Mathews 8/27 451 Fishing Bay Estates Box 11 Deltaville, VA 23043
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DECEMBER POP!

(POWER OF PRAYER!)

A Prayer for Christmas Day author Unknown

The setting was so simple, Lord.
A sheltered place, where animals were stabled.
The earthy smell of the creatures, and of the hay.
The soft light of a burning wick in a clay vessel,
and the warmth of a little fire.
The sounds of Joseph's donkey, munching hay--
a mouse, scurrying in the straw.
Into such a setting the Christ was born.

And shepherds came.
Came because you called them, Lord--
to come and see--
to see and marvel,
and to kneel.

I come, too, Lord. Because you call me to
come.
The angel song I hear is within.
But if I listen, I hear it clearly.
I marvel I kneel.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Wise men came. Sages. Kings, perhaps.
Why did *they* come?
Because you called them, Lord?
To come and see--
to see and marvel,
and to kneel.
I come, too, Lord. Because you call me to come.
The star I see is somewhere behind my eyes.
But the star is thine, and I come.
I marvel.
I kneel.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me,
bless his holy name."

Amen.





The Grapevine



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mobile Food Pantry 9-11 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
2 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	3 Suzanne Ramsburg Soup Ministry 11 a.m.	4 Sharon Tullos Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	5 Becky Foster	6 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	7 Spencer Crittenden	8 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
9 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	10 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	11 Anna White EYcircle Christmas Party 6p.m.	12	13 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	14	15 Christmas Cantata 6p.m.
16 Mason Duke 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	17 Soup Ministry 11 a.m.	18 Finance & Church Council 7 p.m.	19 Jenny Crittenden David Dobson	20 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	21	22 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
23 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24	25	26	27 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	28	29
30	31					

The deadline for the December 2018 Grapevine will be **Friday, November 23**. Send items to:

pwalian2@gmail.com

December Birthdays (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)

Scripture reader for **December** is Betty Ann Tabler

Counters for **December** are Lee White and Chuck Banker

Carl and Betty Tate will serve as **ushers** for **December**