



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia June 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Mark 4:26-34 (NRSV)

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Hallelujah! What a sigh of relief for all of us as we FINALLY begin to come back to our in-church fellowship!!!

Since the Virginia Department of Health and our own Virginia Conference have provided relaxed guidance, I am providing some of that here with a link to the Conference Web page. We will be sending out more guidance as we develop our Mitigation Assistance Plan (M.A.P.) based upon our local context. This is also available on the VAUMC website.

Here is the UPDATED Guidance:

On May 15, our Bishop, Cabinet and Conference Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG) issued a response to Governor Northam's easing of COVID-19 restrictions that took effect at midnight on that same day.

(Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church Response to Updated Governor's Order). While the Conference encourages churches to use discernment,

continued vigilance and a cautious process in easing any mitigation measures currently in place, churches were given the opportunity to take immediate steps, as guided by their Healthy Church Team (HCT) and with the pastor's approval. Those steps are:

1. Fully vaccinated leaders may preach without a mask ([click here](#))
2. Fully vaccinated persons may be unmasked in indoor and outdoor settings
3. Fully vaccinated persons may sing without a mask in indoor and outdoor settings
4. Eating outdoors may occur with individually packed meals

Churches are encouraged to activate their local PRGs as soon as possible, and to begin using the attached Mitigation Assistance Plan (M.A.P.) as a guide in developing their own mitigation plans that they wish to implement **after May 28**. Information on forming and working with your PRG team, including Frequently Asked Questions, is available here: <https://vaumc.org/prg/> Any easing of local church mitigation measures or new ministry plans should include basic information about appropriate signage, how new practices will be communicated to the congregation so participants can make informed decisions, and when these plans will be implemented by the local church.

There are lots of new terms for us to learn. But, we will get used to them and will adapt for our local context and continue to be safe. We are doing better with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on YouTube and Facebook.

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When Jesus is teaching His disciples he uses many parables. These parables use terms and comparisons that were easily understood by the people of His age and by us today. The kingdom of heaven parables speak to seeds and growth and planting and harvesting of various crops. Just as the farmer will harvest his crops, so God will harvest, so to speak, His children, US, to be with Him in His Kingdom. We worship and serve God the Father by helping our neighbors, brothers, and sisters here on earth in preparation for all of US being with God in the Kingdom. God's Kingdom is beyond our understanding in purely human and earthly terms so Jesus gives us a glimpse of the Kingdom in these parables.

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As Jesus continues His discourse, he gives more descriptions of the immense size of the Kingdom, using the mustard seed and how small it is and how large it becomes to show how the Kingdom of Heaven grows to accommodate the children of God like the mustard shrub supports and provides shelter and comfort for birds of the air.

Jesus uses terms and life examples that the people of His age could understand SO THAT the questions that most of us have about the Kingdom of Heaven can have answers for people then and for us now.

We will have places in Heaven that have been prepared for us by Jesus and the Father in which to abide with Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and the Saints who have gone on before us when THAT DAY comes. We can draw comfort from how nurturing and caring God the Father is...how He seeks us ALL out and wants us to be with HIM in His Kingdom.

Victory in Jesus! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!! Christ Will come Again!!

We continue to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. They provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and phone calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

I am very humbled, beyond words, with how **faithful and loyal** you all have been in supporting the church with **prayers, tithes, gifts, talents** and **witness** in spite of our inability to be able to support with our presence.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or are suffer from the illness. Many of us have gotten the vaccines or are scheduled to receive them. Many have had some reactions to the vaccine, which show up some hours after the shot, **especially the second one**.

Be ready for changes in how we follow the regulations and live into the new opportunities WE have to serve and worship safely and spiritually meaningful for all of us in our local context.

Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken

A Message from Your Lay Leader

Warren Wright

While reading this month I came across **Section IV, Social Principles** and became intrigued by what this part of the discipline had to say. For my message to you this month, I want to share with you what this section says about us as United Methodists.



“We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in God our creator and Father, in Jesus Christ our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard.

We acknowledge our complete dependence upon God in birth, in life, in death, and in life eternal. Secure in God’s love, we affirm the goodness of life and confess our many sins against God’s will for us as we find it in Jesus Christ. We have not always been faithful stewards of all that has been committed to us by God the Creator. We have been reluctant followers of Jesus Christ in his mission to bring all persons to a community of love. Though called by the Holy Spirit to become new creatures in Christ, we have resisted the further call to become people of God in our dealings with each other and the earth on which we live.

We pledge to continue to be in respectful conversation with those with whom we differ, to explore the sources of our differences, to honor the sacred worth of all persons as we continue to seek the mind of Christ and to do the will of God in all things.

Grateful for God’s forgiving love, in which we live and by which we are judged, and affirming our belief in the inestimable worth of each individual, we renew our commitment to become faithful witnesses to the gospel, not alone to the ends of earth, but also to the depths of our common life and work.”

Thought for the month---“Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise” - Psalm 48:1

Worship Committee

David Dobson

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

It looks like we finally made it through the darkness COVID restrictions have thrown over us the past 14 months and we are on the cusp of being able to join our voices together in praise and song. Hallelujah!! As worship moves into forward into our new means and methods, we will ask you to not forget a few key things:

- Even vaccinated people can catch COVID,
- There are multiple reasons some people are not vaccinated, and
- Doing the right thing is what God asks of us.

Pastor Ken has been vigilant at sharing all the information pertaining to churches of the UMC district and the latest rules. Please read to be informed as changes seem to occur without warning. In the transition period we will be keeping the enhanced cleaning and UV treatment in place; record of attendance as we have been; and doing our best at preventing the spread like we have practiced over the past year plus. Let us keep doing good and reap the harvest that awaits!

The worship committee would like to invite everyone to an open gathering on **14 June 2021, 6pm** in the social hall. Anyone who wishes to join this cog in the church ministry is invited. I anticipate hashing out a plan for some summer and fall events at that time and look forward to seeing you! Current roster of members:

Mary Banker	Lucy Blevins	Ken Cleveland	David Dobson
Suzanne Ramsburg	Janis Slaughter	Becky Wilhite	Warren Wright

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.

June 6	Linda Bartz
Remainder of June	Betty Farmer
July	Linda Dobbins
August	Lucy Blevins
September	Mary Banker
October	Joyce Smith
November	Kathy Wright
December	Suzanne Ramsburg

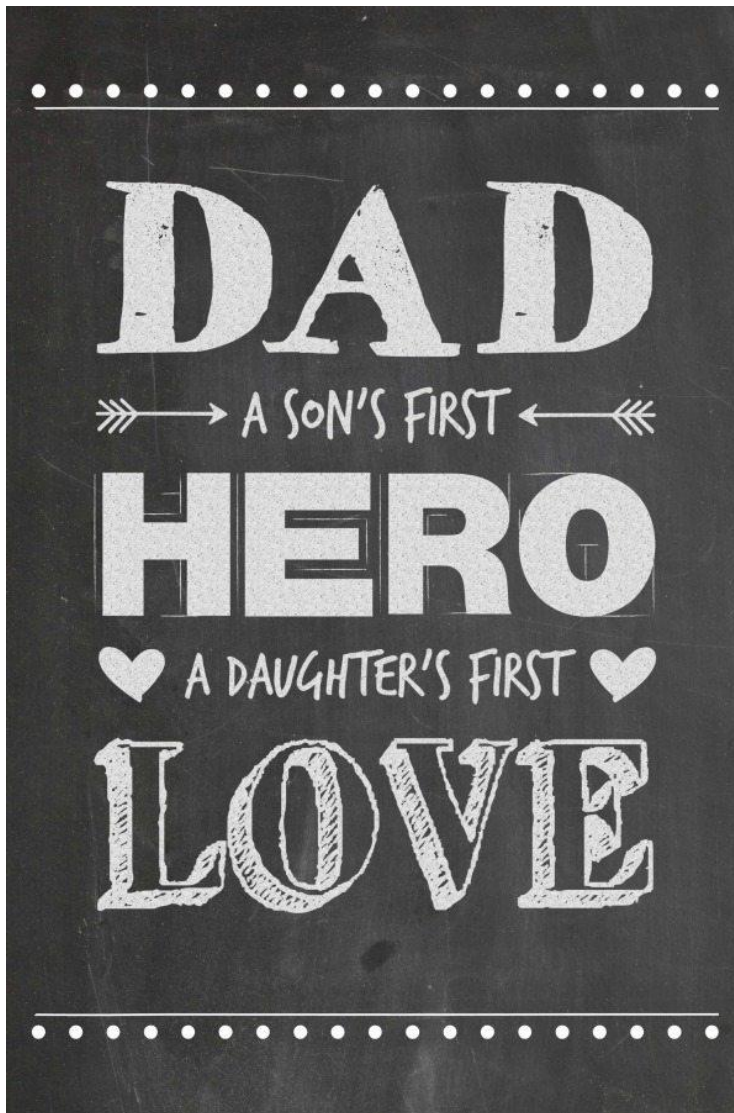
See Page 13 for a copy of the Health Acknowledgement form for the questions asked prior to each service.

Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of May 30:	50,517.17
Total Needed by May 31:	-2304.25

Scholarship Committee

Fran Miller

If you are a high school senior or college student, applications are being accepted for our scholarship. You can get a copy of the application on the church's website under 'Resources'. Your latest transcript must be included. The deadline is June 30. Please mail your applications to the church, attention "Scholarship Committee".



Happy Father's Day

Father's Day

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2021 will occur on Sunday, June 20.

Mother's Day: Inspiration for Father's Day

The "[Mother's Day](#)" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

Did you know? There are more than 70 million fathers in the United States. However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, [Anna Jarvis](#), who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium. Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2021 occurs on June 20.

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they “scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself.”

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day, pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, “that both parents should be loved and respected together.”

Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays.

Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a "second Christmas" for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last.

Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.

Nurture & Outreach

Jerry Dant

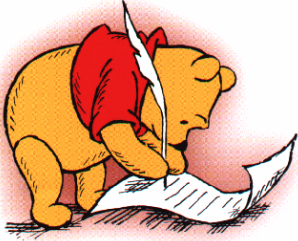
The time has finally come when we might be able to visit our friends in church as well as make home visits. Let's continue sending cards and notes to those who are still unable to get out to let them know we are thinking about them and hope to see them soon. Lewis Musick's, address and birthday are on the calendar. Let's try to send Lewis a note that we are thinking about him and hope to see him soon.



Linda Bartz made beautiful flowers for vases to be taken to the ladies at Fishing Bay Estates for Mother's Day. The vases were decorated with Hemp Spiral by Fred. Kathy, Val, Dianne and Lucy delivered them. The Committee appreciates Linda, Fred, Kathy, Val, Dianne and Lucy making Mother's Day special for the ladies. Pastor Ken and Terry delivered vases to Marion Miller and

Myrtle Clark. We look forward to doing to same thing for the men for Father's Day.

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		
D-G		
	Reggie Jackson 7/12 672 Gloucester Road Saluda, VA 23149	
H-L		
	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22514
M-Z Marion Miller 08/06 c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive Gloucester, VA 23061		



A Calming Prayer for Every Feeling

Exhausted? Upset? Frustrated? Offended? Confused? There's a prayer for that.
by **Bob Hostetler** Posted in **Bible Resources**

My two children were preschoolers when my wife and I began teaching them a weekly memory verse. The first Bible verse they memorized (and no, it wasn't "Jesus wept") can also function as a suggestive and helpful prayer for every occasion and every emotion.

It differs only a little from one Bible version to another. At the time, the Bible we used for our family devotions rendered it, "When I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3, NIV 1984).

Since then, I have prayed countless versions of that verse. It adapts easily and succinctly to any and every situation I encounter and every emotion I feel. Here are some examples that you can incorporate into your prayers:

Someone or something upsets you: "When I am angry, I will trust in You."

Your schedule (or life) seems to spin out of control: "When I am stressed, I will trust in You."

Someone offends or hurts you: "When I am hurt, I will trust in You."

Your physical, mental or emotional resources run out: "When I am exhausted, I will trust in You."

Comparisons with others assail you: "When I feel insecure, I will trust in You."

You lose someone or something: "When I am grieving, I will trust in You."

Loneliness strikes: "When I am lonely, I will trust in You."

You're having trouble waiting for someone or something: "When I am impatient, I will trust in You."

Someone lashes out: "When I am under attack, I will trust in You."

You're confused: "When I don't know what to do, I will trust in You."

See how well it works? And those are just a start. This Psalm 56:3 prayer can be adapted to practically any emotion or situation. Try it, and adapt it to your need-of-the-moment, in every moment.

Health Acknowledgement

Welcome! We're glad you're here.

In order to keep you and other congregants safe and healthy, read and respond to the health questions below. Please affirm to the greeter that you acknowledge the following items are true for you and provide your name and contact number. All persons are recommended to keep physical distancing of 6 feet or more (from persons outside your household group) and to wear a face covering.

--updated 5/28/21



1.

I am not experiencing two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19: • Fever (100 F or higher) or chills • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • New loss of taste or smell • Headache • Muscle or body aches • Sore throat • Congestions or runny nose, not allergy related • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea

2.

I have not been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (see #1) or I am fully vaccinated (14 days after series of vaccinations are completed.)

3.

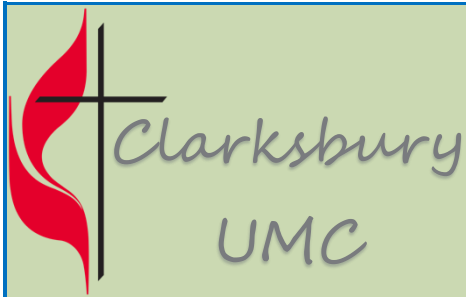
I have not tested positive for COVID-19, nor am I awaiting test results.

4.

If I have tested positive for COVID-19, I have complete resolution of symptoms OR (if asymptomatic) have completed 10 days of self-isolation.

5.

I will immediately notify the pastor if within 5 days after attending this event, I develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, will avoid contact with others, and will seek medical attention.



Grapevine

June 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Becky Wilhite Summer Clark	5 Polly Van Benschoten Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Carl Tate Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer
13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer	15 Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer
20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Jeannie Duke Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer
27 Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer UMM 7pm	29 Noon Prayer	30 Mike Tulos Noon Prayer			

The deadline for the **July 2021** Grapevine will be Monday, May 24 Send email to pwalian2@gmail.com

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

Ushers for the month of June Polly Van Benschoten and Warren Wright
Scripture Readers for June: Linda Bartz and Betty Farmer