



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia October 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Hebrews 4:12-16 (NRSV)

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Praise the Lord!! We have been blessed with awesome music and worship throughout September. Thank you to our wonderful music leaders, Becky and Janis, for each Sunday morning; and Randy, Eileen, Jim, Tom, and Sandy for last Sunday evening.

I see the leaves falling from the trees and littering the yard at the parsonage. It's time to take out the mulching lawn mower and rake.

We have our Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, October 2, from 9 to 11 in the morning. We always have room for more help.

Some COVID restrictions and protocols have relaxed but some remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **and in some cases is elevated again**. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) came up with a plan, and we submitted that Mitigation Assistance Plan to our District Superintendent who saw no need to revise the plan. We will continue to monitor the local situation and, as necessary, make adjustments.

We will continue all services and worship here at Clarksbury with an eye toward not just returning to the old normal but to improving our outreach and worship opportunities. We will continue with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on Facebook.

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

God's Word is both living and active; it pierces and divides soul from spirit. Most crucially, it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of our heart. God's Word lives and is active in the world and is able to judge our intentions; we can't hide anything from Him. Our lives and intentions and motives are laid bare before Him. We are called to realize that we must come before God with penitent hearts and confess what He already knows that we have done and are intending to do. We confess and ask for forgiveness. We will all be judged before Him for all we did and didn't do. We lay ourselves before the mercy of God and with faith count on the sacrifice of His Son for all our sin.

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You see, we have Jesus who came to earth and went through all the temptations and tests that all men face, and yet he knew no sin. He is our HIGH PRIEST, able to understand and sympathize with all our weaknesses. When we confess and ask for forgiveness we know that we can approach the throne of grace with boldness BECAUSE of Christ's sacrifice and suffering which sanctified all humanity, as was the Father's plan. Mercy and grace flow from Jesus and the sin which would condemn us is washed away by Jesus's blood and sacrifice.

Are we living out the pattern of mercy and grace we receive from Jesus? Are we witnessing to our community?

We must give thanks to the Father in all things...even when times are difficult, and we don't understand why bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people.

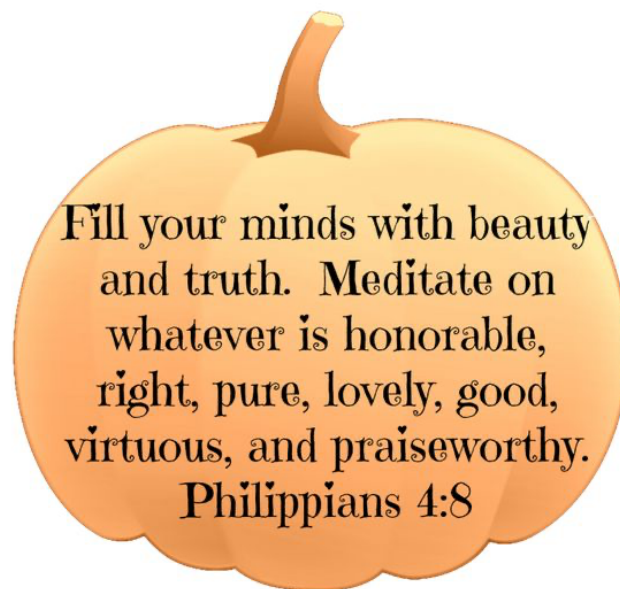
Today we can draw comfort from how nurturing and caring God the Father is...how He seeks out ALL of us and wants us to be with HIM in His kingdom.

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.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness.

**Peace & Grace,
Pastor Ken**



A Note from your Lay Leader
What does the Bible say about Halloween?
Warren Wright



First, understand that Halloween is mostly a western custom and it has no direct reference in the Bible. However, there are Biblical principles that directly relate to the celebration of Halloween. Perhaps the best way to understand how Halloween relates to the Bible is to look at the meaning of Halloween and its history. The word Halloween literally means the evening before All Hallows Day (or All Saint's Day) celebrated on November 1. Halloween is also the shortened name of Allhalloween, All Hallows' Evening and All Saint's Eve which is celebrated on October 31. The origin and meaning of Halloween are derived from ancient Celtic harvest festivals, but more recently we think of Halloween as a night filled with candy, trick-or-treating, pumpkins, ghosts and death. The origin of Halloween as we know it, began over 1900 years ago in England, Ireland, and Northern France. It was a Celtic celebration of the new year, called Samhain which occurred on November 1. The Celtic druids revered it as the biggest holiday of the year and emphasized that day as the time when the souls of the dead supposedly could mingle with the living. Bonfires were a large aspect of this holiday as well. Samhain remained popular until St. Patrick and other Christian missionaries arrived in the area. As the population began to convert to Christianity the holiday began to lose its popularity. However, instead of eradicating pagan practices such as "Halloween" or Samhain, the church instead used these holidays with a Christian twist to bring paganism and Christianity together, making it easier for local populations to convert to the state religion. Another tradition is the druidic belief that during the night of November 1, demons, witches, and evil spirits freely roamed the earth with joy to greet the arrival of "their season"—the long nights and early dark of the winter months. The demons had their fun with poor mortals that night, frightening, harming, and even playing all kinds of mean tricks on them. The only way, it seemed, for scared humans to escape the persecution of the demons was to offer them things they liked, especially fancy foods and sweets. Or, to escape the fury of these horrible creatures, a human could disguise himself as one of them and join in their roaming. In this way, they would recognize the human as a demon or witch and the human would not be bothered that night. During the Roman empire, there was the custom of eating or giving away fruit, especially apples, on Halloween. It spread to neighboring countries, to Ireland and Scotland from Britain, and to the Slavic countries from Austria. It is probably based upon a celebration of the Roman goddess Pomona, to whom gardens and orchards were dedicated.

Since the annual Feast of Pomona was held on November 1, the relics of that observance became part of our Halloween celebration, for instance, the familiar tradition of “dunking” for apples. Today costumes take the place of disguises and candy has replaced fruits and other fancy foods as children go door-to-door trick-or-treating. Originally trick-or-treating began as “souling,” when children would go door-to-door on Halloween, with soul cakes, singing and saying prayers for the dead. Over the course of history Halloween’s visible practices have changed with the culture of the day, but the purpose of honoring the dead, veiled in fun and festivities, has remained the same. The question remains, is celebrating Halloween bad or unbiblical?

Should Christians celebrate Halloween?

As a logical thinking person, consider for a moment what you are celebrating and what Halloween is all about. Is the holiday uplifting? Is Halloween pure? Is it lovely, praiseworthy, or of good report? Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Is Halloween based on godly themes such as the idea of peace, freedom and salvation or does the holiday bring to mind feelings of fear, oppression and bondage? Additionally, does the Bible sanction witchcraft, witches, and sorcery? On the contrary, the Bible makes it clear that these practices are an abomination to the Lord. The Bible goes on to say in Leviticus 20:27 that anyone who practiced witchcraft, soothsaying, sorcery should be killed. Deuteronomy 18:9-13 adds, “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you ... one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. “Let’s look at what the Bible adds to this topic in Ephesians 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” This text is calling us to not only have no association with any type of dark activity BUT ALSO to shed light on this topic to those around us. As stated earlier in this article, Halloween was not exposed by the church for what it was, but rather was incorporated into church holy days. Are Christians responding in the same way today? As you think about Halloween—its origins and what it stands for—would it be best to spend time dwelling upon its themes or to shed light upon what lies below the surface of this holiday's celebration?

God is calling humanity to follow Him and to “come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

United Methodist Men News

Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will be meet on Monday October 25th at 7 PM. 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.

Fall Food Pantry

Fran Miller



Thanks to covid, it has been over a year since Clarksbury has had its Food Pantry Distribution. Well, the time has finally come for us to get back into action. Our next Food Pantry Distribution Day will be on Saturday, October 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. Things will be a little different, however, as we are still struggling with this terrible virus. Thanks to all the money we have received in grants and donations, all of the food and toiletries will be purchased. We are limiting the number of volunteers to help pack groceries due to covid concerns. I have asked a few people to help with this job. Along with these changes, the distribution day will be quite different than we have had in the past. We will follow the procedure that the Cryer Mobile Food Pantry uses. No one will get out of the car, there will be no refreshments and sadly, no time for prayers. Hopefully this will change soon. We will be giving each family a bag of toiletries and 2 bags of groceries. Again, we are limiting the number of volunteers to keep us all safe and I have asked a few people to help with this as well. I hope things will be different in February when we have our next pantry and everyone in the church can be involved. Please tell those in need about the day and pray that all will be safe, and we can return to normal soon!

Soup Ministry; Warming Tree Ministry; Coat Rack Ministry

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



At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during June, July, and August. We have now started our third Monday-of-the-month in September. We currently deliver only once a month because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month to our recipients. If you would like to make some homemade soup for our recipients, just let one of the committee members listed above know. Four soup containers (quart size) are provided, make any variety, and return your soup to the church.

Our **warming tree** ministry and **coat rack** ministry will be available the first Saturday of each month beginning the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be putting a table outside with the warming items, weather permitting, otherwise, you may contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you obtain the needed warming items. If you would like to provide any of these warming items, our **warming tree** will be in the fellowship hall for you to place your items. The **warming tree** also has items listed on an angel on the tree if you would like to take an angel, purchase the item, and bring the item back and place under the **warming tree**.

THANK YOU for supporting these very important ministries of your church. **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.

Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of August 8:	94,237.77
Total Needed by October 31:	2,188.06

God has given you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.

Have you used one to say "thank you?"



Thank You, LORD!

Nurture and Outreach

Jerry Dant

Please keep up the good work of sending cards and notes to our homebound members and others as the Pandemic is keeping most in the community home. It is, also great to call or make a drive by visit to those in the community.

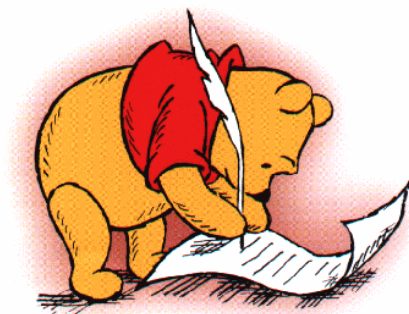
Terry shared with the committee a kit to make signs reading "GOD BLESS AMERICA". The ladies delivered them when they delivered the Cryer Center food the first Saturday in September. This was a way to recognize Labor Day. If you have any suggestions or ideas to help us share the holidays with our friends at Fishing Bay Estates and the community, please let us know.

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		
H-L		
	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22514
Marion Miller 08/06 c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive Gloucester, VA 23061	M-Z Lewis Musick 6023 Dixon Lane Gloucester, Va., 23061	

October POI

Welcome October

Offer your heart, mind and soul to the Lord

www.MotivationalWordsOfWisdom.com

Confess all your mistakes and sins.

Praise God that

Today He will provide and protect you
and your loved ones.



Outpouring of His love and grace claim it
with thanksgiving

Blessings will overflow through you so
you can be a blessing to others too

Every day be grateful that God works in you to

Restore and renew your life for His glory. Amen.

www.MotivationalWordsOfWisdom.com

<div>  <div> <h1>Grapevine</h1> <h2>October 2021</h2> </div>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Noon Prayer	1 Noon Prayer	2 Myrtle Clark Mobile Food Pantry Clarksburg Noon Prayer
3 Noon Prayer	4 Tommy Crittenden Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Jasper Booker Noon Prayer
10 Cacky Guill Noon Prayer	11 Janis Slaughter Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer	15 Eric Vaudt 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 Noon Prayer	25 Jerry Duke Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27	28	29 Phyllis Motley	30
31 Kathy Wright						

The deadline for the **November 2021** Grapevine will be Monday, November 21

Send email to pwalian2@gmail.com

October **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 October Cacky Guill and Betty Tate

Scripture Reader for October is Joyce Smith