

The Grapevine

15924 General Puller

Highway, Hardyville,



Our Mission:

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

Editor's Note:

"Community is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives. That person is always in your community somewhere; in the eyes of others, you might be that person." — Henri

Welcome February, the month of Love which not only includes the love for our spouses and immediate family but extends further to the love of our extended family like our church family. It even encompasses people we don't even know. It is easy to

judge others, perhaps dismiss their views in favor of our own, and on the flip side so difficult to imagine being "that" person which is seen in the "eyes of others." So, to share love for the members of our community even those who have different views than ours is an extension of our heart and an act in Christian Grace. So in this month and all others that follow let the seed of Grace planted by God in your life bear fruit upon others every day.

In Christian Love Petra



Monthly Scriptures :

Feb 6 :

Luke 5 :1-11

Psalm 138

Feb 13:

Luke 6: 17-26

Psalm 1

Feb 20 :

Luke 6: 27-38

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Feb 27 :

Luke 9:28-43

Psalm 99

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Pastor Ken's Corner

Luke 5:3-11 (NRSV)

³ *He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.* ⁴ *When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."* ⁵ *Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."* ⁶ *When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.* ⁷ *So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.* ⁸ *But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"* ⁹ *For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;* ¹⁰ *and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."* ¹¹ *When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.*

Hallelujah! Our God is an awesome God!!!

Wow, the Friday night snowstorm reminds us what season of the year we are in. Cold and windy it may be, but we can look forward to spring. I'm ever the optimist.

³ *He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.* ⁴ *When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."*

Jesus came to proclaim the good news and that was what he prioritized and did first. Then He called the disciples to Himself with a lesson in faith that looks beyond what we can see and understand to something that is beyond our understanding and only the power of the Spirit can do. He called Peter who fished all night and caught nothing and tells him to cast his nets one more time. Peter responds with the dismal efforts and the reality of their efforts throughout the night.

⁵ *Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."* ⁶ *When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.* ⁷ *So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.*

Imagine the reactions of Peter and the crowd. Jesus had commanded Peter to have faith in Him and cast out his net even though he had fished all night with nothing to show for it. Yet, when

he tosses aside **his doubts** and **casts his nets as Jesus commanded**, the catch is now too much for one boat to carry and requires help from James and John's boat. All of them are so full they begin to sink. Peter recognizes the miracle Jesus has performed and also knows how sinful and unworthy he is to be in Christ's presence.

They are all amazed at the size of the catch acquired **only after they are obedient to Jesus' command**. How little was their faith, but now they see a huge miracle performed because they, out of faith in Jesus' commands, cast their nets again.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ *When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.*

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Then they hear Jesus assure them of their coming mission, that is **“catching (fishing for) people”**. They are so moved by the miracle that they leave everything and follow Jesus...just like that!!!!

As we look to the coming season of Lent marked by our repentance and worship and acts of contrition and devotional studies, culminating in Jesus' sacrifice and His glory on Easter morning, let us together focus our faith in Jesus and our kingdom service to the will of Jesus...to preach and teach the Good News of Christ.

We should be mindful of Jesus' teachings and lessons and examples, **just as his disciples were**, and follow His lead as He is the Way, The Truth and the Life that leads to the everlasting! Use Him as a pathway for your Lenten and Easter service.

I pray we can continue our ministries even in light of the new variant of OMICRON COVID. Our PRG/HCT will review and adjust based upon our LOCAL environment and guidance from the Conference and Health Officials.

I want to remind you of our goals for the coming weeks and months.

Goal number One is to maintain our connection with our community regardless of how difficult it might become with COVID restrictions.

We will continue to innovate and use new technologies to worship. We have had small groups meet at back patios and around fire pits at other homes. Our last Sunday Gospel Sing will continue.

Goal Number Two is to continue be flexible and innovative when it comes to finding ways, locations, methods and opportunities to be worshipful and to remain connected as we progress with all the COVID restrictions, and yet maintain safety.

The congregation has been so resilient throughout the pandemic and we have still worshipped together, we have continued to lift our voices in praise together and served our community together. Terry and I are happy to be part of YOUR ministries at Clarksbury.

We will have our **Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, February 5, (rain or shine)** from 9-11 a.m. We always have room for more help. Come and see how this works. In the next few months come prepared for whatever weather we get.

The UMM will have a **Spaghetti Dinner, Friday, February 11; Take out only; Cost \$12**. Tickets will be sold at the door but can be purchased in advance from any United Methodist men or call me...or Warren or Don Bartz.

COVID restrictions and protocols are relaxed but many still remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **and in some cases is elevated again with the recent variant...OMICRON**. 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 Mitigation Assistance Plan and we will continue with that plan. We will continue to monitor the local situation and as necessary make adjustments.

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 explore 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**

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LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

I can always count on two truths in life. The most important is, Jesus is my Savior and Lord, and it is He who will never leave nor forsake me. Nothing, as **Romans 8:38-39** says, will separate me from Him. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The second is simply this, and you may argue the point later, if I read or watch the news, I will walk away inundated with bad news. Why, because we live in a fallen sinful world that will never get better, only worse. Death, sickness, crime, wars, poverty, unmentionable acts of depravity seem to occur daily and thanks to twenty-four-hour news you can see it in you den or living room any time you want. I was astonished this Christmas season at the barbaric pushing and shoving that took place to get the latest video game console, Sony Play Station 5, at a cost up to \$1,000. Individuals began pushing, shoving, stepping over fallen people just to get a game that was better than what they already had, unbelievable. *Well, there's the bad news.* But I want to share some *good news* with you today. It is found in **Luke 2:8-20**.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

The first thing I want you to notice is the recipient of the good news. Look at the "you(s)" in the verses. I noticed four you(s) in these verses. Listen for a moment to three of them. "I bring you good news of great joy." "There has been born for you a savior." "This will be a sign for you." In our bad news world here is some good news for you. Just think about it, God has some news for you. That beats a text message or voice mail any day. "For God so loved the world." How about making it personal? It would read, "For God so loved you, that if you believe in Him, you will not perish but have everlasting life." The book we call the Bible is God's personal letter to you. When Jesus was born, you received great news that will bring great joy. Jesus is God's personal savior just for you. I am absolutely convinced that if you were the only person in all eternity to receive Jesus as your Lord and savior, He would have still sent this personal, precious gift to you.

A Universal Invitation

Not only is it a personal invitation, but it is also to all the people. The personal invitation is for everyone. No one is excluded. That is why it says, for God so loved the "world." The gift of His Son is for everyone. It doesn't make any difference what color, sex, problems, or previous way of life you have had, Jesus wants you to come to Him by repentance and faith.

An Everlasting Joy

In our bad news world here is some good news for you. These angels did not come to bring a message of God's judgment and punishment on the sins of Israel. The message was good news of great joy. Why was it great joy as opposed to joy? Luke uses the word joy "chara" only when referring to salvation. The great joy is contingent upon the good news of the gospel. The message for the world today needs to return to that great message found in Luke. We need to evangelize with good news that brings great joy. After all, gospel literally translated means, "good news." When we tell others the gospel message, we are bringing them the greatest good news, Jesus Christ. If you haven't experienced that good news, it is available today in this church. Jesus said, Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Like Travis, you can walk from this place today with a smile on your face, hope in your heart, and the knowledge that your Lord will never fail you. Make you decision now. As the passage said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

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FUNDRAISING FOR AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADE

Becky Wilhite

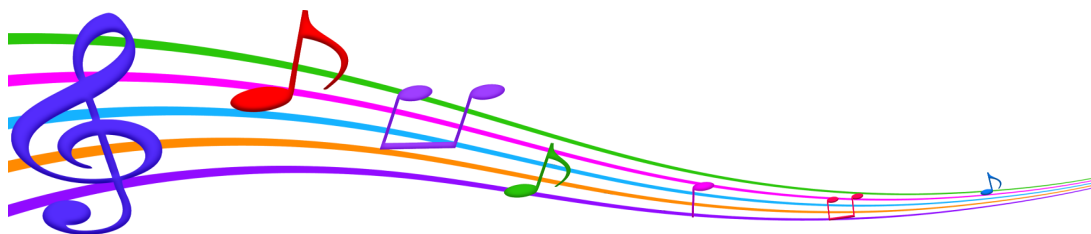
Tony Cheema of Sifa Design in Hampton has drafted a proposal for upgrading the audio/visual equipment that we have been using to record services for our virtual outreach ministry. His employee, Brett Fochtmann, has spent many hours surveying, measuring, going in the attic, etc. to create a plan that will allow us to live feed our services as well as upgrade our current systems. Those who are unable to attend the various services at Clarksbury in person will be able to watch as services are happening in real time instead of having to wait until the services can be posted a day later.

When our church was shut down because of Covid 19, we scrambled to find a way to record virtual services to enable us to continue to worship as a church family. Many of you may not be aware that we recorded with a cell phone and a webcam and then created a PowerPoint which had to be converted to a video before we could post to YouTube or FaceBook. This was a labor-intensive process, and although we did the best that we could with what we had, it did not produce as professional a result as we would have liked.

There is technology that would solve many of the issues that we faced. One primary concern is that we want to maintain the integrity of the appearance of our historical church (almost 200 years old!) but be able to upgrade to modern technology. Mr. Cheema and Brett have worked diligently to plan to use systems that will modernize without leaving a footprint that would take away from the historical look of our sanctuary. For example, the video camera will be mounted inconspicuously under the balcony and will be operated remotely with an iPad or tablet. The tablet will have presets to automatically focus on the pastor, the choir, the organ, etc. Sifa Design will also provide training for the use of our new equipment.

Electronic equipment and its installation can be quite expensive, and we recognize that upgrading technology will be an ongoing process. We are blessed that the York River District Board of Missions has approved our grant application for \$10,000 to give us a head start in our fund-raising process. We have also raised some funds through memorials, a donation from the UMM, and funds from the upcoming spaghetti dinner that will go toward this project.

We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation and earmarking it for the audio/visual upgrade at Clarksbury. This outreach ministry affects so many of our members who cannot attend worship services in person and also family and friends who may live at a distance but still want to worship with Clarksbury. Our virtual services have also been watched by many people who do not attend Clarksbury. God has commissioned us to reach outside of our walls to those who need to hear his message. It is our prayer that some who view our services live will be nurtured by our ministry and will possibly find a church home with us. We hope that you will support this expanded outreach ministry!



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January 2022

Food Pantry Committee

The Food Pantry Committee wants to thank you for your generous contributions during the January food drive. Your work is not over, however! We will be collecting items during the month of February as well. Our hope is to hand each family a bag of these special items on our Food Pantry Distribution Day on Saturday, February 26. At the bottom of this article is the list of items we would like for the weeks in February. Thank you again for all of your support.

February 6	32 oz Dish liquid	Shelf stable milk (Parmalat, etc)	Sugar		
February 13	Cake mix	Frosting	Grape jelly	Tea bags, coffee (regular or instant individual bags)	Sugar
February 20	32 oz Vegetable oil	Shelf stable milk (Parmalat, etc)	Sugar		



**Feeding the
Community**

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Ministries:

UMM

The UMM will be sponsoring, along with the women, a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 11th from 4-6 PM. Cost will be \$12.00. The dinner includes spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, homemade French bread, salad, and a slice of cake for dessert. The net proceeds from this dinner will go for the Audio/Visual project. The UMM's next regular monthly business meeting will be on Monday February 22nd at 7 PM. Remember there is 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.

UMW

The UMW is currently seeking to fill the position of Chairwoman. If you find it in your heart to serve in this capacity, please contact Fran Miller.

NURTURE & OUTREACH

"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone."

Shannon L. Alder.

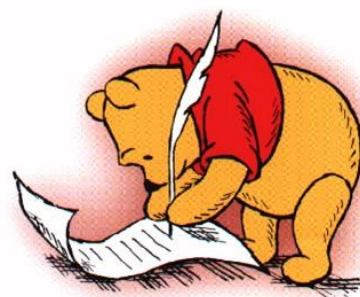
This will be our theme for 2022. We did great job last remembering our church family, residents at Fishing Bay Estates and community residents during the pandemic. Let's continue this year remembering them with calls, cards and drive by visits.

"Pray as though everything depends on God. Work as though everything depends on you".

Saint Augustine

**"Love is more than a noun
– it is a verb; it is more
than a feeling – it is car-
ing, sharing, helping, and
sacrificing."**

– William Arthur Ward



Myrtle Clark 10/2
P.O. Box 302
Deltaville, VA 23043

Lewis Musick
6023 Dixon Lane
Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller 08/06
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @
Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24
26306 Mattaponi Trail
Milford, VA 22514

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Ministries and ETC:

SOUP AND WARMING



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.

Church Service Assistants for the month of February

Ushers:

Alan Miller and Betty Chenoweth

Scripture Reader:

Counters:

Lucy Blevins and Linda Bartz

*Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors*

Deadline for the March Newsletter is
Friday, February 25!

Please send your emails and
articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for
inclusion in the newsletter.

Follow us on

Facebook!

Check out our

Website

Annual Budget 2022 Operating Funds	120,298.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 01/30	8.472.00
Total Needed by February	11,577.67

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Clarksbury has Fun!



Gospel Sing! Last Sunday of Each Month



Church Leadership:

Spiritual Leader:

Ken Cleveland
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kencleveland@vaumc.org

Church Council Chair:

Lee White
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Director of Music:

Becky Wilhite
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Lay Leader:

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ssramsburg@va.metrocast.net

Trustees Committee Chair:

Don Bartz
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Worship Committee Chair:

Dave Dobson
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Nurture & Outreach Chair:

Jerry Dant
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jerryd1935@msn.com

Recording Secretary:

Betty & Carl Tate
B: (804) 347-2461
C: (804) 916-9969

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February Power of Prayer

Lord, Soften My Heart

by Nina Marie Thornton (copyright 2003)

Lord, Soften my heart.

Cleanse it and purify it.

Make it white as snow.

Mold it and shape it

So that you are in control.

Soften my eyes, Lord,

Cleanse them with tears.

Free me from all my anxiety and

Fears.

Soften my words Lord

So that when I speak,

My voice will be yours Lord,

So Melodious and sweet.

Soften my countenance Lord,

Fill me with your everlasting light.

May I make a difference in this

World as day is to night.

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Nina is a friend of mine from the Eastern Shore, and i asked her!, terry C

Nina is a friend of mine from the Eastern Shore, and i asked her!, TerryCleveland

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7 great ways to share God's love this Valentine's Day

By Tricia Brown

Tradition holds that Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who was imprisoned for ministering to persecuted Christians and for performing wedding ceremonies for soldiers who weren't supposed to marry. Today, Valentine's Day is most often seen as a day to celebrate love. That's great if you have a partner with whom to share a special date, a box of chocolates and a bunch of roses. However, it is a reminder to some people of what they feel is missing in their lives. How can you show love to your church and community this Valentine's Day?

Help the elderly connect.

Use technology to connect seniors with their long-distance friends or relatives via FaceTime (iOS) or Tango (Android) video calls. Visit a senior adult Sunday school class or a nursing home and ask if anyone would like to make such a call. Show them how to get started with FaceTime or Tango on their phones or computers or allow them to use yours.

You also could take several widows or widowers out to lunch, or host a Valentine's Day party for the senior citizens in your church. Encourage the children in your church to create valentines for the senior classes as well as for their own grandparents.

Thank those who serve.

Find ways to thank and minister to those who serve — the military, police officers, firefighters and others who help take care of us. You can bake cookies and take them to your local fire or police departments. Send a public thank you by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. You can buy a meal for a serviceman or woman you may know. Think about people who regularly serve you without notice (like the police officer at your child's school or the waitress at your local coffee shop). Find a special way to honor them.

Consider those away from home.

Being away from home can make Valentine's Day lonely. Connect with college students in your community. Invite a group to come to your house for dinner or go to a movie together. Take bags of goodies to them on campus, or just send them a card. If you know deployed military men or women, think ahead and

send them a care package. And if you don't know of anyone personally, AdoptaPlatoon gives instructions on how to send a special Valentine's treat to some of our military personnel.

Remember those who are struggling.

You probably know someone who has had a rough time recently. Take a meal to someone who has been struggling with a serious illness. Volunteer to babysit for a single mom who could use some time alone. Give a gift card to a family who has experienced financial difficulties. Help those who are homeless. Host a special Valentine's Day dinner for them, or make bags with toiletries and special goodies. Give the bags to a local shelter to be distributed. Even hosting a churchwide blood drive can help your congregation remember those who are struggling by truly giving something from the heart.

Reach out to strangers.

Encourage your congregation to conduct random acts of kindness. Pay for someone's meal or coffee. Compliment the person standing in line with you. Leave an encouraging note on the new guy's desk at work. Tape a dollar bill to a vending machine. Donate your time at a local soup kitchen or community center. Think about how you can make someone smile today.

Encourage one another.

Send flowers, candy, cards or gifts to church staff or volunteers. Even something small like a \$5 gift card to the local ice cream shop can be a great way to show you care. Encourage church members to write cards or letters to one another this month. Offer a special bulletin board or table where members can leave and pick up "mail." Help your children make thank-you valentines for their Sunday school teachers or nursery workers.

John 13:35 says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." While no one can do everything, the worst thing is to do nothing. February is the month of love. So, take a look at these ideas and think of some others. Find something you can do this month to help share the love of Christ through you.

March 2022

SU	M	TU	W	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Percy Hattorf	4	5 Al Johnston
6	7 George Lee Clark	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Council Meeting 7pm Anne Tompkins	16	17 Danny Mauney	18 John Robert- son	19
20	21	22	23 Virginia Clark	24 Hannah Clark	25	26 Food Pantry 9am-11am
27 Diane Faulkner	28					

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