



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia March 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

2020...LENT is upon us, and with this season comes meditation, reflection and pouring ourselves into our bibles. Devotionals and bible studies can be most beneficial in discovering more about God's love for us as well as His constant desire to be in our lives.

We give thanks for the mild weather we have had recently, but there is still time for potentially cold, inclement weather. March could "come in like a LION", and we will make every effort to let people know as early as possible if we cancel an event because of bad weather. As always you are the best judge of your local driving conditions; we want you to be safe so use prudence when determining to travel to church.

Saturday, March 7, the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry will be at Clarksbury from 9-11 a.m. Philippi has lead for March and Clarksbury will have lead in April. Please do not assume that you won't be needed just because another church has lead. There is always plenty of work for all of us. Come, pray, talk, lend a hand or just come have fun being servants of the Lord.

The Warming Tree and the Clothes Closet will be open for business through March and longer if the weather dictates.

In our Lenten bible study, *Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name* by Max Lucado, we are exploring six individual roles or aspects of the Savior we know as Jesus. Each of the studies will meet on Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Session Two "Friend of Sinners" will meet on March 4.

Session Three "Compassionate Physician" will meet on March 11.

Session Four "Great Teacher" will meet on March 18.

Session Five "Miracle Worker" will meet on March 25.

The Sixth and Final Session "Victorious Sacrifice" will meet on April 1.

Max Lucado has a way of crafting a bible study so that one can benefit from all, or any one of the sessions. We can get more books, and I invite anyone to join us on any Wednesday and participate in our conversations and Max Lucado's unique way of presenting critical scriptures.

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

How like most temptation to come when you are tested and weak...when you are at a low ebb in your resolve and will to be obedient to God. Jesus is completely man and completely part of the Holy Trinity. He suffered and faced temptation; scriptures show us how he responded to the "tempter" with the word of God from the scriptures themselves.

"5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again the devil puts Jesus in another predicament and challenges Jesus' identity, with "If you are the Son of God". Again Jesus replies to the challenge with scripture. Jesus is the word made flesh, come to dwell with us—Immanuel—God with Us. But Satan isn't through yet. First he approaches his weakened physical hunger; the second challenge is a personal physical danger. The third and final challenge is an attack on Jesus' loyalty and faithfulness to God.

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Finally, Jesus sends Satan off with a stinging rebuke. From scripture and the word of God Jesus battles the master of deceit and lies and sends him packing.

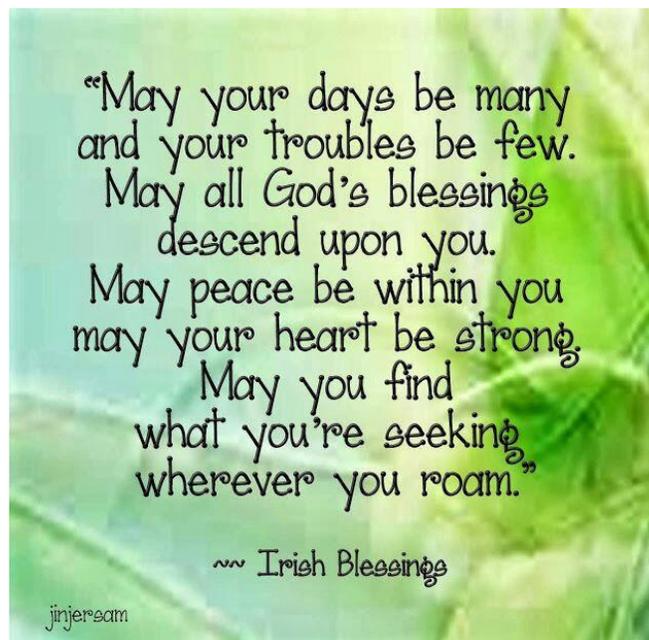
There is time for us throughout LENT to **read, pray, meditate and absorb Jesus' ministry**...His teachings, His interactions with those He encountered, the breadth of His three- year ministry, the miracles and the prophecies fulfilled. I urge to you to focus on how Christ never leaves anyone in the same condition in which he finds them. I continue my challenge to EACH of US to commit ourselves to read HIS WORD more often and more deeply this year. **Let us be newly resolved to be more attuned to HIS WORD.**

Help me keep the Prayer Warrior e-mails updated as information and changes become available. Remember, I need your help in providing me with that information and with those changes.

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 some of our shut-ins. Volunteer for work at Dockside. See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.

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.

Peace & Grace Pastor Ken



Annual Budget for 2020 Operating Funds: **\$118,339.00**

Total Received for Operating Funds as of February 2020: **18,168.00**

Total Income Needed to Meet Budget by end of March: **29,585.00**

COFFEE HOUR FOR March



March	1	Linda Bartz
March	8	Cacky Guill
March	15	Polly VanBeschoten
March	22	Lucy Blevins
March	29	Terry Cleveland

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



A Message from Your Lay Leader Warren Wright

Little is known of Saint Patrick's early life, though it is known that he was born in Roman Britain (part of the island of Great Britain) in the 4th century, into a wealthy family. His father and grandfather were Deacons in the Church. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken captive to Ireland as a slave. It is believed he was held somewhere on the west coast of Ireland, possibly Mayo, but the exact location is unknown. According to his Confession, he was told by God in a dream to flee from captivity to the coast, where he would board a ship and return to Britain. Upon returning, he quickly joined the Church in Auxerre in Gaul and studied to be a priest.

In 432, he again said that he was called back to Ireland, though as a bishop, to Christianize the Irish from their native polytheism. Irish folklore tells that one of his teaching methods included using the Shamrock to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish people. Originally, the color associated with Saint Patrick was blue. Over the years the color green and its association with Saint Patrick's Day grew. Green ribbons and Shamrocks were worn in celebration of St Patrick's Day as early as the 17th century. In the 1798 rebellion, in hopes of making a political statement, Irish soldiers wore full green uniforms on March 17th in hopes of catching public attention. The phrase "the wearing of the green", meaning to wear a shamrock on one's clothing, derives from a song of the same name. After nearly thirty years of Evangelism, he died on 17 March 461, and according to tradition, was buried at Downpatrick. Although there were other more successful missions to Ireland from Rome, Patrick endured as the principal champion of Irish Christianity and is held in esteem in the Irish Church.

Matthew 28:18-20-"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Soup Ministry

Kathy Wright



Members: Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley

The soup ministry distributed homemade soup (and a sleeve of crackers) at the Winter Food Pantry Distribution Saturday, February 29, 2020, serving thirty plus families. The soup ministry distributes homemade soup twice a month (the first and third Monday), year round, to families in the Deltaville community. If you know of someone that may benefit from this mission at Clarksbury U.M.C., **please** contact one of the members of the committee, listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.

Warming Tree Ministry, Coat Rack Ministry

Kathy Wright

Members: Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley

Our warming tree ministry and coat rack ministry at Clarksbury U.M.C. are focused during the fall/winter season. There will be one last opportunity for recipients to receive these warming items and coats on Saturday, March 7, when the Cryer Center Mobile Center food pantry will be at Clarksbury U.M.C. If you know of someone in need of a particular warming item or a coat after this date, please have them call the church (804) 776-6060. THANK YOU for supporting these very important ministries of your church. God Bless.

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.



Worship Committee

David Dobson



Being A Methodist

In the beginning, Methodist preachers focused particularly on evangelizing people who had been "neglected" by the established Church of England (labor classes or downtrodden). Wesley and his assistant preachers organized the new Christian converts into groups. These societies were divided where individuals were encouraged to confess their sins to one another and to build each other up. This sharing of testimony was a key feature of early Methodism. Growing in numbers and increasing pressure from the established Church of England, impressed upon the converts a deep sense of their own spiritual identity. Three teachings that Methodists saw as the foundation of Christian faith were:

- People are all, by nature, "dead in sin"
- They are "justified by faith alone"
- Faith produces inward and outward holiness

John Wesley's skills soon established him as the primary leader of the movement. Wesley argued (against Calvinist doctrine) that Christians could enjoy a second blessing or Christian perfection in this life by:

- Loving God and their neighbors
- Meekness and lowliness of heart, and
- Abstaining from all appearance of evil

In 1784, Wesley responded to the shortage of priests in the American colonies due to the American Revolutionary War by ordaining preachers for America with power to administer the sacraments. This was a major reason for Methodism's final split from the Church of England after Wesley's death. This split created a separate, eventually worldwide, group of church denominations known as Methodists.

With regard to the position of Methodism within Christendom, "John Wesley once noted that what God had achieved in the development of Methodism was no mere human endeavor but the work of God. As such it would be preserved by God as long as history remained." Calling it "the grand depositum" of the Methodist faith, Wesley specifically taught that the propagation of the doctrine of entire sanctification was the reason that God raised up the Methodists in the world.

Easter Eggs

Edna Yankovich Circle

Fran Miller



The EY Circle is making plans to offer their delicious homemade candy Easter eggs (chocolate, coconut, peanut butter, and mint) again this year. Each order is \$7. Please see any UMW member if you would like to order them. All orders must be in by March 20. The Easter eggs will be available after Friday, April 3rd in plenty of time for Easter.

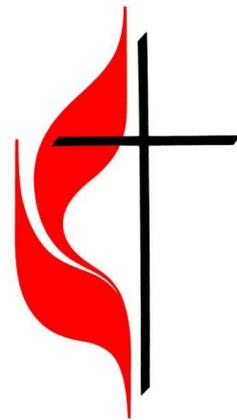
United Methodist Men News

Warren Wright-UMMM President

The UMM will have their next monthly business meeting on Monday March 23rd at 7 PM. At this meeting, The UMM will be begin planning for the June 12th BBQ. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. Also, at this meeting we will be planning our Spring and Summer activities.

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.



I am certain in my heart that all that I am, I have received from God.

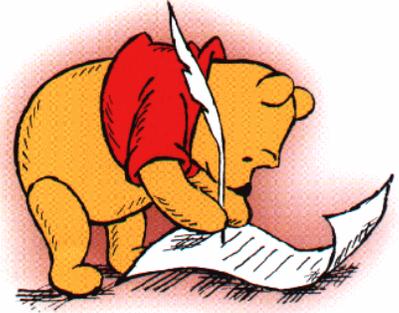
—Saint Patrick

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
D-G		
Sue Myers 09/30 Westminster Canterbury 132 Lancaster Drive Irvington, VA 22480	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 22524
M-Z		

Serving our Country

Floyd Andrew Forrest 3980-3 Buckeye Lane Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 United States		
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March PoP!

5 ways St Patrick's Life Shows the Power of Prayer

by Whitney Hopley March 2017

Every year on March 17th, people worldwide celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The day was inspired by the life of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick (385-461 AD). Many people have heard about Patrick as a man who boldly overcame all sorts of dangers to bring the Christian faith to the Irish, and he often hailed as a legendary hero. But Patrick was just an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life because God's power was at work through him. Why? Patrick love to pray -- and he prayed with great faith. If we approach prayer as Patrick did, we too can experience God's power flowing through us.

Here are five ways that this beloved saint's life shows the power of prayer:

1. Love for God is the best motivation to pray.

Patrick devoted himself to prayer because of his love for God. He once wrote: "The love of God and His fear grew in me more and more as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same... I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

It was love that fueled Patrick's prayer life -- not a desire to convince God to give him something, not a sense of obligation to fulfill, not an attempt to earn good standing with God, and not a plan to impress other people. Patrick simply wanted to spend time communicating with God because he loved being in God's company.

What is it that really motivates us to pray? That's an important question to ask ourselves regularly, since the Bible warns in James 4:3 "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasure." Since God's essence is love, He always responds to prayers that are motivated by connecting with Him in love.

2. It's always a good time to pray.

Patrick incorporated prayer into every part of his life, praying in all sorts of situations, from the mundane (such as before going to sleep) to the dramatic (when he was in danger).

The Bible encourages us to pray continually. 1Thessalonians advises "pray without ceasing" while Ephesians 6:18 urges us to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

In the famous prayer Patrick wrote - called "St Patrick's Breastplate"-- Patrick wrote about remembering Jesus Christ's constant presence with him through prayer: "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise..." he wrote. Since God is always with us, we can always connect with Him through prayer. Taking advantage of that great gift is wise at all times.

3. Prayer empowers us to win spiritual warfare.

When Patrick courageously moved forward with his work for God's kingdom, he was hit by intense opposition from evil. People tried to kill him several times because they saw the Gospel message he preached as a threat to their power as pagan leaders. Once while Patrick was praying on top of a mountain, a large group of demons manifested in physical form around him. They appeared as a dense cloud of birds of prey that was trying to distract and intimidate him. But Patrick called on the Holy Spirit for help as he prayed, and eventually the demonic birds scattered and faded away.

Patrick wrote eloquently about spiritual warfare in "Saint Patrick's Breastplate". "I arise today/Through God's strength to pilot me;/God's might to uphold me,/God's wisdom to guide me,/God's eye to look before me,/God's ear to hear me,/God's word to speak for me,/God's hand to guard me,/God's way to lie before me,/God's shield to protect me,/God's host to save me/From snares of demons,/From temptations of vices,/From everyone who shall wish me ill,/Afar and near,/Alone and in multitude."

Spiritual warfare is a fact of life in this fallen world. But Patrick followed the Bible's advice to fight through prayer. If we do the same, we too can emerge victorious.

4. We can expect God to really answer our prayers.

When Patrick prayed, he didn't just recite a list of requests and hope that maybe something good would happen afterward. Patrick really expected God to answer his prayers, so he prayed with real trust and excited anticipation. Sometimes God answered quietly in the midst of everyday life. At other times, God answered dramatically.

One day when Patrick was praying outside in Ireland during time he was enslaved there (Irish raiders had kidnapped him in his home country of Britain and sent him to Ireland to work as a shepherd for an Irish chieftain). Patrick had a surprising encounter with one of God's messengers: an angel. The angel, whom Patrick called Victor, appeared on a nearby rock and told Patrick that he was his guardian angel. "It is good that you've been fasting and praying" Victor said, according to Patrick's record of the encounter. "You will soon go to your own country; your ship is ready." Victor then gave Patrick guidance about how to find the ship that would take him back to freedom in Britain.

Patrick had expected an answer to eventually come to the prayer he had prayed every day for the six years of his slavery --for the opportunity to return to Britain and reunite with his family. He didn't know when the answer would come, but he kept asking with faith. When God chose to send the answer, it was through an angel who called his prayer efforts "good"!

5. We should be open to God's answers, even if they're surprising.

Patrick made a habit of searching for and listening to God's messages, however they came to him. He opened his mind up to be alert and receptive to whatever God wanted to communicate.

One of the ways Patrick heard from God was through dreams. In one key dream Patrick had, he wrote of hearing the voices of Irish people "crying as if with one voice: 'We beg you, holy youth, that you shall come and shall walk again among us.' And I was stung intensely in my heart..."

Patrick was surprised that God was calling him to go back to Ireland -- the place he had finally broken free from, after years of slavery. Yet, after God challenged Patrick to choose faith over fear, Patrick said "yes" to presenting the Gospel message to the Irish.

This St. Patrick's Day, let Patrick's life inspire you to do more than just wear green or enjoy Irish music. Make Patrick a role model for your prayer life, and see how God responds by working in your life with power!





The Grapevine

March 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Soup Ministry 11 a.m	3	4 Choir 7pm	5	6	7 Linda Dobbins Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
8 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	9	10 EYC Meeting 7pm	11 Choir 7pm	12 Alison Crittenden Chuck Banker	13	14 Peggy Vaudt 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
15 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 Ronnie Teagle Soup Ministry 11 a.m	17 Church Finance Committee 7pm	18 Lenten Dinner Choir 7pm	19	20 Corey Buchanan	21 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
22 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m	23 UMM Meeting 7pm	24	25 Choir 7pm	26 Mark White	27	28 April Mauncy Make Easter Eggs 5-5:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
29 Linda Davis 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30	31				

The deadline for the April 2020 Grapevine will be Wednesday, March 25 Send items to:

pwalian2@gmail.com

March 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 *March* is Warren Wright

Counters for *March* are Warren Wright and Emily Farmer

Val Bradley and Paulette Topping will serve as ushers for *March*