



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia February 2021
www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 6:1-6 (NRSV)

¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room, and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

We really are in the **Winter** season. In addition to the colder weather, we have had that white stuff ... You know... **SNOW**. Not a lot to be sure, but a dusting on one day and a little more than a couple of inches on another day. We can probably break out the salt for the ice on the steps and the shovels for the sidewalks and driveways.

Not Only are we in the winter season, but **LENT** begins early this year as **Ash Wednesday** is February 17th, here before you know it. **Easter** is **April 4th**.

We will start a FIVE session **Lenten Bible Study** in the Social Hall at 1 PM on Wednesday the 24th, by **Max Lucado** titled *“He Chose the Nails.”* Some of you may have the study guides still as we did this study a few years ago. If you need/or would like a study guide, send me an email and I will order one for you. **We will have to keep our class size to 10 people** and follow COVID restrictions, but if we have more who want to participate, we can come up with a second time for a second class. Max Lucado is a splendid author to follow on the weighty subjects of our Christian Faith, I **know** you will enjoy the study.

As we come to Lent and the Holy Week and Easter that closes out the season, our focus should be on **spiritually** getting to know our Savior Jesus the Christ more **intimately**. We should seek to understand just how **precious** the Gift Jesus **purchased** for us that day on a Cross on Golgotha. We need to **meditate** on how much God loves us that He would send His very Son to **give His Life** for our **redemption**.

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As we meditate on Christ's sacrifice our worship and behavior should be conformed to Jesus' generosity as He freely gives of Himself for our salvation. As we practice Piety, or Righteousness/living "right-wise" with God and Man, we should do the good **not for others to see** and **seek no reward for the deed**. God the Father already sees what you do and knows how to reward your act of piety. Likewise, we are NOT to make a **big show** of our generosity for **earthly reward and acclaim**, as that is the only reward you will receive, and it is hollow.

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As we pray and meditate throughout **Lent**, and for that matter throughout the year, we pray to the Father, **not for show or to gain praise from others**, rather to pray in private and lift our supplications to God and God will answer our prayers. That is not to say that we should NOT pray in Public, rather our **MOTIVE** for praying to God, **whether, in private or in public** is for **intercession** for another or for our own needs and out of **Praise and Love for Our Father**.

So, as we enter LENT this year let us be focused on piety and thankfulness and gratitude for what **God** has done and is doing FOR us and IN us through **Jesus and the Holy Spirit**.

As we focus on our Love for God this month of February my prayer is that each of you enjoy a **Happy Valentine's Day**, which just so happens to be **Transfiguration Sunday** this year.

The **Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry** is scheduled to be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, February 6th**. Our church has the lead again. The Food Pantry and the Soup Ministry have modified the way these ministries are conducted to be in compliance with the CDC and Virginia COVID-19 requirements. We always need prayers; so even if you cannot be here to work the Food Pantry, pray for us and the people we serve.

I am so proud of the great generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** in providing delicious Christmas meals, cards, letters and calls to many of our members.

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.

Our online services will continue both on Facebook and YouTube. THANK YOU to all who are part of this effort. All of you have contributed so much to each service, even you at home when you give us such uplifting feedback. **We are a Church**, in the truest sense of the word...**Together**, through the power of our Lord Jesus, through the grace of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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** despite our inability to be able to support with our presence.

Help me keep the **Prayer Warrior/Partners** e-mails updated as information and changes become available. Let us continue in faith and hope to be children of God infused with the Holy Spirit throughout all the travails and trials of life in this world.

Let us resolve to not let COVID-19 define who we are...let us be defined by the words, the example and the glory of our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!** I take great joy in how each of you, as a congregation, has reacted to this ever changing situation.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Ken

A Message from Your Lay Leader
Valentine's Day, Christian or Pagan?
Warren Wright



Have you ever thought about the origin of Valentine's day? This is the best story that I could find. As Christianity became prevalent, priests attempted to replace old heathen practices. To Christianize the ancient pagan celebration of the Feast of Lubercus, the church officials changed the name to St. Valentine's Day. To give the celebration further meaning and eliminate pagan traditions, priests substituted the drawing of Saints names for the names of the girls. On St. Valentine's Day the priest placed saint's names into an urn or box. The young people then drew a name from the container. In the following year, the youth was supposed to emulate the life of the saint whose name he had drawn. By the fourteenth century they reverted to the use of girl's names. In the sixteenth century they once again tried to have saintly valentines, but it was as unsuccessful as the first attempt. While it cannot be proved historically, there were seven men named Valentine who were honored with feasts on February 14th. Of these men, two stories link incidents that could have given our present day meaning to St. Valentine's Day. One of these men named Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Valentine was revered by the young and old, rich, and poor, with people of all walks of life attending his services. Currently Emperor Claudius was heavily recruiting men to serve as soldiers for his wars without much success. The men preferred not to leave their wives, families, and sweethearts to fight in foreign lands. Claudius became angry and declared that no more marriages could be performed, and all engagements were cancelled. Valentine thought this to be unfair and secretly married several couples. When Claudius found out, he threw Valentine in prison where he died. Friends of the priest retrieved his body and buried it in a churchyard in Rome. Another version had St. Valentine jailed for helping Christians. While Valentine was in prison, he cured a jailer's daughter of blindness. Claudius became enraged and had Valentine clubbed and beheaded on February 14, 269 A.D. Yet another story claims that Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her letters that were signed "From your Valentine." All the seven Valentines eventually evolved into one. In 496 Pope Gelasius declared the day in honor of St. Valentine. Through the centuries the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. Lovers' quarrels come under his jurisdiction and, naturally, he is the patron saint of engaged couples and of anyone wishing to marry.

I Cor. 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

United Methodist Men News
Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will hold our regular monthly meeting on Monday February 22nd at 7 pm. Masks and Social Distancing will be required.

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.

11 ways to LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)
11. Honor without fail. (Hebrews 13: 4)

www.GodlyWoman.Co

Love Word Search

Find the hidden words.

K Y D S N G E G I P B E E E H
U P A E M L G A A V E A B O N
W R T V Q F P R R J A T P W E
U E I E Z J R B R Z R E O P Z
U N R I G H T E O U S N E S S
N E B L B Q P P G F M H C J K
N S Q E K E R S A V P P R P X
E J E B C O P T N C M L C X Q
R N S C V O N E T N X J J T C
D P D O I E M D E R E F F U S
Y N K U I O R I J E A L O U S
R E I T R D J O N F L C G V K
D R A K F E Z E A G X M K O F
Z P Y Z D A S R R R L S R A W
Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A

Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

REJOICES With The Truth

BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things

Time for Change: Reflections on Lent and Easter

BY DAN DICK

Few times in the Christian year call us to reflect on transformational change like Lent leading toward Easter. Springtime is lush with rebirth, new beginnings, and new growth. Too often, however, we want to race to the Easter Resurrection without fully embracing the Lenten process that leads there. Lent reflects the forty days that Jesus wandered in the wilderness — tempted by Satan — in readiness for a ministry destined to end in tragedy. Few of us can relate to the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. The wilderness — the desert days of Lent — is the true path toward spiritual transformation.

There is a compelling metaphor that helps us embrace the wilderness and prevents us from racing to Easter. It is the metaphor of the seed. Jesus began his teaching ministry with the parable of the sower (Matthew 13) and referred to seeds and trees, fruit and branches, throughout his ministry. To see the metaphor of Christian growth and spiritual development contained in a seed is to learn valuable lessons about change and transformation. Receive these six lessons from the seed as six weekly devotionals for this Lenten season. Incorporate them into your daily meditations so that they might grow to full bloom in your heart.

Lesson One: Seeds Need a Rich Environment

A seed that lacks appropriate soil may sprout, but will quickly wither and die. Even in the best soil, without water and nutrients, growth will be limited. Without sun and cultivation, plants will decay and spoil. Seeds require a rich, healthy environment in which to grow. This applies to the environment in which we grow as Christian disciples. There must be an ongoing flow of comfort and security, challenge and inspiration, learning and service. Without such an environment, discipleship growth is stunted, stagnant, or worse, dead. We create an environment for our spiritual formation through prayer, study, worship, fellowship, and service.

Lesson Two: Seeds Can't Be Rushed

When seeds do not sprout, take root, and grow, try yelling at them. Of course, that is a preposterous idea. No one would ever think that they could somehow rush the normal growing process. Seeds require the amount of time that they require. In God's plan, the time things take is the right time. People, however, get impatient. Our culture puts pressure on us to rush through everything. We live in an age of instant gratification. Seeds teach us that we need to learn to wait, to develop patience. Christian formation is a process of seedlike growth. Patience is the key ingredient to transformational growth.

Lesson Three: All Seeds Grow at Different Rates

Plant a package of seeds, and immediately you see diversity in the rate of growth. Some sprout almost immediately and begin a steady rate of growth. Late sprouters often become early bloomers. And some normal beginners end up stunted and sickly. Growth is rarely even, and it is often chaotic. Nothing we do will change this diversity. Where seeds are concerned, we are comfortable with different rates of development. This is not always true with our attitudes about Christian believers. We often adopt a "cookie-cutter" approach to disciple making that makes some seem advanced, while others lag behind. The seed teaches us that to mature in different ways at different times is the only true normal.

Lesson Four: Change Happens in Stages

Examine any plant as it grows from seed to maturity, and you will find that it is hard to believe you are looking at the same plant. While the growth follows a smooth process, it proceeds through distinct stages. These stages are marked by unique characteristics and are a measure for the relative health and well-being of the plant at any given time. Our spiritual development progresses through stages as well. Belief and inquiry deepen to devotion and discipleship. Learning and following evolve into teaching and leading. Growth within the community of faith matures to a life of service in the world. We move through ages and stages of faith development as we grow from seed to sapling to fruit-bearing tree.

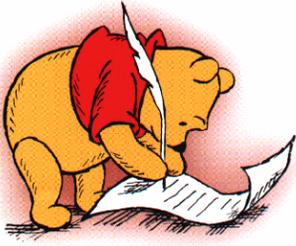
Lesson Five: Seeds Contain the Past and the Future

Each seed is the product of previous generations and contains within it all the genetic code for the future. Seeds are filled with the information that yields transformation. Each generation builds upon the last and lays the foundation for the next generation. The Word of God is the information we contain — passed down throughout the ages and preserved in us for the future — that holds the power to transform us. When we give ourselves time to grow, we unleash the God-given power to become mature Christian disciples.

Lesson Six: Seeds Have a Purpose Larger Than Themselves

Growth is not the purpose of a seed, but a means to an end. Unless seeds give rise to new seeds, they fail to fulfill their purpose. Transformation never happens for its own sake. Change happens to lead us to a new place. Growth occurs that we might not only know more, but that we might do more. Seeds are judged, ultimately, on the fruit that they bear. Christians may never content themselves with growing in their knowledge and love of God. Growth that fails to lead to a change in behavior is cancerous, not healthy. We grow for a reason, and that reason is something much larger than any individual's needs. The lessons of the seed help us see Lent, not as a time of sacrifice and denial, but as a time of preparation and anticipation — preparation for the work to which God calls us and anticipation of the fullness of life that God promises.

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		

Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of January 25:	8546.10
Total Needed by January 31:	1096.48

FEBRUARY POP

Submitted by Fred Dant

God of abundant life, we give You thanks for the Loaf and Cup and friendship and hope. With these gifts of Your Grace we are nourished. With these signs of Your presence we are able to be faithful. Continue to nourish u, inspire us, and call us, that we might help make Your reign more of a reality in our day.

Through Christ we pray. AMEN

1. O' GOD,

2. ATTRIBUTION (ascription)

You have created the church and entrusted to us the task of carrying out it's work in this place.

3. PETITION

By the power of Your Holy Spirit open our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to Your love throughout our deliberations

4. PURPOSE

that we may act wisely for the good of our church and community.

5. CLOSING

through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN



The Grapevine February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Percy Hattorf Noon Prayer	4 Noon Prayer	5 Al Johnston Noon Prayer	6 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
7 George Lee Clark Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer
14 Transfiguration Sunday Noon Prayer	15 Anne Tompkins Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Danny Mauney Bible Study 1pm Ash Wednesday Noon Prayer	18 John Robertson Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer
21 Noon Prayer	22 Soup Ministry UMM 7pm Noon Prayer	23 Virginia Clark Noon Prayer	24 Hannah Clark Bible Study 1pm Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27 Diane Faulkner Noon Prayer
28 Noon Prayer						

The deadline for the **March 2021** Grapevine will be Monday, February 22

Send items to: pwalian2@gmail.com

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.)