



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia April 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

2020...LENT...we will have this year ingrained in our memories for a long time. The COVID-19 impact on the school year and our newly enforced "social distancing" and "stay at home" are not the most pleasant impressions to acquire for any season in the Christian calendar. However, we can emerge from this year's LENT having prayed more, read more and gotten deeper in the word of God than we might otherwise have done. It's remarkable to me how more peaceful it can be to spend time in the WORD. I find I spend less time listening to the news, etc., and more time in meditation and reflection and pouring myself into my bible as there seems to be more time to do so. I pray that you, like me, have spent this time at home reading daily devotionals. 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.

Our God is one of Faith not Fear, Light not Darkness and Life and Joy not Doubt and Despair.

I am so glad to have seen how strongly all of you as a congregation have reacted to this situation. I know there are people calling and caring for members of our congregation more closely than they might have otherwise done in NORMAL circumstances. Cards, letters, and calls are so important in maintaining our connection as a family and children of God. Offers to make pick-ups of food or other supplies for people who are "stay at home" have been made by members of our church. Call, text or email Warren or me and we will get anyone with that need connected with people who have offered this service.

The impact of the COVID-19 virus is not over yet. Out of an abundance of caution in-person worship services are canceled from Sunday, March 29, through Sunday, April 26, 2020. This includes Holy week services. Recorded video worship services will be available on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. on our Clarksbury UMC Facebook page as well as the audio recordings on our Clarksburyumc.com Webpage. You can find Virginia Conference information and precautions against COVID-19 online as well as all updates from Bishop Lewis concerning COVID-19 and directives for local churches at:
<https://vaumc.org/Coronavirus2020>.

Regrettably our yearly Easter Egg sales have been cancelled.

The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry will be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, April 4**, from 9-11 a.m. **Clarksbury has lead for April.** The way we carry out the Mobile Food Pantry has been modified while we are under the COVID-19 restrictions. More guidance on that will be sent via email to all concerned. Continue to pray for these efforts to feed our community as many more are being impacted by the economic challenges and closures we face.

We will finish our six-week Lenten bible study, *Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name* by Max Lucado, on Wednesday, April 1, from 3 to 4 p.m. **We are meeting with 10 or fewer people in accordance with the COVID-19 guidance.** The final session is entitled "Victorious Sacrifice".

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

I am always amazed at how gloriously and powerfully these few sentences capture such an awesome event. The sun dawning, the ground rumbling, an Angel of the Lord descending in glory, the stone rolled back, the guards shaking in fear and collapsing ...and the Angel of the Lord conversing with the women. He then tells them that Jesus is not in the tomb where he was laid on the previous Friday... *for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.* The next words from the Angel of the Lord are no less impactful on these women.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

I can only imagine how these women responded and left hurriedly to comply with the Angel's directions. What must have been in their thoughts? Imagine the state of shock they must have been in as they had expected to come to the tomb to see the body of Jesus just as he had been left...cold and dead in that tomb. Then to be told that he has been raised and that they will see him again! Imagine their reactions as they talked to each other leaving the tomb...and then...as if that wasn't enough.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

One surprise after another...these women take hold of his feet, **feel he is real flesh** and worship him. Then he directs them to not be afraid and to go and tell the disciples to go to Galilee to see Jesus themselves. How impossible are these visions and words to any human...let alone to two grieving women who came to a tomb at sunset expecting to find a dead body. How hopeful they are to all the believers from that day until today as we all celebrate his resurrection and await his triumphant return.

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

This is the promise of every Easter SONrise. **He is Alive!!! And I'm Forgiven!**

The season of LENT is over. Let us continue to **read, pray, meditate and absorb Jesus' ministry**...His teachings, His interactions with those He encountered, the breadth of His three-year ministry, and 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. 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. Christ overcame the grave and calls us to Life and Kingdom works.

With that thought in mind, 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. Now more than ever as we are isolated, it is important to talk to Jerry Dant about contacting our shut-ins with cards or letters or phone calls. Volunteer to help the at-risk members of our church and our community. See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.

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 the Christ!

The Grave could not hold him and death has no claim on Him! He is risen and He will come again!

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 March 15, 2020: **18,168.00**

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

COFFEE HOUR



Thank you to all who provide cookies
for church services.

For the month of April we need to enjoy the sweets and fruits of
the Lord at home.

*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

IT IS WELL-CORONAVIRUS FEARS

Warren Wright



The Coronavirus has taken hold in the USA. We've watched as China, S. Korea, Italy, Iran, and Europe succumbed to the dreaded disease. The U.S. stock market has fallen 8,000 points. The USA now has 2,695 confirmed cases. Universities and schools have closed. Business in many consumer areas is drying up as people stay home and hold off spending. In every country, fear of contagion is growing. There are now 137,445 cases worldwide. In S. Korea, people formed a massive line more than a mile long just to get face masks. The boring old stories we heard of the Black Plague killing millions in Europe (14th Century) comes back to haunt us. Is there hope for Christians in this panic atmosphere? Do we have a Refuge, a Protector, a Helper? Yes! THE BIBLE PROMISES VICTORY! First-century Christians often fought diligently for physical and spiritual survival. Such hardships caused them to wonder if their newfound faith would be defeated. In Romans 8:31-35 & 37-39, Paul assured them that though they might face trials, God would bring them through victoriously. By careful examination of this passage, we too can gain the assurance of knowing that victory is ours even in the most stressful situations.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 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.

IT IS WELL BECAUSE WE HAVE ULTIMATE POWER

There were crucial moments in Paul's life where His belief in God was severely tested. Like at Lystra (Acts 14:19), where Paul was stoned by the townspeople and left for dead. Paul had just been preaching the Gospel and healed a cripple; how could God let this happen? Was the devil stronger than God? We feel defeated when we are wronged even when we're doing the right thing. Paul assured the Roman Christians that no enemy has greater power than Almighty Power! "If God is for us, who can be against us?" The logical answer is "NO ONE!"; no one can defeat US because God is the ultimate power.

An old country preacher was challenged by a highly educated agnostic. The skeptic asked, "Why do you Christians constantly claim victory in the battle for eternity?" The old preacher replied: "Well, Son, it says in the beginning of my Bible that God was in charge when time started up. Then I flip over to the end of my Bible and read that God will be in charge when time runs down..." "So I figure that if God's in charge at the beginning and the ending, there's nobody else, in between, big enough to "whoop Him!"

Coronavirus has caused many to question if God is not happy with this generation or to be afraid that God won't help us in this crisis. How wonderful is Paul's revelation and the ageless hymn of Horatio Spafford, "It is Well with My Soul!" Pass it on!

United Methodist Men News
Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will not be meeting in March and April due to the COVID-19 Virus. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 18th (this is the 3rd Monday instead of the 4th Monday due to the Memorial Day Holiday) **The UMM will finalize the planning for the June 12th BBQ. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund.** Also, at this meeting we will be planning our 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.

Worship Committee

David Dobson



Being A Methodist

Being Methodist: A Different Fear

Psalm 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise."

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." It is not this fear that I am speaking about. The fear that makes Methodist is the one of David; the fear of God. The fear of the Lord to you and to me is to please God and not God to please us.

- When we live in infidelity, there is no fear of the Lord;
- When we hate others or practice seclusion of variety or by killing one another, we are not in the fear of the Lord;
- When we live in hypocrisy, we are not in the fear of the Lord.
- When we miss to accomplish our responsibility and duty toward our children, spouses, parents, and neighbors, we are not in the fear of the Lord;
- When the church has not accomplished its mission toward the people of our community, state, country, or world, we are not in fear of the Lord.
- When the church body fails to identify its own sins, it does not live in the fear of the Lord;

When the church or the nations fails to identify and meet the needs of the hungry people and the disinherited, and when the nations have the means to finish poverty and hunger but do not act accordingly, there is not fear of the Lord. We can illustrate with Franklin Delano Roosevelt as he says that: "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished ... The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

The Lord requires us to say "no" to sin. The Methodist Church has to engage day and night in the prospective of the fear of the Lord. The day we will meet the Lord we will be given the crown of victory. As a church, let us stand all of us and proclaim: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Excerpts from Sermon by Bishop Ntambo Nkulu Ntanda, North Katanga Area

Know that the phrase "fear not" is used at least 80 times in the Bible, most likely because He knows the enemy uses fear to decrease our hope and limit our victories.

Isaiah 43:1 "Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine." God actually commands us not to fear, or worry.

Be safe my friends, let your heart not be afraid. Until we meet again.

*Food Pantry
Fran Miller*

Winter Food Pantry A Success!



**Feeding the
Community**

We would like to thank all the people who made the Winter Food Pantry such a huge success – those that helped shop and pick up food, pack our grocery bags, and give up their day to help distribute the food. On our distribution day, we were able to help 35 families comprising 89 people. We distributed 59 bags of groceries and 35 bags of toiletries. Thanks to the Soup Ministry, we were also able to distribute 35 quarts of soup and items from our warming tree. We think the families felt the caring and welcoming attitudes of our volunteers that day. We, as a group, felt that we were doing what God meant us to do – reach out and help our neighbor. We truly felt the Spirit! Now don't think your job is done. We will be seeking volunteers to help with our Summer Food Pantry. So keep your eyes open for articles appearing in upcoming newsletters. Again, thank you for all you have done.
The Food Pantry Committee

**Whether our fear is absolutely realistic or out of
proportion in our minds, our greatest refuge is
Jesus Christ.**

*NURTURE & Outreach
Jerry Dant*

The Committee would like to thank all who have sent cards and called our home bound members during this time with the virus. As we all know the time drags by when you can't go out and have visitors. Let's remember those who come to church regularly and can't get out because of the virus. It is always nice to remember others at a time like this as others will remember us as well.

Let's not forget our community Outreach and if you know someone who might need a helping hand at this time, please let someone on the Committee know and we will definitely REACH OUT to HELP OUT.

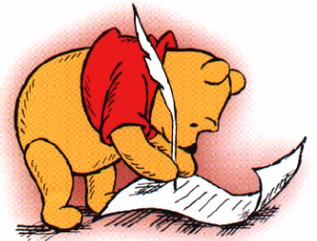
We ALL need to HELP OUT at this TIME.

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.

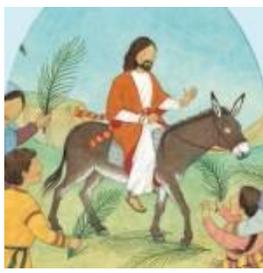
If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.



A-C		
Roegean Speight 09/10 James River Convalescent ctr Aberthaw AVE Room 118 Newport News, VA 23061-4199	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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April Pop!

Easter People, Read the familiar story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, Mar 11:1-11

The donkey awakened the next morning, his mind still savoring the afterglow of the most exciting day of his life.

Never before had he felt such a rush of pleasure and pride. He walked into town and found a group of people by the well. "I'll show myself to them," he thought. But they didn't notice him. They went on drawing their water and paid him no mind.

"Throw your garments down," he said crossly. "Don't you know who I am?" They just looked at him in amazement. Someone slapped him across the tail and ordered him to move.

"Miserable heathens!" he muttered to him-self. "I'll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me.

" But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to the donkey as he strutted down the main street in front of the market- place.

"The palm branches! Where are the palm branches" he shouted.

"Yesterday, you threw palm branches!"

Hurt and confused the donkey returned home to his mother.

"Foolish child," she said gently. *"Don't you realize that without Him, you are just an ordinary donkey?"*

Ah! the pure simplicity of it all.

Holy Father God,

We, your *ordinary* children, offer a simple prayer of praise and thanksgiving for Your *extraordinary* Son Jesus. Our Savior's blood shed on the cross of Calvary gives us the celebration of Easter!

"Because the tomb is forever *empty*, our hearts are eternally *full*! Amen

And remember:

It's not about the *Bunny*, it's about the *Lamb*.



The Grapevine

April 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	3 Noon Prayer	4 Alan Miller Elizabeth Sibley Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
5 Palm Sunday Matthew 21: 1-11 Noon Prayer	6 Paulette Topping Soup Ministry 11 a.m Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Maundy Thursday 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Noon Prayer	10 Good Friday Psalm 22: 1-31 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer
12 Easter He is Risen! John 20: 1-18 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer	15 Emily Farmer Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer	18 Richard Sisson Noon Prayer
19 Richard Purcell Noon Prayer	20 Soup Ministry 11 a.m Noon Prayer	21 Jerry Crittenden Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer
26 Betty Johnson Noon Prayer	27 Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer	29 Noon Prayer	30 Noon Prayer		

The deadline for the May 2020 Grapevine will be Saturday, April 25 Send items to:

pwalian2@gmail.com

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

