



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia May 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

2020...Easter has come and gone...there are so many aspects to this year that are "first ever" for all of us. I missed the Easter eggs and the jelly beans...that was probably to the good. I also missed a SONRISE service at Stingray Point and the photo opportunities around the living cross in the sanctuary with families gathered around at the beginning and end of the Sunday Easter Service...and no cantata. We are adjusting to the social distancing and stay at home orders. We can emerge from this year's Easter season, just as we have from Lent, having prayed more, read more and gotten deeper into the word of God than we might otherwise have done.

We have reached out over the last six weeks with new (and each time improving just a bit) Facebook services. Our thanks go to Becky, Janis, Vaughan, Sydney and Sierra. They have contributed so much to each service. I pray that you have taken some comfort and joy from these online services, and I look forward eagerly to the time when we can be back in the pews worshipping together. Until that time we will continue to hold each other close through the common connection we have amid our bonds of worship, service, and prayer. Our "Prayer Warriors" have expanded to include our "Prayer Partners".

The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry will be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, May 2**. 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. Warren and Kathy Wright will supply additional directions to the participants. For the rest of you...we always need prayers; so even if you can't be here to work the Food Pantry, pray for us and the people we serve.

May is very full...no surprise there, I'm sure.

- National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 7
- Mother's Day – Sunday, May 10
- Ascension Sunday – May 24
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 25
- Pentecost – Sunday, May 31

We know the pending process of returning to some normalcy will have great impact on how and where we worship this month. Our Bishop, Sharma Lewis, keeps us updated on the process and shares with us all of the information she has. Check out her latest guidance and message at <https://vaumc.org/stay-the-course-message-from-bishop-lewis/> and more info at <http://www.vaumc.org/Coronavirus2020>. We will continue to worship online until we are authorized to resume in-person services.

In keeping with the Easter Season...John relates to us that Jesus says:

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

In staying the course in spite of the worldly challenges, as we love Jesus, we follow His commandments and we listen to the Advocate (the Holy Spirit), who will be with us forever, this "Spirit of Truth" who the world cannot see nor know. We know Him because he abides with us and will be in us.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Jesus promises that he will not leave us and that He will come to us. Because He lives, we will live; and when he comes to us we will know how connected we are with Him and our Creator God. Those who keep the commandments are those who love Jesus; they will be loved by the Father, and Jesus will reveal himself to them and love them. The "them" is you and me. We are the ones Jesus is speaking of.

I urge 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. 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.

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! 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 as 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 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



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| Annual Budget for 2020 Operating Funds: | \$118,339.00 |
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|---|------------------|
| Total Received for Operating Funds as of April 30, 2020: | 37,583.73 |
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| | |
|--|------------------|
| Total Income Needed to Meet Budget by end of May: | 49,307.92 |
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COFFEE HOUR



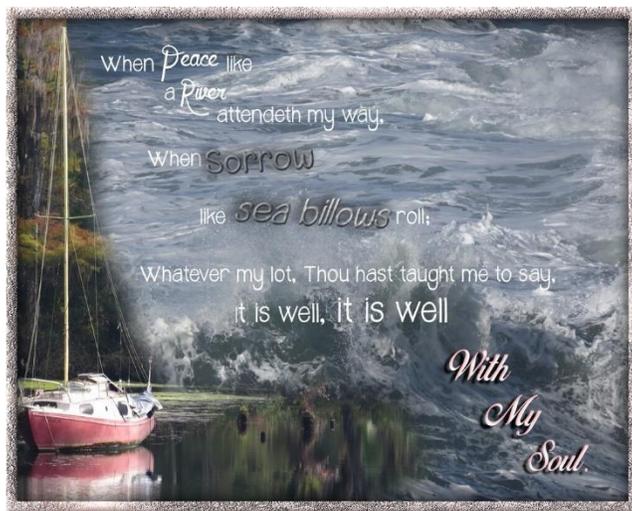
Thank you to all who provide cookies
for church services.

For the month of May 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*

I have used this article before in my monthly message to you, but it is so relevant and appropriate for the times that we are in now with COVID 19. Recently one of my best friends sent me an email on "Tips for an Exceptional, Superb, and Powerful Life", this month I want to share with you a few of these tips.



- Take a 10-30 minute walk every day and while you walk smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
- Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day, buy a lock if you have to.
- When you wake up each morning, complete the following sentence, "My purpose today is to_____."
- Live with the three E's, Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy.
- Always pray and make time to exercise.
- Spend more time with people over the age of 80 and under the age of six.
- Try to make at least three people smile each day.
- Smile and laugh more, it keeps the energy vampires away.
- Life isn't fair but it's still good.
- Don't take yourself so seriously, no one else does.
- Forgive everyone for everything.
- The best is yet to come (in Heaven).
- Call your family often.
- Do the right thing.
- Envy is a waste of time; you already have all you need, God provides, remember?
- Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.
- Enjoy the ride and remember life is not Disney World and you don't have a fast pass. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy the ride.

Thought for the month---"TGIF ", "Today God is First".

United Methodist Men News
Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will not meet in May due to the COVID-19 Virus . Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 22nd. **The UMM BBQ dinner scheduled for June 12th has been canceled.** 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



No doubt, these are trying times but rest assured HE is Always in control. After being cooped up, people tend to struggle with civility. We all long for our inalienable rights- Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. We will have trying times, but I hope this poem helps keep things in perspective for you.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway!

~Mother Teresa~

Be safe, be happy, Believe in the Power of Christ.

Scholarship Fran Miller



If you are a high school senior or college student, applications are being accepted for our scholarship. You can get a copy of the application on the church's website under 'Resources'. Your latest transcript must be included. The deadline is June 10. Please mail your applications to the church, attention "Scholarship Committee".

When trials come your way – as inevitably they will – do not run away. Run to your God and Father.

The Children's Sunday School teachers, Mary, Betty and Diane, got together (with masks and gloves adorned) the end of April and made "goodie buckets" for the children. They contained a couple of Sunday School lessons with coloring and word searches, some yummy treats to eat, something to grow, and a couple of things to play with. Jerry delivered the buckets to the homes of the children.



NURTURE & Outreach

Jerry Dant

NURTURE

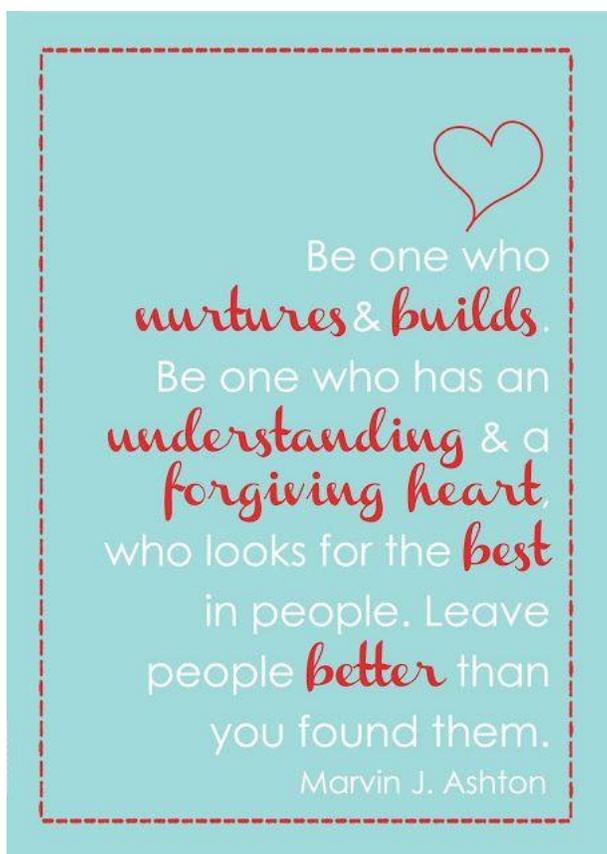
It has really been nice to receive calls and cards from members during the month of April while we are not seeing each other on Sundays. The home bound members are enjoying each call and card during the time of being shut in without visitors. Let's not forget "Mother's Day" cards for them and ladies of the church.

OUTREACH

Clarksbury is always REACHING OUT to help those in need and it has not stopped during the month of April. We have two local residents serving our country in the military. Mary Katherine Crittenden, is on the USN Comfort and a "treat box" was sent to her and friends to enjoy while serving our country. Thanks to Cheryl Teagle for shopping and preparing the box for mailing.

Also, we have Gray Dickerson serving on the USS Roosevelt now docked in Guam. We should all be proud that our small town has two residents serving our country in this time of need. We possibly could have others serving as well. Let's remember to Pray for our community and those serving in the military.

Linda Bartz, a member of the committee, has made and donated masks to some of the local medical facilities and mailed some to a friend's daughter in California, who works in the medical field. Thanks, Linda for REACHING OUT.

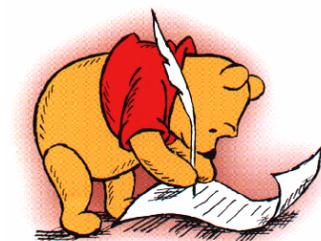


Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

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

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|--|--|--|
| Floyd Andrew Forrest 3980-3 Buckeye Lane Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 United States | | |
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MAY POP!

How to Pray When Your Life Is on Hold by Bob Hostetler

There may be no better example than that of Joseph, the dreamer, whose story is told in the Bible's Book of Genesis.

There are times, such as these days of coronavirus and social distancing, when life slows down or comes to a halt, when [your routines and plans are paused](#), and you feel something like an airplane in a holding pattern or a ship in dry dock.

Such times can be frustrating and disorienting. It can be hard to know how to maintain your prayer life—or, in some cases, restart it—[when your life is on hold](#).

It may be that there is no better example to learn from at such times than that of Joseph, the dreamer, whose story is told in the last chapters of the Bible's Book of Genesis.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers and ended up in Egypt as a servant. Framed for an offense he didn't commit, he languished in prison for more than two years. But the Bible's account of his prison experience can suggest the following ways to pray when it feels as if life has come to a halt.

Give thanks for the kindness and grace of God.

The account of Joseph's prison years says, "But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden" (Genesis 39:20-21, NIV).

Presumably that perspective comes through Joseph himself, which suggests that at some point he recognized that, even though his life was on hold, God continued to show him kindness and grace.

So, one good way to pray in such times is to [focus on the kindness of God](#) in our travail, in our own "waiting rooms," so to speak. In fact, the changed pace and plans we experience can actually shine a light on things we've long neglected or taken for granted. So, give thanks for any blessings you see, even—especially—in difficult times.

Find new ways to be faithful in prayer.

While Joseph's position and responsibilities changed when he went to prison, he remained faithful, and his new "boss" must have recognized that, because Joseph was put in charge of the prison (see Genesis 39:22-23).

That turned out to be a key bend in the road of Joseph's journey. Like Joseph, we will do well if we find new ways to be faithful, even when life is on hold. It may be that a slower pace, [a stretch of solitude](#) and other factors help us to pray at such times.

Reach out to others.

When Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker were imprisoned with Joseph, each had a disturbing dream. Joseph noticed a change in their demeanor: "So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, 'Why do you look so sad today?'" (Genesis 40:7, NIV).

He didn't have to ask that. He could have shrugged off their sadness. But he didn't; he reached out to those around him, expressing genuine interest.

We do something similar when [we look beyond our own circumstances and pray for others](#)—not just those nearby but also those who can be reached only by our prayers.

Give glory to God.

After Joseph reached out to the chief cupbearer and chief baker, they related to him the disturbing dreams they'd had. Joseph [interpreted their dreams](#), and over time, his interpretation proved true.

But the cupbearer (who had returned to the service of Pharaoh) forgot Joseph—for two years!—until Pharaoh had a series of dreams that called for interpretation. The cupbearer mentioned Joseph to Pharaoh, and Joseph was called in to interpret the dreams.

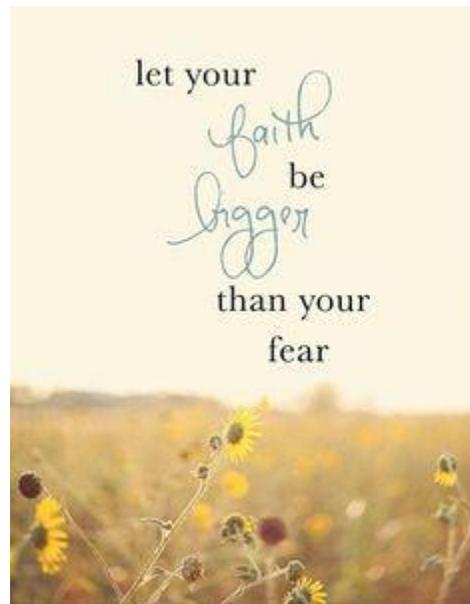
"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires" (Genesis 41:16, NIV). He made sure to give glory to God rather than claiming it for himself.

Similarly, [when we're in a holding pattern](#), we are wise to continue to give glory to God—to praise Him in every way we can, for everything we can, at every bend in the road.

Through it all, keep dreaming.

You probably know the rest of Joseph's story—how he was exalted to the highest position, entrusted with great responsibility and managed to give life and hope to many—including, of course, his own family (see Genesis 42-47).

He lived to see his (and other's) dreams fulfilled, some of them in beautiful ways. Let that suggest to us the need to keep dreaming in prayer. Look forward to what God can do in the future, in you, for you and through you. Prayerfully [make plans and nurture hopes](#). And pray for the good things to come out of your time "on hold





The Grapevine

May 2020



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 Noon Prayer | 2 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Soup Ministry Noon Prayer |
| 3 Melanie Glenn Noon Prayer | 4 Noon Prayer | 5 Noon Prayer | 6 Noon Prayer | 7 Logan Smith National Day of Prayer Noon Prayer | 8 Paul Bisogno Noon Prayer | 9 Noon Prayer |
| 10 Mother's Day Noon Prayer | 11 Noon Prayer | 12 Noon Prayer | 13 Noon Prayer | 14 Jamie Mears Noon Prayer | 15 Noon Prayer | 16 Charles Decker Noon Prayer |
| 17 Christopher Glenn Noon Prayer | 18 Soup Ministry 11 a.m Noon Prayer | 19 Noon Prayer | 20 Morgan Smith Kim South Noon Prayer | 21 Eileen Crittenden Noon Prayer | 22 Betty Chenowith Noon Prayer | 23 Noon Prayer |
| 24 Jim Salmon Ascension Day Noon Prayer | 25 Memorial Day Noon Prayer | 26 Noon Prayer | 27 Noon Prayer | 28 Noon Prayer | 29 Noon Prayer | 30 Noon Prayer |
| 31 Pentecost Noon Prayer | | | | | | |

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

pwalian2@gmail.com

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