



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia July 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

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Romans 7:14-25a (NRSV)

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I

hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

2020...the Pandemic continues...June is gone... and I pray for each of you a safe and enjoyable 4th of July. It will be pretty tame compared to the past. I pray we all find ways to celebrate and stay in conversation and connection with each other even if we cannot gather and socialize in large groups. Even now months later it seems we are still in a year of "first ever".

We are continuing with social distancing and masks in stores etc. More and more restaurants are resuming some measure of "normal" service; eat-in and outside dining and take-out places have multiplied. Hallelujah!!! There has been some uptick in the overall Covid numbers in many locations, but we in Middlesex seem to be doing well.

We can emerge from this year's changing social dynamics and pandemic precautions as stronger and more resilient servants of our Lord. I believe, for the most part, we are adapting very well and learning to cope with the limited personal social interaction.

I still miss hugging more than I ever thought I would.

Thank you, Becky, Janis and others who continue to make our on-line worship services very special...not like the real "in-person" services but as close as we can come at this stage.

Our **Healthy Church Team (HCT)** (Pastor Ken Cleveland; Warren Wright, Lay Leader; Suzanne Ramsburg, Financial Secretary; David Dobson, Worship Committee Chair; Eileen Crittenden, Medical; Cheryl Teagle, Nominations and Leadership; Jerry Dant, Nurture Chair; Lee White, Trustees; Becky Wilhite, Trustees, worship; Betty Tate, SPPRC Chair) has met twice to look at the COVID protocols for resuming "in-person" services. Based on inputs from other churches and the composition of our congregation and the restrictions in the protocols which are **MANDATORY** for each Phase/Stage per Bishop Lewis's direction, Clarksbury's HCT determined we will continue **on-line services** until we are moved into Phase/Stage 3, which is the closest to "normal" worship. If you have questions or would like any more information on our move to resume "in-person" services contact me or any of the other HCT members.

Thank you, Linda Bartz, for starting our small group Saturday gatherings. Anyone interested in more information about these, contact Linda or Warren. I think we have two groups now, and I've enjoyed the one we hosted at the parsonage. **It is so good to see each other and be with "friends" and brothers and sisters again.**

We have reached out over the last few months with new (and each time improving just a bit) **Facebook** services and now we are adding our services on **YouTube**, so if you have cable or satellite TV you should be able to **search** for "Clarksbury UMC" worship services. Our thanks go to Becky (the PowerPoint wizard), Janis, Vaughan, Sydney and Sierra for all their talents, gifts, assistance and technical expertise. They have contributed so much to each service.

I pray that we continue to get 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 "in-person". 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**". I praise each and every one of you for being faithful in maintaining these connections to our brothers and sisters. I have heard of new friendships that have blossomed just because some prayer partners have gotten to know others of our congregation who they had not had much "one on one" contact with in the past. **God works wonders where we see challenges.**

The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry will be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, July 4.** 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.

July is vacation time for lots of us....**Independence Day** is Saturday, July 4. Enjoy and be safe. **Terry and I head to South Dakota** from the 2nd of July through the 11th. I have my cell with me and Warren is always available. He and Betty Tate will have the pastoral coverage personnel when and if there is a need while I am out of area. **Do not hesitate to call me if you can't get either of them.**

We know the pending process of returning to some normalcy will have great impact on how and where we worship in the coming months. 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 for more information see <https://vaumc.org/from-bishop-lewis-moving-to-stage-2-for-in-person-worship-services/>.

We will continue to worship online until we are authorized to resume in-person services.

Everyone needs to check out these links and familiarize themselves with the process that will be key to resuming in-person church.

<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/BacktoIn-PersonWorshipPlan.pdf>

<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/PlanSummary-ResumingIn-PersonWorship.pdf>

<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/HandbookforLocalChurches.pdf>

<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/HealthAcknowledgementform.pdf>

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

Paul, the writer of Romans, makes a personal declaration which is true for all of humanity. We are all, each one of us, unable to do the good that God requires of us because of our human nature...no matter how hard we try. Instead of doing the good we know we should do we do the very thing we hate. The Law is not at fault; it comes from God and is good. It is the Sin that dwells within us that makes us do the evil we know we should not do.

²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

We can all see ourselves in Paul's anguished cry.... *²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?* Where is our HOPE?

We also, thankfully, can see ourselves in verse 25. *²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Like Paul, we know our human condition, and recognize our absolute need for God through Jesus Christ so that we can be in His Grace and are made righteous/justified by our faith in Jesus. The Trinity: the Father; the Son; and the Holy Spirit rescue us from this body of Death/Sin.

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.

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 take great joy in how each of you, as a congregation, has reacted to this ever changing situation. The very uncertainty of when anything will happen based on the data acquired by the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC is the moving target of COVID status and response.

Please continue and, if possible, redouble your efforts to keep in contact with people by calling and caring for members of our congregation more closely than you might have otherwise done in NORMAL circumstances. Continue with those cards, letters, and calls which are so important in maintaining our connection as a family and as children of God. Thank you for your offers to make pick-ups of food or other supplies for people who are "stay at home". Call, text or email Warren or me and we will get anyone with that need connected with people who have offered this service.

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 May 24, 2020:	47,852.64
Total Income Needed to Meet Budget by end of June:	59,170.00

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who provide cookies for the church services. For the month of July 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, contact
Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569



A Message from Your Lay Leader

A look at July 4th Heritage in America

Warren Wright



The 4th of July is a special day in our country but not just for the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Many special things have happened on this day. Three American presidents died on the Fourth of July, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. And if you want to get down to it, Monroe was ready to die several days before but doctors kept him alive with drugs just long enough so that he could die on the fourth of July. Why did they do that? Because the fourth of July meant something. Calvin Coolidge was born on that day in 1872. West Point opened, July 4th, 1802. Stephen Foster was born on July 4th.

The song "America" was sung for the first time on July 4th, 1832 in Boston. Alaska and Hawaii both became states on the fourth of July. Slavery was abolished in the state of New York on July the fourth 1845. And in that great document delivered on July the 4th, 1776, we read of a belief that all people have rights given by the creator of Mankind. The document only has 1321 words, it takes just eight minutes to read, and **God** is mentioned four times, twice at the beginning and twice at the end. And the purpose of the declaration was to separate us officially from the repression and authority of England. And the very act of signing the declaration said to the world that I am a traitor to my native country of England. I am a criminal, a fugitive from London's Justice.

Who were the men who were willing to sign? Of the 56 men who signed it two were twenty years of age, sixteen were in their thirties, twenty in their forties, eleven in their fifties, six in their sixties, and one, Benjamin Franklin, over 70.

All but two were married. Each had an average of 6 children. 24 were lawyers, 9 were merchants, 14 were farmers, 4 were doctors, and one was a preacher.

We're not talking about low life, drifters, and rebels, we're talking about educated, civilized men who were willing to sacrifice everything for a cause that they believed in. And history shows us that they paid the price for that bravery.

John Adams said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity". Adams went on to say that in observing the 4th of July, "It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to **God Almighty**."

And the trouble with America today, is that we stopped listening to our fathers, listening to what they told us **God** did in their lives long ago.

Psalm 44:1, says "We have heard with our ears Oh God, Our fathers have told us what you did in their day long ago."

The UMM will not meet in July due to the COVID-19 Virus . Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday August 24th. at 7 PM.

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.

Soup Ministry

Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Val Bradley, and Diane Faulkner



On Saturday, June 20, 2020, Clarksbury had its summer food pantry distribution. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the distribution was done by drive-through. The thirty-seven families each received a bag of groceries, or two depending on the size of their family, a toiletry bag, and a quart of homemade soup.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, there were some changes made with the delivery of soup to our recipients. When we first started our soup ministry eight years ago, we did not have the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry coming to Clarksbury. They now come the first Saturday of each month. We deliver these groceries to our soup folks each month. In talking with the manager of Fishing Bay Estates, where all but three reside, it was decided to not deliver soup during the months of June, July, and August. They will still get their first of the month groceries. She suggested this for the health and safety of not only her residents coming into contact with us, but for our health and safety, also. Come September, we will still deliver the groceries on the first of the month and SOUP on the THIRD MONDAY of each month. If you know of someone who might benefit from this ministry, **please** contact me, Kathy Wright, kdwright@va.metrocast.net, or by cell, 757-373-9166 or one of the committee members listed above. God Bless.



Worship Committee

David Dobson

What troubling times are these! This could be speaking of our current plights in 2020; 1347-1352 (the Great Mortality [Plague] with 25 million deaths); 1066 with the Norman conquest of England; or hundreds of other events that have occurred and no doubt will continue to occur in the history of the world. One item I find troubling is the inability of people to meet in church. This is the glue that binds many Christians together as a Church body. Although Clarksbury has made every effort to get a service available, many of you (myself included) are longing for the return to "normal." In the meantime, we must remember to worship our Lord as best we can in these troubling times—lest we fall into a trap.

Worship—or the failure to do it properly—affects every aspect of our lives. Romans 1:20-25 points out four steps that lead to spiritual deterioration: failing to glorify God; failing to give thanks, turning to other gods, and degenerate living.

ROMANS 1:20-25

20 Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; **21** for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools; **23** and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Keep the Faith. Worship our God wherever you may be. He is with you! Until we are together again.

God Bless America

America is a tune. It must be sung together.

NURTURE & Outreach
Jerry Dant



Nurture

Thanks to all who have sent cards and spoke with our members while we have been apart for so long. They enjoy calls, cards and goodies dropped off at the door. Let's keep a smile on their face and joy in our hearts knowing we have made someone smile with a card or call. In the month of May 76 cards, H/T and N/L were sent to our members and friends. Linda Bartz ordered, picked up and delivered carnations to Dockside for the ladies on Mother's Day from our church.

The staff passed them out and we all look forward to when we can go back to visit.

OUTREACH

The Sunday School teachers have treated the children with a gift bucket of goodies to enjoy and pass the time away since they are home all the time. The children really look forward to the treat, but want to come back to church to hear the Bible Stories to learn about God.

If you know of someone who needs a helping hand please contact someone on the committee as our church is always ready to help.

If you know of a need in the community please let us know so we can keep REACHING OUT.

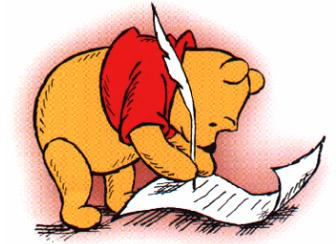


Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

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		
	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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JULY POP

A



favorite hymn in our family urges the listener to “Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.” It’s a beautiful sentiment. But [how are we supposed to do that?](#) It was easy for Peter, right? He actually saw Jesus—with his natural eyes—walking on water. He asked Jesus to call him out onto the waves, and when Jesus did, Peter walked on water—until he was distracted by the storm raging around him. But what about us? How do we “turn our eyes upon Jesus?” I don’t think it’s all that different from Peter’s experience:

1) Ask for help from Jesus.

Peter asked Jesus, “Master, if it’s really You, call me to come to You on the water” (Matthew 14:28, *The Message*). We can do that. Theologian Andrew Murray wrote, “What folly to think that all other blessings must come from Him, but that prayer, whereon everything else depends, must be obtained by personal effort! . . . Just as He will give all other grace to answer prayer, so, above all and before all, He will bestow the grace of a praying heart.” So ask Jesus to help you [turn your gaze to Him](#).

2) Turn away from your circumstances.

As Peter found out, you can’t “turn your eyes upon Jesus” and simultaneously watch the wind and waves. So, turn away from your circumstances. Stop fixating on your problems or [the day’s newscast](#). Give it a rest. Or, rather, give yourself a rest from the things that stir up anxious thoughts.

3) Turn away from yourself.

To use another metaphor, “Consider how [the wild flowers](#) grow” (Luke 12:27, NIV), as Jesus said. How do wildflowers grow? They don’t struggle or stress. They don’t “work” at growing. They don’t “look inward.” They turn toward the sun. They open themselves to the sun’s rays. So, turn to the Son in prayer and open yourself to Him.

4) Close your eyes and focus.

Maybe you’ve been driving in the car, the radio blaring, when you wanted to be careful not to miss a turn or spot an address. What did you do? You turned off the radio! It may seem silly to some, but you knew that [fewer distractions](#) equals more focus—and better vision. So it is with [turning your eyes upon Jesus](#). Close your eyes, and you’ll see Him more clearly. Slow down and you’ll find Him more quickly. Seek him with the eyes of your heart, giving Him time to “enter your vision,” and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.



The Grapevine

July 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	3 Betty Tate Fred Dant Noon Prayer	4 Val Bradley Noon Prayer
5 Alan Collier Noon Prayer	6 T.C. Moore Noon Prayer	7 Eric Miller Noon Prayer	8 Charlie Weis Noon Prayer	9 Vaughan Crittenden Noon Prayer	10 Lewis Musick Warren Wright Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer
12 Reggie Jackson Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Jean Hattof Noah West Billy Jackson Elizabeth West Noon Prayer	15 Noon Prayer	16 Delores Decker Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer	18 Mary Banker Noon Prayer
19 Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Camcy Courten Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer
26 Alex Crittenden Bob Tabler Noon Prayer	27 Noon Prayer	28 Brian Crittenden Noon Prayer	29 Noon Prayer	30 Noon Prayer	31 Beth Bristow Noon Prayer	

The deadline for the August 2020 Grapevine will be Friday, July 24 Send items to: pwalian2@gmail.com

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