



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia August 2020

[www.clarksburyumc.com](http://www.clarksburyumc.com)

Our Mission:

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

## Pastor Ken's Corner

### Pastor Ken's Corner

*Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSV)*

*<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.*

*<sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.*

*<sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

*<sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

**2020...Congratulations to our Graduates!!!...**

**Valedictorian ....Sydney Funk: Awesome achievement — tons of hard diligent work amidst all of her other activities.**

**Salutatorian ....Sierra Funk: Superb accomplishment — strenuous effort and focus and commitment to the highest goals.**

**Alex Crittenden.... No mean accomplishment for him either; as he told me, "I still can't believe I did it."**

**Well done, one and all.**

Saturday, July 25, saw members of our Clarksbury Family walk up and get their High School diplomas, not in the way any of us anticipated when these graduates started their last year of High School, yet they were applauded by friends, family and faculty.

The Clarksbury family acknowledges all OUR graduates including Andrew James Farmer and Abigail Price Purcell. It had to have been a difficult year for all of them, yet they persevered; and we congratulate them all. They all walked to their seats in their caps and gowns and each stepped forward to receive the Diploma they all worked so hard for. Congratulations to all!!!

This year continues to be filled with challenges and I am so very happy with how each and every one of you continues to stay connected to each other through many means: the internet; snail mail; phone calls; texts, drive byes; gatherings on porches and patios. We can be so very inventive in finding new ways to stay connected when we put our minds together.

I am impressed beyond words with how faithful you all have been in supporting the church with prayers and tithes, in spite of our inability to be able to support with our presence.

We will be continuing with social **distancing** and **masks in buildings, etc.** We will also continue our online services, posting them on Facebook and YouTube. More and more restaurants are resuming some measure of "normal" service; eat-in and outside dining and take-out places have multiplied. Hallelujah!!! We pray for a time soon when we can get back to **in-person services**.

We WILL 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.

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. Becky is a real PowerPoint warrior.

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. **We will meet again soon as there have been some changes in the guidance.**

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 still see our best avenue is to 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.

These directions and requirements are spelled out in <http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/TAM.docx> and a new poster developed for Health Acknowledgment provided here <http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/HealthAcknowledgementPoster.pdf>

Thank you, Linda Bartz, for starting our small group Saturday gatherings. Anyone interested in more information about these, please contact Linda or Warren. I think we have two groups now, and I 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 continue to go to Becky (the PowerPoint wizard), Janis, Sydney, and Sierra for all their talents, gifts, assistance and technical expertise. Add to the list those **lovely flowers** by Lucy Blevins. We have added some new readers as well as some other **soloists** (Suzanne and Jackson)... and now even Warren.

If you would like to help in some way, contact Becky.

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 pray that we continue to get some comfort and joy from these online services. Until the time we can be together in person, 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. Keep the conversations flowing.**

*<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.*

Notice how Jesus would preach and then when he was finished he would send His disciples off and would then go off by Himself to pray. Even He needed time to renew Himself and

refocus on God's mission for Him.

It almost seems that He showed little concern for the disciples in this story as they were in a perilous situation. Jesus had not deserted them. Jesus has not forgotten us, either!

Just as in the current pandemic and troubling situations Jesus is aware of these conditions and has not forgotten us. We can always count on Him to be with us...no matter the worldly circumstances.

*<sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.*

*<sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

In the most difficult and dangerous times we can count on Jesus. The disciples were afraid, and rightly so on a small boat in a tempestuous sea, just we are adrift...as it would seem, in troubled times in our nation and communities with fear of COVID and riots and social upheaval.

How does Jesus address their fear and worries?

*"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

Who is the one YOU count on for strength and reassurance in times of turmoil and fear? Jesus is here with us always...to the end of the age!

We are all familiar with how Peter stepped out on faith and how he stepped out of the boat and was actually walking to the Lord in verses 28-30, but then how he became afraid and began to sink and cried out to Jesus to save him.

*"<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

Notice how Jesus responds to Peter. He reaches out and catches him by the hand and then points out Peter's wavering faith. Yet, even with Peter's lack of faith...and I'm sure the other disciples were still afraid of the storm themselves...Jesus stabilizes the weather and removes the danger.

How does this dangerous situation end?

*<sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

As the storm was calmed and the disciples recognized that Jesus had controlled the seas and the winds themselves, they worshipped Him and realized He was the Son of God!

How dangerous and perilous are our times? In the country? In the county? From COVID, from the social unrest? In even times such as these we can count on Jesus to be a calming and PRESENT presence in our lives and in the WORLD around us.

The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry will be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, August 1**. 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** was vacation time for lots of us; **Independence Day** was Saturday, July 4. Terry and I enjoyed THE MASTER and His lightshow in the clouds that evening after the man-made fireworks were complete over Mount Rushmore. Check out the July 12 service after we returned from South Dakota where I cover a little bit about that AWESOME event in that service.

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 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



<b>Annual Budget</b> for 2020 Operating Funds:	<b>\$118,339.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of July 30, 2020:	64,986.46
<b>Total Income Needed to Meet Budget by end of July:</b>	<b>65,286.46</b>

## *Coffee Hour*

Thank you to all who provide cookies for the church services. For the month of August 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*  
*This is worth hearing again*  
*Warren Wright*



**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

This month I thought that I would add a little humor to my article and then get to the serious thoughts, so here goes some of America's craziness, "Only in America".

- 1- Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
- 2- Only in America are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
- 3- Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- 4- Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.
- 5- Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our junk in the garage. Hello.
- 6- Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls and have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
- 7- Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

**Only in America Do:**

We spend more, but have less. We buy more, but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time.

We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years!

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.

We've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.

We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice.

We write more, but learn less.

We plan more, but accomplish less.  
We've learned to rush, but not to wait.  
We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever,  
but we communicate less and less.

Brothers and Sisters, even though there are a lot of negative things about America we still know that America is the greatest country in the world. We are blessed to have been born and raised in America. Someone has said, "We keep asking God to bless America. He already has. Now it's our turn."

It is our turn to bless America. It's our turn to do something good for America. God has and still is blessing America. But we need to do our part to bless America! We can do many good things.

The apostle Paul gives us some specific things we can do to bless America. They are:

- 1- We must pray unceasingly.
- 2- We must live righteously.
- 3- We must evangelize.

**I Tim. 2:1-6**- First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.

*United Methodist Men News*  
*Warren Wright-UMM President*



The UMM will not meet in August due to the COVID-19 Virus . Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26th 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.*

## Worship Committee

David Dobson

*Continuing from last month, discussing the need for worship wherever you may be.*



Our original purpose, being created in God's image, was to worship Him. Some Christians feel that they have completed their worship for the week by attending a Sunday church service. But if your worship never stops, if you are continually worshipping someone or something, who or what is receiving your adoration and reverence Monday through Saturday?

What wakes you up in the morning? What motivates you? What gets your undivided attention even when other things demand that attention? What do you love most? Whatever your answer is may determine what you truly worship.

Personal worship to our Heavenly Father is important, in fact, it is completely indispensable. Personal worship goes beyond a church service. It is a lifestyle committed to giving God the glory in everything. A personal relationship with God is of high importance. Taking the time to pray, study God's Word and just listen to His voice is the most satisfying experience because it is truly and completely fulfilling your need for worship.

Giving our adoration to anything other than God is not only a sin, it is falsely satisfying a basic need. When we give our attention to something other than God or when we love someone greater than our Savior, we are attempting to gratify the need for worship with a flawed, unsatisfying, and undeserving object or person. God is a jealous God and He is the only one who deserves our attention, our worship and our adoration.

We must make time for God. If you don't, someone or something or some temptation will arise and will demand your attention and your worship. It may seem satisfying, potentially fulfilling your need to worship but there is nothing farther from the truth. As humans, we need to worship something, it's how God created us. If you do not day-to-day intentionally seek God first, you will not be able to resist giving in to worshipping something else. Make personal worship with God top priority. Only He can truly satisfy your need for worship. Only God can completely fulfill that desire within your heart.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*



The Sunday School children were again treated with a “goodie bucket” themed for the Fourth of July. The lesson compared the price of freedom for America with the price Jesus paid on the cross for us for the freedom from sin. It also had a word search and coloring page. The buckets contained patriotic sunglasses, a USA wand, lots of snacks and a sketch pad, pencils, and a drawing marker kit, along with some instructions for drawing some fun animals. They were done up in (what else) red, white, and blue.

## The quitter never wins. The winner never quits

*NURTURE & Outreach*  
*Jerry Dant*

### **Nurture**

It has been a very long time since we have been able to visit our homebound members. A card or a call means a lot when you live alone. Let us all try to call someone, who is alone once a week and send cards as well. The pandemic slowed the postal service down and we were late getting the H/T papers, but we have the 3rd quarter and sending them again. Thanks to all.



## OUTREACH

Our church is a very giving church and has helped all who need help all year. The pandemic has not slowed REACHING OUT to the community at this time. The Cryer Center food distribution was held the first Saturday in the month and it was well attended.



Even though we have not been to Dockside since the first of March we are still remembering the residents. The Activity Director expressed a desire to have a workshop with the men doing some type of wood project. Our church provided boats to be sanded, painted and flags for the men to decorate their boat. Fun was enjoyed by all. Magazines have also been dropped off to Dockside as well as devotion pamphlets. We are waiting for the time when we can return to visit safely with the residents.

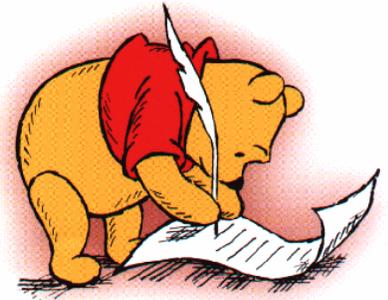
Lift Children of Middlesex has asked that churches send handwritten notes to the staff, faculty and school board letting them know we are Praying for them with the opening of school in the fall. If you want to personalize the note you can go to Middlesex County Public School website and click Teachers and Staff to get staff member and teacher names. If anyone would like to donate supplies to help children in need, please call someone on the committee, it will be greatly appreciated. Let us help LIFT THE CHILDREN OF MIDDLESEX.

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.



<b>A-C</b>		
Roegean Speight <b>09/10</b> James River Convalescent ctr Aberthaw AVE Room 118 Newport News, VA 23061-4199	Ivey Huff <b>10/12</b> 233 Mae Lane Wake, VA 23176	Jane Crittenden <b>8/22</b> P.O. 30 Hardyville, VA 23070
<b>D-G</b>		
	Reggie Jackson <b>7/12</b> 672 Gloucester Road Saluda, VA 23149	
<b>H-L</b>		
	Myrtle Clark <b>10/2</b> P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon <b>5/24</b> 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22524
<b>M-Z</b>		

Serving our Country  
2614118 ONE CONUSA

Floyd Andrew Forrest 3980-3 Buckeye Lane Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 United States		
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# AUGUST POP

## WHO AM I IN CHRIST submitted by Fred Dant

Because of what he has done.

Because Jesus died, He can offer forgiveness. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He can give us life and victory. Forgiveness, life, and victory give us identity. We now live forgiven, abundant and victorious lives. Our lives are not perfect since we still experience pain and suffering; however, our hope is firm because it is based on Jesus' victory over death.

I am forgiven.

I am redeemed.

I am reconciled with God.

I am rescued.

I am known by God.

I am bought with a price and belong to God.

I am chosen.

I am justified before God.

I am accepted.

I am saved. I am alive.

I am free.

I am loved.

I am taken care of.

I am a creature.

I am known.

I am made to be God's caretaker of His creation.

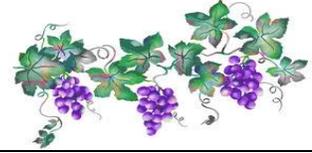
I am made to relate to His creation.

I am made for thankful, obedient worship to God.





# The Grapevine August 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	3 Noon Prayer	1 Noon Prayer
2 Noon Prayer	3 Noon Prayer	4 Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Marion Miller Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer
9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Gayle Gilliland Donald Wilhite Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Jordan Tullos Noon Prayer	14 Ken Wilt Noon Prayer	15 Noon Prayer
16 Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Jane Crittenden Noon Prayer
23 Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27 Betty Ann Tabler Jim Chenowith Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer	29 Lynn Bisogno
30	31 Jade Tullos					

The deadline for the September 2020 Grapevine will be Monday, August 24

Send items to: [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto:pwalian2@gmail.com)

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