



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia September 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

2020 continues to be new territory for most of our activities...how we shop, how we dine out, how we socialize and how we visit and communicate with family and friends. It seems to be an ongoing effort and challenge to continue to stay connected and engaged with each other and our society.

Add to the pandemic the social tensions playing out in much of the country according to news reports. Are they overplayed and excessive? I don't know, but as for me I pay less and less attention to mainstream media, with the exception of the weather channel.

I rest firm in my faith that **God is still in control, and we are safe in His care,** despite the turmoil of this world.

I am excited with how well our **Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** are working at keeping us all connected. I really enjoy the feedback coming from those in our **small groups** and the joy of the nurturing aspect of these groups for us all as we continue the **social distancing and semi-isolation.**

Thank you, Linda Bartz, for spearheading this project. Anyone interested in more information about this, please contact Linda or Warren. I think we have two groups now, and I enjoyed the one we hosted at the parsonage. There may be some evolving opportunities for us to gather together on the horizon. **It is so good to see each other and be with friends and brothers and sisters "in person" again.**

Thank you to all those who have been doing **drive-bys** and **quick porch and patio visits**. All the phone calls and cards sent keep us connected even when we can't be together in Church. We can be very inventive in finding new ways to stay connected when we put our minds together.

Speaking of Church, our online services, both Facebook and YouTube, are getting, on average, over 400 views. Thank you, Becky, for such high quality productions with merging the readings and videos into a very good video product. If you would like to help in some way, contact Becky. Thank you also to those who helped us get better and better as time went by including Vaughan, Sierra, Sydney, Petra and others who helped with the technical aspects.

Thank you, Lucy, for the lovely flowers. Thank you, members of the congregation, who participate as soloists, singers and readers in the production of these weekly services.

I am also very proud, beyond words, with how faithful and loyal 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, 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.

*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 three times to look at the COVID protocols for resuming in-person services. **We will continue to meet as there are changes in guidance or other changes.***

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 has determined that 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>

If you have entered the church lately you will have seen the new Health Acknowledgment forms for **single person** entries, the Health Acknowledgment poster, and the excel sign-up sheet for **group gatherings and meetings**.

Fill them out as appropriate and put them in the box on the counter.

We need to continue to wipe down all surfaces with which we come in contact using the wipes and disinfectant spray bottles and towels provided on the table as you enter. Clean when you come in and as you leave.

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**.

God works wonders where we see challenges. Keep the conversations flowing.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again..

Notice how Paul spells out his own very personal relationship the world and with Christ. He knows that as long as he is here on earth "in the flesh" he will be doing fruitful labor, but his great desire is to be with Christ. He is torn by the need he sees for him to remain and teach and instruct the people at Philippi and his desire to be with Christ. But he knows in his heart that at the current time it is better for the Church at Philippi that he remain and continue in their progress and joy in faith and the eventual growth that they can share when he visits them again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

Paul instructs the people at Philippi to continue their living in a manner worthy of the gospel so that whether he comes in person or hears about them he will know they are standing firm in one spirit striving together for the faith, not being intimidated. Bold and confident in the Gospel, they will withstand persecution and trials. They can be assured of their salvation as God has already done it in Christ!

In the most difficult and dangerous times we can count on Jesus. The Church at Philippi, it would seem, was in troubled times just as we are in our nation and communities with fear of COVID-19 and riots and social upheaval.

29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Paul doesn't promise them an easy time, but he assures them that they are blessed with believing in Christ and suffering for Him as well as Paul is.

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!

How dangerous and perilous are our times? In the country? In the county? From COVID-19, from the social unrest? Even in 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, September 5**. 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.

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-19 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 August23:	73,087.67
Total Income Needed to Meet Budget by end of August:	78,892.67

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who provide cookies for the church services. For the month of September 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

Thoughts about Labor Day

Warren Wright



I think **Labor Day** is a kind of strange holiday. While we call it "**Labor Day**," we try to do as little labor as possible and most working people have the day off. I don't recall anyone wishing me a "Happy Labor Day" or sending me a **Labor Day** card. We don't give corsages, decorate the house, or give **Labor Day** gifts. Even the florists and greeting card manufacturers haven't found a way to capitalize on it. Of course, it's a boon to resorts and tourist centers and a bad weekend for the Church because everyone wants to travel. Like most things, **Labor Day** is different things to different people. To the factory or office worker, it may be a day off. But, for mothers who have both Dad and the kids to deal with, it's a tough day. For policemen, who must deal with extra heavy traffic and alcohol abuse, it's a tough day. To farmers and ranchers, it's just another day to feed the cattle and work in the field doing things that allow no holiday.

For Christians it is an opportunity to talk about work and its rewards. Work is a very important part of God's revelation and will for people. God has always honored and provided work. God is a worker Himself and appreciates rest as he tells us in Genesis. 2:2. He created us in His image and gave us work to do. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Even from the beginning, God gave men work to do, Genesis. 2:15. When Jesus came to earth, God honored work: He announced His birth to working shepherds. Jesus Himself learned a trade and worked with His hands. Jesus chose working men as His apostles and called them from their labors to His side. Jesus preached His message to the working class and common people.

So you see we do carry our Christian principles into the work world, our work becomes a Christian ministry. This gives work new meaning and dignity. We can't, on the other hand, claim to be Christians if our Christianity is only a one day a week affair. God does care what you do Monday through Friday whether you are an employee or employer. There is great encouragement in knowing this.

2 Thessalonians 3: 10- "For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat".

United Methodist Men News
Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will meet on Monday September 28th 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



After a summer break, requested by recipients, the soup ministry will begin back on the **THIRD MONDAY** of September (Sept. 21). The recipients will not receive soup the first Monday, as in the past, because we deliver to them the groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry the first Saturday of each month. This change has been made for the health and safety of our recipients as well as for the person who makes the delivery. If you know of someone who might benefit from the ministry, **please** contact me, Kathy Wright, kdwright@va.metrocast.net, or my cell, 757-373-9166, or one of the committee members listed above. God Bless.

Warming Tree and Coat Rack Ministry

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



The warming tree and coat rack ministry will start at the beginning of the Advent season and go through the beginning of March. So, start making, or collecting, those warming items for our warming tree. The coats are to be **NEW or SLIGHTLY USED WINTER COATS ONLY**. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Wright, chairperson, kdwright@va.metrocast.net, or my cell, 757-373-9166. God Bless.

Worship Committee

David Dobson



As the days of COVID closure personally feel a longing for to normal. If watching or reading the news is any indication it may be better just to stay inside for another six months. Of course thinking ahead to the time we can gather together in His name is always a boost. What can we do in the meantime as we worship by ourselves or with our immediate family? It is best we consult the manual- Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth... continue, I seeing things return

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea." Psalm 46:1

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7

"The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." Psalm 121:7-8

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." - Matthew 6:31-34

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

"Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall." Psalm 55:22

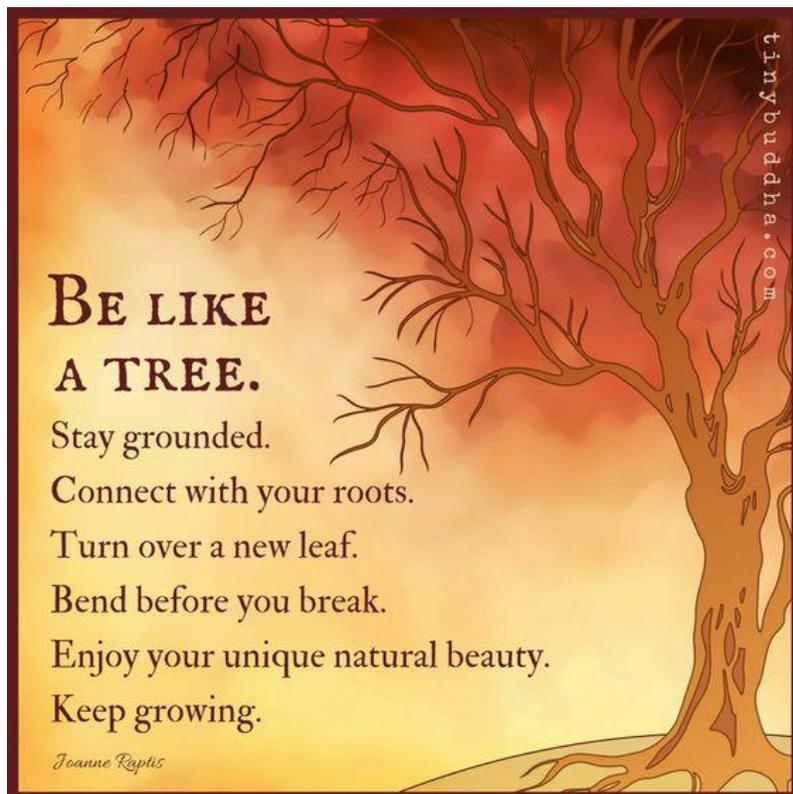
*A genuine friendship is a heavenly present. It blesses our hearts because
God's love is in it.*

NURTURE & Outreach
Jerry Dant



It has been a very bleak time for All of us during the pandemic, especially some who live alone. Let's send cards to Roegean Speight, Reggie Jackson, Myrtle Clark, Jane Crittenden, and Pastor Jim Salmon. Their addresses are in the N/L on the home bound list. A phone call would be nice and maybe dropping a "goodie bag" at their door would be appreciated as well and it will make you feel great as well.

Let's not FORGET those in the community, who might need a helping hand. There are those, who have no one to help them with various needs and maybe would could bring some sun shine in their life by offering to lend a helping hand. Thing about it?

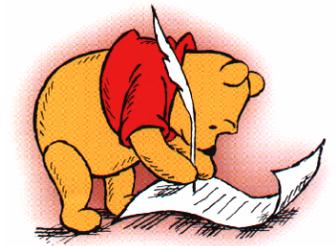


Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

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		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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SEPTEMBER *How to End Summer on a Positive Note* Holly Lebowitz Rossi

When he was a toddler, my son loved “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood,” an animated television show based on characters originally created by Mister Rogers. Each episode features a one- or two-line jingle meant to reinforce the social or emotional lesson it has to teach.

Our favorite—and the one I still use years later as a parent—goes like this: “It’s almost time to stop, so choose one more thing to do. That was fun, but now it’s done!”

I am finding myself humming that simple tune as the summer winds down. As summer ends, I’m contemplating how to let the sun set on the season from a place of authentic positivity rather than letting dread about getting “back to reality” steal the show and sabotage my bliss.

Daniel Tiger’s lesson is helping. Kids aren’t the only ones who have a hard time stopping a fun activity, and I am definitely on board with being bummed to say goodbye to local summer produce, the height of my garden’s color and productivity, the promise of vacation and late sunny evenings that were made to enjoy outdoors.

All of that is valid, and it’s also important to acknowledge as part of walking an authentically positive path. But having articulated my anticipatory wistfulness, I can now turn my attention to wrapping up summer on as upbeat a note as possible.

There are two ways I am doing this. One is by taking the time to focus on the positive things to look forward to in the seasons ahead (I promise, there are cases to be made that [both fall](#) and [winter](#) are the most positive seasons of the year). I’m also grateful for the [back-to-school mindset](#) that stays with me no matter how old I get, that feeling that some new opportunity to learn and grow is just around the corner.

The second way to end summer on a positive note is to follow my animated friend’s advice and choose “one more thing to do.” It might be an hour with a book in my backyard hammock, glass of lemonade in hand. It might be a walk in the woods while the leaves are still lush and thick. It might be making an impromptu plan for a barbeque with friends. Whatever I settle on, intentionally focusing on it as a celebration of the season I’ve just enjoyed is an invitation to bid it farewell with a smile on my face.

That was fun, but now it’s done. Until next summer, of course.

A Prayer of Petition

"As Summer into Autumn slips,"

O give me grace today

To rise and turn as Summer's leaves

Draw life and strength from heavenly rays.

(first line from Emily Dickinson)

A Prayer for Teachers and Educators during the COVID Crisis

Meg Bucher, author & writer, iBelieve.com

Father,

This is the day You have made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. It doesn't look like we thought it would look, nor will tomorrow and the days to come likely be executed in the way we expected and prepared for. Help us to see the good in each day. Help us to find reasons to rejoice and ways to be glad. Litter our lives with moments of laughter and lightheartedness, even in these extremely dark and trying times. Birthdays are still be celebrated each day. The sun keeps coming up, and You remain the same. We are created in Your image, God, to do good and great things to bring glory to Your name. Each one of us, both teacher and student, were created with specific purpose. Help teachers to have confidence in their craft. They were meant to teach, educate, coach, counsel and lead. They are needed, appreciated, and loved. Their work and their efforts are never in vain. When it is hard to see the good, grab our attention, Father. When we are sad and miss school, our normal routine, and our teammates and coaches, encourage our spirits. Sustain us through our very real fear of what is and will happen in our world, God. Remind us we are not alone, even when we feel isolated.

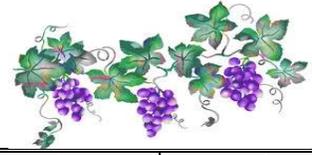
Pray for Continued Provision and Resources

Thank You, Father, for technology allowing many students to continue their educations online. For virtual classrooms and technological resources. Thank You for every teacher and educator adjusting to their new normal. Comfort them as they miss interacting with their students in person. Equip them with energy and inspiration to come alongside their students in this challenging time of crisis. Protect their health, Father, both physically and mentally. Encourage them to use their gifts and talents to find new ways to reach students.

For the boards of education, principals and staff of our schools, we pray blessing over their lives and their livelihood. May the leaders of our schools be blessed with wisdom and energized to inspire their staff in this difficult time. May the needs of students be seen, and God we pray Your provision to meet those needs. Bless our school secretaries, to find a place to serve and work in this new and unique situation. We pray for the channels of communication to remain open amongst the staff of our school systems. Keep them connected, socially, and working together for the greater good of each student. Empower coaches and student athletes to communicate about their training virtually, and to stay inspired and reminded that impossible situations can be the fuel for big dreams to be realized.



The Grapevine September 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	3 Sydney Funk Sierra Funk Noon Prayer	4 Noon Prayer	5 Mobile Food Pantry Noon Prayer
6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Dawn Crittenden Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Rogean Speight Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer
13 Noon Prayer	14 Ashley Moore Noon Prayer	15 Petra Walian Noon Prayer	16 Conner Crittenden Noon Prayer	17 Linda Bartz Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Amber Mauney Brittany Mauney Noon Prayer
20 Noon Prayer	21 Soup Ministry Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer	23 Norman Sibley Bobby Weis Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer
27 Jerry Dant Noon Prayer	28 UMM Meeting 7pm Noon Prayer	29 Noon Prayer	30 Noon Prayer			

The deadline for the October 2020 Grapevine will be Monday, September 21

Send items to: pwalian2@gmail.com

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