



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia April 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

John 20:21-31 (NRSV)

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the

nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood

among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Hallelujah! We are in person INSIDE our Church!!!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

You might say I'm a little excited to be back, even though I don't like the mask!

We are going to become better at our in-person services and will continue to video and post on YouTube and Facebook.

Easter is a season for reflection and for prayer as was LENT; but now we have the promises of Christ fulfilled. We hear how Jesus appears to Mary at the tomb and how he arrives at the house where the disciples were in a locked room for fear of the Jews.

WHEN He comes into the room and stands among them he shows them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoice. Then Jesus says to them,

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²
When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they
are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are
retained."*

Jesus immediately gives them power through the authority of the Holy Spirit. But all the disciples are not there that night. Thomas "the twin" is not among them and when told that they "have seen the Lord" he shows doubt and disbelief.

He even goes so far as to say, *"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."* He is convinced that what the disciples are telling him is so incredible that he says he WILL NOT believe UNLESS he sees and touches the marks of Christ's crucifixion.

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Talk about the power of Christ to help our UNBELIEF! Thomas does not doubt after this, and Jesus tells us what a better blessing we receive because we were not there to see or touch but we believe because of the Holy Spirit and the power of the message Jesus left with his disciples and others.

It's not just that **doubt and disbelief** are **dispelled by Christ's actions**, rather **faith and belief** are **created by his words and actions**. He knows his disciples can hardly grasp this miracle. He gives them the **Holy Spirit** to help them understand and to give them a **presence** they can rely on and a confidence to preach the good news of Christ crucified and **RISEN!!!**

Our **Manner**, how we act and what we do, should come from the right **Motive**, the reason we are doing what we are doing. Now that we know what Jesus wants us to do, we can go with confidence to make disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the whole year and we can endeavor to be more Christlike in our thoughts and our actions.

Easter sets us on the path — **the way, the truth, the life** — that Jesus commands us to follow. We can redouble our efforts to **spiritually** get to know our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Our understanding of His power and triumph is made more evident through his conquering of the grave and of death with **His resurrection power**.

Victory in Jesus! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!!

I can't say enough about the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** in providing meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

I am very humbled, beyond words, with how **faithful and loyal** all of you have been in supporting the church with **prayers, tithes, gifts, talents** and **witness** in spite of our inability to support with our presence.

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 continue to **pray for the increasing number of people who encounter COVID-19** and are exposed to or are suffering from the illness.

Many of us have gotten the shots or are scheduled to receive them. Many have had some reactions to the vaccine, which show up some hours after the shot, **especially the second one**. If you live alone, let a friend or someone else know about your getting the vaccines so that they can be sure you are okay.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Ken

A Message from Your Lay Leader

Warren Wright

This month I decided to do give you something new and different in my message to you. Over the years I've collected some great quotations from many of the world's greatest writers, religious leaders, and other folks that just plain had something good to say. So here goes, and I hope that you enjoy them.



- **"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless".-----Mother Teresa**
- **"There is nothing you can say in answer to a compliment. I have been complimented myself a great many times, and they always embarrass me-I always feel that they have not said enough"-----Mark Twain**
- **"Just as the soul fills the body, so God fills the world. Just as the soul bears the body, so God endures the world. Just as the soul sees but is not seen, so God sees but is not seen. Just as the soul feeds the body, so God gives food to the world".-----Marcus Tullius Cicero**
- **"If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much".-----Jim Robn**
- **The duty of man is not a wilderness of turnpike gates, through which his is to pass by tickets from one to another. It is plain and simple, and consists but of two points-his duty to God, which every man must feel; and, with respect to his neighbor, to do as he would be done by".-----
--Thomas Paine**
- **"What you would not wish done to yourself do not to others".-----
Confucius**
- **DID YOU KNOW---The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117. The middle verse in the Bible is Psalms 118:8, "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in man". The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, "Jesus wept".**

Thought for the month---In whom do you put your trust?

Scripture for the Month----Luke 11:1-4

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father,^[a] hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.^[b]³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.^[c] And lead us not into temptation.^[d]"

Worship Committee

David Dobson

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:7

This isn't the typical Easter message, but it is clearly for me what it all means. I remember from my youth learning that **Justice** was getting what you deserved, **Mercy** was not getting what you deserved, and **Grace** was getting what you don't deserve. Every Easter season, we must look into our hearts and reckon with our souls for the price paid for us through His Grace and death upon the cross for our sins.

He did not come for the righteous but for the sinner. You, me, and all of mankind. It isn't enough that we pray, or go to church, or perform good deeds (even when nobody is watching). We were born into sin and there is but one escape.

We are missing the point when we lament not being able to be inside our wonderful church for a year or gripe over trivial matters (money, people, parking spaces). Jesus spent the last few years of his life knowing that the path had an abrupt and heinous end. We must earnestly repent to earn our way into the Kingdom, as often as we can. Although the price paid is beyond our recompense, it is the least we are asked to do for the blessings HE will bestow. And the goodness of His love will carry us onward.

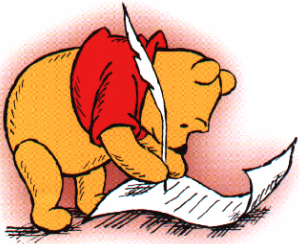
Now that things are moving in a positive direction (and I pray they continue), I am asking all heads to think of some way we may have a special worship this Fall. We had previously thought of a revival (pre-Covid) and typically have a BBQ, but I am considering all options that we may all be one living and breathing church body, together again.

Feel free to call or email 757.619.2444 or ddobson67@gmail.com.



This is no April Fool's joke: A smile on your face means a lot to other folks.

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		
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 22514
M-Z		

APRIL POP

Prayers have been such an important part of my life. I'll share just one with you. Many years ago, I attended a meeting in Richmond and heard a missionary couple speak on their trip to Slovakia. On the way home, in a car of ladies talking; the voice of Jesus said to me you are going to Slovakia. What a shock, then I argued with Him I can't go to Slovakia I don't have the money to go and wouldn't know what to do when I got there and don't even know where it is. The voice came back - "you are to go to Slovakia."

I obeyed and He worked it all out for me. My life totally changed and from that time on when I listened to His prayer to me, I ended up going to not one, but 8 mission trips and it changed my life forever.

Never neglect to pray and it might surprise you the way it can change your life.

Betty Johnson





Clarksbury
UMC

Grapevine

April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	3 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
4 Al miller Elizabeth Sibley Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Paulette Topping Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer
11 Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer	15 Emily Farmer Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer
18 Richard Sisson Noon Prayer	19 Richard Purcell Soup Ministry Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Jerry Crittenden Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer
25 Noon Prayer	26 Betty Johnson Noon Prayer UMM 7pm	27 Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer	29 Noon Prayer	30 Noon Prayer	

The deadline for the **May 2021 Grapevine** will be **Monday, April 26** Send email to pwalian2@gmail.com

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

Ushers for the month of April Diane Faulkner and Warren Wright