



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church  
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia May 2021  
[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

*Acts 1:4-11 (NRSV)*

*<sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;*

*<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the*

*Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.*

*<sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Hallelujah! It is so good to be INSIDE our Church!!!

We are doing better with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on YouTube and Facebook.

Easter is a season that continues through Ascension Sunday, May 16, this year. We should continue to reflect and pray upon the majesty of what Jesus Christ has done for each of us and how he has fulfilled the promises of God for His people.

*While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

In Acts, Luke describes the time Jesus spends with His disciples until He ascends to heaven and how he prepares them for the ministries for which they have been chosen and for the Holy Spirit which they will receive. He tells them that John's baptism was of water for repentance, but they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Even then they were asking if Jesus was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel; they were still focused on the earthly kingdom. They did not understand how radical God's plan was from their understanding. We, too, would most probably have had difficulty grasping His plan.

*<sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Not knowing the time that God has set for His plan to be fulfilled is not something the disciples needed to worry about, and neither do we. The disciples and we are the two thousand year extension of God's plan for his people to receive the Holy Spirit and to be witnesses of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

*<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you*

*stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

They see Jesus ascend to the heavens and two men in white robes tell them that Jesus will come in the same manner just as they saw him go into heaven.

Can any of us imagine how we would have reacted to what those disciples saw and heard? Yet, they were so convinced of all the signs they saw and about what Jesus told them of God's plan that they wait for the Holy Spirit to receive power and will be His witnesses to the entire world.

God has made the plan, Jesus has done His part, and the Holy Spirit will be with us to help us fulfill our part as well with power and authority in our generation just as the disciples did in their age.

You see, Easter was not the start of a plan that would be completed in one day by one generation. Easter is God's plan for the ages until "THAT DAY" when Jesus comes back. We have our parts and roles to fulfill, just as the generations before us back to that first generation of Christians...even **before** they were known as Christians. Some will be teachers, some others will be healers, others still will be witnesses to the Glory of God and Jesus Christ revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

As I said last month ...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 world throughout the entire year, and we should endeavor to be more Christlike in our thoughts and our actions at all times.

Victory in Jesus! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!! Christ Will come Again!!

We need to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. They provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and phone 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** you all have been in supporting the church with **prayers, tithes, gifts, talents** and **witness** in spite of our inability to be able 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 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 the shots. Many have had some reactions to the vaccine, which show up some hours after the shot, **especially the second one**.

Peace & Grace,  
Pastor Ken

## A Message from Your Lay Leader

### Do you give God the first fruits of your day?

Warren Wright



A few years ago we studied what other Christian religions believed and why. One of the common themes that we read about throughout all of these religions was the “Power of Prayer.” So this month I want to focus on what prayer should mean to us, and particularly **Morning Prayer**.

The morning is an excellent time for devotions. If you schedule to do it during your day or in the evening, what happens when your day or evening become so hectic that your devotion time gets pushed out of the line up?

By having communion with God the Father in the morning, we are saying, “God, you are most important in my priorities and I will give you the first fruit of my day.” If we allow time for God first thing in the morning, He will bring together the rest of your day. You will be full spiritually and will not be hungry for this world. If you wait until later to have devotions with your Father, it most likely gets pushed out of the line up and never gets done, sometimes going days without talking with God or reading His Word. You will fill yourself up with the world and be too stuffed to eat spiritually when you get home.

Jesus followed the Word of God in giving the Father first place in His thoughts, prayers and activities. David writes, “Let me hear your loving kindness in the morning for I trust in You. Make me to know the way in which I should walk for to You I lift my soul” (Psalm 143:8-11). By having our devotion time in the morning, we can ask God to lead us in the direction in which we should go for the day. Ask for God’s provision, guidance, and protection. I would recommend that you spend at least **15 minutes in devotion with God every morning**, if not more.

Mark 1:35-|In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

## *Worship Committee*

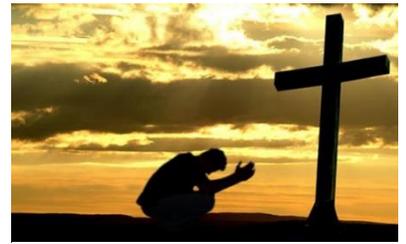
*David Dobson*

Sanctuary: a consecrated place: such as the ancient Hebrew temple at Jerusalem or its holy of holies; the most sacred part of a religious building (such as the part of a Christian church in which the altar is placed).

So far, so good! It has been a blessing to see people in the Church again. Thanks be to God!! We have come a long way and it is no time to mess up the progress. Please be mindful of the regulations we must follow while attending in person worship, mainly the 6' social distancing and keeping the mask on. It is difficult to “speak sing”, but Becky has done a wonderful job of putting the music and service onto a power-point program. If you are tempted to belt out the tune (me included), let us just try to focus on the music and words instead. Most of the hymns have a deeper meaning if you look at them and listen to each syllable instead of focusing on following the tune.

We would also like to mention some “pre-service” activities for the future. Once we congregate in the sanctuary and Janis begins playing the prelude, it is time to go into silent prayer and get your heart and mind ready for the worship service. I like to close my eyes and just let the music take me to a deeper spiritual place where I feel closer to my Lord and Savior. What a wonderful place it is to be!

My ear is always available for worship committee questions, comments, or even advice. Feel free to call or email 757.619.2444 or [ddobson67@gmail.com](mailto:ddobson67@gmail.com). May the blessings of Christ be with you always.



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



The UMM will hold our regular monthly meeting on Monday May 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.

<b>Annual Budget</b> for 2021 Operating Funds:	<b>\$115,711.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of April 25:	39,550.33
<b>Total Needed by May 31:</b>	<b>8,662.59</b>

*Life began  
with waking  
up and loving  
my mother's  
face.*



# Mother's Day



There is one relationship in this mortal life which effortlessly scores above all other known relationships on this Earth. Feeling confused? Don't scratch your head too much as that extraordinary relationship is none other than that of the mother, which is truly priceless in terms of her countless love, dedication, and devotion towards her family. To acknowledge the presence of all mothers around the globe, Mother's Day is celebrated across more than 46 countries of the world. This is truly a special day for the mothers who are mostly underrated in this male-dominated society. Let us throw some light into the occasion with the help of various detailed information in the form of origin, the reason for celebration, modes of celebration and other essential facts.

The present-day celebration of Mother's Day began in the year 1908 when Anna Jarvis organized a memorial for her mother, Ann Jarvis, a peace activist who used to care the wounded soldiers of the American Civil War. The event was held at the St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which currently holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Anna Jarvis began the task of getting support for the celebration of Mother's Day in the United States in 1905 after her mother died the same year. She wanted to honor all the mothers of the world who have done a lot for their family and society.

Due to her continuous efforts, most of the US states by 1911 started celebrating Mother's Day as a local holiday and the West Virginia, the home state of Jarvis became the first state to declare the holiday for the occasion in the year 1910. Finally, the second Sunday of May was officially designated as Mother's Day in the USA and was declared as a national holiday after

Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of United States of America signed the proclamation in the year 1914. In this way, the present Mother's Day came into existence in the USA and the same date is also selected by countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Italy, Singapore, Belgium, and a lot more other countries.

Heavenly Father, on this Mother's Day, we thank You for our mothers through whom Your gift of life begins and through whom we are nurtured into great human beings.

We lift up all mothers to Your love and care. We pray for them, for their needs of strength and support to continue to nurture a family of love, in honor and love for You, our God.

### *Nurture & Outreach*

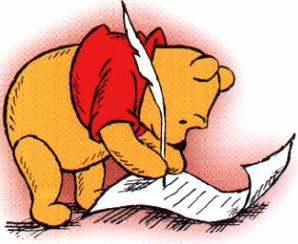
*Jerry Dant*

Thanks to all who have sent cards, calls and drive-by visits during the pandemic. Now, we are having service back in church and can see and visit at a distance. We all look forward to the time we can hug, sit closer and have coffee after the service and visit.



We have been asked to return to Dockside for services when they are open according to the State of Virginia and Health Department recommendations. After talking with Kathy Wright and the ladies, who deliver soup, we sent an Easter goodie bag to the residents at Fishing Bay Estates. Each bag had treats and even a few Easter eggs along with a beautifully handmade card of Easter greetings made by Linda Bartz. If you have any suggestions or ideas for our committee to serve others, please let us know and we would appreciate any ideas.

**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>		
<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 22514
<b>M-Z</b>		
Marion Miller 08/06 c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive Gloucester, VA 23061		

# MAY POP

## Black Cows on a Green Hill

Author: Tommy Herndon, VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

About four years ago, I had a bad case of bacterial meningitis. I was close to death and spent ten days in VCU Hospital. When I returned home, I got a package from my sister-in-law who lives in Georgia. It was a Prayer Shawl she had knitted and it was all green and black. She said it was to remind me of black cows on a green hill. My recovery was slow but this shawl reminded me of the peace that comes from watching cattle on a green hill. I was also reminded of the many who were praying for me. The shawl reminded me that God was hugging me with the prayers of His people.

The Apostle Paul affirmed the importance and power of praying for **others**. Through his passionate request for prayers and encouragement during his travels, Paul demonstrated how **those who pray for others become partners in ministry**. (Romans 15:30). Offering specific requests, Paul not only showed his dependence on the support of fellow believers but his trust that God answers prayers (Vs 31-33).

We all experience days when we feel alone. The pandemic has touched many and zapped energy from many more. I learned in a very real way what it means to have prayers for my health to be restored. I'm still reminded of God's love through those prayers when I wrap that green and black shawl around my shoulders. **When we're wrapped in the intercessory prayers of God's people, we can experience God's strength and comfort no matter where life takes us.**

Prayer: *God, we thank you for the gift of intercessory prayers and for assuring me that You hear me and care for me wherever I go Amen*



Clarksbury  
UMC

# Grapevine

## May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
2 Noon Prayer	3 Melanie Glenn Noon Prayer	4 Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Paul Bisogno Noon Prayer
9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	Noon Prayer	14 Jaime Mears Noon Prayer	15 Noon Prayer
16 Charles Decker Acension Sunday Noon Prayer	17 Christopher Glenn Soup Ministry Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Morgan Smith Logan Smith Kimberly South Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Betty Chenowith Noon Prayer
23 Noon Prayer	24 Jim Salmon Noon Prayer UMM 7pm	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27 Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer	29 Noon Prayer
30 Noon Prayer	31 Noon Prayer					

The deadline for the June 2021 Grapevine will be Monday, May 24 Send email to [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto: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.)

Ushers for the month of May Betty Farmer and Charlie Townsend