



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia September 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Psalm 1:1-6 (NRSV)

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Praise the Lord!! We have been blessed with awesome music and worship to close out August. Thank you to our music leaders, Becky and Janis, for each Sunday morning; and Randy, Eileen, Jim and Tom for the monthly Sunday evening programs. This is fun and a great gathering.

Fall is coming...I see the leaves changing color and littering the yard at the parsonage.

We have our Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, September 4, from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be **free Flu shots for those 65 and older**. We always have room for more help.

As we celebrate the relaxations in COVID restrictions we must keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **merely diminished**. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) came up with a plan and we submitted that Mitigation Assistance Plan to our District Superintendent who saw no need to revise the plan. Remember, **NOW** our PRG makes the decisions and the DS reviews and approves them.

Those steps are again:

1. Fully vaccinated leaders may preach without a mask.
2. Fully vaccinated persons may be unmasked in indoor and outdoor settings.
3. Fully vaccinated persons may sing without a mask in indoor and outdoor settings.
4. Eating outdoors may occur with individually packaged meals.
5. We will resume our social time in the social hall after Church using prepackaged snacks.
6. **Additionally**, the PRG determined that we will resume our normal method of receiving offerings and we will resume receiving communion (pre-packaged elements) at the rail during our communion services.

We will continue our services and worship here at Clarksbury with an eye toward not just returning to the old normal but to improving our outreach and worship opportunities. We will continue with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on Facebook.

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

God's law is the standard against which we measure all our actions. We want to be like the "Happy" who don't follow the wicked. We can only follow and live within that guidance when we diligently search the scriptures, OLD and NEW, for guidance on what God wants from us and how Jesus demonstrates the WAY/PATH that is pleasing to the Creator.

First and foremost, the passage says that we should delight in the law of the LORD. It's not some restrictive or punishing guidance but a source of happiness. We should meditate and study day and night to look for the wisdom in God's LAW and then follow it.

So, we must be wise and not be foolish or follow the advice of wicked people. By the same token, we don't follow the sinners, nor do we sit in a judgement seat and scoff at their mistakes and their troubling circumstances.

Are we modeling Jesus to our neighbors and our community? Are we welcoming and helpful when we encounter our brothers and sisters in need? Are we doing all we can to be as wise and discerning as Jesus wants us to be, and are we doing all we can to understand what the will of God is?

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

We need to be making prudent and sober decisions for our lives and for those for whom we are responsible. There are in the above scripture both behaviors to emulate. So like trees planted by the stream they yield their fruit and they prosper...not like the wicked who are blown like chaff that the wind drives away. The wicked won't stand in judgement nor in the congregation of the righteous. The wicked are separated and will perish.

We are watched over by the LORD! We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we sing and worship and lift joyful noises to our Lord with our whole hearts.

We must give thanks to the Father at all times for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...even when times are difficult, and we don't understand why bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people.

Today we can draw comfort from how nurturing and caring God the Father is...how He seeks ALL of us out and wants us to be with HIM in His kingdom.

We continue 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.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness.

Be in prayer for the people of Haiti suffering from the effects of the earthquakes and for the people on the Gulf Coast who have been traumatized by Hurricane Ida and for the recovery efforts of those moving to help including UMCOR.

Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken

A Note 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".

Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of August 8:	84,876.77
Total Needed by August 31:	-7,736.10

"I've always loved the first day of school better than the last day of school. Firsts are best because they are beginnings."

~Jenny Han

Nurture and Outreach

Jerry Dant

Thanks to all, who have been sending cards, calling and maybe visiting during the pandemic.

We have done a great job and don't forget with fall, winter and the holidays approaching we need to keep up the good work

On August 8th in the morning church service our church presented scholarships to four young people, who will be achieving a higher education around the state. Sierra will be returning to University of VA in Charlottesville and Sydney will be returning to James Madison University in Harrisonburg. Natalie Nichols will be entering Graduate School at Shenandoah University in Winchester and Jimmy Nichols will be entering Roanoke College in Salem. Our church is well represented around the State of Virginia. Let's remember the students in Prayer until we see them back home for the holidays.

Back to school Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,
 As our children
 Return to school
 We look again
 To your eternal faithfulness.
 Watch over our beloved ones.
 Let your Spirit go before them
 To prepare the way
 And open the doors
 That lead to your grace.
 Guide them away from harm.
 May your mighty Spirit defend them
 From any aggression or attack.
 Equip them with discernment
 And strength of character.
 Let them be free to live and learn
 As children of God.
 Give us, dear Lord,
 The wisdom and patience
 To know when to speak or be still
 As their parents and caretakers.
 Always remembering
 That they are yours
 From the beginning;
 Their lives a loving gift to us
 From Almighty God.
 We trust in you,
 We depend upon you.
 Care for your children,
 Oh heavenly Father.
 In Jesus name,
 Amen.

prayerforanxiety.com

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		
H-L		
	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22514
Marion Miller 08/06 c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive Gloucester, VA 23061	M-Z Lewis Musick 6023 Dixon Lane Gloucester, Va., 23061	



September POP



Make This Your Daily Prayer

Helen Steiner Rice

*Bless me, heavenly Father
forgive my erring ways,
Grant me strength to serve Thee
put purpose in my days. . .
Give me understanding
enough to make me kind
So I may judge all people
with my heart and not my mind.
And teach me to be patient
in everything I do,
Content to trust Your wisdom
and to follow after You . . .
And help me when I falter
and hear me when I pray
And receive me in Thy Kingdom
to dwell with Thee some day.*



Clarksbury
UMC

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September 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Noon Prayer	3 Sydney Funk Sierra Funk Noon Prayer	4 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
5 Noon Prayer	6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer
12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Ashley Moore Noon Prayer	15 Petra Walian Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Linda Bartz Noon Prayer	18 Alyssa Miller Randy Crittenden Noon Prayer
19 Amber Mauney Brittany mauney Noon Prayer	20 Wayne Toney Noon Prayer	21 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 Katie Miller Noon Prayer	29	30		

The deadline for the **October 2021** Grapevine will be Monday, October 25

Send email 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.)

Ushers for the month of September Becky Foster and Bryan Motes

Scripture Reader for September is Mary Banker