



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church
15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia February 2020

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 17:1-9 (NRSV)

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

2020...the first month, January, is almost complete and we are rushing into February. Time flies and February brings with it Valentine's Day, then Transfiguration Sunday, the 23rd, and Ash Wednesday, the 26th, and then into six weeks of LENT. More on our schedule of services and events will follow in our Sunday bulletins and the March newsletter.

We will still be gathered around warm fireplaces and stoves, wearing sweaters and layers of clothing, and will be for the next few months. Stay warm and safe.

This note is appropriate for the next few months.... We do have a number of our Clarksbury family who are at greater risk during this time of cooler temperatures and more perilous driving conditions. Keep them in your prayers and contact them just to make sure they are okay. It never hurts to get a friendly 😊 call.

We will make every effort to let people know as early as possible if we cancel an event because of bad weather. As always you are the best judge of your local travel and driving conditions. We want you to be safe, so use prudence when determining when to travel to church.

We welcome people in our community to receive food assistance with the Mobile Food Pantry and we invite and welcome children from our community to come and worship. The Warming Tree and the Clothes Closet will be open for business through March, and longer if the weather dictates.

This Saturday, February 1, is our Clarksbury Cryer Center Mobile food pantry from 9 to 11 a.m. **Zoar has lead for February. Philippi will have the lead in March and Clarksbury in April.** Please do not assume that you won't be needed just because another church has lead; there is always plenty of work for all of us. Come, pray, talk, lend a hand or just come have fun being servants of the Lord.

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

We can only imagine the glory... "*his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white*"... made visible to Peter, James and John that day on the Mount of Transfiguration, and then to see the prophets Moses and Elijah there talking with Jesus. Add to that the voice from the Cloud saying, "*This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!*" How can any of us with imagination not be **thrilled** with that event???

Of course, we are not on that mountain top with Peter, James and John. However, we can read this scripture and others and allow the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and make the Word of God come alive, and we can "**Listen**" to Jesus teach his disciples and see him perform those wonderous miracles. We can hear Him preach the Sermon on the Mount. We can see Him sacrifice Himself for us and read about His triumph over the grave and the promise we have from Him to return for us on that day.

Imagine, if you will, that Peter, James and John have just witnessed the **glory of God** and have heard the proclamation to listen to Jesus the Son of the most High God in whom God is well pleased. Imagine the sheer **awe and wonder felt by these humble fisherman**...then to have Jesus admonish them to not say anything about what they have seen and heard until AFTER Jesus completes the crucial sacrifice. "*Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.*"

Until it is all fulfilled, who would believe them??? Scarcely anyone would be able to believe and understand until after the PASSION is complete.

As we continue my January challenge to EACH of US to commit ourselves to read HIS WORD more often and more deeply this year, let our new resolve be to be more attuned to HIS WORD.

There is time for us throughout Lent to **read, pray, meditate and absorb Jesus' ministry**...His teachings, His interactions with those He encountered, the breadth of His three-year ministry, the miracles, and the prophecies fulfilled. Focus on how Christ never leaves anyone in the same condition in which He finds them.

As you read and meditate anew this season I pray you will come away with a deeper and greater appreciation of Jesus' message for all of us who call ourselves **Christians and Followers of the Way**.

As always, I will make every effort to keep the Prayer Warrior e-mails updated as information and changes become available. Remember, I need your help in providing me with that information and with those changes.

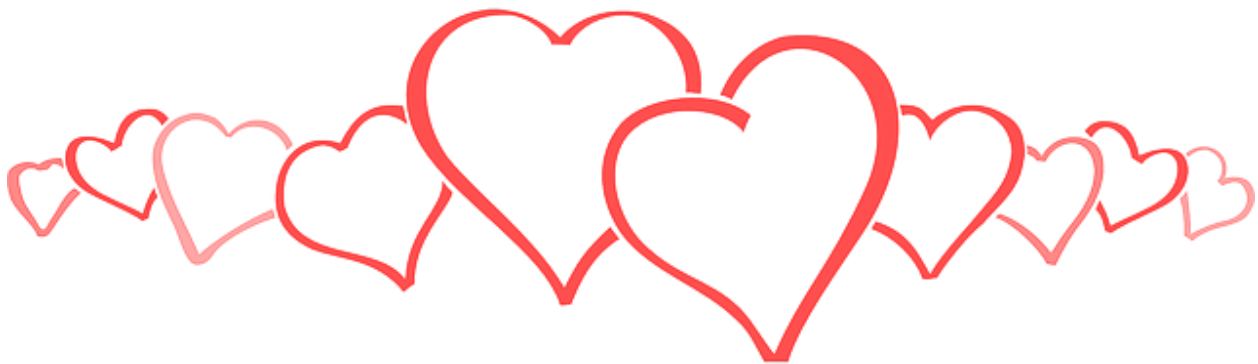
Please remember to be faithful in letting me know if you hear about one of "ours" who is headed to the hospital or is having an issue and is at the hospital or has been to the ER. I would prefer to hear twice about those in need rather than it be assumed that I must already know.

Nurture and Outreach to our community and our congregation are instrumental in faithfully serving our Lord, not just at Dockside, but throughout the community in various ways. Talk to Jerry Dant about cards or letters or about contacting some of our shut-ins. Volunteer for work at Dockside. **See Jerry or Fred or David for more information.**

Jesus is God's Son, the Beloved; with Him God is well pleased; we should listen to Him always! (My paraphrase of Matthew 17:5)

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:	\$114,935.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of January 2020:	\$8,261.00
Total Income Needed to Meet January Budget:	\$9,568.00

COFFEE HOUR FOR February



February	2	Betty Tate
February	9	Janis Slaughter
February	16	Diane Faulkner
February	23	Kathy Wright

*If you would like to be a part of this church ministry,
please contact Polly Van Benschoten, 776-0569*



United Methodist Men News Warren Wright-UMM President



The UMM will have their next monthly business meeting on Monday February 24th at 7 PM. The UMM will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday February 7th from 4-6:30 PM and the cost is \$10.00.

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.

A message from your Lay Leader Warren Wright Valentine's Day, Christian or Pagan?

Have you ever thought about the origin of Valentine's day? This is the best story that I could find. As Christianity became prevalent, priests attempted to replace old heathen practices. To Christianize the ancient pagan celebration of the Feast of Lubercus, the church officials changed the name to St. Valentine's Day. To give the celebration further meaning and eliminate pagan traditions, priests substituted the drawing of Saints names for the names of the girls. On St. Valentine's Day the priest placed saint's names into an urn or box. The young people then drew a name from the container. In the following year, the youth was supposed to emulate the life of the saint whose name he had drawn. By the fourteenth century they reverted back to the use of girl's names. In the sixteenth century they once again tried to have saintly valentines but it was as unsuccessful as the first attempt. While it can't be proven historically, there were seven men named Valentine who were honored with feasts on February 14th. Of these men, two stories link incidents that could have given our present day meaning to St. Valentine's Day. One of these men named Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Valentine was revered by the young and old, rich and poor, with people of all walks of life attending his services. At this time Emperor Claudius was heavily recruiting men to serve as soldiers for his wars without much success. The men preferred not to leave their wives, families and sweethearts to fight in foreign lands. Claudius became angry and declared that no more marriages could be performed and all engagements were cancelled. Valentine thought this to be unfair and secretly married several couples. When Claudius found out, he threw Valentine in prison where he died. Friends of the priest retrieved his body and buried it in a churchyard in Rome. Another version had St. Valentine jailed for helping Christians. While Valentine was in

prison he cured a jailer's daughter of blindness. Claudius became enraged and had Valentine clubbed and beheaded on February 14, 269 A.D. Yet another story claims that Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her letters that were signed "From your Valentine." All of the seven Valentines eventually evolved into one. In 496 Pope Gelasius declared the day in honor of St. Valentine. Through the centuries the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. Lovers' quarrels come under his jurisdiction and, naturally, he is the patron saint of engaged couples and of anyone wishing to marry.

I Cor. 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Worship Committee

David Dobson

The Worship Committee has come up with a new "thing" for 2020 - sharing information pertaining to "Being a Methodist." This year, I am inviting you all to explore your spirituality and reflect on why you are a member of this Church. This month, the topic will be the Wesley Quadrilateral. As for the proof of justification and sanctification Wesley states that Christianity is an experience of holiness and happiness, the image of God impressed on a created spirit, a fountain of peace and love springing up into everlasting life. Let that sink in.

John Wesley, a founder of the Methodist movement believed first and foremost that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in "scripture" as the sole foundational source. However, doctrine had to be in keeping with Christian orthodox "tradition". So, tradition became in his view the second aspect of the so-called Quadrilateral. Furthermore, Wesley believed that faith is more than merely an acknowledgment of ideas, and he contended that part of the theological method would involve "experiential" faith. Finally, every doctrine must be able to be defended "rationally." He did not divorce faith from reason. However, tradition, experience, and reason are subject always to scripture, which is primary.



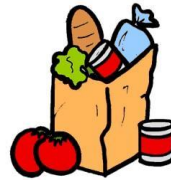
Scripture: Wesley insisted that scripture is the first authority and contains the only measure whereby all other truth is tested. It was delivered by authors who were divinely inspired. It is a rule sufficient of itself. It neither needs, nor is capable of, any further addition.

Tradition: Wesley wrote that it is generally supposed that traditional evidence is weakened by length of time, as it must necessarily pass through so many hands in a continued succession of ages. Although other evidence is perhaps stronger, he insisted: "Do not undervalue traditional evidence. For him it supplies a link through 1,700 years of history with Jesus and the apostles."

Reason: Although scripture is sufficient unto itself and is the foundation of true religion, Wesley wrote: "Now, of what excellent use is reason, if we would either understand ourselves, or explain to others, those living oracles". He states quite clearly that without reason we cannot understand the essential truths of Scripture. With regard to justification by faith and sanctification Wesley said that although reason cannot produce faith, when impartial reason speaks we can understand the new birth, inward holiness, and outward holiness.

Experience: Apart from scripture, experience is the strongest proof of Christianity. "What the scriptures promise, I enjoy". Again, Wesley insisted that we cannot have reasonable assurance of something unless we have experienced it personally. What Christianity promised (considered as a doctrine) was accomplished in his soul. Although traditional proof is complex, experience is simple: "*One thing I know; I was blind, but now I see.*"

Winter Food Pantry Fran Miller



The next Food Pantry Day will be Saturday, February 29 from 9-11 a.m. Thanks to the generous donations of our church family, the community and grant money we received through the hard work of Warren Wright, Clarksbury is able to purchase the food we need for this upcoming food pantry. However, we still need your help! We need volunteers to pack the bags on Thursday, February 27 and for that Saturday to meet, greet, serve coffee, distribute the groceries, and help people to their cars with their bags. There is plenty of work to go around so please sign up to volunteer. The sign-up sheet is by the organ in the sanctuary. Thanks for your help in advance!
Yours In Christ, The Food Pantry Committee

Cookie Project Fran Miller



The Edna Yankovich Circle is having their annual cookie project for servicemen (and women) again. If you have a **family member** who is a service person who is away from home and would like to receive a package, please let Fran Miller know by **February 2**. If you would like to help with this project, please bring your cookies to the church for packing on Sunday, February 16th. Please pack them in plastic containers. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with postage instead, please give the money to Fran Miller by that Sunday.

Easter Eggs Fran Miller

The EY Circle is making plans to offer their delicious homemade candy Easter eggs (chocolate, coconut, peanut butter, and mint) again this year. Each order is \$7. Please see any UMW member if you would like to order them. All orders must be in by March 20. The Easter eggs will be available after Friday, April 3rd in plenty of time for Easter.



**Everybody in God's army is a volunteer.
We serve God out of love**

Nurture and Outreach Jerry Dant



Thanks to all who remembered our home bound members during the holidays and January. Let's remember with coming colder weather each one would appreciate a call, card, or visit. The days can get long with early darkness so let's brighten their day with one of the above.

Our church has been REACHING OUT through the food pantry and warming tree. We have many Blessings to be thankful for, but remember back in February 2018 we met Melanie Hosmer and her children. We now have a great Sunday School class under the leadership of Dianne Faulkner and Mary Banker. This past Sunday there were 8 in the class. Let's keep REACHING OUT to bring other families to church. If you know someone, who needs a ride and you are unable to help, please let someone on the committee know and they will try to assist with a ride.

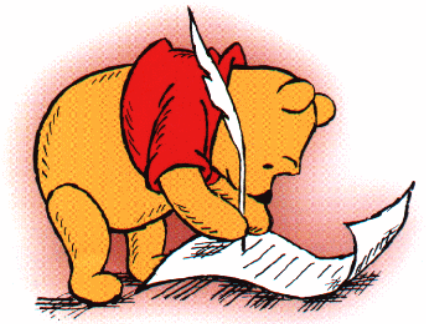


Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

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**
#208
Commonwealth Sen Living
460 South Main Street
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Ivey Huff **10/12**
233 Mae Lane
Wake, VA 23176

Jane Crittenden **8/22**
P.O. 30
Hardyville, VA 23070

D-G

Sue Myers **09/30**
Westminster Canterbury
132 Lancaster Drive
Irvington, VA 22480

Reggie Jackson **7/12**
Riverside Convalescent
Ctr.
P.O. Box 303
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

<p>Floyd Andrew Forrest 3980-3 Buckeye Lane Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703 United States</p>		
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FEBRUARY POP

from a *Prison Fellowship* publication:

Awesome Bible Verses About the Power of Prayer

Ask

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 21:22

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

John 14:13-14

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Pray in Faith

Mark 9:29

And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Acts 9:40

But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said: Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

James 5:14-16

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess

your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Always with Thanksgiving

Ephesians 6:18

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. and keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Christian Quotes About Prayer

Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. John Bunyan

The fewer the words the better the prayer. Martin Luther

Prayer is an effort of will. Oswald Chambers

Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends, the other descends. Arthur Hopkins

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for. Charles H. Spurgeon

It is because of the hasty and superficial conversation with God that the sense of sin is so weak and that no motives have power to help you to hate and flee from sin as you should. A.W. Tozer

Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part. Andrew Murray

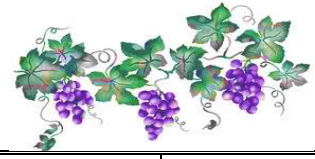
Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees. Corrie Ten Boom

Prayer is the acid test of devotion. Samuel Chadwick

Just talking with God. Doaty Knapp (the response to "what is prayer?" she teaches to every young child in her SundaySchool classes)



The Grapevine February 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mobile Food Pantry 9-11 (Zoar) 4-4:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
2 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Communion	3 Percy Hattorf Soup Ministry 11 a.m.	4	5 Al Johnston Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	6	7 George Lee Clark	8 4-4:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
9 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	10 Jean Cree	11 EYcircle 7p.m.	12 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	13	14	15 Anne Tompkins 4-4:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
16 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Easter Worship	17 Soup Ministry 11 a.m.	18 John Roberstson Finance & Church Council 7 p.m.	19 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	20	21	22 4-4:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship
23 Virginia Clark 10-10:40 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24 Hannah Clark	25	26 Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.	27 Diane Faulkner	28	29 4-4:45 p.m. Contemporary Worship

The deadline for the March 2020 Grapevine will be Monday, February 24 Send items to:
pwalian2@gmail.com

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

Scripture reader for **February** is Lucy Blevins

Counters for **February** are Don Bartz and Connie Robertson

Polly VanBenschoten and Warren Wright will serve as **ushers** for **February**