



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia July 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

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

Pastor Ken's Corner

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NRSV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Praise the Lord!! Doesn't it feel great to be in Church together without the restrictions and protocol strangling our worship? Let us celebrate the new freedoms and yet keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **merely diminished**. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions. We need to be inventive and find ways to keep them within the WORSHIP group though they cannot be with us physically. Jerry does a great job with cards and letters and the Prayer Partners and Prayer Warriors are great avenues to continue and strengthen our relationships!

The Church Council has replaced the HCT in Phase 3 of our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG). The PRG put in place the four modifications to our in-person services.

Those steps are:

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 packed meals.

Additionally, the PRG determined that we will resume our normal method of receiving offerings and also we will resume receiving communion (pre-packaged elements) at the rail during our communion services

We will continue to look at other 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 get used to these new plans and will adapt for our local context and continue to be safe. We will continue with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on YouTube and Facebook.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷

We have been given an awesome opportunity by God. He has blessed us with **adoption** as **His children** through Jesus Christ because He wants us to be in that family, the one that will praise His name and His grace for what He has freely given each of us. We did nothing to deserve or earn this **grace and love** and **blessing** by any action of our own. God's Grace...unmerited and unearned is alone the reason we are so blessed.

We receive all these "**spiritual blessings in heavenly places**" in and through **Jesus Christ** because of HIS sacrifices for us.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Through Jesus' blood we are redeemed and restored to a right relationship with God; our trespasses, our SINS, are washed away, and we can feel the richness of God's love. He even goes so far as to make known to us the mystery of His intention to bring us all to Himself ...**all of us**, everything in heaven and on earth.

¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of

his glory.

In Jesus we see and hear the word of truth and the good news of our salvation, and in our belief and FAITH in Jesus we are marked by the seal of the Holy Spirit. Our names are written in the Book of Life and we will dwell with Him forevermore.

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. Many of us have gotten the vaccines 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.

Be ready for changes in how we follow the regulations and live into the new opportunities we have to serve and worship safely, spiritually and meaningfully in our local context. **Peace & Grace,**

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Report
Terry Cleveland
Friday, June 18, 2021

Members of the 239th session of the Virginia Annual Conference met virtually beginning Friday, June 18. The morning began with special music from Gerald Ricks and the Annual Conference House Band which included singers and accompanists. Dr. John Kinney, who has 27 years of service to Virginia Union University as Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology and Senior Vice President of the University, led a morning Bible study.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis called the 239th session of Virginia Annual Conference to order at 9:30 a.m., June 18. "We begin this annual conference by singing 'And Are We Yet Alive,' a hymn that has been sung by persons gathering for holy conferencing since the beginning of



the Wesleyan movement,” The bishop said. “Please sing at home or wherever you are.” A prerecorded video was played to follow COVID guidelines.

The Rev. Raymond Wrenn, 102, and Youth Member Ms. Rachel Zahradka from Trinity UMC (Chesterfield) opened the Annual Conference in prayer.

Bishop Lewis thanked the Rev. Susan Reaves for her seven years of service as Conference Secretary. The Rev. Joshua King was elected the new Conference Secretary. The Rev. Susan Reaves and Mrs. Beverly Myers were elected assistant secretaries. Mrs. Madeline Pillow White was elected editor of the *Journal*.

Director of Connectional Ministries Dr. Steven Summers presented the report of the Common Table for Church Vitality.

Lynchburg District Superintendent Scott Davis introduced the report from the **District Alignment Team (DAT)**. A video was shared that outlined the history and the recommendations of the team. A period of questions and answers followed the video.

William H. “Bill” Talley IV, president of the Virginia Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) presented their report. The proposed budget may be found in the [Book of Reports Addendum](#) in the Official Packet.

The Rev. Thomas James, Alexandria District, Washington Street United Methodist Church, moved that the new budget lines, listed below, in the 2022 budget found in Schedule C be removed from the 2022 Conference budget.

- District Developers Salaries, Housing, and Pension \$830,000,
- District Administrative Managers \$120,000,
- District Ministry \$480,000,
- District Superintendent Directed Funds \$320,000,
- Extended Cabinet Directed Funds \$40,000, and
- DS and new District Developer Moving Expenses, \$18,000.

The motion was approved.

Neal Wise, chair of the **Site Selection Committee**, gave his report. The Annual Conference is scheduled to meet in Hampton in 2022 and Roanoke in 2023. The committee recommended that the 2024 Annual Conference be held in Hampton. The recommendations were approved.

The Rev. Mary Dadisman, clergy co-chair, gave the report of the **Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)**. They work with the CEMCA to monitor those who speak on the floor of Annual Conference. The goal is equitable access to all. After sharing stories of some of the first female clergy in Methodism, Dadisman shared that the Rev. Marg Kutz published the book “Nevertheless, She Preached: story of the two earliest Methodist clergywomen.” (available from Amazon in kindle and paperback)

The Rev. Alan Layman, chair of the Minutes Committee, gave a video report. The committee will meet June 22 to review the minutes of this conference. The report was approved.

The Rev. Jeff Mickle, dean of the **Cabinet**, gave his report. The District Committees were approved. The following churches are closing in 2021.

- Arlington Forest United Methodist Church on the Arlington District be discontinued effective as of June 30, 2021
- Browns Chapel United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be discontinued effective as of April 9, 2021,
- Early's Chapel United Methodist Church on the Lynchburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021,
- Fieldstone United Methodist Church on the Roanoke District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021
- Jollett United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021,
- Mount Clifton United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021,
- Mount Hebron United Methodist Church on the Harrisonburg District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021,
- Pamplin City United Methodist Church on the Farmville District be discontinued effective June 30, 2021,

Minutes questions 14, 15, and 16 were approved.

The **New Faith Community** report was presented by Mr. Dwayne Stinson, conference director of Influencing Ministries. The New Faith Communities are

1. Thalia UMC Microchurch Network, Joseph Varner and Dennis Morgan, Planters, Elizabeth River District
2. The Mission at Washington Street UMC, Audrey Smith, Planter, James River District
3. Northern Virginia (NOVA) Missional Hub, Monica Reynolds, Planter, Rappahannock River and Alexandria Districts
4. Indian Church RVA, Sam Kirbakaran, Planter (2019), Richmond District

Conference Lay Leader Martha Stokes addressed the conference. She was emotional as she shared the story of a handkerchief that was given to her years ago by Mrs. Callis at her home church. She said she thought she might need it today. "I told you I would be much more emotional" than previous lay leaders, Stokes said. She acknowledged former Lay Leader Darlene Amon and said she would not be standing there today if it wasn't for her. Darlene recently passed away on May 27, 2021. Darlene was elected as a General Conference delegate for every meeting since 1992. She served as president of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Lay

Leaders and served as first woman of the national Lay Leaders' Association. "I would not be who I am today without Darlene Amon. We would not be the church we are today if it wasn't for her boldness." Stokes offered a moment of silence to remember Amon's witness. Stokes related the struggle she has had with two foot surgeries. "My footprint has changed again," she said, "so there will be no stepping into familiar things. The familiar ways of church aren't the same anymore either." She continued, "The pews that cradled us so comfortably are no more as we were moved outside, which is probably where we should be. The footprints we have been following are gone. We are being called to redefine and reinvent church."

Stokes talked about a book by Sister Joan Chidester and the choices of the world we have to choose. "We have a world that defies everything we have ever been taught and we all have a prophet within ourselves. We must find out what we really stand for and what we have done to prove it," Stokes said. Chidester said we either become prophets or remain simply church goers. "I believe this type of spiritual prophecy is what we are called to by virtue of our baptisms. We must find a new way to talk about our call to ministry. We must change our language around call. We are a team, laity and clergy together, both with 100 percent responsibility of outcomes."

Stokes talked about new programs that will be coming. She said we must stand witness to the pandemic of covid and racial injustice. She talked about the episodes of "Diversity Kitchen" that are modeling how people can come together through food and conversations. She is part of the conference workgroup looking at racial justice and on this even of Juneteenth we cannot look back. We must create safe space for conversations, just as Jesus did.

I've spent the last eight months listening. Laity and clergy I have heard you. She asked for conference members to pray for the SEJ delegation that is joining in a called meeting.

Delegates will receive reports on anti-racism work and the pandemic.

Stokes closed with words from Darlene, "We can't become what we need to be by remaining where we are."

The Rev. Joseph T. Carson III gave a video report of the **Equitable Compensation Commission**. No change is recommended to the current compensation schedule or the floor schedule.

Dr. Steve Summers, director of Connectional Ministries, brought the report for the **Common Table of Church Vitality**. The report was approved. Dr. Summers brought the **Nominations** to Boards, Agencies, Commissions and Committees before the conference. They were approved. Bishop Lewis anointed those agencies.

David Dommissie presented a pre-recorded **Statisticians Report**. Churches adapted to online giving and many churches applied for grants through the Board of Communications and CFA to assist with technical challenges during the pandemic. There were still some 1,121 professions of faith and over 600 baptisms. Small groups still met virtually and awareness of needs in communities was higher than ever. Some 46,000 people were reported serving in mission.

The **Green Church Award** video was shared. It is presented by the Caretakers of God's Creation of the Board of Church and Society. Ellen Comstock presented the award to Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth and the Rev. Celeste Heath, pastor. A church member shared the ways the church built back as a green church following a church fire, including new lighting.

The **Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI)** report was presented in a video presentation by Ms. Stacey Anthony. The Pensions report was approved as presented. David Dommissie presented a video **Treasurer's** report. Apportionment receipts were down but second mile giving was \$828,568. He said the conference is in a strong financial position. He addressed the increase to legal expenditures in the past year due to the pandemic and the Boy Scouts issues. The motion passed.

The business was closed with prayer by Bishop Lewis.

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Bishop Sharma Lewis welcomed clergy and lay members to the Saturday session and introduced Dr. John Kinney for a second day of Bible study.

Mary Dadisman presented the report from the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). "I feel like we have had greater laity involvement this year," she said. "Mostly through worship." She said she also believes there has been greater ethnic diversity this year. "Yes, may God call us to be one," she said. Dadisman also shared information from CEMCA. Today is Juneteenth. They call on all United Methodists to celebrate emancipation. Bishop Lewis extended thanks to music leader Gerald Ricks and his ensemble.

The **closing UNITED IN MISSION AND MINISTRY WORSHIP**, was led by Bishop Lewis.

The Rev. MiRhang Baek gave the invocation.

The congregation then welcomed the **Galilee Dancers of Praise** to the sanctuary.

The Rev. Kendra Grimes read the Scripture from John 17:20-23.

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,^[a] so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

The theme for Bishop Lewis' sermon was "**United as One.**" She was asked last week why she chose, "United As One," for the theme. The person pointed we are not united on human sexuality issues. "The question remains today," she said, "What does unite us? Does God not give humanity the grace to feel passionate about certain life issues? Does God expect us to agree on all matters? I chose this theme because I believe God is calling us now more than ever to be one with Christ." She said the annual conference logo captured the hands pointing to God.

"Why do we worry about this denomination?," Bishop Lewis asked. "Why do we put a limit

on God? We've seen the word unity displayed this week, but unity has varying degrees of interpretation. Unity is a very important matter. In the last moment of Jesus' earthly existence, he prayed for unity. He entrusted his own future to God. But the question remains, how do we maintain this unity in the midst of disunity in our culture and denomination."

She said, "Before we can love God and each other, we must love ourselves. We must proclaim Christ as the Savior, as the Messiah in our own lives."

"Let us not fall for the trick of the enemy who comes to kill and destroy," Bishop Lewis said.

"Let us not be so divided that we cannot see Christ in each other."

"We are mandated to share the Good News in season and out of season, that Jesus Christ is the living son of God. God loved us so much he sacrificed his only son. Our priority is to win souls for Christ. Can Jesus be the heart of the matter?"

"What we can agree on is Jesus," Bishop Lewis said.. "Jesus died for us to be reconciled."

[\(Read entire text of Bishop Lewis' sermon\)](#)

Following the sermon, Bishop Lewis explained where this year's Conference Offering would go. It will address food insecurity, poverty and global mission.

The Rev RJ Jun, associate director of Serving, gave thanks to all local churches and the partners of hope ministries. Money will continue to be collected until the end of August. You may give online at www.vaumc.org/acoffering. If the goal of \$200,000 is met, a bucket of ice water will be poured on Bishop Lewis. Jun gave thanks for the work of the Community Cans and Kits at 34 sites around the conference.

The Rev. Josette Franklin led a responsive litany.

Bishop Lewis and the Cabinet led the "Fixing of Appointments"

Worship Committee

David Dobson

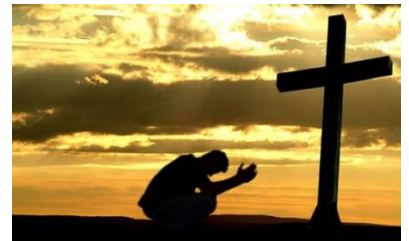
Happy Independence Day and the downhill run of 2021! Time flies like an arrow! Fruit flies like a banana.

What a blessing it is to be back in church and worshipping our Lord and Savior. I would like to share a little from our last committee meeting.

Although the Worship Committee does not have a set mandate on what we do, it is one of those needed components for a healthy church body. We work with ministry, music, outreach, and community in an effort to ensure we stick with our core beliefs and also provide a service that is enjoyable!

The worship committee is pleased to announce the following:

- The resumption of "Birthday Ice Cream" on the 4th of July. Although we cannot fully embrace the full "social" aspect of it, we will have pre-packaged ice cream to enjoy this Sunday in the fellowship hall or outside on the lawn if weather permits. Please bring a friend (or two).



- A special event September 19th is being developed involving music of praise on a Saturday night, TBD.
- On the winter horizon, since caroling went so well and was so enjoyable last year, it will resume again this year. Hopefully, we can expand it a bit and make everyone merry with the spirit of Christmas.

Ever wonder what we follow the same “method” every Sunday? I invite everyone to look up some of the history of the United Methodist Church and how our way of worship became what it is. John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as "practical divinity" has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today. I challenge the congregation to help me list the ways that we do this. A new motivational slogan I have been toying with is “*Clarksbury Cares*”. Help me put that into action and let that guide you Monday to Saturday, we will cover Sundays!

Also, please remember that we are together each Sunday for a special purpose, to *Worship our God*. We ask for reverence and quite once Janis begins playing. Sit and quietly reflect all the blessings you have and open your heart as wide as you can to the Lamb of God. He is with us!

As always, if you have any comments or questions, I am in service of the Lord so anytime is good and any comment is good!

Peace be unto you,
Dave

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.



Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of June 27:	60,105.01

May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right.

--Peter Marshall

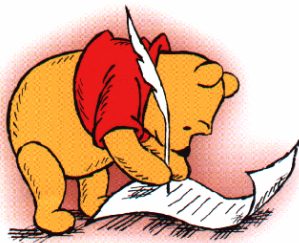
Land of the free because of the brave.

Nurture and Outreach

Jerry Dant

Oh, how great it has been to see our friends back in church for the Sunday Service together. Now, we are waiting to have coffee afterward for greetings with each other after the pandemic. The committee has been busy sending Father's Day wishes in the month of June. Goodie bags were delivered to the fathers at Fishing Bay Estates by the girls making deliveries the first of the month. Our church fathers received a gift on Father's Day to show them how much we appreciate them in our church. Our committee is planning a treat for those at Fishing Bay Estates for the 4th of July. Check the calendar out as there are lots of birthdays in July and send good wishes to those having a special day.

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
M-Z Lewis Musick 6023 Dixon Lane Gloucester, Va., 23061		

JULY POP

Dear God

I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate my dad's life today. It means so much to our family to see all your faces and feel your warmth and love surrounding us. Today is the culmination of a year's worth of energy that can finally be released in sharing words and pictures and a little glimpse into my dad's life. A life well-lived, except for the fact that he left us way too soon. I have cried a river's worth of tears in that time, a river's worth of tears in the weeks leading up to today and I will likely continue to shed tears for my sorrow of losing my dad. But the interesting thing that I have seen happen as I move through this process is this.

When my eyes have dried from crying, I can remember how much my dad taught me over the time we spent together on this earth. Family was especially important to Dad-many of you may not know that. We were raised to stick together no matter what-during tough times and our triumphs. If one of us were in trouble we often worked together to get through that crisis. When things

were going well, we celebrated the positive moments. We also celebrated emptying the Green Hornet full of wood from Muller Martini that were all too frequently brought home. Trunk, back seat removed full so you could not see out of the windows. I can still hear the huge sighs that Frank and I made when we saw dad drive up...it was always a pleasant surprise. In other words, he taught us to work hard because hard work is rewarded always with a feeling of accomplishment as well as sore legs and arms.

When my eyes are dried, I can laugh at how much my dad joked around with me-incessantly in fact. Sometimes I didn't even get it! Sometimes, I even disliked it...but, you see, after my tears have dried and I have thought about it, life is too short not to laugh-Dad thought so. He told great jokes and loved to do so and if you were lucky enough to understand German you could get most of his jokes!

When my eyes are dried, I get a good feeling thinking about how kind my dad was to everyone. There was never a stranger in his home. In fact, he welcomed everyone in his home and promptly showed them where the refrigerator was so they could get their own drinks. I think he had it figured out-perhaps you would even bring him a beer while you were getting your own. Both he and mom have always been the perfect hosts. No one would leave their house with an empty belly or an unhappy soul.

When my eyes are dried, I am proud of how incredibly smart my dad was. I think many of you can agree. If something was broken he would fix it and most likely make it better to boot. But it was more than that, his mind was never quiet, he was always thinking, -t

hinking of how to solve problems, thinking of how to create new things. You see he was also an inventor holding at least 3 patents and he had many more ideas to share. In fact, as I went through the things on top of his desk there was a phone number to a

patent lawyer lying on his desk. **He was not done, but he was called.** He is not here anymore but I try hard every day to hear his words. He still inspires me through my tears and *when my eyes are dry* I am comforted by his presence in my **Heart.**

Amen



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Noon Prayer	2 Noon Prayer	1 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
2 Noon Prayer	3 Noon Prayer	4 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 Noon Prayer	15 Noon Prayer
16 Richard Sisson Noon Prayer	17 Richard Purcell Soup Ministry Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Jerry Crittenden Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer

23 Noon Prayer	24 Betty Johnson Noon Prayer UMM 7pm	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27 Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer	29
30	31					

The deadline for the **June 2021 Grapevine** will be **Monday, April 26** Send email to 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 July Val Bradley, Mary Banker and Cacky Guill