



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia October 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

What does the Bible say about Halloween?

Warren Wright



First, understand that Halloween is mostly a western custom and it has no direct reference in the Bible. However, there are Biblical principles that directly relate to the celebration of Halloween. Perhaps the best way to understand how Halloween relates to the Bible is to look at the meaning of Halloween and its history. The word Halloween literally means the evening before All Hallows Day (or All Saint's Day) celebrated on November 1. Halloween is also the shortened name of Allhalloween, All Hallows' Evening and All Saint's Eve which is celebrated on October 31. The origin and meaning of Halloween are derived from ancient Celtic harvest festivals, but more recently we think of Halloween as a night filled with candy, trick-or-treating, pumpkins, ghosts and death. The origin of Halloween as we know it, began over 1900 years ago in England, Ireland, and Northern France. It was a Celtic celebration of the new year, called Samhain which occurred on November 1. The Celtic druids revered it as the biggest holiday of the year and emphasized that day as the time when the souls of the dead supposedly could mingle with the living. Bonfires were a large aspect of this holiday as well. Samhain remained popular until St. Patrick and other Christian missionaries arrived in the area. As the population began to convert to Christianity the holiday began to lose its popularity. However, instead of eradicating pagan practices such as "Halloween" or Samhain, the church instead used these holidays with a Christian twist to bring paganism and Christianity together, making it easier for local populations to convert to the state religion. Another tradition is the druidic belief that during the night of November 1, demons, witches, and evil spirits freely roamed the earth with joy to greet the arrival of "their season"—the long nights and early dark of the winter months. The demons had their fun with poor mortals that night, frightening, harming, and even playing all kinds of mean tricks on them. The only way, it seemed, for scared humans to escape the persecution of the demons was to offer them things they liked, especially fancy foods and sweets. Or, to escape the fury of these horrible creatures, a human could disguise himself as one of them and join in their roaming. In this way, they would recognize the human as a demon or witch and the human would not be bothered that night. During the Roman empire, there was the custom of eating or giving away fruit, especially apples, on Halloween. It spread to neighboring countries, to Ireland and Scotland from Britain, and to the Slavic countries

from Austria. It is probably based upon a celebration of the Roman goddess Pomona, to whom gardens and orchards were dedicated. Since the annual Feast of Pomona was held on November 1, the relics of that observance became part of our Halloween celebration, for instance, the familiar tradition of “dunking” for apples. Today costumes take the place of disguises and candy has replaced fruits and other fancy foods as children go door-to-door trick-or-treating. Originally trick-or-treating began as “souling,” when children would go door-to-door on Halloween, with soul cakes, singing and saying prayers for the dead. Over the course of history Halloween’s visible practices have changed with the culture of the day, but the purpose of honoring the dead, veiled in fun and festivities, has remained the same. The question remains, is celebrating Halloween bad or unbiblical?

Should Christians celebrate Halloween?

As a logical thinking person, consider for a moment what you are celebrating and what Halloween is all about. Is the holiday uplifting? Is Halloween pure? Is it lovely, praiseworthy, or of good report? Philippians 4:8 says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Is Halloween based on godly themes such as the idea of peace, freedom and salvation or does the holiday bring to mind feelings of fear, oppression and bondage? Additionally, does the Bible sanction witchcraft, witches, and sorcery? On the contrary, the Bible makes it clear that these practices are an abomination to the Lord. The Bible goes on to say in Leviticus 20:27 that anyone who practiced witchcraft, soothsaying, sorcery should be killed. Deuteronomy 18:9-13 adds, “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you ... one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. “Let’s look at what the Bible adds to this topic in Ephesians 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” This text is calling us to not only have no association with any type of dark activity **BUT ALSO** to shed light on this topic to those around us. As stated earlier in this article, Halloween was not exposed by the church for what it was, but rather was incorporated into

Mission–To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

Fall Food Pantry

Fran Miller

Thanks to covid, it has been over a year since Clarksbury has had its Food Pantry Distribution. Well, the time has finally come for us to get back into action. Our next Food Pantry Distribution Day will be on Saturday, October 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. Things will be a little different, however, as we are still struggling with this terrible virus. Thanks to all the money we have received in grants and donations, all of the food and toiletries will be purchased. We are limiting the number of volunteers to help pack groceries due to covid concerns. I have asked a few people to help with this job. Along with these changes, the distribution day will be quite different than we have had in the past. We will follow the procedure that the Cryer Mobile Food Pantry uses. No one will get out of the car, there will be no refreshments and sadly, no time for prayers. Hopefully this will change soon. We will be giving each family a bag of toiletries and 2 bags of groceries. Again, we are limiting the number of volunteers to keep us all safe and I have asked a few people to help with this as well. I hope things will be different in February when we have our next pantry and everyone in the church can be involved. Please tell those in need about the day and pray that all will be safe, and we can return to normal soon!

Soup Ministry; Warming Tree Ministry; Coat Rack Ministry

Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, Val Bradley

At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during June, July, and August. We have now started our third Monday-of-the-month in September. We currently deliver only once a month because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month to our recipients. If you would like to make some homemade soup for our recipients, just let one of the committee members listed above know. Four soup containers (quart size) are provided, make any variety, and return your soup to the church.

Our warming tree ministry and coat rack ministry will be available the first Saturday of each month beginning the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be putting a table outside with the warming items, weather permitting; otherwise, you may contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you obtain the needed warming items. If you would like to provide any of these warming items, our **warming tree** will be in the fellowship hall for you to place your items. The **warming tree** also has items listed on an angel on the tree if you would like to take an angel, purchase the item, and bring the item back and place under the **warming tree**.

THANK YOU for supporting these very important ministries of your church. If you would like to help in any way, just contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.

Annual Budget for 2021 Operating Funds:	\$115,711.00
Total Received for Operating Funds as of August 8:	94,237.77
Total Needed by October 31:	2,188.06

God has given you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say “thank you”?

Nurture and Outreach
Jerry Dant

Please keep up the good work of sending cards and notes to our homebound members and others as the Pandemic is keeping most in the community home. It is, also great to call or make a drive by visit to those in the community.

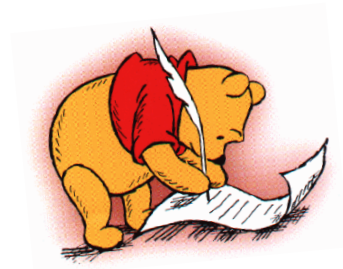
Terry shared with the committee a kit to make signs reading "GOD BLESS AMERICA". The ladies delivered them when they delivered the Cryer Center food the first Saturday in September. This was a way to recognize Labor Day. If you have any suggestions or ideas to help us share the holidays with our friends at Fishing Bay Estates and the community, please let us know.

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

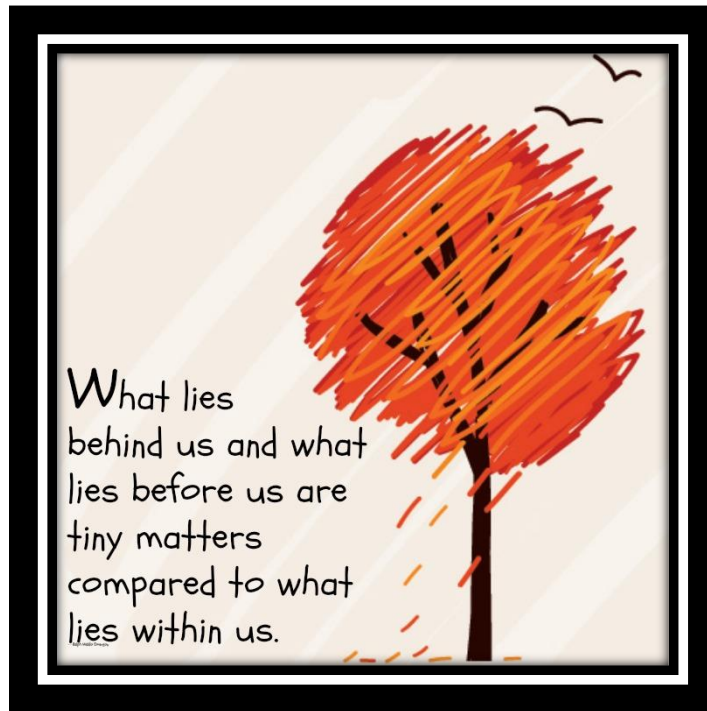
If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed.

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	



October POP

Welcome October

Offer your heart, mind and soul to the Lord

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Confess all your mistakes and sins.

Praise God that

Today He will provide and protect you
and your loved ones.

Outpouring of His love and grace claim it
with thanksgiving

Blessings will overflow through you so
you can be a blessing to others too

Every day be grateful that God works in you to

Restore and renew your life for His glory. Amen.

www.MotivationalWordsofWisdom.com



Clarksbury
UMC

Grapevine October 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Noon Prayer	1 Noon Prayer	2 Myrtle Clark Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
3 Noon Prayer	4 Tommy Crittenden Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Noon Prayer	7 Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Jasper Booker Noon Prayer
10 Cacky Guill Noon Prayer	11 Janis Slaughter Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer	15 Eric Vaudt Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer
17 Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer	22 Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer
24 Noon Prayer	25 Jerry Duke Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27	28	29 Phyllis Motley	30
31 Kathy Wright						

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

Send email to pwalian2@gmail.com

October **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 October Cacky Guill and Betty Tate

Scripture Reader for October is Joyce Smith