

MOuNTaiN ECHoeS

FEBRUARY 2022

134th Edition



(Sunrise Photo by Ron Huffman, 1-20-22, "When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries, may Jesus Christ be praised".)

Keezletown United Methodist Church

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"And every day, the world will drag you by the hand, yelling, "This is important! And this is important! And this is important! You need to worry about this! And this! And this!" And each day, it's up to you to yank your hand back, put it on your heart and say, "No. This is what's important." Iain Thomas

OUR PASTOR CHATS

Fasting is a common spiritual discipline to practice during the season of Lent. Since Lent will begin on March 2nd, with Ash Wednesday, I thought it would be a good time to think about what fasting is and how you might try it for this season of Lent. Lent is a period of forty days (not including Sundays) of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Fasting is self-denial of something good in our lives for a brief time as a way of yearning, praying for, and preparing for good things God would bring into our lives. I encouraged people in our church to fast for healing for Susie McGlaughlin on February 16th and 18th. Those days were a Wednesday and a Friday. Wednesdays and Fridays are traditional days for fasting for Christians through the entire year, not just Lent. For those two days I fasted food during the day until the evening meal. I drank lots of fluids. Each time I thought about food during those days I gave thanks for the goodness of food and prayed for the good thing I was waiting on God for during the fast: I prayed for God's healing, peace, and perseverance to be in Susie and her family. During that Wednesday and Friday evening, as I ate, I was thankful to delight in the goodness of food, but I also prayed that we would know the delight of God's grace in Susie and her family's lives. There are some things from that story to consider if you decide to fast during Lent or another time. What is the good thing from God for which you are praying, yearning, preparing? Name it so that fasting is not just about giving something up, but making room for the goodness God can bring. What good thing will you fast? It can be common to fast meals, food treats, screen time, social media, styles of dress, activities of interest, or other good things. I recommend choosing just one thing to abstain from during a period of fasting. If there are different things you would like to fast you could always choose a different thing to abstain from for a different time of fasting. What is one good thing you could fast? When will you fast? Choose the specific times and ways you will fast. During Lent, Sundays traditionally don't count as part of the fast days. Will you break from your fast on Sundays in Lent? Will you choose traditional days to fast like Wednesdays and Fridays? Will you fast every day, certain days, particular times of the day rather than the whole day? The point is not to impress God or others with rigorousness or extreme deprivation as a sign of devotion. Fasting is to help us pray and make room for God's goodness. Choose the specific times for your next fast and when you will fast in that period. When will you break the fast? Delighting in the good thing that had been abstained from can be a way to give thanks for goodness and anticipate the goodness of God. I often think when breaking a fast—this dinner is good, but what God is doing is even better than this! During Lent it is traditional to break the fast on Sundays and to end the fast on Easter Day. Enjoy the blessings of God and look forward with hope to the blessings God will yet bring. May God guide us with grace during this coming season of Lent and times of fasting.

The editor would sincerely like to apologize for a misprint that was missed in proofreading the January newsletter in which under the picture of the Dodrills and Simmers family, it was mistyped as "Dodrills/Sinners". I have had a long talk with my keyboard.

Facemasks Recommended: The Omicron Variant is very contagious and affecting local health systems. During this time facemasks are strongly encouraged for all in-person church activities and services. Facemasks are not required for fully vaccinated persons, but it is encouraged that everyone use facemasks during this time, vaccinated and unvaccinated. Let us continue to pray for God to give us grace through the pandemic and deliver us from it.

Off Camera and Off Audio: Not everyone will be comfortable being viewed on camera and heard in audio for online KUMC services that get shared on the internet. Here are some ways to limit being seen or heard in an online worship service if you desire to avoid that. For sound: the audio for the service will be on when gathering music begins and the audio will be off after the postlude. This will minimize the pre- and post-worship conversations being picked up by the sound system. If you sing, say "Amen", or speak during the service it is possible your voice will be picked up in the audio. For video, camera operators will be adjusting how much of the congregation appears on camera. Those seated in the first six rows of

pews or in the chancel (stage) area will have a high likelihood of being on camera sometime during a worship service. Those seated in the back six rows of pews or in the narthex (foyer) will not be on camera (barring an oversight or error).

View Worship Online: The best way to view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship is to go to: <https://www.facebook.com/keezletownumc/live> or to watch live on the Keezletown UMC YouTube channel. After the service is completed it will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook.

Use Caution in Handicap Parking Area: The new paint in the handicap parking area has a slickness to it, especially when damp or wet. Please use caution near those painted lines. A clear grip coating will be applied in the future. Please take care.

Happy Birthdays and Anniversaries from Feb 1st thru Feb 28th: Birthdays: Clint Martin, Caleb Combs, John



Phalen, Alex Mansfield, Steve Suter, Lynn Siler, Cole Liskey, Kevin Mason, Flossie Walters, Noah Robinette, Ken Thomas, Nancy Armentrout, Kahlyn Smith, Courtney Sacra, Rick Layman, Reese Pellegrin, Joe Johnson Jr, Loretta Eklund, Steve Zylich, Stephanie Liskey, David Nankivell, Tyler Sacra; and anniversaries: Joseph & Mellissa Johnson (29), and Allen & Sharon Martin (50).

***** JANUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

United Methodist Men met at 8:00 a.m. on a cold, dreary, overcast, Sunday morning, Jan 16th. The sun did shine as 9 men gathered for the first Men's gathering of 2022, led by new Chairman Scott Dillard, who opened up the gathering with prayer for our delicious breakfast, prepared and served by Darryl Eppard and Joe Liskey (thanks gentlemen). After some wonderful fellowship, reminiscing of past blizzards (aka blizzard 1962), we convened to our time for devotions, given by Ken Thomas. The topic of the devotion was many times we are torn down by circumstances and by others. Questions will arise as to how we are to respond, how do we overcome this? We can learn how to respond from characters in the Bible who had this very thing happen to them and how they addressed this issue. After a prayer by Joel the group entered into the meeting portion of the morning. A partial list of addressed items were: Serving a Lenten Meal, Pancake Meal, Potato Bar, Pork Tenderloin Meal, Church picnic at Camp Overlook, Christmas Dinner, Outreach Programs (4 items), and Church grounds responsibility. Many of these items were carryovers from previous years and we voted to continue them for the new year. Several new items the men discussed: Renaming of the Camp Overlook scholarship we have funded in the past that aid and assist children who wish to attend summer camp at Camp Overlook to the **Noland Suter Memorial Scholarship** to honor Mr. Suter. He meant so much to the group both as a man, mentor and leader for our group. Noland was a quiet man who led by example, but more importantly with a caring heart for others, who will be greatly missed. We voted to make a donation to UMCOR in response to the recent tornado disasters. We also voted to assist, as able and through the year, BJ Smith in his journey/calling into ministry for God (GO BJ!!). In conclusion to our meeting, we are hoping and praying for a better 2022, that all things soon return to normalcy, and that God is at the center and forefront of our lives, our community, our nation and our world.

THREE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME: On Jan 16th at 9:45 a.m., three Sunday School classes resumed. Scott Dillard is leading a middle/high school youth class in his old classroom looking at

the parables of Jesus. Mac Coffman is leading an adult class on the theme of "Encouragement" in the social hall. Chris Cole is leading a class using "Adult Bible Studies" materials following Revised Lectionary Scriptures in the Prayer Room. Welcome back to Sunday School.

SNOW DID NOT STOP THE ANOINTING. In a shortened worship service due to snow falling on Jan 16th, Chris played the gathering music and Haiden carried in the Light of Christ as the prelude, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", was played. Mac Coffman gave the greeting and opening prayer. Pastor Joel then asked the Sunday school teachers, Mac, Scott Dillard, and Chris, to come forward and a responsive blessing was given over them. Neil came to read the Gospel lesson from John 2:1-11, the wedding miracle. Pastor Joel began his message, "When the Wine Runs Out" by saying at the wedding, going for days and days, the wine would run out. Where there is wine, there is joy per the rabbi. When the wine runs out, it is embarrassing. Today, I want to have healing prayers. Have any of you during these last two years felt like the joy or the wine has run out? Jesus' mother turns to Jesus and wants him to fix it. Jesus tells the servants to draw the water, almost 1000 pounds of water. He told them to take the filled jars to the steward, who said it was the best wine he'd ever tasted. When we bring Jesus into where the joy has gone, a miracle happens and the joy and grace return. It's a gift from Jesus, not the words, and not those who say them. After the message, the Church family sang "Spirit Song" as Pastor Joel passed thru the pews anointing each person with a cross on their foreheads, and praying with those needing prayer. Mac came to give the Benediction as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ and Chris played the postlude. **JOY COMES WITH JESUS' HEALING.**



Jan 17th Martin Luther King Jr Day: "The richer we have become materially, the poorer we become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly in the air like birds and swim in the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers". Martin Luther King Jr



NEW BABY IN CHURCH FAMILY: We would like to welcome, Jade Alexandria Bahle, born Jan 22nd, weighing 6.8 pounds. She is the daughter of Brendon and Charlotte Bahle, little sister to Carmella, granddaughter to Barrett Bowman, great granddaughter to Patti Bowman, and niece and cousin to the Brandon Bowman family. Happy Birthday, Jade.

WHAT PART ARE YOU? As we entered the sanctuary this morning, Jan 23rd, we noticed a number of books laying on top of the altar, as well as two large tubs in front of the altar. Diana played "Just a Closer Walk With Thee", "Whispering Hope", and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" as the gathering music, before the bell rang, Brayden carried in the Light of Christ, and she played "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" as the prelude. After Ken Thomas greeted everyone, and read two Thank You notes, Pastor Joel came to explain that the books on the altar were for BJ Smith who is beginning to assume the ministerial duties at the Blue Ridge Charge every other Sunday until July, and that all were welcome to write notes of encouragement in the front of the books for him. The tubs were for "Souper Bowl" Sunday, picking your favorite team, and to be

donated to Massanutten Food Pantry. Ken then led the Congregational opening prayer, followed by the singing of “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”, and the choir presenting “We Are the Body of Christ”. Carol Sacra came to read the Epistle lesson from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, one body in Christ. Pastor Joel asked us to think about “One Body, Many Members”, as he began his message about Paul, who asks the



Corinthians to think about Jesus’ body and the parts of the body, as we, as Christians, are part of the body. Can Jesus do without any part of His body? He moved to wherever healing or comfort was needed. He used His hands to touch, to feed, to offer up for us. He listened when people asked. His arms held children. His back carried the cross and took the stripes for us. He was stripped of everything

to hang on the cross. Paul tells us we are the members, the parts of the body of Jesus, and that our weakest members receive the most care. The Spirit brings us in to the body—the Father determines the place. All are brought together. The Corinthians had lots of problems and lots of division. Paul reminds them who they are and what God is doing with them. Baptism and the Spirit brings us all in, as a part of the body; all are necessary. We are Jesus here on earth, to share and give kindness, mercy, patience, and God’s love. Let us be the body of Jesus Christ. “Blest Be the Tie

That Binds” was sung after the message. Ken then led the Morning Prayer time and the Lord’s Prayer. Pastor Joel came to Dedicate and Bless BJ in his ministry and the Books the Church



family provided for him. Ken then gave the offertory prayer, led the Doxology, and gave the Benediction, as Brayden carried out the Light of Christ and Diana played “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” as the postlude. **LET US BE THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

“The Way” study began on a cold Monday morning, Jan 24th, with five ladies and Pastor Joel. Adam Hamilton led us in his video thru the Holy Land to the river Jordan and the cave where Jesus stayed in the wilderness, to enhance our study of Jesus’ baptism and his temptations by the devil forty days in the wilderness. We then talked about our own baptism and the grace of God in our temptations.

AND HOW DO YOU LOVE? “Woodland Peace”, “Joy in God”, “In the Garden”, and “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” were heard as we gathered for worship on Jan 30th, and the bell rang. Carol then played “Rigaudon” as the prelude, as Brayden carried in the Light of Christ. Steve Morris gave the welcome and the opening prayer, and we all sang “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”, before the choir sang “Make Me a Blessing”. Neil came to read the Epistle lesson from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, the gift of love. Pastor Joel began with in 1 Corinthians 13, we find wonderful words of “The Excellent Way of Love”, my sermon title. Corinth was divided, so Paul wanted to show them how to love. Love is the only way we move forward in God. You can do amazing things, but without the Love of God, it is for nothing. Think about a gasoline engine—when all parts move at high temperatures, the oil lubricates, and friction is eliminated. The Love of God in our marriages, our community, and our church is what keeps us going. When it seems like our love has run out, it may take a while to start sharing it again. Love is known by what

love does, with the greatest being the giving of Christ's life as our salvation. Love endures thru the will of God. For your whole life, the love you share, the Love of God, is what people will remember. By the grace of God, let us live the excellent way of love, the gift of God, the way that endures and overcomes. We then sang "Now Praise the Hidden Love of God", followed by Steve leading the Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. A Commissioning for BJ and Kelly Smith to Short-Term Christian Service was then held, dedicating them to their work in the Blue Ridge Charge. (BJ gave a witness and response which is in the next article.) Steve came to give the offertory prayer, the Doxology was sung, and he gave the Benediction. Carol played "Now Praise the Hidden Love of God" as the postlude, and Brayden carried out the Light of Christ. **LOVE IS KNOWN BY WHAT IT DOES.**

DEDICATING BJ AND KELLY: On Jan 30th, the Church family, during the worship service, Commissioned and dedicated the work of BJ and Kelly Smith as they assist in the ministries of the Blue Ridge Charge every other Sunday, usually the first and third Sundays, through June. This includes Hensley UMC, with 50-60 attending, Mt Pleasant UMC, with 40-50 attending, and Furnace UMC, with 50-60 attending. BJ took a few moments to talk about being asked, praying a lot, and eventually accepting this calling. He thought Pastors had all this information in their heads when preaching, but soon realized that they "cheated" by using reference books (everyone laughed as he looked at Pastor Joel). He then went on to thank the Church family for buying all of the reference books for him, and for writing the inspirational notes in the front. With all of the new books, he's now having to find a bigger bookcase. He also told that he had two helpers, one for the childrens' messages and one to keep him organized. He did stress that you don't tell God no, because you will end up doing whatever it was anyway. He is praying about what the future may bring in his Ministerial work. and again thanked everyone for the books, and their prayers, and that this show of support "just melted his heart".

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM FLORIDA: Jan 30th after a very cold night in Florida in the 20's and 30's, Evalyn wrote: "It's a different kind of day. It was cold enough here last night to impact more fragile plants but parts of the cats' whisker were damaged while one branch seems untouched. The little mum still has flowers. All experienced the same change in temperature. I sat outside in the sunshine moving into its warmth today. Last summer I avoided the heat of those rays. God sustains us all throughout our lives. Being aware of His presence brings the joy that surpasses understanding. The plants' responses seem to show me that we don't all have to have the same response to know how much God loves us."

"The Way" study on Jan 31st, was enjoyed by six ladies and Pastor Joel. In studying Luke 4 and 5, Adam Levine took us to Capernaum, where Jesus removed an unclean spirit from a man, healed Simon's mother-in-law, and forgave and healed the paralytic man that was lowered thru the house roof by his friends. All are welcome to join us.

FUN JOKES:

What does a gingerbread man use to make his bed? Cookie sheets.

If we weren't supposed to have snacks from the fridge after dinner, there would be no light in there.

If you step on a corn flake, are you a cereal killer?

Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee? Because they are Santa's star bucks.

How do you count cows? With a cowculator.
A duck in the cement mixer makes quakes in the pavement.
If you accidentally rub ketchup in our eyes, do you have Heinzsight?

UPCOMING STUDIES:

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS STUDY: Dive deep into the final days of Jesus with study author Amy-Jill Levine in this beginner's guide to Holy Week. The study is great for Lent and will meet Mondays at 10:00 a.m. from Mar 7th – Apr 11th. Large print study books are \$11 and regular print study books are \$10. Sign up with Pastor Joel or in the narthex.

TWO WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR:

Bishop Sharma Lewis has once again challenged us to read the Bible, using The **2022 One Year Bible reading plan** which can be found at <http://vaumc.org>. The plan has daily readings from Jan 1st – Dec 31st, with about 2 chapters from the Old Testament, some verses from the New Testament, some verses from Psalms, and some verses from Proverbs. Copies of the plan are available in the narthex.

Pastor Joel has also made a reading plan for KUMC called “**The Bible in a Year**”. One thing about this plan is it can be started any day, featuring 4 chapters a day, with 2 chapters reading through the Bible beginning in Genesis, 1 chapter from a song, poetry, wisdom, or instruction book of the Bible like Psalms, and 1 chapter from the Gospels or Acts, allowing you to actually read through the Gospels and Acts three times in 365 days. “The Bible in a Year” is available in print at KUMC and online at the KUMC website www.keezletownumc.com.

“My mother's parents lived in Florida until I was 6 or 7, when they moved to Virginia and lived next door to us. While in Florida they would intentionally eat kid's cereals so they could send me the little cars that came in each box! That was love.” Jim Harris

*****FEBRUARY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

United Methodist Women met on Feb 3rd in the social hall with 14 members present. Ann called the meeting to order and we repeated the UMW Purpose. Michele led the devotional program entitled “Seeking God’s Kingdom Over Safety”, a reading about living life out of love instead of fear. We paused to enjoy wonderful Valentine goodies supplied by Karen and Sharon, and to chat. With the Jan meeting cancelled, no minutes were read. Kathy gave the Treasurers report as of 12/31/21 and Mission of the month will be the receipts of the Soup/Bake sale to the Relay for Life Team. Thank you notes from Len Williams, Faye Higgs, Becky Armentrout, the Phalens, the Nankivells, Patsy Smith, and Annalee Crisman were acknowledged. Cheryl advised that the flower calendar was in the narthex. Sherry reported that everything had been donated for the Soup sale on Feb 12th beginning at 8:00 a.m., as a freewill offering, and with a bake sale. We are planning to serve the Ruritans (Keezletown) on March 7th and one of the Lenten meals in March, date TBD. The group has also been asked to serve the Mt Crawford Ruritans in May, on Aug 3rd, and in Nov. Two upcoming events are: District Spiritual Life Retreat @ St James UMC on Mar 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and District Evening Together @ Mt Valley UMC on Apr 21st at 7:00 p.m. Karen has been making gift bags with cookies and cards, to be distributed with the United Methodist Men’s flowers for Valentine’s Day and the group signed

the cards. We also signed cards for Susie McGlaughlin, Juanita Sheffer, Art/Mary Jo Mitchell, Leigha Dillard, Kendra Dodrill, Bridgewater College, and Briana (Faye Crowe's granddaughter). Some time was spent talking about the tragic shooting at Bridgewater College and its' effects on the members of the Church family. Chris read from the prayer calendar and handed out two books to read. Diana gave the closing prayer. Next meeting is Mar 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

JESUS, WON'T YOU GET INTO OUR BOAT TODAY? Worship for Feb 6th began with Carol playing "My God and I", "The Family of God", and "There's Something About That Name" as the gathering music. The bell rang and Ryan carried in the Light of Christ as Carol played "How Long Has It Been" for the prelude. Scott Dillard gave the greeting, announcements, and opening prayer, and the Church family sang "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore", followed by the choir singing "Two Fishermen". Beth Morris read the Gospel lesson from Luke 5:1-11, Jesus calls the first disciples. Pastor Joel began his message, "The Call of the Sinful and Unsuccessful Fisherman" by talking about the tragic shooting of two police officers at Bridgewater College on Tuesday. We have many in our church family who are connected with Bridgewater College and the town of Bridgewater. These two men were called to give their lives to protect and sacrifice. Jesus is calling Simon Peter to join the work of catching people in God's love. When we read this, we consider it our call. Simon Peter had not caught anything all night, was washing his nets, and Jesus is surrounded by people, when He asks him to



use his boat. Jesus often gets into our regular every day to use us for God's purpose and in sharing God's grace. Jesus then asked him to throw his nets in again. For Jesus, he did, and the nets overflowed. Simon Peter, who had seen Jesus heal and preach, now sees the impossible number of fish, calls Jesus Master and Lord, and tries to send him away proclaiming his own sinfulness. Jesus tells him not to be afraid, that from now on he will catch people. Jesus brings grace for all of us sinners. The wrong we do is never greater than the Love of God. Simon Peter then left everything and followed Jesus. Today is our day to see how we can catch people with the love and grace of God. Tell Jesus today that He can get in your boat. Scott led the Church family in "A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada", and we sang "Here I Am, Lord". Following this was a time of sharing for the tragedy (see the next article). Pastor Joel then presented a shortened Great Thanksgiving, with prayer and the partaking of the bread and wine, closing with the Lord's Prayer. He dismissed us with the Benediction, Ryan carried out the Light of Christ, and Carol played "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" as the postlude. **LET JESUS IN YOUR BOAT TODAY.**

IT WAS A TIME OF PAIN AND HEALING: On Feb 1st, at Bridgewater College, two police officers were killed by a gunman, who was later apprehended. These two brave men saved the lives of countless numbers. On Feb 6th, during worship, members of our congregation were given time to speak. As each approached the podium, you could see the tears and feel the pain as it permeated the air and each tried to find the words they wanted to say.

Scott Dillard began by reading John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." As his voice wavered, he said, "John and J.J. had a great love

for all at Bridgewater College, including my daughter. They died protecting her and I am grateful.”

Dale Dodrill sent an e-mail that said, two men were doing their jobs that day; their death has created a ripple effect. May we continue to care for all those hurting.

Jennifer Young, who lives less than a mile from the college wrote: I saw police cars and state troopers as I headed home; I also received a text from Pence saying Parker, my son, was in lockdown. Fear gripped me as I realized my door at home was unlocked. When Parker got off the bus, and we hugged, relief swept over me. I witnessed the most beautiful sunset that evening, a sign, I believe, of God sending peace.

Sharon Martin came to read Isaiah 40:21-31, a passage that talks about the power of God and that all who wait shall be lifted up on eagle’s wings.

Michele Dodrill talked about it being a very emotional week, with many tears. Kendra was at home; their house and the school are right next door. The texts came from school, then from Kendra; “I told her to stay put and lock the doors; I wanted to be with her, but couldn’t.” When all was clear and I went home, she got a really big hug. The next day I found a devotion about those who step forward to protect others. I realized that all I can do is listen, share, and give hugs and love to all who are family.

Jenny Dillard came to the podium, took a deep breath, and said “I have no words, and I haven’t since Tuesday”. Catching her breath, she said the deep and profound gratitude I have towards these two gentlemen in preventing a bigger tragedy—we are forever indebted to these heroes. Leigha texted she was OK. The last few days have been a fog with the tribute, and the procession. “Part of my brain says it’s OK, but I cry when Leigha leaves. I don’t want to live to fear; I pray for peace.”

Scott Dodrill said he tried to cheat and had texted Scott Dillard, but he ignored him, so he came forward. There are more people at play here; one unknown person said something was wrong; what if they had not? They are a hero. Another family comes to mind. The pain I feel hurts, but the pain of a mother whose child has done this needs friends who understand. My girls have never given me any trouble. A speaker once said the God that gave me freewill gave that to my child also. Pray for this young man and his family.

Beth Morris came to the front visibly shaken and in tears; she sobbed and then composed herself, then reminded us all that the first responders cannot cry in public—they have to go on with their duties, at the scene, then finish their day. They need to talk to someone, and rarely will involve their family, even though they may ask. They do have support groups to channel their anger and fear and frustration. Pray for the first responders that they can find peace.

Editorial: There were many tears during this time, but there was also support, and caring, and loving for all those mentioned and all those in attendance. Many hugs followed the service. When you bring God’s love to fear and anguish, you can find peace.

“The Way” study on Feb 7th concentrated on the Sermon on the Mount and how Jesus allowed Himself time to get away from the crowds and talk with God. Pastor Joel and the five ladies present discussed how we can face the challenges of the world today, living the Beatitudes, and finding a place to spend time with God.

IT'S SOUP TIME AGAIN! The United Methodist Women were again able (since the pandemic restricted it for the last two years) to make homemade vegetable soup for sale on Feb 12th. Approximately 12 women, and our "honorary soup maker helper", Scott Dodrill, started at 8:00 a.m., and made 125 quarts of vegetable/beef soup. All of these sold, along with a table full of baked goods. With it being a free will offering, it is safe to say that the ladies took in more than \$800.00 for the Keezletown United Marchers for a Cure Cancer relay team. Thanks so much to everyone who purchased, donated, or helped. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Great job ladies and Scott.



FIRST RESPONDERS GET VALENTINE LOVE AND THANKS:

KUMC family, I wanted to thank you for your donations given to support and uplift our local first responders. After hearing Beth speak in our time of sharing for Bridgewater College, and reaching out to my cousins in the fire department, I was truly heartbroken by the burden our first responders carry. I'm always looking for ways to teach my students about kindness and appreciation for others so I decided my class could make some valentines to share with a local station. But, I couldn't decide which station might most deserve this show of appreciation. In an effort to increase the number of people we might bless, I reached out to my KG team and Pastor Joel. Next, I emailed the idea to the principal at Cub Run and got permission to invite the entire school to participate. Then, I thought, "maybe a few more schools..." I started by reaching out to JCMES because Scott works there. I included JFHMS and BHS since our kids go there, and then threw in LSES because they are close to our home. By this time, Pastor Joel has sent the invitation to KUMC and I immediately had messages about the kinds of donations I could expect. Jenny Dillard encouraged MPC preschool to join in, too! I saw my sister-in-law that afternoon and asked if she would invite TAHS to participate (she works there) and LEES, where my niece attends school. In just a few hours, my little idea had really grown! At this point, we had one week until Valentine's Day and I was pretty sure we could spread the love around to a large handful of stations. On Monday, all of the schools we had invited agreed to participate and I realized we might just have so many donations we wouldn't have to pick and choose who would receive a valentine bag. By Tuesday night, a Facebook post Jenny had made captured the attention of the owner of the Harrisonburg Dairy Queens and she offered free Blizzard coupons to EVERY first responder (this ended up totaling more than 1000 men and women!) She even reached out to the Elkton and Bridgewater DQs and arranged for them to accept the specially-printed coupons. On Friday, with all valentine and candy/snack donations spread across our living room floor, it



took about 4 hours to count, sort, and load up a bag for ALL of the fire, police, and rescue stations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. There were 1,242 cards, letters, and notes! We even had a bag for our emergency communications center and the



campus police at both JMU and BC. Scott, the kids, and I set out to deliver these bags on Saturday morning, February 12th. It was truly an honor and a blessing to shake hands with our local heroes and see the smiles on their faces. Not every station is staffed on the weekends but, in many cases, God had someone drive up as we were walking away from the empty building. There was even one location where the station was empty but, while leaving town, we happened to drive by a gas station with a cruiser in the parking lot. Just four of the 37 bags were undelivered at the end of the day and had to be delivered later. I really have no idea how a little kindergarten valentine project became a county/city-wide effort to bless our first responders. God kept pushing the boundaries until they were wide enough to accomplish His purpose and then He perfected the timing to make sure that each station could receive these gifts. As usual, it was awesome to watch Him work and a privilege to be part of His plan! Thank you for all you did to make this possible! Kelli Sprague

IS A FULL BELLY AND BANK ACCOUNT WORTH IT? We were welcomed by Pastor Joel carrying in the Light of Christ to an empty sanctuary, on this snowy Sunday morning worship for Feb 13th, as an on-line worship only. He welcomed all and thanked Scott Dillard and Scott Sprague for manning the on-line part of the service, then opened with a prayer from Psalm 126. The Gospel lesson came from Luke 6:17-26, Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Plain. Pastor Joel's message was entitled "Sermon on the Plain: Blessings & Woes" and began with him asking us to think about the level places for a little. All high places will eventually be made smooth. Jesus went up on the mountain, but came down to the plain place, and people came from all over to hear Jesus and be healed. Jesus begins by healing, releasing unclean spirits. When we have a need blocking us from God, he comes and addresses it. What are your needs right now; who do you know that needs prayer or help? Let's pray right now for them. (Time for reflection and silent prayer,) It's a good reminder for us that Jesus goes to the needs first. As disciples we need to see the needs of those around us. Jesus begins with blessings for the poor, the hungry, the hated, and the persecuted, and gives them the Kingdom of God. When we are touched once, we see other blessings, and He continues thru our whole lives. Let us as disciples offer the touch of Jesus over and over. There are also words of woe, be careful, be warned, those who have prosperity should be sharing. Affliction can be healing. Would you like to live 100 years, have full bellies and bank accounts for ourselves, and security, rather than knowing God, eternal life, and forgiveness? Those of us who have, should look to God to know what to do for ourselves and others. Paul writes that he has learned to be content in whatever he has because he can do all things thru Christ who strengthens him. What are you doing to help others? Morning prayer time and the Lord's Prayer followed the message. Pastor Joel then showed the "Souper Bowl" collections for MPC so far, and said that we would continue to collect until the 20th, regardless of the winner. He again thanked the two Scotts for their assistance, gave the offertory prayer, and a very familiar Benediction from Numbers, and carried out the Light of Christ. **JESUS COMES TO THE PLAIN.**

"I can do all things
through Christ which
strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY: *If anyway decides to bring a vegetable tray to my Super Bowl party, they will be penalized for "unnecessary roughage"!*

"The Way" study: on Feb 14th, the focus was "Calming the Storm", with scripture from Luke 5:1-11; Mark 4:35-41; and Matthew 14:22-33. Five ladies and Pastor Joel discussed how discipleship will still include life's storms, but the good news is that Jesus is with us "in the boat" and brings peace in the midst of the storm.



VALENTINE'S DAY, FEB 14th: Lynette Guilliams and her boys, Carson and Connor, made up "Happy Valentine's bags" for the backpack children at Cub Run Elementary School. What a caring thing to do.

JESUS GIVES ALL UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: You got hammered at the bar on Saturday but came to church on Sunday....You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be. You're a drug addict but came to church on Sunday....You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be. You're divorced and the last church you attended condemned you for it.... You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be. You've had an abortion and it's slowly eating away at your heart but you came to church on Sunday....You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be. You've been unfaithful to your spouse but came to church on Sunday....You can sit with me, you're right where you need to be. Here's the thing, people don't come to church on Sunday for you to sit in the pew and quietly judge them because you feel that you're somehow better than them. People come to church because in their deepest, darkest, most painful moments they heard about a man named Jesus that could save their soul and they'd like to know him. The man that just snorted cocaine off his kitchen table isn't a bigger sinner than you who told your boss a lie on Monday so you could leave work early. The woman that had an abortion 10 years ago isn't a bigger sinner than you who flipped a man off in traffic last week because he cut you off. The drunk man laying on the bar isn't a bigger sinner than you who occasionally has too much to drink at home in private. The woman that just got caught cheating on her husband isn't a bigger sinner than you who had sex with your now husband before you were married. Stop judging others because their sin is different than yours. Romans 3:23-24 says "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." There isn't a person in this world too bad, too broken, too mean, or too damaged for Jesus to save. Romans 10:13 says "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS

Church Giving: The best way to share your tithes and offerings with KUMC at this time is checks through the mail. Your giving is very appreciated! KUMC, 1456 Indian Trail Rd, Keezletown VA 22832

Gathering Non-Perishable Food items: Our local food pantry at Massanutten Presbyterian Church is still taking donations to serve people in Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. Items can be dropped off at KUMC.

Clothing for Mission Central: being collected in basket in narthex.

Salvation Army Meal: Ann and Wes Ford have still been coordinating and providing a monthly supper for the Salvation Army Shelter. If you would like to help with preparing a meal and dropping it off at the shelter please contact Ann and Wes.

US Disaster Response: For United States disaster relief designate your gift to "UMCOR US Disaster Response: Advance #901670." For international disasters please designate your gift to "UMCOR International Disaster Response: Advance #982450."

Mission Central Children's Clothing Closet is open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m., and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with all volunteers wearing masks and appropriate social distancing. Contact Artie Frederick at 540-208-7669 to help.

Mission Central Medical Equipment for Caring Closet is open Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. If you would like to help, please call Delores Reid 540-383-6112.

KUMC Backpack Project is packing food for 33 children every weekend at Cub Elementary School. If you would like to help with shopping for food, please contact Lynette Guilliams. If you would like to help pack food bags please check the calendar. If you would like to give you

may designate your gift to “KUMC Backpack Project.” Let us all be in prayer for the children receiving food, Cub Run Elementary, and the KUMC Backpack Project.

JUST FOR LAUGHS:

It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?

*** FEBRUARY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE***

- 19 **Serve Salvation Army**
20 **United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.**
 Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Sermon on the Plain: Give As Good As You Get From Jesus" from Luke 6:27-38
21 **"The Way" study 10:00 a.m., with Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.**
27 **Sunday School 9:45 a.m.**
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; "Transfiguration Sunday"; Message: "Listening for Jesus" from Luke 9:28-36
28 **"The Way" study 10:00 a.m. (Final Lesson) w/Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.**

*** MARCH EVENTS HAPPENING***

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 1	Andrea Crisman	Mar 9	Wyatt Martin
Mar 1	Austyn Crisman	Mar 9	Macie Heishman
Mar 1	Jackie Werner	Mar 11	Jennifer Young
Mar 1	Coty Milligan	Mar 13	Melissa Kelley
Mar 2	Donnie Underwood	Mar 13	Wesley Crisman
Mar 4	Eli Bowman	Mar 15	Esther McDaniel
Mar 5	Maynard Sites	Mar 18	Ann Ford
Mar 6	Barbara Heatwole	Mar 20	Dave Werner
Mar 7	Whitney Johnson Krauss	Mar 21	Joshua Seaman
Mar 7	Brian Shafer	Mar 22	Becky Ryman
Mar 8	Leslie Pellegrin	Mar 28	Kate Ramsey

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 1, 2008	Chad & Michelle Higgs	14 years
Mar 7, 1998	Charles & Karen Harris	24 years
Mar 10, 2011	BJ & Kelly Smith	11 years
Mar 16, 1968	Frank & Carolyn Baker	54 years
Mar 28, 2009	Cory & Lynette Guilliams	13 years

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OR MORE: CONGRATULATIONS to church family couples that have been married 40 or more years in March:



Frank & Carolyn Baker for 54 years on Mar 16th

Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH Lent Suppers and Services: Beginning with Ash Wednesday and a Spaghetti Supper provided by the Keezletown United Methodist Men on March 2nd, we will have Lent Suppers and Services on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. If you or your small group would like to provide the meal for one of the services, please contact Pastor Joel. Other Lent Suppers and Services will be March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th. When possible, please RSVP by the Sunday before a service to help with having enough food for everyone. We will take up an offering each night for Kingsway Prison and Family Ministry.

- 2 Girl Scouts Meet at 6:00 p.m.
ASH WEDNESDAY—Lent Service & Supper at 6:30 p.m. w/Pastor Joel speaking
- 3 UMW meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; 1st Sunday in Lent; Communion; Message: "Who Would Betray Jesus?"
(from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 22:14-34, 54-62
- 7 "Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. w/Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.
UMW serve Keezletown Ruritans
- 8 Staff-Parish Relations Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Girl Scouts Meet at 6:00 p.m.
Lent Service & Supper at 6:30 p.m. w/BJ Smith, speaking
Admin Council meeting after Lent service (7:30 p.m.)
- 12 District Spiritual Life Retreat @ St James UMC from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS—MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD
- 13 Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday in Lent; Message: "Sleeping and Swords, and the Actions of Jesus" (from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 22:39-53
Keezletown Light Commission meeting 7:30 p.m. in social hall
- 14 "Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. w/Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.
- 16 Lent Service & Supper at 6:30 p.m. w/Rev Vicki Barb from Kingsway Prison and Family Ministry, speaking
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 18 Newsletter Items Due
- 19 UMM Pancake Meal starting at 5:30 p.m.
Serve Salvation Army
- 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; 3rd Sunday in Lent; Message: "Questions and Allegations Aimed at Jesus" (from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 22:63-23:5
- 21 "Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. w/Backpack Packing at 11:15 a.m.
- 23 Lent Service & Supper at 6:30 p.m. w/Rev Al Tuten from Mt Zion UMC, speaking
- 27 Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.; 4th Sunday in Lent; Message: "Signs, Miracles, and Spectacle Instead of Jesus" (from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 23:6-12

- 28 "Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. w/Backpack Packing at 11:15 a.m.
29 Farm Bureau Legislative Day
30 Lent Service & Supper at 6:30 p.m. w/Rev Gordon Meriweather, from Mt Tabor UMC, speaking

DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

LOVE: Love is like snow falling softly to earth.

It comes from above, for God is the divine source.

Love is impartial, enhancing both the lovely and the unsightly with new beauty.

Love is gentle, seeking neither to grasp nor to possess.

Nestled under its soft blanket, even tiny green buds grow safely toward maturity.

Love is unselfish. Like melting snow, love unassumingly gives itself away to nurture those it touches.
(From "Such Is My Confidence" by Carolyn Rhea)

THANK YOU

Thank You for Your Sympathy: Dear KUMC Family, Thank you so much for the many expressions of love & care over the past several weeks and sympathies since Dad's passing. The cards, visits, calls, texts and e-mails, as well as your thoughts & prayers have comforted us all during this season. Know that Dad treasured your friendship. As we mourn his passing may we also rejoice in his healing & his rest in our loving Saviors' arms. God bless you, **Walt & Jan Shafer & Family, Noland Suter Family.**

THANK YOU: In his good wisdom, he has chosen you to be our guide in faith. Thank you for your love and care, and support of Mission Central. Your mighty gifts are appreciated by us and so many we do not know. God will use these gifts as answers to prayers for our community. Sincerely, **Artie Frederick, Mission Central**

Thank you. As a Camp Grand, you are much like a grand parent looking out for future generations and preparing the way for blessings and faith experiences in ways that we cannot yet imagine. Thank you for making a grand difference with your generous donation on 12/30/2021. **Rev Tommy Crosby, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries.**

Thank you to the Keezletown United Methodist Men for the cup of love. The cookies from the ladies were gone in a heartbeat. Can't resist sugar. Taking it easy as ordered. Thank you for your continued prayers. Love in Christ, **Loretta Eklund**

THE CHURCH FAMILY REMEMBERS

Olivia Hensley Samuels, of Elkton, passed away on Feb 1st. She was a secretary at Co Hope in Keezletown for numerous years before retiring. As a friend of KUMC, she was a loyal attendee of the suppers held at the church, especially the Election Day meal, and lived at Harrisonburg Health & Rehab.

THE CHURCH FAMILY IS PROUD

Emily Carr has been named to the Southern New Hampshire University Fall 2021 President's List as of Jan 13th, with a 3.945 GPA, and is also nominated to the National Society of Leadership and Success, awarded to only a small percentage of online students.

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

It is the month of love. Many, including myself, have had days of ups and downs; feeling loved, feeling unloved; happy for warm weather, and unhappy for the bitter cold; rejoicing in good doctor's reports, and worrying when are loved ones are not feeling well. The only constant is that we 100% made it thru every one of those days. I know, for me, some days took a lot more prayer than others, but isn't that what we're supposed to do? Give it all to him...the good, the bad, and the ugly. There is nothing that we face that He hasn't already faced, and defeated. God loves us so much that He gave His son so that one day (a very good day) we can hold His hand, see His face, and walk with Him where there is only Love. Don't try to do it by yourself. Give it to the One who loves you as if you were His only child. God bless you all.

Diana

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Editor's Note

The March deadline for submissions is Mar 18th . My home number is 269-8511 or e-mail me at AntDyna@comcast.net. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you all.

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*Corinthians 13: ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
¹³ So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*



