

MOuNTain ECHoeS

MARCH 2022

135th Edition



Isa 40:5 "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed". Thank you, Evalyn Campbell

Keezletown United Methodist Church

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"In this life, we are all just walking up the mountain, and we can sing as we climb, or we can complain about our sore feet; whichever we choose, we still gotta do the hike. I decided a long time ago, singing made a lot more sense."

—Mindful Christianity

OUR PASTOR CHATS



Traveler the lamb came to Keezletown UMC in February 2022. Neil and Carol Sacra were helping install landscape lighting in the flowerbeds outside at the church and Traveler was not faring well, so they brought him along so they could bottle-feed him and keep an eye on him. They were not too confident Traveler was going to survive. Carol showed one of the people who had come for Bible study how to feed the lamb. A few of us had a prayer together for Traveler. Later, Traveler was walking about and I saw him near the cross and I got to take a picture. In John's gospel, Jesus is the Lamb of God who would die in the place of sinners that they would know the forgiveness and sacrificial love of God. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus told a story about sheep and goats reminding us when we give to the least of these—food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, welcome for the stranger, clothing for the naked, care for the sick, visits for those in prison—Jesus receives those acts as if we did them for him. I have heard that Traveler is doing much better and still enjoys

being fed from the bottle four times a day, but prefers six times when he can get it! Jesus said he is "the good shepherd" and "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11, 14). As Jesus welcomes every lamb to his mercy, I pray we would, too. Who can you think of who needs the grace and compassion of Jesus today? A Ukrainian refugee or internally displaced person? A new immigrant to our community? A friend, family, or neighbor who has been suffering hardship? May God give us grace to welcome with God's compassion people who are lost, broken, sick, displaced, hungry...and to do so with the confidence to bring them near the cross of Jesus. For the sake of Jesus, the Lamb of God who is also the Good Shepherd.

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 Mar 1st thru Mar 31st: Birthdays: Andrea & Austyn Crisman, Jackie Werner, Coty Milligan, Donnie Underwood, Eli Bowman, Barbara Heatwole, Whitney Krauss, Brian Shafer, Leslie Pellegrin, Macie Heishman, Wyatt Martin, Jennifer Young Melissa Kelley, Wesley Crisman, Esther McDaniel, Ann Ford, Dave Werner, Joshua Seaman, Becky Ryman, and Kate Ramsey; and anniversaries: Chad & Michelle Higgs (14), Charles & Karen Harris (24), BJ & Kelly Smith (11), Frank & Carolyn Baker (54), and Cory & Lynette Williams (13).



For those wishing to send cards, here are Susie & Juanita's addresses: Susie McGlaughlin, 116 Sparger Springs Lane, Durham, NC 27705, and Juanita Sheffer, 3067 Preston Lake Blvd, Rockingham VA 22801

Prayers for United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia: United Methodist Churches and ministries are in both the Ukraine and Russia. Bishop Eduard Khegay is a UMC bishop who serves Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. As we pray, let us remember those United Methodists, other Christians, and all who have been caught up in this conflict that the peace of Christ may come.



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 until June.

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

United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Gathering was held at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday Feb 20th, with 14 men in attendance. Breakfast was served by Darryl Eppard, Neil Sacra, and Scott Dillard. After a time of laughter and fellowship, Chairman Scott Dillard opened the session with prayer. Ken Thomas provided a devotion encouraging us to put our fears and trust in God, who can wipe away our sin and other things in our life like a windshield wiper. The business portion of the gathering began with the minutes from our Jan meeting and the treasurer's report both being approved. Scott Dodrill reported all bills and commitments have been addressed to this point, including our donation to UMCOR, our donation to Camp Overlook in memory of Noland Suter, and Valentine flower gifts to widows and ladies of the church. It was reported all were delivered and the ladies were very thankful and appreciated the visits. The men discussed both the upcoming Mar 2nd Lenten meal, which we serve, and the Mar 18th Pancake meal. The men voted the proceeds from the Pancake meal be split between WRE and Camp Overlook. Other items of discussion: a possible chicken BBQ luncheon or potato bar fundraiser, helping a church member in need, and that we have no official meeting in Mar, but will gather on Apr 10th, the 2nd Sunday, as Easter is the 3rd Sunday.

BLIND AND TOOTHLESS: Feb 20th worship began with Chris playing "Sanctuary"; "Love the Lord Your God"; "God, How Can We Forgive"; and "The Land of Shenandoah"

as we gathered. The bell rang, and Haiden carried in the Light of Christ as Chris played “The Love of God” as the prelude. Pastor Joel greeted everyone, and we began the service with the responsive reading of Psalm 37:1-11, using the musical response. The Church family then sang “Jesu, Jesu”, followed by the choir singing “Blest Are They”. Cory Guiliams read the Gospel lesson from Luke 6:27-38, love for your enemies. Pastor Joel then led us in his message “Sermon on the Plain: Give As Good As You Get from Jesus”, beginning with last week we talked about leveling, so that we can all see salvation. Today is leveling all those we love, including our enemies. Who is your enemy? Give as good as you get, I have heard. Measuring spoons, a measuring cup, and a five gallon bucket were then used as examples of how we are to measure what our enemies do to us, small or large. The Golden Rule tells us to do unto others as we would have them do to us; it tells us how to love our enemies. The law in Moses talks about an eye for an eye. Bind and toothless is only lived that law. Jesus has brought us grace and love; this should be how we treat others. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Praying for our enemies is the most powerful thing we can do. Agape is shared by Jesus, meaning to give a jaw dropping love, filled with grace and mercy, and given freely. Jesus said “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”. We don’t do very well loving our enemies. Today, do we love our enemies? Do we give as good as we receive? How much love and grace do you need? The only limit is what you give to others. Love your enemies. The beautiful hymn, “Freely, Freely”, was then sung by the Church family, followed by the Morning prayer and the Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Joel. Sharon Martin then came to give a witness (see next article), followed by a blessing over the foods collected for “Souper Bowl Sunday” for MPC by Pastor Joel, along with the offertory prayer and doxology, and the Benediction as Haiden carried out the Light of Christ and Chris played “Freely, Freely” as the prelude. **EVEN OUR ENEMIES NEED LOVE.**

Do Unto Others As You
Would Have Them Do Unto
You...



The Golden Rule



MARRIED FIFTY YEARS – THAT’S A LONG TIME: Sharon Martin came to the podium and said “This is the first and last testimony of Sharon Martin”, to which everyone laughed. Pastor Joel asked me to do this because Allen and I have been married fifty years. I brought my shield of protection and pulled a Kleenex out of her pocket, again to a round of laughter. God gave me this scripture, and she read 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter. Love is not may be or could be, love is. Sometimes love seems abusive or mean, but that’s when love is absent. I’m a twin and relationship is important in the womb—I pushed her out first so I could have it all. We did everything together, including dating brothers. I married my first husband, only to be devastated losing him in less than a year to the Viet Nam war. I met Allen at a cookout; he was kind and funny. We eloped, went on our honeymoon, and had a reception later, so we could stay and enjoy it with everyone. Fifty years later, four children later, and six grandchildren later, we must have done something right. I know what has worked for us. Love as many people as you can and be a beacon for struggling couples. **CONGRATS TO SHARON AND ALLEN.**

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEB 13TH: The Church family every year collects non-perishable food items for “Souper Bowl Sunday” the Football game and to help the Massanutten Presbyterian. This year we collected thru Feb 13th), amassing two very large tub-like containers full of cereals, soups, and much, much more. The Bengals were leading in the amount in their tub, even though they lost to the Rams in the actual game. The ladies at MPC were so impressed and appreciative when the delivery was made. They even had to get a second cart to take it all in. Thanks to everyone who generously donated. Someone will eat because you cared.



in order to celebrate those in need thru Church Food Pantry. 20th (due to cancellation on the

“The Way” study met on Feb 21st to hear and discuss Mark’s story of the demoniac whose demons were thrown into pigs that drowned, and John’s story of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well, which led to the Gentiles learning about Jesus.



NEW BABY: Owen Matthew Summers was born to Brian and Amanda Summers on Friday, Feb 25th at 4:06 p.m., weighing 6 lbs 8oz, and 22 1/4" long. Proud Grandparents are Mike and Sherry Summers. Happy Birthday and welcome to the family.

WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO? Transfiguration Sunday, Feb 27th, began with beautiful white flowers adorning the altar table. They were from the Retirement Celebration for Carol Sacra after 43 years in the medical field. Diana played “I Walk With the King”, “Each Step I Take”, and “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand” as the gathering music, followed by the ringing of the bell and Brayden carrying in the Light of Christ as she played “Blessed Assurance” for the prelude. Ken Thomas welcomed everyone, and we sang “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” as the Call to Worship, after which we read the “Transfiguration” opening prayer. “When Morning Gilds the Skies” was the opening hymn, followed by Sharon and Diana singing “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory”. Cathy Sites came to read the Gospel lesson from Luke 9:28-36, the Transfiguration. Pastor Joel’s message this morning was “Listening for Jesus” and he started by talking about a field trip to the Virginia Science Museum where he was intrigued by the whispering dishes on opposite sides of a large room. If you whispered into them, even with crowd noise, the person on the other side of the room could hear you. Today we hear about Peter, James, and John speak. God says nine words: “This Him”. They get quiet and Jesus who speaks; the prophets speak ways and places we can listen for so they can hear, especially when don’t understand His calling, keep quiet place to pray allows us to



seeing Jesus change and God is my son, my chosen, listen to says nothing. We serve the God God’s words. What are some of the Jesus? The disciples follow Jesus, they don’t understand. When we on listening. Getting away to a turn our thoughts to God. Saints

surrounded Jesus, Elijah and Moses, but Peter, James, and John wanted to build shelters and stay there. They didn't want to leave. Jesus wouldn't stay. His work was down off the mountain, in the brokenness, where God shows His glory. Sometimes we hear Jesus speaking through saints who have gone ahead and those working within the church now. The disciples went silent, not knowing what to say, just listening for Jesus' voice. Go to a quiet place, and be quiet with God. "Come Away With Me" was sung following the message, with time given to come to the altar or just to pray quietly in the pews. Ken then gave the Morning Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the offertory prayer, and led the doxology. He also gave the Benediction, as Brayden carried out the Light of Christ, and Diana played "Christians Follow Me". **COME AWAY AND SPEND TIME WITH ME.**

The Way" study final session met on Feb 28th, traveling thru the Jerusalem countryside and visiting the places built over the rock that Jesus prayed on and Calvary via Adam Levine's video. Chris Cole wore a dress she had purchased in Jerusalem when she visited there. Today's study gave us more insight into Jesus's love for all mankind. After the study, the group enjoyed fellowship time and a delivery meal from Vito's.

MARCH FUNNIES:

Muffins spelled backwards is what you do when you take them out of the oven...sniffum!
How can you stop Canadian bacon from curling in your pan? Take away their little brooms.
The best way to make sure brownies don't get stale is to eat them all at once.
If it's dark and the cows are all sleeping, does it mean it's pasture bedtime?

UPCOMING STUDIES:

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS STUDY: Diving deep into the final days of Jesus with study author Amy-Jill Levine in this beginner's guide to Holy Week, began Mar7th at 10:00 a.m. thru Apr 11th. All are welcome to join the group on Monday mornings.

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.keepletownumc.com.

FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Stephen & Kris



Cold play



Susie's babies



Haircuts day



The Crismon girls

MARCH IS PASTOR'S SPOUSE APPRECIATION MONTH. Yea, we didn't know either; we've never celebrated it here at KUMC, but everything has to start somewhere. We remember when Jenn was at the first Vacation Bible School and we were checking children in, she looked at us and said "Ladies, I'll never be your normal Minister's wife" and she isn't, and it's okay. Jenn, we've watched as you've struggled thru many physical ailments that would have left most of us wailing, but you persevered, you hurt, you experimented with new medicine, all the time being as much of a Mother and a Wife as your physical limitations would allow you to be. And with the pandemic you were even more careful, rightfully so. We know you do not feel comfortable at most events, but are really glad to see you when you do. We just want you to know that, even though you may not be a "perfect Minister's spouse", you are Pastor Joel's wife, and our "Minister's wife", and you make him happy, and his job a little easier. So, know that you are appreciated for keeping him sane from the ones of us who make him crazy. We love you, Jenn.

*****MARCH EVENTS THAT HAPPENED*****

LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY MAR 2ND: Forty one folks gathered at 6:30 p.m. for a delicious meal of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, cookies, and drinks prepared by the United Methodist Men. Pastor Joel welcomed all, including those watching via a live Facebook feed on his computer. The Gospel lesson was Matthew 6:1-18, which dealt with his message title of "Practicing Piety in Secret". Jesus gave us directions as to how to be pious, doing righteousness, and imparting justice.



Do it secretly. Don't try to impress others thru religious acts. Give, pray, and fast so you can see what God has for you. You can never keep faith a secret. It will show in how you live. Jesus tells us to have only God as an audience. On Ash Wednesday we start forty days of remembering what Jesus did. We worship in public to praise God. Dance like no one is watching except God as worship. Give, pray, and fast like God is watching, so you can receive grace, hope, and peace. What do you need from God? Seek God and receive all that the Holy Spirit will share. We then sang "In the Secret" as Pastor Joel played his guitar. We were then given the Invitation to the Lenten Observance and Thanksgiving Over the Ashes, before each



we were asked to come and receive the blessing of the Imposition of Ashes, as Chris played "Nearer, My God to Thee" and "Are Ye Able". We then sang "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes", Pastor Joel imparted the



Pardon, we prayed the Lord's Prayer, and he gave the parting blessing.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met Mar 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall, with 14 members present. Ann presided and the UMW purpose repeated. Sherry led the devotional program, speaking as a district officer, stating that UMW is service. March is National Women's History month. Changes are coming and women are working to bring about change for other women, children, and those needing hope. You have a part to play. Feb minutes were approved. Kathy gave the Financial report stating that the Soup/Bake sale brought in \$1007.00, (plus \$155.00 in checks to ACS) for the KUMC Relay Team. Serving the Lenten meal in March would be our Mission of the Month. Cheryl stated Easter flower orders would be in the Sunday bulletins. Sherry passed a donation sheet to complete for the two meals upcoming: Mar 7th for the Keezletown Ruritan Club and Mar 16th for the Lenten meal at the Church. Ann acknowledged cards. Thank You notes from Faye & Ken Thomas, and Becky Armentrout; Judy Coffman showed a picture on her phone of how her delivered flower looked; and Donna shared that she had

completed her cancer treatments and was doing well. Becky Ryman agreed to go to the Spiritual Life Retreat on Mar 12th with Ann. A listing of Kits for Conference was handed out, with the conference still accepting Cleaning and Hygiene kits, and School kits and canned food staying local. We decided to collect for cleaning kits in April and hygiene kits in May. Karen has been working on Easter bags for the shut-ins (26-27 of them) and has asked if we are able to collect jelly beans, candy, cards, small miscellaneous items, and plastic eggs, to bring them to the next meeting where we will help decorate the bags and fill them. Also at the April meeting, Dale Dodrill will be speaking about the Card Making for the Military and we will be making cards. Chris read from the prayer calendar; and we signed cards for Susie, Juanita, and the Pellegrins, Loretta, Richard & Fay, Al & Jackie, Cheryl Foley, Mike & Sherry, Geraldine, Lynn, and Becky Crown. After Diana closed with prayer, sweet refreshments were enjoyed.

AND THE COCK CROWED. We gathered on the 1st Sunday of Lent, Mar 6th, as Carol played “Jesus, My All”, “Verset”, and “Lyric Meditation”, and the bell rang. Joshua Shifflett carried in the Light of Christ as Carol played “Bring Back the Springtime” for the prelude. Pastor Joel greeted all, and gave the opening prayer, before we sang “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”, and the choir presented “Become to Us the Living Bread”. Neil came to read the Gospel lesson from Luke 22:14-34, the Last Supper, and Luke 22:54-62, Peter denies Jesus. Pastor Joel spoke on “Who Would Betray Jesus?” and started by saying we would be talking today about the Last Supper, Jesus’s arrest, and Peter’s denial of knowing Jesus. In the next few weeks we will think about peoples’ last words to Jesus and how He responded. Peter told Jesus that he would go to prison or death for Him, yet he denied Him three times. We don’t always live up to our faith in Jesus. Passover was God hearing and saving the Jews. Jesus tells Peter that the disciples will be separated, but that He is praying for them to not lose faith. Jesus tells Peter he will deny Him three times before the cock crows, but will come back and strengthen others. Peter preached as he turned back and led many to the faith. Not a week goes by that we don’t need forgiveness. Christ, just as for Peter, prays for us and asks us to serve. Following the message, we repeated “The Apostles’ Creed”, and sang “What Wondrous Love is This”. Pastor Joel then led our Time of Prayer, the Invitation, the Confession and Pardon, the offertory prayer and doxology, the Great Thanksgiving, and the Lord’s Prayer, and the Taking of the Bread and Cup, before he gave the Benediction. Joshua carried out the Light of Christ as Carol played “In the Cross”. **WE SERVE THE GOD OF 2ND CHANCES.**



“Entering the Passion of Jesus” study began at 10:00 a.m. on Mar 7th with six ladies and Pastor Joel. Amy-Jill Levine, in this beginner’s guide to Holy Week, spoke to us about the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem the first part of Holy Week, about how the donkey was obtained, about the people spreading palm branches and their cloaks, and their shouts of “Hosanna, Hosanna”. We then compared the story as written in Matthew with the Old Testament prophecies in Zechariah, 1 & 2 Kings, and in Psalms. Susie Hill’s little dog “Barley” helped her study.



RURITANS ENJOY MEAL: The Keezletown Ruritans, at their monthly meeting on Mar 7th, enjoyed a meal of baked pork chops in mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, brownies, ice cream and tea, as served by eight ladies from the UMW.

2ND LENT SERVICE: Pastor Joel welcomed the 55 in attendance at the 2nd Lent service on Mar 9th, and we enjoyed delicious chicken tetrazzini, cole slaw, brownies, cookies, and tea, as prepared by the Dillard and Eppard families. To begin the service, we sang “Blessed Assurance” and “His Name is Wonderful”, accompanied by Diana Davis on the piano. BJ Smith,



a KUMC Lay speaker who is preaching every other Sunday at the three churches of the Blue Ridge Charge in Elkton, was the speaker for the evening. He began by telling us how, when he cannot hear at Furnace UMC, they have bought a white board that Kelly, his wife, writes the hymn numbers on, and how at the other

two churches, although he does not like to sing, he has to lead the singing, due to the lack of a pianist. He read Roman 10:8-15, which says confess with your mouth, and believe, and you will be saved. He began with “When did your spiritual journey begin?” When you accepted Jesus Christ, you changed, your actions changed, your friends changed. Transformation comes from the inside out by Christ purifying us. Salvation is as close as your own mouth and your own heart. Believe and confess—it’s that simple to accept the grace awaiting us. There will be tough times, but God will never fail to help us. Joseph was a good example, and Peter had to have his eyes opened to the Gentiles. God asks us to plant seeds of His love. Would God call your feet beautiful? Do they carry the salvation message? Think of someone to take the message to. After Pastor Joel requested, BJ then told his journey of accepting Jesus and how his life has changed for the better. Pastor Joel then closed the service with a parting prayer.



MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



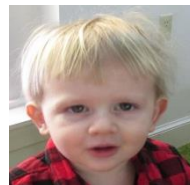
Baseball begins



Marcus JROTC



Jacob Welsh



Just precious



Sweet Cooper



Happy 54th

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL met on Mar 9th after the Lenten service, with eight members attending. Ann presided and Pastor Joel opened with prayer. January minutes were read and approved. Joe reported for Finance that all bills were paid. Jenny Dillard will be handling the Camp Overlook campers’ registrations, for which we have had five youngsters state they would like to attend. The UMW reported a successful soup and bake sale, they served the Keezletown Ruritans in Jan and Mar, and they would be collecting for Conference kits (cleaning buckets in April and hygiene kits in May), and for school kits and canned goods all year, as they will remain local. The UMM reported naming the Noland Suter Scholarship for campers, discussing mowing for this year, doing more MCCC work, and the upcoming pancake dinner on Mar 19th. Mike reported for the Trustees that the new commode has been installed in the Ladies restroom, the handicapped commode has been repaired, that the Neil Sacra family has kindly donated and installed new lighting at the front of the Church which highlights the UMC emblem and the cross, and that they will be doing the annual walk thru of the church to look for areas needing attention. The Trustees were asked to look into putting a handrail on the parsonage side of the rails going up the ramp in front of the church to match the one on the south side. There will be

a Memorial Service for Noland Suter on July 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at KUMC with the Ruritans and the UMW serving a meal after. Pastor Joel reported that Sunday school attendance is rising and is up to 15-17 per Sunday. Ken reported for Staff Parish that a staff and clergy evaluation was done at their last meeting, and they will meet again in July. Pastor Joel stated that PRG will address requests made by Church members to go back to regular Communion, rather than using the pre-made cups. Knowing that we have the small cups in trays that can be filled and the bread distributed, all at the altar, will be considered for the near future. Those wishing to continue with the pre-made cups will have that option. In Pastor Joel's report he is planning a confirmation/baptism class for the summer; Va Annual Conference paid the Boy Scouts settlement from reserve funds and churches will not be asked to pay; General Conference 2022 has been cancelled until 2024; Global Methodist Church will launch on May 1, 2022; the UMW now has a new name: United Women in Faith; Rev Bill Nabors and Pastor Joel will be leading Maunday Thursday and Good Friday services at KUMC and St Jacobs. Two new nominations were approved: Len Williams for Church council, and Becky Ryman for Facebook editor. Next meeting will be May 11th at 7:00 p.m. Scott Dillard closed the meeting with prayer.

“YOUR WILL BE DONE”: “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”, “The Way of the Cross Leads Home”, and “The Old Rugged Cross” were being played by Diana as we gathered for worship on the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Mar 13th, and the bell rang. Brayden carried in the Light of Christ as Diana played “Just As I Am” for the prelude, and BJ Smith gave the welcome and the opening prayer. We then sang “Go to Dark Gethsemane”, before Diana played “Near the Cross” as the Special music. Tanya came to read the Gospel Lesson from Luke 22:35-53, the soldiers came for Jesus. Pastor Joel's message was entitled “Sleeping and Swords, and the Actions of Jesus”. As we worship today, he began, there are other Christians all around the world praying for our trials and temptation. Today we are studying the disciples and swords. In verses 35-38, Jesus says I sent you out with nothing, did you need for anything? No, they answered, God provided. Now you need a sword, He told them; my trial is coming. Isaiah 52-53 is the Suffering Servant's song, the story of Jesus and what He does for all of us. In verses 39-46 of Luke, we are at the Mount of Olives with Jesus giving the directions to the disciples as to how to pray to avoid temptation and trial, how to overcome them. While Jesus prayed the disciples fell asleep. Jesus continued to pray, with great drops of sweat as blood, that the Father's will be done, knowing what was about to happen. In verses 47-51, the soldiers and Judas come with swords to arrest Him. Peter cut off the slave's ear and Jesus healed it. In our time of trial would we strike first or pray and wait? Jesus heals injuries even on His way to the cross. Be alert at all times, and pray. The Church family then sang “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”, followed by BJ leading the Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Joel came to lead the Offertory Prayer and the Doxology and BJ gave the Benediction as Brayden carried out the Light of Christ, and Diana played “Just As I Am” as the postlude.

PRAYER IS A POWERFUL SWORD.



The Keezletown Light Commission held their annual meeting on Sunday, Mar 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Scott Dillard called the meeting to order, minutes from the 2021 e-mail meeting were read, and the Treasurer's report given. All bills are paid and the investments are doing well. All officers and directors were approved, a new meeting date of Mar 12, 2023 was set, and the meeting was adjourned.

"Entering the Passion of Jesus" study Lesson 2 began at 10:00 a.m. on Mar 14th with 5 ladies and Pastor Joel. This week Amy-Jill Levine spoke from inside the temple, sharing the story of how Jesus came into the temple and whipped and ran the moneychangers and thieves from the temple. We compared the accounts from Mark and John, and discussed how things might have looked and sounded back then, and the reason behind Jesus' actions.

3rd LENT SERVICE: Pastor Joel opened the service on Wednesday Mar 16th with prayer as approximately 35 gathered to enjoy chili and cornbread, fruit salad, cookies, brownies, and tea provided by the United Methodist Women. After dinner, Pastor Joel recognized Frank and Carolyn Baker's 54th wedding anniversary with a prayer. We then sang "My Hope Is Built" and "Only Trust Him" with Diana accompanying on the piano. Louise Jennings, founder of Kingsway Prison and Family Ministry, came first to speak. She said God is doing amazing things. After 40 years, in 1984, an office was established in Harrisonburg, with the goal of working with those coming out of prison to have a better way of life. In 1977 church services were allowed in the prisons to teach the inmates love. Rev Vicki Barb then talked about how amazing Kingsway is in providing phones, gas cards, and places to stay for those just coming out. Kingsway is now in the process of addressing 2300 Easter cards for inmates. They are paying for their crimes, and have not had human contact for two years, due to the pandemic, and are searching for Christ. Louise added that Kingsway has now expanded its' work space and share it with a Ukranian Church. They are also starting a program for Mothers of inmates. For more info see kingswayoutreach.org. Pastor Joel then thanked the speakers and the UMW, and gave the closing blessing.

March 17th: An Irish Prayer: "St Patrick's Day Prayer: May God give you for every storm, a rainbow. For every tear, a smile. For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trail. For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share. For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer. Amen."

MORE MARCH FUNNIES:

If I fall and hit my head on a drum, could I have a percussion?

If your eggs for breakfast are Cadbury, is it still a diet breakfast?

If the sheep at the top of the hill starts rolling down the hill, is it a lamb slide?

If you boil a funny bone, does it become a laughing stock?

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.

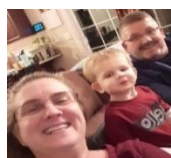
Mission Central Medical Equipment for Caring Closet is open Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. If you would like to help, please call Delores Reid 540-383-6112.

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 come help on Monday mornings at 11:15 a.m. 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.

***** MARCH EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE*****

- 19 **The Keezletown United Methodist Men will have a Pancake Supper fundraiser on Saturday, March 19th at 5:00 p.m., with all donations to benefit Weekday Religious Education and Camp Overlook.**
 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; potato bar**
- 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**

MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES



Having fun



Evalyn



Happy 17 Joe



Twins are 10



Cooper cat hat



Ginny & Jade

***** APRIL EVENTS HAPPENING*****

CONFERENCE KIT COLLECTION FOR APRIL: CLEANING KIT: One 5 gallon bucket w/lid; One 32-64 oz bottle liquid laundry detergent; One 16-40 oz bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (No spray cleaners); One 16-34 oz bottle dish soap; One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener; One 6-14 oz pump spray insect repellent; One scrub brush with or without handle; 18 reusable cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels); 5 scouring pads (no stainless steel pads w/soap); 36-50 clothespins; one 50-100 ft clothesline (cotton or plastic); 24 roll of heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gals); Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 MM thickness); 2 pairs kitchen gloves; and one pair work gloves, cotton w/leather palm or all leather. If you wish to purchase only portions of this kit, they will gladly be accepted and added to other incomplete kits. Thank you for helping.

Small Group Leaders Gathering: Sunday school leaders and small group leaders are invited to a gathering on Sunday, **April 3 at 9:00 a.m.** for sharing and support in the social hall.

Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast April 17th: Start Easter morning with worship at the **Keezletown Cemetery at 7:00 a.m.**, which will be followed by a free-will offering breakfast at the church provided by the Keezletown United Marchers for a Cure Relay for Life Team to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1	Kevin Summers	Apr 15	Ryan Heishman
Apr 3	Christine Cole	Apr 16	Kristen Roach
Apr 5	Jacob Stanley	Apr 17	Henry Martin
Apr 6	Marshall Liskey	Apr 18	Matthew Holliday
Apr 7	Karen Mooney	Apr 19	Jan Shafer
Apr 7	Sharon Martin	Apr 20	Mary Jane Propst
Apr 7	Cory Guilliams	Apr 23	Sara Ann Cole
Apr 8	Marcus Hall	Apr 23	Jamie Werner
Apr 8	Justen Cox	Apr 23	Lily Sacra
Apr 9	Gracelynn Knight	Apr 23	Juanita Sheffer
Apr 10	Hunter Pellegrin	Apr 24	Randy Sites
Apr 10	Jaden Hall	Apr 25	John Foley
Apr 14	Benjamin Wamsley	Apr 27	Bob Threewitts

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 10, 2004	David & Kathryn Propst Miller	18 years
Apr 15, 1994	Scott & Jenny Dillard	28 years
Apr 23, 1964	Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout	58 years

Apr 23, 2016	John & Jennifer Young	6 years
Apr 26, 1996	Randy & Jan Sites	26 years

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



Kennis & Carolyn Armentrout for 58 years on Apr 23rd

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

APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR

- 3 **Small Group Leaders Gathering at 9:00 a.m.**
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m. w/Communion; 5th Sunday in Lent; Message: "The Crowd Was Shouting "Crucify"" (from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 23:13-31
- 4 **"Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. with Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.**
 UMW Serve Keezletown Ruritans
- 6 **Lent Service 6:30 p.m. with Rev Eduardo Carrillo from Cedar Grove UMC and Mountain Valley UMC**
- 7 **UMW meet 7:00 p.m.**
- 9 **Choir practice 9:30 a.m.**
- 10 **United Methodist Men's Breakfast and Meeting at 8:00 a.m.**
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; PALM SUNDAY; 6th Sunday in Lent; Message: "Save Yourself and What Jesus Did" (from Last Words Said to Jesus Before His Death in Luke) from Luke 23:32-43
- 11 **"Entering the Passion of Jesus" study 10:00 a.m. (last session), with Backpack packing at 11:15 a.m.**
- 14 **Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. at KUMC, with Rev Bill Nabors speaking**
- 15 **Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m., at St Jacobs ELCA, with Pastor Joel speaking**
 Newsletter items due
- 16 **Serve Salvation Army**
- 17 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. at Keezletown Cemetery, followed by Breakfast served by the Relay Team
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Dawn of the Risen Jesus" from Luke 24:1-12
- 18 **Backpack Packing at 11:15 a.m.**
- 20 **Trustees meeting at 6:30 p.m.**
- 21 **UMW District Evening Together @ Mt Valley UMC at 7:00 p.m.**

- 23 Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.
 - 24 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Message: "Revelation Jesus" from Rev 1:4-8
 - 25 Backpack Packing at 11:15 a.m.
 - 26 Worship Planning at 6:30 p.m.
 - 27 Girl Scotts at 6:00 p.m.
 - 30 All pictures due to Michele for slideshow for Service of Hope
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DALE'S CORNER by Dale Dodrill

Isn't it great to go to the mailbox and find a card/letter from a friend? Phyllis Theroux said: "To send a letter is a good way to go somewhere without moving anything but your Heart." Therefore, if I change her quote a little, it reads as follows: "To say a prayer for someone is a good way to be there without moving anything but your heart." What a great way to visit, HEART TO HEART, and they always put a spring in your step. And we thank you for all your prayers and support.

IF YOU'RE FLYING OVER EASTER: I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area, so I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional, and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?" So I replied, "No Ma'am, The Pilot told us we're circling the airport, 3rd in line to land"They Walk Among Us!

THANK YOU

Keezletown UMC: Thank you! Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to disasters around the world. And thank you for your sponsorship of John Nday, as he continues God's work. **Roland Fernandes, UMCOR**

THE CHURCH FAMILY REMEMBERS

June Wise, former community member and friend of many of the Church family, passed away Feb 20th. She is survived by a son, Rick Johnson of Keezletown; three daughters, Patti Skidmore and husband, Rick of Grottoes, Marci Stout of Winchester, and Kelli Suter and husband, Eric of Keezletown; a sister, Janice Smith and husband, Robert of Harrisonburg; five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

THE CHURCH FAMILY IS PROUD

Congratulations to **Carol Sacra** upon her retirement on Feb 25th from the medical profession after 43 years. Friends and family gathered at KUMC on Feb 26th to celebrate her and her accomplishment. Have fun in retirement, Carol.

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SAVE THE DATE: The annual Service of Hope will be on Sunday, May 15th.
Watch for more information to submit names in honor or memory of. Pictures
for the slideshow are due to Michele (mdodril@brcliving.org) by April 30th.

MY PERSONAL NOTE:

I want to cry. I want to cry for my adopted-in-the-heart son who is feeling unworthy because he lost his job; for my friend who lost her daughter to cancer and still feels the pain every year at this time; for my friend who celebrates her birthday alone because God called her beloved husband home too early; for my friend who misses her Dad because he too died too young; for my friend who lives every day with a weakened heart. I want to cry that the Church family, though coming back together, will never be what it was, the way it felt to see everyone on Sunday morning, the hugs, the smiles, the laughter. I'm not sure that normal and secure will ever feel the same again, but I can assure you, each of you that want to cry too for what we are all going thru, namely life, that God has brought us through 100% of our bad days, and that He was with us then, He was with us yesterday, He is with us today, and He is already waiting for us in tomorrow. So, dry those tears, lift up your head and your heart, put on a smile, and pick up your dessert fork—the best is yet to come. God bless you all and Happy Easter. *Diana*

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Editor's Note

The April deadline for submissions is Apr 15th. 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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**SOLDIERS DON'T PUT THEIR
ARMOR ON AFTER THE WAR.
PUT ON YOUR ARMOR OF
PRAYER EVERY MORNING.**