

# MOUNTAIN ECHOES

SEPTEMBER 2023

153rd Edition



*(A carpenter bee on a butterfly bush, by our Friend, Jim Harris)*

## KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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Pastor's office hours: Monday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Keezletown UMC website: [www.keezletownumc.com](http://www.keezletownumc.com)

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**Spoiler Alert: Ministry is messy. The Church isn't perfect. We are all a little crazy. God is really good. You are ridiculously loved.**

**View Worship Online:** view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/keezletownumc/live>. After the service is completed it will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook

**ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE:** To give through the church website, click on <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418> and use the **Tithely Giving App**, Download the Tithely App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android), select your church, create an account, and add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info. Once your account has been created, you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give! A reminder, you can set your gift up as recurring. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us back and we'd be happy to assist you further! Thank you for your generosity and partnering with us to build the kingdom. **If you wish to continue giving by check, the address is: KUMC, 1456 Indian Trail Rd, Keezletown VA 22832**

## **OUR PASTOR CHATS**

Back in March of 2020 when we were at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic Scott Sprague had an idea how to help when people couldn't get to worship in-person. He began leading our congregation in online ministry for worship services. He was not an expert in that field, but he started doing his homework, experimenting, asking for help, and serving. He went from stitching together pre-recorded videos to streaming services online. When he first streamed live worship it seemed he needed the number of limbs of an octopus to run the cameras, computer, sound, and more from a folding table littered with gadgets and set up in front of the first pew. Scott made a way for us to worship online during the newness of Covid-19, for those homebound, for friends from other congregations who couldn't get to church and their church didn't have an online service, for those sick or on vacation or who work on Sundays, for first time visitors and those who would watch for a time online before ever venturing to an in-person service. Scott soon came on staff to help us keep the online service going and set it up where other people could run it, too. He kept learning about cameras, sound, slides, and video to connect us to worship in-person and online. Scott taught other people how to operate the cameras and run the online service. Scott has turned in his resignation for his staff position and will spend the next few weeks helping us make a transition for having the online service without his regular support. Online worship is one of those things I don't think I would have thought necessary if not for the pandemic. It is wondrous how God can bring good things out of bad situations. Praise God for redeeming grace! I have heard many stories of people who have been and are blessed by the online worship service. Scott has given us such a gift and is still giving in helping us continue online worship. This is a ministry that is blessing people and I think it needs to continue for those who cannot or are not quite ready to worship in-person at KUMC. I am praying for new servants of Christ who would be willing to step up to learn and serve with the gifts God will share with them. It may not be exactly like how Scott did it. There is only one Scott Sprague. Just like God used the gifts Scott had and his willingness to serve, God can work in others. Please be praying for God to provide people to help set up the online service and livestream it. Please be in prayer for those who will serve, encourage them in their learning and serving, and seek how God would have you serve at this time—in online ministry or to that something God is calling you. And please give God thanks for these three-and-a-half years of online ministry under the leadership of Scott Sprague.

*Pastor Joel*

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



*Happy 85th Leonard*



*Happy 20th Kendra*



*Happy 25th Hayley*



*Harper is 4*



*Happy Bd Cheryl*



*Happy 90th Frank*



*Happy 24th Emily*



*Happy Bd Leigha*

## \*\*\*AUGUST EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\*

### ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAIR PICTURES



*Off to the fair*



*Carson shows*



*Connor w/Mint*



*Leah showed 2 pigs/5 sheep*

### A FATHER SHOWS HIS PRIDE:

"Words alone can't express how happy I am with **Carson** and how great he did with his 4-H Market Goat Project this year! but still made time to take care and "Mint" multiple times a clear that he loved them back. them on Friday night after the that that is part of the process. project: a third year of Market make his 2nd 4-H Market Goat breeders, the veterinarian, Rockingham Cooperative, the neighbors, Conner, Lynette, his two buyers, and many many others!! I say this all the time but we are truly blessed to live in such a supportive community that is focused on helping the kids with their 4-H and FFA Market Animal Projects!"

**Cory Guilliams**



He had a very busy summer with baseball of and work with his two goats "Pepper" day. These goats loved him and it was It was hard for him to say goodbye to market animal sale but he understands He is already making plans for next year's Goats. Thanks to everyone who helped to Project project a big success! The

**SHARING IS A GOOD THING; SHARING GOD IS A GREAT THING.** On Sunday, **August 20<sup>th</sup>**, our Scripture lesson was verses from Genesis 46, 47, and 48 talking about Jacob going to Egypt. Pastor Joel then spoke on “Sharing God’s Blessings”. Sharing God’s blessings is part of the blessed labor God has given us in Christ. It goes back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who was blessed to bless all nations. Jacob means the heel grabber. He takes Esau’s blessing. He takes, and takes, until he wrestles with God. In this scripture, instead of grabbing for himself, he pours out his blessings on others. He has found the God who provides. We don’t have to be afraid to share God’s grace and blessing on all we meet; they don’t ever run out. The Holy Spirit will fill us anew each day. Pastor Joel led a special blessing for all students, school workers, teachers, and bus drivers during the service. Diana led the children’s story today about “Pigpen” from Peanuts and his confidence. She also assisted on the piano and reading scripture. Cathy led the service.

**BABY SOUNDS:** *on August 20<sup>th</sup>, Scarlett (Rizzi), Faye Crowe’s great granddaughter was with Janet Clatterbuck as she sat during the children’s message. And during the service, you could hear the giggles and the baby talk. What beautiful sounds to the ears of all in attendance and surely to the ears of God. Thank you, Rizzi, you made us smile.*



#### **FUNNY THINK ABOUTS:**

**If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?**

**Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?**

**Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.**

**The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".**

**If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?**

**Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?**

**Administrative Council** met on Wednesday, **Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. in the Church social hall with 16 members present. Susan called the meeting to order and Diana led the opening prayer. Diana read the minutes of the July meeting, which were corrected to read the Pastor Orientation charge conference will be Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, rather than the charge conference. Pastor Joel also advised that the Charge conference will be Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.; the District Conference will be Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. via zoom; and the last Special Annual Conference for Disaffiliation will be Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Chris gave the Treasurer’s report, with a question arising as to how the finances look this year in comparison to last year with the loss of members. Joe answered that we will work on growing membership, fund raisers, and especially relying on God to provide through our prayers. Judy reported for the UWF on the picnic at her home on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> with 38 church family attending; planning for the Sept 17<sup>th</sup> UWF Sunday with Heather Gomez as speaker; serving the Ruritans meal on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>; and next meeting Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Scott reported for the UMM that they met on Sunday Aug 20<sup>th</sup>; their next project is Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at the Outdoor worship service by serving hot dogs and drinks; they are looking into working on a lighting project at Camp Overlook at Agape Hill; they will meet again Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Judy reported for Patti for Memorials saying that new thank you notes for

all known donations have been written and are ready to send. Ken noted that he had received two of the notes and they were lovely, well written thank you notes. Mike reported for the Trustees that he is working on the smoke detectors for the parsonage. Denise asked if he would have the fire extinguishers and the defibrillator checked. He also mentioned that the kitchen range hood had not been inspected in quite a while and talked with Pastor Joel about who to contact. Sherry reported for Missions that they met on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>. Up to this date we have taken an UMCOR offering, had the UWF picnic, had an Ice Cream Social with about 70 people attending, and had the Undie Sunday dedication of underwear for MCCC. Lynette will be beginning the Backpack project to start on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. Sherry will announce the beginning of the Hygiene closet collection on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at the Outdoor Worship. On Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, Ronda Williams and a group from the Wellspring Church in Williamsburg will stay overnight at KUMC to glean an apple orchard on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>; we will need to provide breakfast and possibly help glean. UWF Sunday will be Sept 17<sup>th</sup> with possibly a salad bar lunch afterwards with a free will offering to go to help Hawaii recover. The UWF will be making cards for Dale Dodrill at their Sept meeting. Upcoming later will be shoeboxes and a Mission interest survey form. Susan reported that Relay for Life will be June 1, 2024. Cathy reported for Nurture/Education the Small Group Meeting on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:45 a.m.; no Sunday School on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> with the Outdoor service; and Sunday School Kickoff on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. Jenny reported for SPRC that they met and discussed staff raises, with Pastor Joel and Jenn and the remaining staff asking that all raises be put on hold this year, due to our financial situation at this time. Denise reported for Safety that she is going to MPC for an Active Shooter Presentation on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and will advise what she learns. She is also going to do online courses to become certified. She will also be checking and replacing any necessary items in the first aid box. We decided to have the Harvest Party on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, and Jenn was going to check into having a Trunk or Treat Event on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Joel reported that he will be leading a Romans Study for 12 weeks beginning on Monday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., and Tuesday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. He also wanted to thank all who participated in the Wrestle With God Prayer time during the last two months. He felt the participants were able to talk, pray, heal, and find hope. Susan set the next meeting for Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Pastor Joel closed with prayer.

**HOW BIG IS YOUR OFFERING PLATE?** We worshipped on **August 27<sup>th</sup>** by talking about offerings. The Old Testament lesson was from Romans 12:1-8, telling us to be living sacrifices. Pastor Joel's message was entitled "Get In the Offering Plate". Paul wrote in Romans for us to get in the offering plate. God seeks us to give with joy. None of us actually fit in the offering plates. All bodies are different, but wanted by God. Giving is not just funds, but time, labor, prayer, love, sharing of peace, justice, Jesus' grace. Is it your time to get in the offering plate and give a little more of yourself? Pastor Joel led the Children's Time by talking about sharing while eating a candy bar by himself. He did share with the children and gave them candy to also share. Assisting today were Jenny were Scripture, Leonard leading the service, and Diana at the piano.

**SHARING SUNFLOWERS:** On **August 27<sup>th</sup>**, Sharon Martin and Karen Mooney provided vases and buckets of sunflowers for the piano, the altar, and the narthex, and gave them out to all who wished to take them after worship. This is a picture of Susie Hill's on her dining table. Thank you, Sharon and Karen, and Susie.



Paraphrased and added to from "Earthmonk"

Recipe for Preserving Children and your soul: 1 large grassy field; 6 children; 3 small dogs; flowers; a narrow strip of bubbling brook with pebbles; warm sun; deep blue sky with puffy clouds. Mix the children with the dogs and empty into the field, stirring continuously. Sprinkle the field with flowers, pour the brook gently over the pebbles. Cover all with a deep blue sky and bake in the warm sun. When the children are well browned, they may be removed. Cool them in a bathtub while you settle back in your chair and listen to the children laugh, the dogs bark, look at the sky, and hear the running water. It's soothing for the soul.

## BACK TO SCHOOL PICTURES



*Reese is at LSU*



*Leigha at Bwater*



*Jacob 1<sup>st</sup>*



*Waylon 2<sup>nd</sup>*



*Haiden 9<sup>th</sup>*



*Connor 1<sup>st</sup>; Carson 6<sup>th</sup>*



*Parker 8<sup>th</sup>*



*15<sup>th</sup> yr Preschool*



*Ryan 11<sup>th</sup>, Becca 9<sup>th</sup>, Kelli/Scott, teach*



*Triton Preschool*



*Brayden 9<sup>th</sup> \**

*\*Brayden has also been named Co-captain of the SHS JV Football team. Congratulation, Brayden!*

## WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS

**Gathering Non-Perishable Food items:** Drop off items at KUMC for our local food pantry. Non-perishable foods and hygiene items are welcome. Items are distributed through Massanutten Presbyterian Church for residents of Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. The pantry is open 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays from 10 – 11 AM and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM.

**Serving Meals to Kingsway Prison Ministry:** Karen Mooney is leading preparing a meal each month for this ministry. Please contact her if you can help or donate.

**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 Equipment for Caring:** The medical equipment loaner closet loans out and receive donations of (1) durable medical equipment like hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bedside commodes, etc. and (2) disposable supplies like adult diapers, briefs, and wound care items. It is open Mondays 5 – 7 PM and Thursdays 9 - 11 AM. The location is Mt. Tabor UMC in Lacey Spring.

**Mission Central Children’s Clothes Closet:** gives and receives donations of children’s clothes including winter coats and shoes from sizes infant to 15 years old. New underwear, socks, and undergarments are also received. It is open 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM.


## **UPCOMING/ONGOING STUDIES:**

**NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTED IN SEPTEMBER: Romans Study:** The study the book of Romans began on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday morning at 10:00 a.m., and Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The study is written by Ben Witherington, III and books are \$15. All are welcome.

**The Bible in a Year:** KUMC has a Bible reading plan for reading the entire Bible in a year. This plan has four chapters of Bible reading each day: two chapters reading through the Bible; one chapter from Psalms, wisdom, poetry, or instructional materials; and one chapter from the Gospels or Acts. If you do this reading plan you will actually read through the Gospels and Acts three times during the 365 days. Printouts available at KUMC or online at [www.keezletownumc.com](http://www.keezletownumc.com).

**Sunday School Classes** include 0 – 2-year-olds – Nursery; 3-year-olds – Kindergarten Class; Grades 1 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Class; An adult class; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials.

**UPDATE ON DESTIN SHORTELL:** I’ve had a very busy few months. I left Florida on June 24. My parents



drove down, and we packed up all my stuff the week before then took 2 days to get back to VA. The traffic was surprisingly bad and once we crossed into VA, my car alternator went bad. Thankfully, God was watching over us, and I first noticed a problem when we stopped for gas. We made it 11 more miles to an Advance Auto parking lot before it completely died. Dad had to drive 1 hour away to pick up a new one while Mom and I walked the town of Hillsville, VA. Once he got back, he installed it and even got to use some of Advance’s tools! The next weekend, I went to a cousin’s wedding in NY near NYC. Then I defended my dissertation on July 20<sup>th</sup> and finished all of my work at the University of Florida. The defense was a 1 hour virtual presentation where I explained the background, methods, results, and conclusion of my final research project. Then I had 1 hour of questions by professors on the committee that decides if I pass. I passed! So, I am unofficially **Dr. Destin Shortell**. It will become official when I complete my 12 month internship at the V A Boston Healthcare System. On July 31<sup>st</sup>. Mom, Dad, and I drove to Boston over two days, and they helped me clean the place and get furniture for it from Goodwill. It is VERY expensive in Boston, and I am glad I am only here for at least 1 year. It is very clean, pretty, and green though so I am thankful for that. I live near two parks and a pretty college campus, which are great for running. I am looking forward to the fall because I have not seen the leaves change in 5 years! After helping move in, my

parents, boyfriend, and I went to a family cabin in upstate NY at Lake Sacandaga. The rural mountains are much more to my taste, but it was quite cold there during the mornings and evenings! I got to swim, boat, sit by campfires, and read a lot. It was a great break from the stress of moving. Now I am back in Boston and start work at the V A Hospital on 8/14. I will be working with veterans with concerns about their thinking/memory, testing how their brains work with school—like tots, and diagnosing based on how they do. I will see a lot of patients with seizures, strokes, and Alzheimer's, which really interests me.

## FAMILY FUN PICTURES



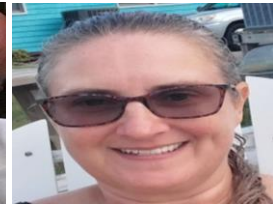
*Heatwole clan; fun at the beach*



*Brayden/Rylynn*



*John chillin'*



*At the beach*

### Collecting items for the Spotswood Hygiene Closet during the month of October:

Shampoo (M/W) & Conditioner; Shampoo & Conditioner for Curly/Ethnic Hair; Curl Creme & Spray/Gel for Curls; Soap/Body Wash (M/W); Deodorant (M/W); Razors (M/W); Shaving Cream (M/W); Lotion; Hair Brushes/Hair Bands; Cotton Balls/Q-Tips; Toothpaste; Contact Solution; Tampons (all sizes); Sanitary pads; Laundry Detergent (sm boxes); Blankets (twin/full) - Ollies 9.99-12.99, Roses 12.99; Backpacks - Ollies 18" - 7.99. Or you may give me the money and I will shop for you. Thanks, Sherry

### FOR THOSE WHO HUNG CLOTHES ON THE CLOTHESLINE OR STILL DO:

MOMMA'S CLOTHESLINE RULES: Clotheslines must be wiped before hanging clothes. Socks must be hung by their toes. Hang sheets and towels on the outside line so you can hide your "unmentionables" on the inside lines. Clothes must hang in order—whites with whites and hung first, as they are washed. Shirts must always hang by the tail—never the shoulders. Line up the clothes so that each item shares one of the clothes pins with another item. Except the mens' pants that have the stretchers in the legs to make them straight. It doesn't matter if it is sub-zero outside, the clothes will go out and just freeze dry. Clothes pins must be gathered up and put in the clothespin bag when taking down the clothes—never leave them on the line.

### \*\*\* SEPTEMBER EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\*

RESPONSE OR "WE-SPONSE". Pastor Joel spoke from Romans 12:9-21, on "Let the Love of Jesus Guide You" for worship on **Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Listen today for God to say one thing to you while we worship. Paul writes a list of 25-30 y'all things to do. Let the love of Jesus guide us. Ours is a response—"We-sponse", in light of what God has done—how we live our lives with others. Rules are everywhere and are different in each circumstance. It's our "we-sponse" that counts. Let God avenge your enemies. Overcome evil with good. Paul asks, what will we do? Pastor Joel then led the



Sacrament of Communion. Assisting Pastor Joel today were Ken, leading, and Diana on the piano and telling the children's story about Georgie's lost coin and prayer.

**COLLECTIONS CONTINUE:** Sherry reported during the worship service on **Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**, that 16 conference kits worth of supplies had already been given to MCCC, and paper, spiral notebooks, pencils, and crayons to Camp Overlook. During our School supply collection that was blessed on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had collected 5 pkg loose leaf paper, 94 spiral notebooks, 538 pencils, 28 sharpeners, 70 (24) ct crayons, 29 scissors, 20 rulers, 16 erasers, 16 glue sticks, 2 pkg colored pencils, 2 pkg bold markers, 2 pkg magic markers, and 5 small backpacks. These items will be donated to MCCC to give to families with children starting school. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE MORRIS,** who started a new job at the Berkley Group on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. The Berkley Group is a consulting firm with over 50 employees and remote offices throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and North Carolina, which specializes in administration, community development and planning, education, human resources, public safety and much more, with 100% of their work dedicated to serving public agencies.

**United Women in Faith** met on Thursday, **Sept 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the church social hall with 14 members and 1 guest present. Judy called the meeting to order, opened with prayer, and gave the devotions, which centered on our Pledge to Mission. We recited the UWF Statement. There were no minutes from the August picnic meeting. Cheryl gave the Treasurer's report, which was approved. Kingsway was suggested for Mission of the Month, along with a donation to Maui relief. Oct flowers are complete; Fay and Judy will do a cornucopia in Nov, and poinsettias will be the Dec flowers. Sherry reported that we will serve the Keezletown Ruritan Meal on Sept 11th; the UWF Sunday the 17th salad bar; on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, we serve the Mt Crawford Ruritans; and the Wayland Women on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group then planned the Worship service for Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Sherry delivered the school supplies collected to Mission Central on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. The Prayer Breakfast will be held in Luray on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Oct Halloween shut-in bag items will be collected and stuffed at the Oct meeting, and distributed in Oct, for 25-30 people. Chris read from the prayer calendar and an article by Sally Vonner, the new CEO of the United Women in Faith. Six cards were signed. The meeting was then adjourned to make cards for the troops.

**HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY ON SEPT 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

**HOW BIG IS YOUR DEBT?** Pastor Joel spoke on "The Debt of Love" during our outdoor Worship service at the Keezletown Ruritan Park on **Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**. Using Romans 13:8-14, Pastor Joel stated that Paul writes about the debts of love. Don't owe anyone anything except that you love one another. It's impossible to love God when you don't love others. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. What would it look like if you added up what you owe to God? How about what you owe to others? Imagine every sin as debt. All have sinned but are justified by Christ, who

paid for it, through His death. He not only forgives, but gives us His grace and glory.



Pastor Joel led the Children's time and talked about what the Church is. He was also assisted today by Barrett, who led the service, Cathy, who read the scripture, and Ryan, Scott, and Kelli, who led the music with their guitars. A picnic lunch followed the worship service, with the UMM providing grilled hot dogs.

**IT'S ALWAYS HARD TO LET THEM GO.** On Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, KUMC received this letter from the Spragues: Dear Church Family, We're reaching out to share with you about some upcoming changes and new opportunities for our family. KUMC has been a church home for the Spragues for more than 10 years. We have loved the time we have spent living out our Christian faith with each and every one of you! We have felt your love and support in each turn of our lives! You are all very dear to us, and that is why it is difficult to write what we will share next. Just prior to COVID, our family moved to the Broadway area. The distance made engaging in church activities outside of Sunday worship more challenging. Our children also began to really feel the strain of attending school in the Broadway district, away from the Christian friends they knew from church. We had begun to look for a local youth group to provide that peer support for them when COVID hit and all things shut down. All of our searching halted and was replaced by a passion for engaging KUMC in COVID-friendly worship in an online platform - something that could keep us connected and Christ-focused in an uncertain time. When we were finally able to come together again, our online ministry changed and became a way to bring in-person worship to members who could not attend AND to reach those we had never met! But, while that ministry grew and Scott's involvement increased, Ryan and Becca were still looking for that connection to peers they could participate within school AND worship - local teens to help them stand firm in their faith in both parts of their lives. Similarly, our family schedule, combined with the distance from church, made attending evening events much more difficult and we began to feel disconnected from some of the ways we had engaged with the church in the past. However, the love and connection we felt with our church family kept us on a course to worship at KUMC. It has become crucial for us to recognize the importance of our entire family connecting with a local church throughout the week in a meaningful way. While we've been focused on our children's desire to engage with local youth and participate in youth activities, we also understand the significance of our entire family being part of a congregation near our home. This decision isn't solely about supporting our children; it's about strengthening our family's ties within our local community. Together, as a family, we'll be exploring a

local Broadway area congregation as we enter this new chapter in our lives. This Sunday (September 10) will be the last time Ryan, Becca, and Kelli will be sharing in worship with our KUMC family. Scott will linger a few extra weeks to finalize some training for those who will carry on the online ministry and to complete the sound system installation to ensure the church's success in this area. In true Sprague fashion, we will wrap up our family's time at KUMC with some singing at Sunday's service! Goodbyes are rarely easy. We don't look forward to parting but we are so very grateful for the privilege of growing with you in Christ and are looking forward to sharing all we've learned at our new church. Without a doubt, KUMC will continue to be in our prayers and we welcome you to keep in touch and keep us posted on all the happenings in Keezletown! Much love to all of you - our dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

The Sprague Family

Following the outdoor service on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, a special "Order of Farewell to Members" was conducted to bless the Spragues in their new journey, and allowed folks to say their goodbyes or see you again soon.

**Keezletown Ruritans** were served by the UWF on **Sept 11<sup>th</sup>** at their monthly meeting. They enjoyed Beef Bar-b-que, Hashbrown Casserole, Baked Beans, Cake & Ice Cream, and Tea. Thank you to all who helped with the meal.



The best way to honor those lost on **9/11** is to be the people we were on 9/12. From the ashes and destruction rose a nation that loved each other, cared for each other, comforted each other, prayed together and vowed protection for each other....where did that caring nation go? How are we so different today than we were the day, weeks, months after 9-11? And why?

**Apple Gleaning:** A few months ago Ronda Williams from Wellspring UMC in Williamsburg, Virginia reached out to me about partnering for apple gleaning with the Society of Saint Andrew. There was going to be a Harvest of Hope event near Keezletown. I had to hear from someone in Williamsburg about a gleaning event happening near Keezletown! Wellspring UMC brought 12 of their folks to KUMC on **September 15** and a few of them stayed for worship and sleeping over at the church while the others elected to stay at a local hotel. In the morning the Keezletown



United Methodist Men provided a wonderful breakfast that filled us up for gleaning. Rev. Edward Hopkins shared about how he has been going on gleaning events like this one for about 40 years and the reality of hunger locally and globally. We gleaned at a beautiful orchard in Timberville that generously offers gleaning every year.



We gathered 400 pounds of Gala apples for food ministries in our area and in Williamsburg. It was a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, learning, and serving together. Maybe we could do gleaning ministry again in the future. Pastor Joel

### **MORE FUNNY THINK ABOUTS:**

*It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects.*

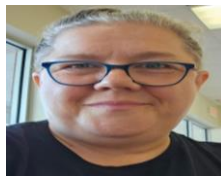
*As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient.*

*Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.*

I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

### FAMILY FUN PICTURES



*Charlotte/Barrett Pickin' sunflowers    Donating blood    At MD Football    The Crisman girls*

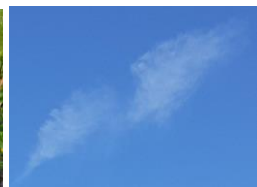
### \*\*\*SEPTEMBER EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\*

- 17    **Sunday School KICKOFF @ 9:45 a.m.**  
Worship @11:00 a.m.; United Women in Faith Sunday with Heather Gomez speaking; lunch to follow with freewill offering to assist Hawaii
- 18    Romans study @ 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking @ 11:15 a.m.
- 19    Romans study @ 7:00 p.m.
- 20    Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.
- 24    **Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.**  
Worship @11:00 a.m.; Message: "To Live Is Christ" from Philipians 1:21-30  
FIRST DAY OF FALL
- 25    Romans study @ 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking @ 11:15 a.m.
- 26    Romans study @ 7:00 p.m.



**Marcus Hall** graduated from his Marine Corps training with Alpha Company on Parris Island, South Carolina, on the afternoon of Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations Marcus, we are so proud of you.

### FAMILY FUN PICTURES



*Miss Rylynn    Tie-dyed buds    19<sup>th</sup> Gotcha day    Pop's tiger lily's    On angel's wings*

### MORE FUNNY THINK ABOUTS:

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.

I'm responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.

### **\*\*\* OCTOBER EVENTS HAPPENING \*\*\***

#### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Oct 1	Neil Sacra	Oct 10	Joel Robinette
Oct 1	Haiden Dillard	Oct 15	Phillip Carr
Oct 1	Ryan Welsh	Oct 18	Toni Underwood
Oct 3	James Cole	Oct 19	Hannah Bowman
Oct 4	Cheryl Foley	Oct 22	Mike Summers
Oct 4	Sarah Crisman	Oct 22	Charles Stanley
Oct 5	Randy Clatterbuck	Oct 26	Cheryl Dillard
Oct 5	Mike Heishman	Oct 29	Connie Hawley
Oct 8	Marie Siler Hardin	Oct 30	Jenny Reed
Oct 9	Morgan Bishop	Oct 30	Sherry Summers
Oct 10	Patti Bowman	Oct 31	Ryan Pusey
Oct 10	Peggy Smith		

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#### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Oct 3, 1992	Scott & Michelle Dodrill	31 years
Oct 3, 2015	Michael & Faith Stanley	8 years
Oct 4, 2014	Justin & Kristin Roach	9 years
Oct 7, 1978	Darryl & Tanya Eppard	45 years
Oct 8, 2022	Chris and Lauren Threewitts	1 year
Oct 12, 1968	Jim & Carol Dillard	55 years
Oct 12, 2014	Kevin & Holly Mason	9 years
Oct 15, 1977	Bob & Susan Threewitts	46 years
Oct 15, 2011	Matthew & Amber Coffman	12 years
Oct 19, 2019	Adam & Kelly Ford	4 year
Oct 21, 2006	Eric & Annika Dean	17 years
Oct 21, 2017	Matt & Lauran Holliday	6 years
Oct 23, 2004	Brandon & Ginny Bowman	19 years
Oct 23, 2010	Stephen & Kristine Welsh	13 years
Oct 31, 1998	Bob & Susie Hill	25 years
Oct 31, 2021	Travis & Joanna Martin	2 years

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



**Darryl & Tanya Eppard for 45 years on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Bob & Susan Threewitts for 46 years on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Jim & Carol Dillard for 55 years on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR**

- 1 [Small Group Leaders Gathering at 8:45 a.m.](#)  
[Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.](#)

- 2 **Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Communion; Message: "To Live Is Christ" from Philippians 1:21-30**  
Romans Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking at 11:15 a.m.  
Mission & Outreach Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 3 Romans Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
- 5-8 Men's Emmaus Walk @ Camp Overlook
- 5 UWF meet at 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Special Session VA Annual Conference for Disaffiliation via Zoom at 9:0 a.m.
- 8 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Message: "Christ Attitude" from Philippians 2:1-18**
- 9 Romans Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking at 11:15 a.m.
- 10 Romans Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Administrative Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter items due
- 12-15 Women's Emmaus Walk at Camp Overlook
- 15 **United Methodist Men meet at 8:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship at 11:00 a.m. UMM SUNDAY with Message "Not My Problem" by Ken Thomas from John 2:1-12**
- 16 **Worship Planning at 9:00 a.m.**  
Romans Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking at 11:15 a.m.
- 17 Romans Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.
- 22 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Message: "Sending and Receiving Timothy and Epaphroditus" from Philippians 2:19-30**  
District Conference at 2:00 p.m. via zoom
- 23 Romans Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking at 11:15 a.m.
- 24 Romans Study at 7:00 p.m.
- 29 **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Message: "Christ Confidence: from Philippians 3:12-21**  
**Harvest Party in the afternoon at Ruritan Park**
- 30 Romans Study at 10:00 a.m.  
Backpacking at 11:15 a.m.

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**Giving Update:** Designated and directed giving toward missions and special offerings has been strong these last months since June 2023 to things like the Virginia Annual Conference Offering, Missionary John NDay's Mission Priorities, Camp Overlook Summer Camp Campers, Undie Sunday, UMCOR, School Supplies for Students, Disaster Relief, and more. Praise God! Undesignated giving which goes toward budget items like program and operating expenses, staff, and apportionments has been down since June 2023. Your giving makes a big difference at KUMC in our worship & praise, faith development, sharing the love of Jesus, and building relationships in the church and beyond to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Special Session of the Virginia Annual Conference:** The final Special Session of the VA Annual Conferences for voting on congregations that have decided to disaffiliate from the UMC will be Saturday, Oct 7th at 9:00 AM via Zoom and can be viewed at KUMC beginning with the Q&A Session at 8:30 AM. KUMC’s annual conference delegates are Chris Cole (district at large delegate), Jenn Robinette (lay delegate), and Joel Robinette (clergy delegate). There are 120 congregations seeking to disaffiliate from the UMC. There are 107 who have previously disaffiliated since March 2022 which would bring the total number of congregations to disaffiliate by the end of 2023 to 227. There is more information and frequently asked questions at <https://vaumc.org>.

**Weave for a Cure**--If you would be interested in weaving a basket in October, please let Lynn Siler know. This would be a fundraiser for Relay For Life. Plans are in the works and more details will be in the church bulletin very soon. [Lsiler78@yahoo.com](mailto:Lsiler78@yahoo.com)

**Operation Christmas Child** needs our help in sharing the love of Jesus. The boxes will be collected in November, and delivered to the collect site. Watch for more detail in the coming months. If you have questions or would like to make a donation, please see Lynn Siler. I would be happy to fill a shoebox for you. Please keep OCC in your prayers. Lynn

**FOLKS TO SIT AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH ARE NEEDED TO WATCH THE DOOR DURING WORSHIP—PLEASE SEE DENISE SITES IF YOU CAN HELP.**

**GOD CAN USE YOUR TALENTS:** If you have been blessed with a musical talent such as playing an instrument(s), and would be willing to step out in faith and help lead the congregational music on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we ask that you pray about it and let God lead you to volunteering. If you felt led, please see Chris, Pastor Joel, or Diana. Thank you and God Bless.

**LET US HEAR FROM YOU:** Would you like to say something to the Church family or members of KUMC that have touched your life? We would love to hear from you. If you are a Church member and want to express your gratitude to someone who has helped you, lifted you up, given you joy, and/or shared Jesus with you, please write and let us know. Letters will be published in this newsletter. They may be sent to KUMC or e-mailed to me at [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net). Thank you.

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**E-MAIL OR REGULAR MAIL:** I would like to offer to anyone that would like it, the availability of receiving their newsletter via e-mail rather than the Postal Service each month. If you would like to try this, please e-mail me at [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net), with your request. Please put Newsletter in the subject line.



MY PERSONAL NOTE:

*My apologies for the lateness of the newsletter this month. As most of you already know, E.L. went to be with Jesus on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> peacefully in his sleep. No longer does his back hurt, or he have to go to dialysis, or take cancer shots in his tummy. He's at peace in his new body. I was blessed for over 50 years for having him in my life and I now look forward to spending eternity with him. God bless you all that prayed for us and cared for us.*

*Diana*

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**Editor's Note**

**The October deadline for submissions is October 13th .** My home number is 540-269-8511 or e-mail me at [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto: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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*Those moments when you just can't put your prayer into words, God hears your heart. (from Inspire Your Beautiful Soul)*