

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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Late Winter/Early Spring 2016

Small Membership Churches

Friends, I'd like to share these thoughts with you, which I recently received in an email.

Small Membership Churches and Members don't look back. Let me repeat, "Do Not Look Back!" Luke 9:61-62, reads, "Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' I have read stories about runners who at the last second turned to look back and lost the race. By looking back, they lost precious time, lost their stride, and found themselves second and not first.



Small membership churches and members, God has anointed us to run the race. God has called us to share love, hope, and forgiveness with our brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, sometimes we spend too much time looking back and not enough time looking forward. Churches are looking back at the glory days. How often we hear, "I remember when..." or "Back when I was growing up..." How many times are we so busy reminiscing about the good old days that we forget to see *children of all ages* yearning for God's help right in our own community.

Members are busy listening to the denomination, bigger churches, and big church members sharing doubts about the viability and cost of small membership churches. With each church closing they become more and more resigned, to the untrue belief, that their ministry is not significant and valuable.

Small Membership Churches and Members look forward. Let me repeat, "LOOK FORWARD." *We have been passed the baton and it is our time with God's help to run this leg of the race.* I know that without the Small Membership Church I would not be where I am today because I was afforded opportunities which just would not have happened in a larger church. In fact, I would have been lost in the larger church. There are many people who need to be part of a family size church. Look forward with the eyes of Christ and you will see brothers and sisters searching, yearning, thirsting for God's help.

Members, stop turning back and listening to the footsteps of those behind us. Stop looking back and listening to the voices which tell us that we are insignificant and not valuable. God has called us to the family church and given us the responsibility of bringing Christ's hope to people of all ages. ... Look forward God has called you and there are people who need you.

Small Membership Churches and Members *look forward!*

I hope we will ALL take these words to heart. We at Elkton UMC have SO MUCH to give!!

LAY READERS (11:00)

Feb. 21...Winston Hensley
Feb. 28...Harvey Gasser
March 6...Tamlyn Ogden
March 13...Jan Lorette
March 20 Irene Jenkins
March 27...Sandy Cude
April 3...Ed Turner
April 10...Andy East

8:35 Connection Hospitality Teams schedule

TEAM I

March 6 & 13

TEAM II

March 20 & 27

TEAM III

Feb. 21 & 28
April 3 & 10

News from The Elkton United Methodist Women

At the annual Christmas Brunch, Alice Yates was honored with our UMW mission pin, for the work she does for the UMW projects.

We are excited about planning a **Covered-Dish Birthday Dinner** on April 17th, after the 11:00 worship. It is a great time to get to know some new people better, as we will sit at tables according to our common birthday months. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite dish!

Please continue to remember the shut-ins with visits, cards and calls.

We love having guests at our meetings, come join us!

Wesleyan Circle- 1st Monday mornings at 10:30 AM
Amanda Kite Circle - 1st Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM
Elsie Cover Circle - 2nd Thursday afternoons at 1:30 PM

General Conference Orientation

April 24th is a day for a District-Wide General Conference Orientation for the Harrisonburg District. Many have questions about what a General Conference is, who can vote, and the many issues that will be voted on at the 2016 General Conference of the UMC. If you'd like to find out more about the workings of the whole denomination of United Methodism, the meeting is at 3:00 p.m. on the 24th at Mt. Tabor UMC and everyone is invited.

Church Yard Sale

Start collecting items for the church yard sale, Friday and Saturday, April 22 & 23. All proceeds to send kids to Camp Overlook!

NURSERY WORKERS (11:00)

Feb. 21...Jerri MacLennan
Feb. 28...Heather Pugliese
March 6...Jessica Trimble
March 13...Terri Davis
March 20...Anna Campbell
March 27...Jerri MacLennan
April 3...Heather Pugliese
April 10...Jessica Trimble

GREETERS (11:00)

Feb. 21...Harvey Gasser & Alda Powell
Feb. 28...Ditman Flory & Marie Frey
March 6...Alice Hensley & Bob Bloomquist
March 13...Joshua Gooden & Sam Gentry
March 20...Irene & Mike Jenkins
March 27...Ted & Anna Campbell
April 3...Allen & Kitty Young
April 10...Ditman Flory & Don Grimes

USHERS (11:00)

Feb. 21...Mike Jenkins, Bob Bloomquist
Dick Lorette, Joshua Gooden
Feb. 28...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Sam Gentry, Tamlyn Ogden
March 6...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Don & Kathleen Grimes
March 13...Sam Gentry, Marvin Hillsman
Dick Lorette, Joshua Gooden
March 20...Don & Sandy Cude
Don & Kathleen Grimes
March 27...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Dick Lorette, Joshua Gooden
April 3...Mike Jenkins, Bob Bloomquist
Ted & Anna Campbell
April 10...Sam Gentry, Tamlyn Ogden
Marvin & Neil Hillsman

Annual Chili Cook-Off

On Saturday February 27th, everyone brought their best chili and a hearty appetite for our annual Chili Cook-Off! As always, it was great fun, friendly competition and delicious chili! This year's winner was Tom Johnson. Congratulations, Tom! Special thanks to Laura Johnson for organizing the event!

Prayer Concerns...

(as known)
Jenna Turner
Bud & Pat Fitzwater
Bill Madren
Anita McGregor
Ruby Hildebrand
Ruth Reynolds
Nioka Morris
Irene Reynolds
Patty Life
Frank Adams
June Thompson
Lynn Flory
Ed Turner

Project Crossroads 2016

Put Project Crossroads on your calendar, and make it part of your discipleship in our church. If you are at least a rising 8th grader and younger than 95, *there's room for you on the mission work team!* Or, if you can't come along for that week, you can still help with fundraisers or donations for this year's team. The dates for this summer are: July 18-22.

Confirmation Process

As in the past, our church will use a Mentoring model to work with our Confirmands this year. The process has begun. We have several Mentors working with several of our youth over the next three months. The plan is that these young people will be received as full, confessing members of our congregation on the first Sunday in June!

NOTES FROM THE 2016 AD. COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

The following are some of the ministry ideas we hope to add in the coming year.

Disciples Worship

- 5th Sundays combined worship.
- More youth Sundays (or youth performing musically)
- Children's choir (at both services)
- Handbells at 8:35 worship
- Videos in sermons/variety

Disciples Make New Disciples – “Evangelity”

- Add costume contest to Halloween event
- Give out hot chocolate on Black Friday with toy drive
- Blessing of Motorcycles at Motorcycle rally
- Thanksgiving meals to people in the community who have to work
- Hot chocolate and cookies for sledders (napkins with church name)
- Have scouts offer wilderness survival class

Disciples Grow in their Faith

- Encourage participation in faith events / conferences (Women of Faith, Walk to Emmaus, Christians concerts, etc)
- Camp Overlook events
- Youth events (District events ie: tubing) (“beauty” workshop)
- Leadership Training events
- Encourage Sunday School

Disciples in Mission

- Awareness event/campaign in community for Xmas missions (Nov?)
- Hot chocolate/meal for emergency workers or Appreciation meal for them
- Working New Moms Support Group
- Some ideas for periodic classes offered included:
- Women's self-defense workshop
- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace workshop
- computers usage for seniors, and cooking/working with little kids

Disciples Sharing Our Resources for Mission

- Community meals/bake sale for new kitchen
- Offer a scholarship for child in the community to Overlook
- Possibility of fund raising dinners for medical and other needs of members

Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

- Sunday, March 20 – Palm/Passion Sunday
8:35 – includes baptism of Elizabeth Johnson...with reception to follow
11:00 – includes choir procession with palms
- Thursday, March 24 – Maundy Thursday
6:30 PM – Silent Supper – with scripture readings
7:00 PM – Chancel Choir Cantata,
- Friday, March 25 – Good Friday
7:30 PM – Contemporary Tenebrae service with praise band and extinguishing of candles as the passion story is read
- Sunday, March 27 – Easter Sunday
6:45 AM – Sunrise Service on the lawn
7:15 AM – Covered dish breakfast
8:35 AM – Contemporary Easter worship
11:00 AM – Liturgical Easter worship

8:35 Hospitality Teams Roster

Team I

Sandy Cude – Team leader & Door Greeter
Don Cude – Parking Greeter
Carol Hensley – Hostess
Terri Davis – Nursery

Team II

Sandy Cabbage – Team Leader & Door Greeter
Kenny Cabbage – Parking Greeter
Travis Cabbage – Parking Greeter
Richard Morris – Parking Greeter
Amy Morris - Door Greeter
Jerri MacLennan – Hostess
Brian or Lisa Kriel – Nursery

Team III

Pat East – Team Leader & Door Greeter
Andy East – Parking Greeter
Jan Lorette – Hostess
Mary Ripley – Nursery

REPORT OF THE LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

2016 CHURCH OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

CHAIR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL	Ditman Flory
CHAIR FINANCE COMMITTEE	Harvey Gasser
CHAIR STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS	Bryan Kriel
CHURCH TREASURER	Terri Davis
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Amy Morris
LAY LEADER	Harvey Gasser
LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Winston Hensley
SUPERINTENDENT OF CHURCH SCHOOL	Laura Johnson
ALTERNATE LAY MEMBER TO CONF.	Megan Smith
SEC'Y ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL	Nancy Goulart
PRESIDENT UMW	Marie Frey
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES	Mike Jenkins
COMMUNICATIONS	Joshua Gooden
YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATIVE	Joshua Gooden

MINISTRY AREA CHAIRPERSONS (are also members of Admin. Council)

DISCIPLESHIP & GROWTH IN FAITH	Christy Allamong
FELLOWSHIP & BELONGING	Sandy Cabbage
WORSHIP	Shirley Diggle
OUTREACH/MISSION	Richard Morris
EVANGELISM/INVITATION MINISTRIES	Jan Lorette

VARIOUS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

CHURCH TRUSTEES

'16 Bob Bloomquist	Joe Diggle
	Ormond Painter
'17 Mike Jenkins	Joe Gooden Marie Frey
'18 Richard Morris	Don Cude

PASTOR/STAFF-PARISH

RELATIONS COMMITTEE

'16 Bryan Kriel, Chair Tim Allamong Joshua Gooden
'17 Michelle Turner Bob Grogg Sandy Cude
18 Laura Johnson Kitty Young Joan Painter
Ex-officio: Winston Harvey Gasser, Lay Leader
Hensley-lay member An.
Conf.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio members:

Amy Morris Bryan Kriel Mike Jenkins
Terri Davis Ditman Flory
Elected members: Harvey Gasser, Loretta Miller Stewardship campaign
chair

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Shirley Diggle, chair Wen Chin Liu, Sharon Bloomquist, accompanist
Music director ex-officio
ex-officio

CHURCH AUDITOR

Dick Lorette

DISTRICT STEWARD

Dick Lorette

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Shirley Diggle, Chair, Jerri MacLennan, acolytes
ushers, music Ormond Painter, altar
Marie Frey, flowers; communion Wen Chin Liu Sharon Bloomquist
ex-officio ex-officio
Sandy Cude, 8:35 Sandy Cabbage, Pat East,
team leader 8:35 team leader 8:35 team leader

LAY LEADERSHIP

COMMITTEE

'16 Laura Johnson Michelle Turner
'17 Michelle Hatton Lisa Gooden Winston Hensley
'18 Carolyn Akers Holly Sander Megan Smith

CAMP OVERLOOK REP:

Lisa Kriel

SCOUTING COORDINATOR

Bryan Kriel