



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
1710 23RD STREET
PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor.....Dr. Kurt W. Busiek
Family Life Minister.....Mr. Jonathan Delgado
Director of Children's Ministries.....Mrs. Sarah Stephens
Director of Music Ministries.....Mrs. Pam McClain
Organist/Accompanist.....Mr. David Enoch
Secretary.....Ms. Terri Fielder
Church Cook.....Mrs. Jewel Lusk
Visual Worship Coordinator.....Mrs. Bekah Brooks
Treasurer.....Mr. Gary Beall
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Sara Taylor
Custodian.....Ms. Tammy Hayes
Office Number.....(304)-485-5171
Fax Number.....(304)-485-5194
Website:.....www.ebcwv.com
Office Hours.....9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Pray for those listed below on their birthdays. Contact the church with any corrections.



1. Scott Jefferson
2. Carol Parker
3. Lu McVay
4. Judy Florence, John Terosky
6. Syrenity Medford
8. Christopher Conley
9. Edythe McDonald, Pat Sayre, Melissa Southall
10. Judy Jones
15. Helen Howell
17. Bob Winkler
18. Sherra Ferrell
19. Mike Hayden, Jackson Simmons
20. Angeline Barnette
21. Sawyer Lucas
22. Sharon Beall, Kelly Nicholson, Kimberly Samolitis, Cheryl Wons
23. Kathy Leavitt
25. David Brooks, Allenetta Kaufman, John Nicholson
26. Benjamin Whitlatch
27. Gia Mazza
28. Sophie Collins, Kristin Goff
30. Liam Nuzum

1. Diana Johnson
2. Darian Leach
3. Cree Gentry
6. Lyndall Jones, Richard Wons
7. Jack Mills, Kathi Ross
8. Deanie Kendall
9. David Carpenter, Dedra Goff
10. Elizabeth Beary
11. Jim Shreeves
12. Leila Lantz
13. Sue McCloy, Carl Sizemore
14. Willem Nuhfer, Meghan Striker
16. Rachel Garrison, Adam Powell
18. Jim Backus, Jeff Evans, Sherry Smith, Joe Wince
19. Siri Calvert
20. Donna Shawver, Jared Wince
21. Brenda Dougherty, Lauren Modesitt, Pat Smith
22. Ann Beck, Davey Brooks, Brenna Calvert, Clara Howard, Sebastian Huffman
23. Aaron Wince, Clara Wince
24. Meghan Jefferson
25. Jack Buskirk, Donnie McCloy, Laraine Metheny
26. Brion Matheny, David Phillips
29. Grace Duncan, Jake Keifer, Rodney Wharton
31. Payge Hayes, Jan Reed



Emmanuel Life & Times

June & July 2021

"Summer: A Time of Light and New Life"



It's summer. Sundays are fun again. I feel like Emmanuel is coming back to life as a church. Every Sunday I see new, familiar faces of people who haven't been in worship since covid shut down our world. I see light at the end of the covid tunnel. We are regathering. The dark days of shutdowns and social distancing are slowly receding and we are coming together to sing and pray and share our love and support for one another. After every communion service, we sing a wonderful hymn **"Blest Be the Tie"** that expresses the power of fellowship to bring new life.

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.



The staff was discussing our memories of summer vacations. My family really didn't take vacations but we did travel with my father when he played in tennis tournaments. I remember one hotel we stayed in was next to a horse farm and horses would come to the fence next to the parking lot. I have a great memory of swimming in the hotel pool and feeding the horses.

My first church was North Shore Community Baptist in Beverly Farms, MA. I was their Youth and Christian Education pastor for five years before I came to WV. Author John Updike lived in Beverly Farms and you would often see him walking around town. **Here's a summer poem Updike wrote called June":**

"The sun is rich/ And gladly pays
In golden hours, Silver days,
And long green weeks/ That never end.
School's out. The time Is ours to spend.
There's Little League, Hopscotch, the creek,
And, after supper, Hide-and-seek.
The live-long light/ Is like a dream,
and freckles come, Like flies to cream."

Summer Ministry Events:

The LIFE Sunday School class will return in July. The LIFE class is for people who are newer to Emmanuel but is open to everyone. We meet in the Parlor and study the basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

Leslie Turley will share a Mission Update and Message on Sunday, July 11.

On July 18, we will offer a service of Baptism. If you, or someone you know, has been thinking about getting baptized, talk to Pastor Kurt or Pastor Jonathan.

Serving with you, Pastor Kurt Busiek



Updates From our Staff:

From Pastor Jonathan (Family Life News)

Our Youth and Family ministries are excited to be able to actually make plans this summer! After taking a year off from many of our normal, summer events, we're happy to be returning some of them to our schedule.

Here's what you can look forward to this summer:

Youth and Family Hiking Day at North Bend State Park – June 5th

Youth and Family Hiking Day at Hocking Hills – June 19th

Jr. High Camp Cowen – July 4th-9th

High School Camp Cowen – July 11th-16th

Youth Mission Week - July 26th-30th

You can find out more about these events by contacting Pastor Jonathan, or by checking our Family Ministry Facebook Group Page for event details!

"Praying and Celebrating with our 2021 High School Graduates"



Congratulations!

Class of
2021



Updates From our Staff:

From Sarah Stephens (Children's Ministry)

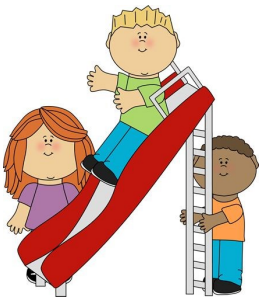
Oh my goodness, I'm so grateful for summertime - yay! I am grateful that this year summer is once again a time to enjoy our families and friends in all the warm weather ways we love – ways we weren't able to at this time last year – with the most important way being together!



In the children's ministries area, we are again enjoying regular Wednesday evening Awana, which will continue weekly through the summer (except for the first weeks of June, July, and August). It is wonderful to once again hear laughter and chattering in the hallways and in classrooms! It's also a joy to see our volunteers working so closely with the kiddos who attend as they work to understand God's word better. It's truly a win-win situation – a blessing to both child and volunteer!

On Sunday mornings, the K through 5th graders are continuing their study of The Life Of Jesus, while preschoolers continue their chronological study of the major stories in the Bible. I love getting to know our Sunday morning kiddos a little better every week!

On Saturday, May 22nd, we hosted a "Preschool Playground Fellowship" at Parkersburg City Park. Our preschoolers enjoyed playing with friends, while parents enjoyed fellowship with one another. It was a time of good food, good fun and a simple craft.



We've got some good times planned for the upcoming months! Still in the planning stages is a "Water Play and Sundaes" day in June here at the church. Various water games will take place out-of-doors to be followed by an ice cream Sundae bar inside the fellowship hall. Look for more details about this soon!



On August 14th, Maria Keen has graciously volunteered to host a "backyard gospel party", with the rain date being August 28th. Think of it as hosting a birthday party for the children in your neighborhood with the added element of sharing the gospel. We're excited about this opportunity which brings families together in service to their community! Our thought and hope is that this "pilot run" might lead to repeated use in future summers with other church families participating.

On August 21st, kiddos will enjoy an end-of-summer celebration at the YMCA! This will include pool time, as well as out-of-pool play and fun snacks time. More details on this to follow as well, as we get closer to the date.

Now for my "memorable vacation" story. As my family didn't vacation regularly when I was growing-up, my pool of stories to pick from may be smaller than some. I'm going to go with Joe's and my honeymoon, since it was a "do-over", so-to-speak. This was a second honeymoon for both of us, and represented, in my opinion, a second chance that God provided for both of us. We stayed in the Bahamas in a small resort, went snorkeling, went exploring, and just generally enjoyed ourselves and each other for a wonderful week. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to do these things in that beautiful place with the man God has blessed me with. I think we probably could've spent the week about anywhere and it would've been just as enjoyable! Sorry for the sap! Ha!



Sarah Stephens





Pray for: Randal Beaver, Tonda Blair, Kendall Cain, Carolyn Chipps, Jim & Katy Cox, Dave, Gary Davenport’s mother, Joyce Parsons Drake, David Enoch’s family friend, Bernie Frazier, Jason George, Patti Golden, Mike Hayden, Carol Hicks, Dee Lallemon, Barb Malcomb, Edythe McDonald, Kristina Moneypenny, Butch Powell, Pat Sayre. Pray for our country and our leaders. May is Mental Health Awareness Month: Pray for our church counselor, Gail Samolitis, and for other members who work in Behavioral Health services and support groups.

Homebound: Jean Beatty, Beverly Boggs, Jack Buskirk, Kathy Harrison, Diane Hays, Shirley Huffman, Maridor Keck, Lu McVay, Edelene Wood, Glenola Woodyard.

Assisted Living:
Colonial House: Betty Jo Wiseman; ***Stonerise/Eagle Pointe:*** Nancy Duty, Joe Hays, Betty Matthews, Bud Varner; ***The Pines:*** Claude Denton; ***Waterview Pointe:*** Naomi Couch; ***Worthington:*** Jean Lawrence, Ada Turner; ***Wyngate:*** Sam Bolian, Joan Stutler

Out of Town, Imogene Buckley, Phyllis Crone, Allenetta Kaufman, Margaret Norris, Mel Williams

Our Deepest Sympathy to: The family and friends of **Pat Stump**, Lynn Nicholson’s brother in NC / the family and friends of **Sadie Tolley**, Jewel Lusk’s sister / the family and friends of **Lindy Pfersh**y, Mona Busiek's cousin in MO / The family and friends of **Peggy Easter**, Leslie Sims’ aunt / The family and friends of **Larry Smith** / The family and friends of **Ken Gilbert** / The family and friends of **Patricia Whitten**, Jewel Lusk’s sister-in-law

Thank You

From Debbie Fenton - The Church sale was a success! Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, priced, and bought at the sale. Also thank you to the ones who prepared lunch. Everything was great! A special thank you to the volunteers—we couldn’t have done it without you! We made \$3,000 for the Herman James Meal Fund! Praise the Lord!

From Diane Hays - Dear Emmanuel Family: The love that is felt with all the cards, phone calls and meals that everyone has given to Joe and I during our difficult times has meant so much. The love and support has helped sustain us through these times. God’s love is truly felt through this wonderful family.

From Pam Wharton - Thank you church family for all your cards and prayers during my recovery from my recent fall. I am hoping to start physical therapy in two weeks and I am going to try to be in Church soon.

From Maridor Keck - To all whom this may relate: What a blessing to receive a wonderful meal every Wednesday night. The boys, Mark and Matt, are also grateful for the meal you bring Mom. I’ve gained weight—another pound or two won’t hurt—I can still wear most of my clothes. Gratefully, Maridor

From Women’s Care Center - Thank you for your monthly support of Women’s Care Center. Today here at the center we have our baby boutique open for moms and families that need practical help. We put a notice out earlier today and asked for prayer for a woman who remains undecided about her preborn child. Please pray with us as we offer hope to those who find it difficult to choose life. The broken lives and needs can be overwhelming, yet nothing is too hard for our God! Gratefully, Janet Kimes

Thank you from Regina Goodwin (friend of Tammy Hayes who had a benefit event to raise money for her cancer expenses) - I want to thank Emmanuel for your support in the fundraiser benefit to help with my medical expenses. I am looking at more chemo in the future and will see my cancer doctor again soon. God bless you all for everything you have done to help me. There is a special place in heaven for people who show love. Again thank you for your help and your prayers.

Thank you from Elissa Filozof - I just wanted to say to the whole church - thank you so much for sending the card for my recent birthday and the care package full of snacks. Those were so nice to receive and share with friends. And last weekend I was able to have my baby shower in the church's conference room. It was a wonderful time and I felt really blessed by everybody.



A Review of our Praises from April and May:
Cody Moore and Taylor Wells, granddaughter of Tom and Sally Beckwith, were married on 3/27 in the church courtyard. The Memorial Service for **Tammy Reynolds Kelley** was a true celebration of her joyful spirit, her music and her faith. **John and Lynn Nicholson**, who are caring for Lynn's brother Pat in NC, were able to stop by and visit the Busieks who were helping Stephanie Busiek Green move into their new home in NC. **Rick Ashwell** was able to go home from the hospital. **Dave McCue and Frank Dotson** continue to maintain our sanctuary lighting fixtures. **Jeff and Adam Evans** built a ramp by the step in the back chapel hallway. **Rachel Filozof** will begin Law School at Regent College in VA soon. **John and Kathi Alfred** celebrated 30 years of marriage. **Bill Ott** celebrated his 80th birthday with a piece of key lime pie. **Will Cosby** shared a beautiful trumpet solo called “The Holy City.” **Pastor Kurt** got a good report from his surgeon in his six month kidney surgery follow up appointment. Our **Easter music** was inspiring and uplifting... thanks to **Pam McClain** for bringing our Easter Celebration together. Our **Easter sanctuary** was filled with beautiful lilies and tulips thanks to the good work of **Earl and Jane Hulce**. Our **Easter Sunday attendance** was 170 for both services; we praise God that people are beginning to feel safe enough to return to in person fellowship. **Awana** has re-started; if you’re willing to help, talk to Sarah. **Gail Samolitis** put a Pinwheel Garden outside our church to help us remember that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. **Scott Whitlatch** is now employed by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. **Richard Davis** is now employed at CC in their cleaning and maintenance department. **Maridor Keck** is thankful that 73 years ago on Easter Sunday she was baptized at Turtle Creek Baptist Church in Boone County. We are very thankful to and for **Mary Keifer and Bonnie Nestor**, as they've offered to fill the important roles of Awana 'game time' volunteers! The recent **church sale** raised over \$3,000 for the Herman James Meal Fund. Thanks to **Debbie Fenton** and her amazing helpers who worked the sale and offered lunch in the kitchen. **Cortney Brooks** shared a wonderful piano solo called, “Shout to the Lord.” The memorial service for **Ken Gilbert** was a celebration of his life and impact on our community. Thanks to our musicians, AV/sound crew, deacons and Fellowship Team who made the service and lunch reception a blessing to the family. **Madison Beall**, granddaughter of Gary and Sharon Beall, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. **Olivia Shawver**, Rich's granddaughter, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Our **Youth Group** is meeting again in person on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Hope House. **Liz Creamans** (Earl and Diana Johnson’s daughter) is improving and feeling better. **Carol Fryfogle and the Tuesday Fellowship** group met and had a nice lunch and game time. **Lauren Modesitt** was selected to sing the National Anthem for the WV State Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher's Sorority on April 24th. **Emmanuel** had a good team that walked in the **Women’s Care Center Walk for Life Sunday**. **Christa Raitz** shared a beautiful solo called, “Just As I Am.” **Roderick and Donna Nutter** were with us in worship. Donna is Ken Gilbert's sister. They are very thankful for the memorial service and family lunch that the church provided to honor and celebrate Ken's life. **Ray and Jewel Lusk** team up every week to lead our kitchen crew in preparing a wonderful Wednesday night dinner. **Mike and Cheryl Hayden** have been able to join us for our Wednesday dinner. **The Women’s Bible Study** facilitated by **Judy Prater** has been well attended. Our Awana team is grateful for and to **Edy Jones, Debi Taylor, and Ann Beck** for joining us as we love and serve our kids on Wednesday evenings! We are so **grateful to all those who've volunteered their time to be in the nursery rotation** during worship hour! You'll see several familiar faces - and a few new faces as well - serving their church family in the nursery. **Monica Flowers**, a friend of Cheryl Burnem, is making progress in her battle with cancer. **Lauren Modesitt** shared a beautiful piano medley. **Joe Stephens and Keith Schoenhut** teamed up to share our children's moment. **Our AV team** does a good job with the many sound and video issues in our Sunday services: **Jerry Hamilton, Adam Evans, Randy Nutter, Joe Stephens, Jenny Hannan and Nate McPeak**. **Our Usher team** does a good job providing help and support during Sunday services: **Brian Raitz, Delbert Casto, Keith Wharton, Will Cosby, Fred Fenton, Rich and Donna Shawver**. **Ruth Wharton** provides some great Sunday morning refreshments in the church conference room. **Gail Samolitis** blesses our church and the community by offering her Grief Share support group and a counseling ministry. We are thankful for **Melanie Whited** who facilitates our **DivorceCare ministry** on Tuesday nights. The Red Cross and members of the Belpre community held a car parade to recognize **Frank Dotson** and his 27 years as a Red Cross volunteer. His wife, **Yuvhon Dotson** has also been a Red Cross volunteer. **Our youth** participated in a yard work service project in April and enjoyed their time serving together. **Pastor Kurt and Mona** enjoyed the Emmanuel worship service on FB while visiting Kurt Jr, Amber and baby Connor in NC. **Kim Matheny** graduated from WVUP with a Board of Governors Associate of Arts degree. **Judy Prater** and our Handbell choir are practicing again. The **church voted** to buy a new church bus; the purchase was made possible by a large gift from a church member’s estate. **Carol Fryfogle** and her helpers offered a very nice **Tuesday Fellowship** lunch and program. **Maridor Keck** was in church on Mother’s Day Sunday with her son **Mark Lewis**; **Betsy Jefferson** was also in church.

(Continued)

Updates From our Staff:

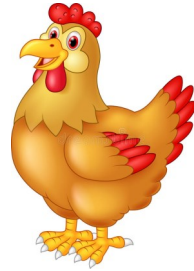
From Gail Samolitis (New Life Counseling Center)



Can you believe it? Summer is almost here! With that announcement comes longer days, warmer weather and perhaps plans for travel on a summer vacation. After the pandemic, shelter in place and various restrictions, many of us are dreaming of beach, mountain, and amusement park vacations!!

My BEST summer vacations when I was young consisted of time on the farm with my grandparents. From the last day of school until Labor Day weekend I spent my summer vacations with my Grandma and Grandpa King, my paternal grandparents. Every day with them was filled with such wonder and excitement that I could hardly wait to wake up each morning with Reveille's (the farm's old rooster) first cock-a-doodle-doo!

I would rush down the attic stairs, grab the egg basket and head to the chicken house. The one chore I disliked because the chickens ALWAYS pecked me when I attempted to take their eggs! I usually returned, in tears with only 2 to 3 eggs and my grandpa saying, "Squeak (only grandpa got away with calling me Squeak) you know that's not enough eggs for the day." So he would take me back to the chicken house so we could gather the rest of the eggs. My favorite chore on the farm? Well, that came EVERY Saturday morning when we would go to the chicken yard to "catch" a chicken for Sunday dinner! Enough said! Ha! Another thing I remember from those days was, "Don't get attached to that hog, it's going to be dinner someday." There was never a hog on the farm that did not have a name (thanks to me)! Sparkle, Beans, and Bacon Bits were all fine hogs that served their purpose well when the time came. Names or no names I KNEW the hogs had a purpose!



Summers also meant Vacation Bible School at the church my great grandpa and grandpa built by hand. It was beautiful and peaceful, set in a West Virginia hollow (holler for you native West Virginians) and surrounded by majestic oak trees, but every evening it was transformed into a wonderful place of learning God's Word through Bible games and memorization of scripture. Children's laughter and singing filled the holler for several hours during those weeks of Vacation Bible School.

As an adult I realize that these "summer vacations" were far more valuable than any beach, mountain or amusement park vacation! I cherish those vacations and believe I was richly blessed to spend this time with my grandparents who instilled in me a work ethic, personal character and a love for my Savior Jesus Christ that have all served me longer than any other vacation I have experienced.

This summer NEW LIFE COUNSELING CENTER is available to counsel those who continue to struggle with pandemic fatigue, anxiety, and stress. These are real issues that many are struggling with each and every day. If you are uncertain whether you have symptoms of these issues call me at NEW LIFE COUNSELING (304-588-7632).

Perhaps you have other issues such as depression, grief or relationship struggles, we can help with those as well. Perhaps you simply want someone to talk to, we can do that too, no charge! If you are curious about what "having therapy" means, stop by and check us out.



Amazon Smile



If you would like to support Emmanuel through your Amazon purchases, sign in to <http://smile.amazon.com>. Search for Emmanuel Baptist Church Parkersburg (be sure to include Parkersburg because there are many Emmanuel churches). Once you see it listed, click on "Register" and complete the form. For all future purchases, log on to Smile.Amazon.com and Emmanuel Baptist will receive a percentage of each purchase you make!

Updates From our Staff:

From Eileen Mayer (Missions & Ministry Development)



The Mission Team wants to thank you for your generous support of Madeline Flores, our IM Missionary to the Dominic Republic. Madeline is not yet fully funded to return to her work, so your support helps greatly. We raised over \$2,000!

We also want to thank you for supporting: the Walk For Life for the Women's Care Center; the Gustke Shelter and House to Home with collection box items; and the Reeds for their mission work in Bolivia. We pray the Lord blesses you for your generosity and support.

In June, please remember the "One Great Hour of Sharing" as the ABC uses those funds to strengthen the church's presence all over the world.

Mark your calendar now for July 11. We will have a special visitor for the Mission Moment: Revered Leslie Turley. Leslie is an Area Director for International Ministries. She is also the namesake of one of EBC's Women's Circles!

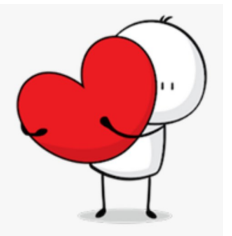
Reverend Turley asked if EBC could provide support for an emerging crisis on the Myanmar border, among the Karen refugees, a Christian group suffering significant persecution. Leslie's IM contact in Thailand, who is also a physician, shared with her a recent WHO report that the situation is at high risk of evolving into starvation of the Karen. After Mrs. Turley's presentation at the 10:45 service, there will be a fundraising lunch. Please pray about making a donation and/or attending the lunch.



Sincerely,
Eileen Mayer

Except from Joan Lemley's tribute to Ken Gilbert shared at his memorial service:

"After Rodney and I moved to Vienna, we still spent many enjoyable times with Ken. He attended my wedding and the funerals of my parents and my sister. He has been with me through happy times and sad times, and I can say without a doubt that he never let me down. One evening I called him and told him I had a really bad cold and I was craving a turtle sundae from the Broughton store. Although it was late, I soon heard a knock on the door and there stood Ken with my sundae. Outside of my close family, there was no one else in the world that I would have felt that I could have called. But Ken was my friend, and he was a true friend. As years wore on, we both retired from teaching so we have primarily only seen each other at church. Most recently, we have been going together to the PHS retirees' lunches every other month. Laughter was as natural as breathing to Ken. I always knew that I was going to be laughing when I was with Ken. Many times, we would still be laughing when church was getting started....Ken loved his family, he loved traveling, he loved teaching art, he loved Parkersburg High School, he loved his students, and he loved his God. Although he has stepped ahead of me on the trace, I will pray to catch up with him soon, and our laughter will reverberate through the heavenly hills."



Kroger Community Rewards



If you would like to support Emmanuel through your Kroger purchases, you can call 1-800-853-3033 and a customer service person will help you. Or you can go to Kroger.com. If you don't have a Kroger account, create an account. Then sign into your account. Find "Community" on the bottom of the website and click on "Kroger Community Rewards" which is directly underneath. Then click on "View Details." If you do not have an organization designated, click on "Enroll". In the search bar, type "Emmanuel Baptist Parkersburg", it should be the first organization you see, click on the "Enroll" button. Emmanuel's organization number is: HR910. If you are enrolled and it is not Emmanuel, you can click on "Change Organization" and follow the previous instructions to select.

Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis (Grief Share)

It is summer and GRIEF SHARE takes a summer break and resumes in the fall.

On May 18th, 2021 Grief Share concluded a 7th cycle.

I began Grief Share in 2017 and continue to be blessed by the people I meet through this support group.



Grief Share is a 13-week faith based support group for those who have lost a loved one to death and are experiencing grief and sorrow. Our next cycle will begin in mid-August and continue through early November. If you are interested in attending or know someone who may benefit from attending Grief Share please call the church at 304-485-5171 or me at 304-588-7632.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!!

Gail Samolitis



From Carol Fryfogle (Tuesday Fellowship)

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP will be finishing up our season with a field trip, June 8. I will contact our group members with all the details for June when plans are finalized. Our group will then break for the summer and regather September 14, 2021.

As always, contact me, Carol Fryfogle directly at: ucnbankonit@mail.com

~ Carol Fryfogle



An Emmanuel “Favorite Scripture or Saying” Challenge response:



Mary Keifer shared the following: “I wanted to share a Scripture that has always meant a great deal to me: It’s **Romans 8:35-39**, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“This verse has been one that has helped me to see that, in Christ, we are not only connected to God but with that connection, we stand in a place of victory “MORE than conquerors”. A conqueror has already won so to be more than a winner tells me that no matter what stands in my path to tell me that I’m separated or parted from God, I can look in the face and say (knowing victory is already sure), “In Christ, you don’t separate me from anyone. Jesus has given me victory over you and I can stand firm because of Him.” While it’s difficult in the thick of trials to always stand firm or stay sure, this verse reminds me that the storm around me doesn’t win... “ Mary Keifer



Philippians 4: 4-7 ~ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Updates From our Staff:

From Judy Prater (Adult Ministry)

ZOOM INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

Our Zoom Interest Groups were able to meet online for the last few months. Some are transitioning to in-person activities. The **Recipe Swap Group** (Judy Prater) held a Grand Finale Celebration Feast with each member bringing a dish to share from their recipe collection. They plan to add to their recipe collection and print them in book form for a money-raising project. The **Family Game Night Zoom Group** (Jonathan Delgado) recently held a live event, and they also hosted a Memorial Day Weekend Family Game Day for the entire church family with screen-free games and a cookout. The **Chess Zoom Group** (Tim Samolitis) meets in the conference room on Sunday evenings at 6:00. This is a learn-as-you-play group for all skill levels. Their meetings are also on zoom. The **Crafting Zoom Group** (Jane Hulce) were able to display handmade spring banners and currently are knitting hats for those in need when the weather turns cold. The **Book Zoom Group** (Mary Keifer) meets twice a month to discuss chosen books. For more information about these interest groups, check with Judy or Jonathan or the church office.

MEN’S MINISTRY

There will be a Men’s Lunch every second Thursday at noon and a Men’s Discussion Group every fourth Wednesday at 7:15 pm in the parlor. They are studying First Peter.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

The Women’s Bible Study is studying the book *Elijah* by Priscilla Shirer. They meet on Mondays in the conference room from noon to 2:00 for brown bag lunch followed by prayer and study.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our Adult Sunday School classes are resuming in-person meetings on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Encouragers Class meets in fellowship hall (also zoom)

Seekers Class meets in Room 201

Conquerors Class meets in 204

LIFE Class is a possible class re-start. Anyone interested is asked to contact Pastor Kurt.



Recipe Swap Group Grand Finale Celebration Feast Pictures





2021 High School Graduates

Jacob Britton
Son of Joe Britton & Jennifer Gatewood
Williamstown High School
Will attend Concord University
Athens, WV

Sarah Kate Brooks
Granddaughter of Bill & Carole Woody
Hickory High School
Will attend University of NC, Chapel Hill
Majoring in Music

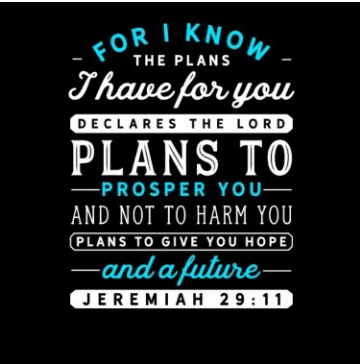
Abigail Davis
Daughter of Richard & Melissa Davis
Parkersburg High School
Will attend WVU-P

Annabelle Jefferson
Granddaughter of Betsy Jefferson
Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School
Plans are undecided

Tatum Jones
Daughter of Jeremy Jones
Granddaughter of Lyndall & Judy Jones
Parkersburg South High School
Will attend Marshall University
Majoring in Pre-Veterinary

Becca Sassi
Member of EBC Youth Group
Parkersburg High School
Will attend WVU-P
Majoring in Childhood Education

Nicholas Van Way
Grandson of Jean Van Way
Parkersburg South High School
Plans are undecided



2021 College Graduates

Leah Ruth Brooks
Granddaughter of Bill & Carole Woody
University of NC, Chapel Hill
B.A. Degree in Political Science
and B.A. in Music
Will work at Presbyterian
World Missions in NYC

Rachel Filozof
Daughter of Eileen & Keith Mayer
John Carroll University
Arts & Communication, President's
List, Arrupe Scholar

Brendan Jefferson
Grandson of Betsy Jefferson
Marshall University
B.S. in Occupational Safety & Health

Jack Johnson
Grandson of Earl & Diana Johnson
Duquesne University
B.S. Health Sciences, Honors
Will pursue a Doctorate Degree in Occupational Therapy

Kim Matheny
WVU-P with a Board of Governors
Associates of Arts Degree

David Mayer
Son of Keith & Eileen Mayer
WVU School of Business
Degree in Economics, President's List

Jalen Prater
Grandson of Judy Prater
Birmingham Southern College
Degree in Urban Environmental Studies

Jack Raitz
Son of Brian & Christa Raitz
Grandson of Lyndall & Judy Jones
Glenville State College
Associates Degree in Land Surveying

Kimberly Samolitis
Daughter of Tim & Gail Samolitis
Ohio University
Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
Currently an ICU Nurse at Camden Clark

Updates From our Staff:

From Pam McClain (Music Ministry)



Spring has sprung and Summer has turned the corner! It's that time of the year when the Chancel Choir should be taking a break from the loft in exchange for beautiful and inspiring special music volunteers. Instead, the pandemic has continued to keep the Chancel Choir at bay.

But, rest assured, as restrictions are being lifted and more and more people are being vaccinated, I believe that the Chancel Choir will sing again this fall. I am anticipating that rehearsals will begin again in September. Logistically, there will be changes and adaptations to ensure the safety of all singers and congregants. In the meantime, individuals wanting to share summer special music may text or call me at (304) 483-1620.

I can't say "thank you" enough to all who continue to share their music gifts and talents in our worship services. Blessing us on Easter Sunday with powerful and inspirational music were Davey Brooks, piano soloist, David Enoch, organist, John Florence, vocal soloist, Lauren Modesitt, vocal soloist, The Puls String Trio and Paul Ross, trumpet.

There are numerous scriptures that have helped me through this year of struggle. When I have been tired and afraid of what the future holds, I speak this verse into my heart...

"But as for you, be STRONG and DO NOT GIVE UP, for your WORK will be REWARDED." 2 Chronicles 15:7

Pamela McClain, EBC Director of Music Ministry



A Review of our Praises from April and May (Contd.):

Sam Cremeans, Jane Graham's nephew, was part of the AA Williamstown state basketball championship team. **Kimberly Samolitis** will be graduating with her BSN from Ohio University this summer. She is currently a registered nurse at CC in the ICU. **Brendan Jefferson**, Betsy's grandson, just graduated from Marshall University and proposed to his girlfriend Faith at the beach... she said yes! **Joe Hays** says hello to the church and is thankful that **Evan and Margaret Frees** are helping him care for the roses around our church sign. **Our new church bus** was delivered. Pray for new and old drivers to step up to help with our transportation ministry. We had a mission lunch to help our **Missionary Madeline Flores who serves in the Dominican Republic**. We raised \$2000 thanks to a \$1000 dollar special gift that came in after the event. The Mission team would like to thank all who helped with the lunch: **Margaret Frees, Keith and Eileen Mayer, Jacob Filozof, Jeff Evans and Brian Brown. Rick Ashwell** is doing well recovering from his stroke and is now walking with assistance of a cane instead of a walker. He made it to his church in Charleston for a Sunday service. The **Emmanuel Chess Class** met and enjoyed learning and playing the game of chess together. **Praise from Lyndall Jones:** I would like to thank everyone who helped with the church mulching party. We were able to get two trailer loads of mulch spread on the rose garden, courtyard, and the raised planters in the parking lot. Thanks to **Fred Fenton, Evan Frees, Bob Langkamer, Adam and Jeff Evans** and a special thanks to **Randy Halterman** for bringing two special helpers, **Brittany and Sylvie!** I appreciate your time and effort. **Sarah Kate Brooks**, grand daughter of Bill and Carole Woody, graduated from Hickory High School and will attend UNC Chapel Hill majoring in Music. **Leah Ruth Brooks**, granddaughter of Bill and Carole Woody, graduated with honors from UNC Chapel Hill with a BA degree in Political Science and a BA in Music. She will be a Youth Adult Volunteer with Presbyterian World Missions in New York City. **Samuel Schoenhut** graduated from Preschool. **Delbert and Sue Casto** both recently retired from their work and look forward to a new chapter in their lives. At our Wednesday dinner, we honored some of our high school graduates: **Jacob Britton, Becca Sassi and Abigail Davis**. After dinner, the parents and Pastor Jonathan blessed the graduates. The **Family Game Zoom Group** had an in person game event meeting. The **Recipe Zoom group** had a wonderful in person lunch in our Fellowship Hall. **David Simms and Evan Frees** built a ramp for the Mitchell family, friends of the Nicholsons, who needed one for medical reasons. **Dee Lallemont** completed her work serving the unaccompanied children at the US border in May and is now back home in Parkersburg.