



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
1710 23RD STREET  
PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

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#### EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Kurt Busiek  
Youth Director.....Joe Stephens  
Director of Children's Ministries.....Jenny Hannan  
Choir Director .....Donna Marcinko  
Organist/Accompanist .....David Enoch  
Secretary .....Jessica Johnson  
Church Cook.....Dave Stephens  
Visual Worship Coordinator.....Bekah Brooks  
Treasurer.....Gary Beall  
Assistant Treasurer .....Sara Taylor/  
.....Sarah Robinson  
Custodian .....Tammy Hayes  
Office Number .....(304)-485-5171  
Fax Number .....(304)-485-5194  
Website:.....www.ebcwv.com  
Office Hours.....9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Facebook Pages: Emmanuel Baptist Church (public)  
Emmanuel Baptist Church WV Family Ministry (private)

Mail to:



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



1- Brodi Murray	22- Sharon Beall
2- Carol Parker	Kimberly Samolitis
3- Edna McVay	Cheryl Wons
4- Judy Florence	23- Kathy Leavitt
John Terosky	25- David Brooks
6- Syrenity Metz	Allenetta Kaufman
7- Christopher Conley	John Nicholson
9- Pat Sayre	27- Gia Mazza
10- Judy Jones	30- Liam Nuzum
18- Melissa Blakely	Eli Powell
Sherra Ferrell	
19- Mike Hayden	
Jackson Simmons	
20- Angeline Barnette	
21- Sawyer Lucas	



1- Diana Johnson	18- Jeffery Evans
Jessica Johnson	Sherry Smith
2- Emma Barker	20- Donna Shawver
Tim Jones	21- Pat Smith
Darian Leach	Lauren Stephens
6- Lyndall Jones	22- Ann Beck
7- Jack Mills	Davey Brooks
Kathi Ross	24- Meghan Jefferson
8- Deanie Kendall	25- Donnie McCloy
9- David Carpenter	Laraine Metheny
10- Cecil Childress	26- Brion Matheny
12- Leila Lantz	David Phillips
13- Susan McCloy	27- Jim Nordeck
Carl Sizemore	28- Sarah Robinson
15- Wanda Demoss	29- Rodney Wharton
16- Rachel Garrison	31- Jan Reed



# Emmanuel Life & Times

## June & July 2025

### Summer's Hope from Pastor Kurt

In our Tuesday and Wednesday Bible Studies we've been studying 1 Peter. Recently we looked at a familiar passage in **1 Peter 3: 15-16**: "... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."



The nice thing about the summer months is that the warmer weather encourages us to get up and get out more. As we socialize and interact with more people, we have more opportunities to share our faith in Jesus. The passage tells us the first key to being an effective witness is to **put Jesus at the center of your life**. He is not just the Savior that rescued us, but our Lord who guides us. With Jesus guiding us each day, we can look for opportunities where people talk about their struggles and problems. They may ask you how you deal with life and process your problems: "How do you have hope when everything seems so hopeless?" Pray for those moments and "be prepared" to give the reason for your hope.

**Jesus is our hope and our life.** Our church is a fellowship of caring people who are focused on sharing the love of Jesus with others. **Be gentle** because people have been hurt by other Christians and by church fights and they may lash out in anger at any talk of "organized religion." **Be respectful** of their opinions and be mindful of their life story and spiritual journey; it is probably very different from your own. If you are able to **share your hope** with someone this summer, **pass along your story to Pastor Kurt or to your friends at Emmanuel.** Your faithfulness to share your faith will be an encouragement to others.

On Saturday, June 14, a group from Emmanuel, will attend "The Road to Damascus" stage show put on by Ohio Star production team at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek, OH. The Road to Damascus tells the story of Paul's transformation from a zealous persecutor of Christians to a devoted follower of Christ. Pray for safe travels and a positive experience. **We are thankful to Bob and Sandy Myers who helped organize this trip.**



**Kirk Wilson will be sharing the message on Sunday, June 29** in our morning services about how God is working in our community through the Youth Ministry of Young Life. They are planning to open a new Young Life ministry at PHS this coming school year. Following Sunday Service there will be a **mission fellowship lunch at noon** to raise money for the Young Life ministry.

On Sunday night, June 29 at 6 p.m., we will have our annual Emmanuel Talent Show. We are looking to showcase some of the amazing talents in our fellowship. Possible offerings could include: music, magic, reading something you've written, sharing something you've made, etc. Be creative. Be bold. Call the office or talk to Pastor Kurt if you're interested in being on the program. Dessert will be provided.





On July 13th our Children and Youth will lead our Sunday services. We will review and celebrate our Vacation Bible School and the Youth Summer Mission Projects.

On Sunday, July 20, at 5 p.m. we will gather for a Summer Picnic in the Park. We have rented the large pavilion by the pond. The church will provide chicken, ham and drinks, and everyone else attending will bring a side dish. Plan to join us for this time of good food, fun and fellowship.

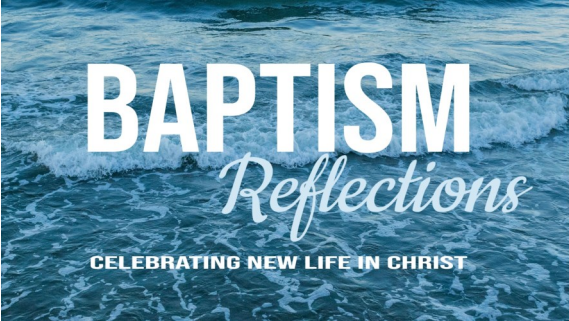


Healthy Living Series - On Wednesday nights, July 23, July 30 and August at 6 p.m., “Boost Your Health” will be lead by Eileen Mayer, Elissa Filozof, and Michelle Miller who will share some practical ideas on how to eat more healthy, be active, and live a more healthy life. Pastor Kurt will be open these sessions with a devotion from the Daniel Plan book by Rick Warren.



On-going challenge: The Emmanuel Art Show - If you have pictures or items you have made (quilts/ woodwork, etc...) and would be open to have them displayed in the church narthex, call the office or talk to Pastor Kurt.

God is good. We are blessed. Keep looking up.  
Pastor Kurt



**Baptism Reflections...**  
When people get baptized at Emmanuel, I ask them to fill out a worksheet that asks them some simple questions: How did you become a Christian? What does baptism mean? Why are you getting baptized? and What is a Bible verse or story that you like? Here are some baptism reflections from some people who have been baptized over the last year:



**Tabitha Powell wrote this on her baptism worksheet:** “I know I’m a Christian because at a very low point in my life when I almost gave up faith, **God sent me a friend.** She not only saved my life, she asked me to come with her to church and she continued to support me through everything. She also told me that God sent her to me to help me. From that day on I knew God was real and he was going to always be there. **Being a Christian to me means believing that there is someone greater than all of us...** I am being baptized because of my commitment to follow Jesus. One of my favorite Bible stories is where Peter raised Tabitha from the dead in **Acts 9.**

**Margie Edwards wrote on her baptism worksheet:** “I am so thankful that God has been blessing me all my life. I was raised by **loving Christian parents** and can’t ever remember not knowing that Jesus loves us and came to be our Savior. I know that Jesus died for our sin, was buried and rose from the grave. I grew up in church, **asked Jesus to forgive my sins** and was **baptized** by sprinkling when I was 12 years old.... I am being baptized by immersion because Jesus told His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.” A Bible verse or Bible story I like is **Joshua 1:9,** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”



Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis - GriefShare

GriefShare completed another spring cycle on May 7, 2025 and it was filled with meaningful connection and healing. This support group will take a summer break and resume on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025.**

GriefShare is a faith-based support group of loving, caring people who will come alongside you during one of life’s most difficult journeys. You do not have to go through the grief process alone.

**This 13-week support group meets at Emmanuel Baptist Church usually on Wednesday evenings.** The support group consists of three components: videos, small group discussion, and workbook assignments. GriefShare is open to the community so if you know someone who has lost a loved one, family member, or friend to death please tell them about our GriefShare group.



**Emmanuel will host a SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS seminar on Saturday, November 8th at 10 a.m.** This seminar will close our GRIEF SHARE cycle for the winter, but we will resume again on **February 7, 2026 with a LOSS OF SPOUSE seminar.** Please, if you have lost a spouse or loved one to death call me to talk about your loss or to sign up for GRIEF SHARE. Individual grief counseling is available. Call me at 304-485-5171 or 304-588-7632 to leave a message.

**Serving Others at Salvation Army!**

Cindy, Emily, & MacKenzie



Skyler, Sylvie, Lilly, & Emily



Skyler, Sylvie, Lilly, & Emily



Updates From our Staff:

From Gail Samolitis - NEW LIFE COUNSELING

“Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments.” ~ Rose Kennedy

“Lost time is never found again.” ~ Benjamin Franklin



**Summer is quickly approaching!!** For many Summers means a break from school, a beach vacation, relaxing with a fishing pole at the lake...**what does summer mean to you?** Years ago for me and my youngest brother Keven summer meant Vacation Bible School. We attended VBS all over Spencer and Roane County in the mid 1970’s. Our neighbor, Mr. Fox, drove the church van at the church we attended regularly. There were 14 kids in the Fox family. I remember thinking their house was like VBS all the time! Throughout the summer we attended more than 7 VBS in the area! That is what summer was for us for many years! Summer means different things to different people but I pray for all of us that summer brings a slower, more relaxed pace. Plan to enjoy a glass of lemonade while doing some front porch sittin’. **Time is short so try to be “intentional” in all you do.** Whether you are “porch sittin’, kayaking, or grilling out with family and friends do it with Christ’s love and as if that is the only thing you must do at that moment in time. **Spending time with others is truly what matters and a tremendous blessing.**

It has been almost a year since Tim’s cervical spine fusion surgery and he is recovering quite nicely. He is performing most activities he did prior to surgery. He is driving and mowing the yard, which makes him a very happy fella. **Thanks to all who called, cooked, texted, prayed, drove us to appointments, visited, sent cards, and brought meals!** We appreciate each of you!



**New Life Ministry** would like to invite you to come up to our EBC office and check us out. The facilities team has made the New Life Ministry office very comfortable with new carpet on the floor, and I have purchased a couple of new chairs. **I am usually in the office on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

If you feel troubled or if life is more difficult than you anticipated please make an appointment to talk confidentially. Call me at 304-588-7632 or contact me at [viking.gail@yahoo.com](mailto:viking.gail@yahoo.com)

**Have a fantastic summer!**



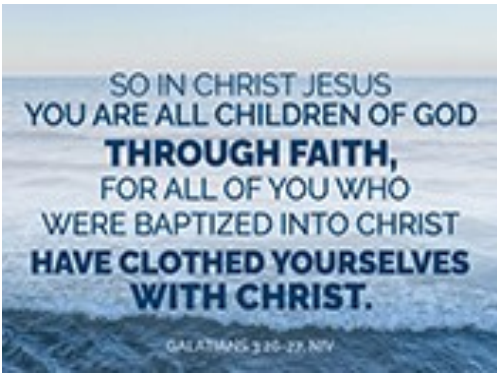
**CHESS CLUB**

Chess Club will meet on **Monday, June 16th & Monday, July 21st at 12 p.m. in the Parlor**

Come to enjoy fellowship & exercising your brain.

All ages and skills levels are invited to attend.

(Pictured: Tim, Jonathan, Tyler, & Pastor Kurt)



**Baptism Reflections...** (continued...)

**Gary Turner said his favorite Bible verse is Psalm 91:1-2:** “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

**Deidra Lyons liked the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus.**

**Kurt Sommer liked the Luke 15 stories of the Lost Sheep, Coin and Son.**

**Evan Bevins wrote this on his baptism worksheet:**

“I was always raised in the church and don’t have a clear conversion moment. But as I learned from my family and church about the love and nature of God, I came to understand that there was nothing I could do to justify myself or earn salvation. I was at times worried that things I had done would keep me out of Heaven. At some point, the words of **Psalm 51:17** struck me: “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.” I understood I couldn’t earn **God’s forgiveness and love**, but that He offered them all the same, through the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus.... I am being baptized because as an **act of obedience** based on Jesus’ words in **Matthew 28:16-20**. Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.... Raised in the Methodist tradition, I was baptized as a child and confirmed in adolescence. Although a church I attended offered immersion as a way of remembering your baptism and experiencing it as Jesus did, I never took advantage of that. I struggled with this at one point as I would like to join the church but didn’t want to just go through the motions with that as my primary motivator. Understanding that it is not a requirement of salvation but appreciating what it means as a witness and **symbol of my commitment**, and yes, wanting to join the church, I feel comfortable doing this now. (That may not be the best way to say it, I don’t feel like I am doing it to check a box, but as a sincere symbol of my love for Jesus.... A Bible verse or a Bible story I like is: **Psalm 51:16-17**, ‘You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.’”



**Pastor Kurt is bringing together a service of baptism in June.**  
**If you’re interested in baptism or know someone who is, reach out to him to set up a meeting.**





Updates From our Staff:

From Donna Marcinko - Chancel Choir Director  
EBC Chancel Choir Director  
EBC Children's Orff Ensembles  
Email: donna@ebcwv.com



**"So I recommend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy themselves. That way they will experience some happiness along with the hard work God gives them under the sun."**  
**Ecclesiastes 8:15**



Thank you to the members of the **EBC Chancel Choir** and **EBC Orff Ensemble** who have dedicated themselves to rehearsing each Wednesday to prepare for Sunday worship services. We have enjoyed rehearsing together and have remembered that we have a shared purpose in glorifying God through our music. We have united our hearts in prayer, in song, and have felt the Holy Spirit move throughout our rehearsals and in morning worship.

We were able to enjoy each other's companionship by spending some time in fellowship, not only in rehearsal, but at a **"Table of Life"** at **Quinets** in New Martinsville, WV on May 3. We had delicious food to eat and had a great time laughing and sharing stories. Future "Table of Life" gatherings will be scheduled for the next year.



**Special thanks to Rich Shawver and Tim Samolitis for driving the bus for us!**

**EBC Chancel Choir**



The **Chancel Choir** will be spending time away from the chancel during morning worship and will not be rehearsing throughout the summer months. The choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m.** The choir's first Sunday back in the chancel will be **Sunday, September 14**. Mark these dates on your calendar and if you haven't joined us in choir, and you feel the spirit prodding you to be a part of it, please contact me. If you have sung in a choir before and feel you sing Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass, please join us. If you feel you need help, I have been instructing choir members and have given vocal lessons on Wednesdays at 4:30 and will continue to do so, again, **beginning Sept. 3**. I have been excited about teaching the **Youth** who have joined the Chancel Choir and this invitation extends to any of the youth who feel they want to be a part of the choir.

**I look forward to rehearsing the choir again in August!**

In the choir's absence, the congregation will have an opportunity to **hear special music** performed by church members and area musicians **throughout the summer months.**

Thank you to all the musicians who have signed up to sing or play instruments on Sundays this summer!



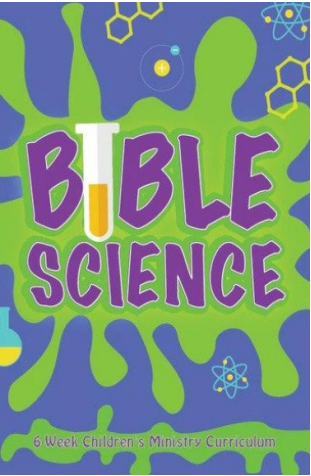
**Thank you** to the Orff Ensemble who have rehearsed each Wednesday and who have **performed beautifully** during the **Sunday morning worship services**. The Ensemble will take a break for the summer and begin again on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 5:15 p.m.

The Orff Ensemble has included children, youth, and adults and it has been a blessing to bring all age groups together to praise God through music. If you are interested in **JOINING Orff** in the fall, please contact me at church, email, or call the church office.



Updates From our Staff:

From Jenny Hannan - Children's Ministry Director (Continued from previous page)



As we transition from **AWANA** to our summer curriculum, **"Bible Science"**, we want to congratulate **Leila Lantz** and **Aaliyah Wofe**, who will be moving up from T&T to our youth group next year. I first met these young ladies in 2022 when I assisted **Rose Wood** and **John Nicholson** in the Sparks group, and it's hard to grasp that they're old enough for youth! Moving from Sparks to T&T will be **Emily Blouir**, **Lilly Blouir**, **Matthew Brooks**, **Miles Powell**, and **Addie Stout**. Wow! And **Miss Carly Brooks** will move up from Cubbies to join the Sparks group!

Several of our adult volunteers have watched these children grow up in our church as they've instructed them, mentored them, and cared for them. We have so many faithful volunteers who serve in a variety of roles including Nursery, Sunday School, Junior Church,



**AWANA**, and **VBS**, and we can't begin to thank them enough for the critical role they play in the spiritual upbringing of our precious children.



And while we're discussing volunteers, that brings me back to my early morning bird (and squirrel) watching. My cat **Vinnie** (if you haven't heard me say by now) will be 20 years old by the time you read this. Yes, 20! The little old guy still likes to hunker down behind the glass door and stalk his "prey" as they light on the porch to grab a peanut. As I was watching him the other day, I recalled **1 Peter 5:8** – **"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"**. Teaching our children simply isn't enough; we need to always protect them and keep them safe, both spiritually and physically. Over the summer, we will be taking steps to protect not only our children but our volunteers as well as we subscribe to **"Protect My Ministry"**, thanks to the thorough research by **Sarah Stephens**. Protect My Ministry will include online safety training and background checks which will ensure that our children are safe and that our volunteers are protected by our insurance.

We want to do everything we can to make Emmanuel a safe environment where kids can learn about Jesus while having fun and feeling like they're part of a loving family. And we want our volunteers to feel confident that they're protected from liability as the children are placed in their care.

**"Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds," - Proverbs 27:23 NLT**

Just as the **Good Shepherd** cares for **His flocks and herds**, and just as I care for my critters, may we all be called to putting our hearts into caring for our **precious children**.



**God bless!**



Updates From our Staff:

From Jenny Hannan - Children's Ministry Director

*"For His eye is on the sparrow, and He watches over me."  
~Civilla D. Martin*

Now that the weather is finally warmer, one of my morning routines is to sit on the steps in our foyer after I've fed our "critters" (deer in the back yard and birds and squirrels in the front yard). I bring along a cup of coffee and my Bible, devotional books, and any study guides I might be using at the time. After I pray, **I simply enjoy God's creation** and wait for the **Holy Spirit** to speak to me through my furry and feathered friends.



While waiting on inspiration for this article, I remembered that in Sunday School and Junior Church we're learning about **God's Family**. I see the various personalities of the yard critters reflected in our kids at Emmanuel and the broader EBC family. Some of them (cardinals, sparrows, starlings), like some church members and children, are faithful to show up regularly, even at the same time! Some (red bellied woodpeckers, nuthatches, titmice, pigeons, and doves) are regular visitors, but from time to time I might not see them. I get excited when I see a downy woodpecker land on the side of our tree or when a doe brings her fawn(s) to the back yard for the first time, just as I do when

we have a child in junior church whom we haven't seen for some time or when we have a visitor. And just like our **online church family**, there are the vireos and eastern wood-peewees, who don't actually visit the feeder, but I know they're there because they identify themselves by their call, just as our **Facebook** audience will greet fellow worshippers in the broadcast comment section.

Some of my critters are passive, some are loud and rambunctious, and some are a little crazy and messy – especially the squirrels! Some are "prettier" than others, just like humans, but they're all part of my critter "family", and I take great joy in feeding them and providing for them, just as **our Heavenly Father takes great joy in feeding us** both literally and spiritually because we're a part of His family.

Our Emmanuel family has been so supportive of our children's ministry, and for that I am so grateful. Several of our children and youth will be attending **Camp Cowen**, including some of our second graders! What a wonderful opportunity for them to experience Camp Cowen at such an early age. And as of this writing, at least three of our EBC family (**Dee & Brian Lallemon and John Nicholson**) have volunteered to be counselors at the Younger Midler Camp, so our second graders will see some familiar faces at their very first camp! **God bless our volunteer counselors as well as those of you who so generously donated to the Cowen Scholarship fund.**



Our EBC family continues to generously support VBS every year. **This year's VBS ("Road Trip - On the Go with God!") will be held July 7-11 at First Lutheran** as a part of our joint VBS effort with First Lutheran and First Baptist. In a few weeks, you'll find an insert in the bulletin listing ways you can make donations, loan items for decorations, help with decorations, or be a part of the VBS staff!

Updates From our Staff:

From Donna Marcinko - Chancel Choir Director (Continued from previous page)



The **Music Team** met at the Olive Garden on May 4 and discussed long-term and short-term goals for the Music Ministry at Emmanuel. One of those goals is to research the purchasing of new choir robes. A group from the team will be meeting to further look at viable options. Future dates for **Music Team meetings** are: **October 12, January 11, and April 12, 2026.**

Thank you to **Blaine Hess** and the **Celebration Ringers** for providing beautiful music throughout the year! We look forward to hearing you again in the fall. Stay tuned for further information from Blaine. **Have a Great Summer!**



From the Organ Bench - David Enoch

**"All Things Bright and Beautiful" by Cecil F. Alexander**

Excerpt from the book "Then Sings my Soul Book 2" by Robert J. Morgan



*"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."  
~ Genesis 1:31 (NKJV)*

"One day, Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander was working with one of her pupils in Sunday school- a little boy who happened to be her godson. He was struggling to understand the Apostles' Creed and certain portions of the catechism. Mrs. Alexander began to mull the possibility of converting the Apostles' Creed into songs for children, using simple little hymns to explain the phrases and truths of the Christian faith to the little ones.

The Apostles' Creed begins: *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.* For the phrase, "Maker of heaven and earth..." she wrote this lovely little song, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." She based the hymn on Genesis 1:31: "The God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."



These hymns were published in 1848 in Mrs. Alexander's book, *Hymns for Little Children*. It became one of the most successful hymn-publishing projects in history, going through over one hundred editions. She published many other books and hymnals, but nothing has stood the test of time like the powerful combination of the Apostles' Creed with her own gift for song."

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. You can go to the website **Kroger.com** or change your organization preference on the Kroger app. 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 Eileen Mayer - Missions & Ministry Development (Continued from previous page)

The "New Ministry Development" part of our Team is BUSY:

Healthy Living Series:

"Boost Your Health" will be held on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. July 23rd, July 30th, and August 6th. Pastor Kurt will open these sessions with a devotion from the Daniel Plan book by Rick Warren. Each session will be led by the Health Ministry Team and consist of 3 parts:

1. Nutrition Education: practical ideas/newest research on healthy eating
2. Cooking/Food Prepping and Sampling
3. 15 minute Chair Exercise



The "Health Ministry Team" is Michele Miller, Eileen Mayer, and Elissa Filozof. Michele has a masters in nursing and works for the Dept of Veteran Affairs. She is wrapping up requirements as Certified Functional Nutrition Counselor. Eileen has her PhD in Public Health Education and Behavior Science and has taught undergraduate Nutrition for years. Elissa has a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. **Interested in joining the planning? Contact Eileen!**



Single Parenting Series: Planning is also underway to offer "Single and Parenting" series starting in the fall. Each of the **Wednesday nights** of the series, parents will get to enjoy great and relevant videos while their children can participate in AWANA. All will be invited to church dinner as well. **We are seeking a couple more persons to serve on this ministry.** Please let us know if you are interested.

Sewing Day for OCC: Plans are being considered for a **Sewing Day** for Operation Christmas Child. The purpose of this day would be to gather all those who can **cut fabric and/or sew** to create **re-usable feminine pad kits** for inclusion in the Shoeboxes for **12-14 year old girls**. Every month, 1.8 billion women menstruate yet millions are unable to afford proper products to maintain their **dignity and hygiene**. The kits we will make are from a mix of **upcycled and new fabrics** and are put inside a **pretty drawstring bag**. They are reusable for years and contribute almost nothing to the trash pollution that exists in many poverty-affected countries. We will keep you posted for details.

**Let the Mission Team know if you are interested in helping us plan!**



Call for New Members: The Missions and New Missions Development Team needs **3-4 new members**. Do you have a heart for Missions? Please contact Eileen!

Mission Team Members: Edy Jones, Brian Brown, Keith Mayer, Jacob Filozof, and Ruth Wharton

*(Continued on the next page)*

Updates From our Staff:

From Edy Jones - Necessity Closet



Hello, church family!! Here we are again with all the spring things happening and looking forward to summer. We pray that you have a **fun filled summer** this year with **family and friends**.

As we go through this life, each of us is on a journey. And for those of us who are believers, we are on a journey not by ourselves, but with our precious Lord Jesus Christ, and with members of the family of God as 1 Peter 4:8 reminds us that **"above all, keep loving one another EARNESTLY"**.

**Thank you** for loving earnestly those **people in our community** (inside and outside our church body) that have difficulty making ends meet each month by supporting this ministry with **funds to purchase needed supplies** and for your monthly donations of items.

On the **2nd and 4th Tuesday each month** we open our doors from **10 am until noon** to give folks hygiene items, cleaning supplies and paper products that help them take care of their physical needs and love, prayers and support that help them emotionally.

So far in 2025 we have talked with a little over **100 heads of household** that have received approximately \$40 each in products and given out **emergency bags to 150 people** of approximately \$15 each.



**Thank you from your Necessity Closet volunteers!**



*Congratulations!*



Seth DePriest  
Parkersburg High School

Davey Brooks  
Brooks Homeschool

Gabe Hissam  
Parkersburg South High School



*Updates From our Staff:*

*From Joe Stephens - Youth Ministry*

**Greetings in Christ!**

I'm writing this article immediately on the heels of **my hour of prayer time** here at the church. If you also signed up to pray, I hope your time was as meaningful and invigorating as mine was! I came out of it feeling **light and refreshed**, like I'd just taken a long, warm bath in the cleansing waters of God's love. The beautiful part is that we don't need to sign up for an official time of prayer to feel this way. All we need to do is take the time each day to **sit in God's abiding presence**. It's available 24/7.

**Summer is upon us!** I'm excited to have Lauren home with us for a good portion of it, as she waits patiently for Brodie to get home from basic training. We don't have any big plans, as she'll be working hard at a summer job with AmeriCorps, but it will be nice just to have time to visit with her, as well as keep her company, as she misses her beloved. I'm looking forward to **grilling out** and **sitting by our little firepit** together. Sarah and I will also be celebrating our 7<sup>th</sup> (?) **wedding anniversary** at the end of June with a day trip, including a nice dinner. My plans for the summer are to get lots of writing and writing-related work done, with the goal of **launching a new series of books** by the early part of fall. It's not a particularly summery thing to be doing, but I deeply enjoy writing now that I'm semi-retired.

**The youth group will be taking some time off from our regular Wednesday evenings**, but we'll be busy, nonetheless. A large proportion of the group will be spending at least a week at **Cowen** for state youth camps. Those start in early June and run until the end of July. I'd like to send out a **big thank-you to all the wonderful people who donated to the Cowen scholarship fund**. Thanks to you, we can pay for every student who would like to go to camp this year.

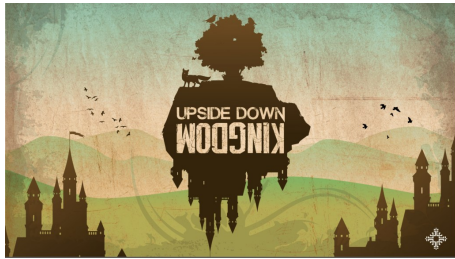
One activity that has become a tradition is our mission week, which will take place the **week of July 7-11** this year. **We'll be doing various service projects during the day and helping with VBS every evening.** The main thrust of our **service projects** is always folks from EBC who need help with projects around their house, so if you have a job that needs done, like weeding or cleaning, be on the lookout for a sign-up form in the bulletin soon.

An activity that's coming back after a several-year hiatus is a **Girls' Bible study group**, which will meet eight times throughout the summer. Led by Bekah Brooks and Sarah Stephens, the study will take place in the Upside Down (basement of the Hope House). The title of the study is ***Defined: Who God Says You Are***, and it's about helping girls understand their true identity in Christ and encouraging them to live up to that standard by the power of His Spirit within them. It's **open to all girls in grades 6-12**. If you're interested, see Bekah or Sarah about the schedule and to get the materials.

David Brooks and I are planning to do some kind of semi-regular activities with the boys, though what that will look like is still unclear at the moment. There will also be **pop-up activities** for the whole group, such as going to the **pool/park**, and going **golfing**. **Look for more information in the bulletin.**

**I want to thank God and the amazing people of EBC for your support of youth ministry.** Your financial support and, more importantly, your prayers have given us the opportunity to help meet the social and spiritual needs of **a group of the nicest kids in the world**, while also giving them the opportunity to **share the love of Christ** through various ministry opportunities. I'm blessed beyond words to be a part of this ministry. Again, **THANK YOU!**

In His service, Joe Stephens



*Updates From our Staff:*

*From Eileen Mayer - Missions & Ministry Development*

**The "Missions" part of the Mission and Ministry Development Team is focusing on a few upcoming events this summer.**



We are looking forward to **increasing our support** for Escape Student Ministries (ESM). This ministry provides a safe, positive space for **middle and high school students** every Sunday afternoon to strengthen spiritually as a Christian, socially, artistically, physically, and more. They also host mission trips and missionaries. **Eric Tucker** heads up this wonderful and unique ministry. He joined us in May to personally introduce himself. We look forward to more connections with ESM in the future!

**Ballroom Dance Lessons for Couples:** You're invited to Ballroom Dance lessons on **Sunday, June 1st and Sunday, July 13th from 4pm-7pm in the Fellowship Hall**. These lessons make a great **"date" night** for couples! Not only will you get a bit of **gentle exercise**, you will enjoy the **togetherness** of dance. Besides, you'll **look great** on the dance floor at the next wedding! **Only \$20 for the lesson** and free practice after. The first half hour of each night is for beginners. The second half hour builds on the first! Bring your own (alcohol-free) beverage to enjoy. Snacks provided.



**Missionary Visit and Luncheon:** Mark Your Calendar!!! **Mike and Marcy Brown** will be here from Pucalpa, Peru on Sunday, August 31st to share an update on their mission work. Plan to stay after Sunday Service for a fundraising lunch to support their work in Peru where they serve at a school for the children of missionaries: SAM Academy. Follow them at [www.familyof4serving1.org](http://www.familyof4serving1.org)

**MOMCO (Formerly MOPS):** is an important - and unique in our area - ministry serving **mothers of school-aged children**. They meet once or twice a month on **Tuesday morning** for a time of good conversation, helpful topic discussions, breakfast, and arts/craft time while **childcare is provided** in the childcare rooms . They also plan trips and park play dates together! Being a mom of younger children is one of the most important jobs you'll ever do, but it can be challenging and lonely. This group is for both you and your kids! Some of your best mom friends are waiting to be made! **MOMCO is seeking more Moms to get involved: either in leadership or membership.** There is a MOMCO planning meeting on **Monday, June 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** (kids welcome). Plan to attend if your interested in leadership or planning for next year. Contact Eileen for more information.



MOMCO



**A Review of our Praises from April & May:**

**Mercy's Well** shared some inspiring songs in their concert on March 23. The **J Dollar Breakfast** offering raised \$925. We praise God that **Syrenity Metz** and **Cortney Brooks** completed the Youth Leader Core Training. **Will Sawyer**, a friend of the Busieks, got a report that his lung cancer is in remission. **Evan & Margaret Frees** celebrating **50 years of marriage** on April 5th.

**Deena Deen** is praising God that her husband Steve is experiencing better health. The **Marriage Course** had a positive ministry season; **Adam Evans** made a video review of the sessions and there was a nice appreciation lunch. **Verona Enoch** turned 100

years old on April 13. This week the **Board of Ministry** appointed our **pastoral search team**. The team includes David Brooks, John Nicholson, Rich Shawver, Blaine Hess and Christa Raitz. Joe Stephens, our church Moderator, will join the team as a non-voting member.

**Syrenity Medford** and **Cortney Brooks** shared about their Youth Leader Care Training & Experience. **Cheryl Wons** is thankful for all the prayers for her recovery. Her hip has healed and she does not have to go back to the doctor There was a special 90th Birthday Party at Eagle Point for **Delores Chipps**, Robbie Leonard's aunt. **David and Cynthia Puls** provided beautiful cello and violin music for our Palm Sunday worship service.

Our **Praise Team, Orff Ensemble, & Chancel Choir** did a great job during our Palm Sunday service. We sent **60 Easter Shoeboxes** to the Health Department. We signed and sent out **beautiful Easter cards**, made by **Rhonda Johnston and her scrapbooking group**, to all our older members.

We had inspiring musical offerings for our Easter Service: the **Praise Team, Celebration Ringers, Chancel Choir, Paul Ross** on trumpet and **Cortney Brooks'** piano solo. Our **youth** attended the Great Friday Event (sponsored by Escape Ministries) along with **350 other youth in the area**. **Evan Bevins** and **Tabitha Powell** both followed the Lord in Baptism on Easter Sunday. **Pastor Kurt** had a nice visit to MO to visit his father and family. For the life and ministry of **Pope Francis** who passed this past week. **David Brooks** was recently awarded the Remarkable Futures Chick-fil-A® Scholarship!

The WVBC recently published their "Top 50 Giving Churches in the WVBC for 2024". Of all churches listed, **Emmanuel Baptist Church** was the **3rd most generous to World Mission Offering**; the **4th most generous to Retired Ministries and Missionaries Fund**; and the **7th most generous to the West Virginia Baptist Convention**. May the Lord bless those who gave so generously to these important funds!

**Keith & Ruth Wharton** celebrated **50 years of marriage** on May 16th. They were married by Rev. John Keck at Emmanuel Baptist Church. The **24 members** of the **Music Team** enjoyed a **Table of Life** lunch at Quinet's in New Martinsville yesterday. Since January, the **Benevolent Fund** has helped **147 people with \$14,072**.

**For all the mothers and grandmothers** who have impacted their children and grandchildren in life-changing ways. **Diane Huffman** said, "The praise song 'Make Room in Your Heart' was **just the reminder that I needed from God**." The **Spring MOV Ringers Concert** Emmanuel hosted yesterday was a blessing to many people. The **Day of Prayer for Emmanuel** on May 12 has people praying every hour from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. The **ministry of Kirk Wilson** and **Young Life** shares the gospel with many young people in the MOV. The church gave **\$3000 for Camp Cowen scholarships**... Thank You!

**A Review of our Praises from April & May (Continued)**

We **raised \$777** on a single Sunday to our **Benevolent Fund** which means we were able to continue helping those in need. Thank You! **Griefshare** just ended a successful 13-week series filled with **meaningful connections**. **Jennifer Schoenhut** joined Emmanuel on May 4th.

The **Encouragers Class** served Sunday lunch at our Salvation Army . The **Day of Prayer for Emmanuel** on May 12 was a good reminder of how God is working in our church ministry. In April & May, we had **8 stars in our Red Books**... keep looking for opportunities to share Jesus with others.

**Eric Tucker** shared about the new community **youth ministry** of **The Escape**. The **Mission Fellowship Lunch** for The Escape **raised \$1,980**. We raised **\$1,400** for the **Young Life Ministry** to help teens go to camp. The many people who **served our country** and **blessed our lives** that we remember on **Memorial Day** weekend. The important ministry of our **AV team** that produces both our in person and online services. **Jonathan and Tyler Brooks** sang solos in the Smoot Children's Choir concert last Sunday. **The Orff Ensemble** blessed us with beautiful music. On May 17, **150 people** gathered to **dedicate** the new **Sunny Day Activity Center** at Camp Cowen. The **2025 High School Graduates** honored on May 21st; **Davey Brooks, Seth DePriest, and Gabe Hissam**.



*Thank You*

Thank You for your kind expressions of sympathy at the passing of my brother, Lewis Dean Johnson. They were greatly appreciated.” ~ Earl and Diana Johnson

Thank You from Verona Enoch! She received over 150 cards from church family and friends to celebrate her 100th birthday in April.



Thank You from the WIC Program: “ Thank you so much for donating the Easter boxes for our participants. We’ve enjoyed seeing the kids pick out their Easter box each year! We appreciate that you think of us and our clients.” ~ Jennifer Habib & team

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, & cards concerning my recent surgery and recovery.” Sincerely appreciated, Randy Nutter

Thank you from Mike Eschbacher and his cousin, Edna McVay for all the prayers for healing. He is recovering at home after a stay at CC.

Bill & Linda Gainer are thankful for all the calls, cards, and prayers for Bill.

Thank you to everyone who donated toward the \$3,000 Camp Cowen Scholarship Fund. We started at \$250 and you answered the call to support EBC kids and youth attending camp this summer.



**Our Deepest Sympathy to:** *The family & friends of **Ed & Shirley Huffman**, long-time EBC members / the family & friends of **Marsha Whitlatch**, Jim Ross's sister / the family & friends of **Sharron Smith**, Tara Patterson's aunt / the family & friends of **Victor Stinespring**, Lola Simonton's brother-in-law.*



*Consider joining one of our on-going Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday*

**The Seekers** class (Room 201) is facilitated by Margaret Frees.  
**The Encouragers** (Room 224) is facilitated by Randy Halterman.  
**The LIFE** class (Parlor) is facilitated by Pastor Kurt.  
**The Youth** (Room 203) is facilitated by Joe Stephens.