



The Clarion Call

Love God, Love Everyone, No Exceptions



Dear Union Chapel:

I miss you all! Let me say again, I miss you all and when we are able to come back together as a congregation and church family, I believe it will be with a renewed sense of thankfulness and blessing for the opportunity to simply attend church together. That day will come soon and when it arrives we will let everyone know and rejoice.

Normally I would be announcing the end of Lenten dinners and the start of Holy Week. While we will observe and worship online and in other ways during Holy Week, we also understand these days are anything but normal. Never in my thoughts did I ever think as a pastor that I would be prohibited from worshipping on Easter with you, but here we are. Like you, my mind is still unable to grasp churches setting silent on Easter morning. So please allow me to offer some perspective and encouragement.

On that first Easter morning, the disciples were locked away, in a room, gathered in an albeit different kind of fear. They had deserted Jesus, (minus Mary Magdalene, Mary, Jesus mother, and John and a few others). But for the most part, the 12 were silent, huddled in fear that they too may soon be arrested.

When we think of their fear at its most basic level, it was really about a lack of faith. That all that Jesus had taught and preached, wasn't true. They had seen him; their friend and Rabbi, suffer and die from a distance and be locked away in a tomb....forever. So they were silent, lost in their disbelief of all of the events that had occurred and fearful of what the future may hold. And yet, we know the story. Their locked door, nor their silence, nor their fear were any match for the living Jesus. He appeared in their midst and his first words to them on that Easter morning were, *"Do not be afraid."*

So church as we ready for Easter from inside our homes and quarantines and without the pleasure of being in church together, do we have any doubts or reason to believe that Jesus will not also find his way to us and His presence will reassure us fear not, that His promises

from the pastor continued....

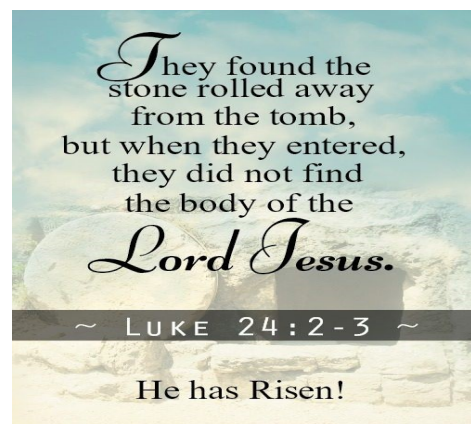
not also find his way to us and His presence will reassure us fear not, that His promises for the future reign of God are true, and that more than anything, He is alive!!

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today
 I know that He is living, whatever men may say
 I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
 And just the time I need Him He's always near

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
 He walks with me and talks with me
 Along life's narrow way
 He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
 You ask me how I know He lives?
 He lives within my heart!

In all the world around me I see His loving care
 And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
 I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
 The day of His appearing will come at last

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
 He walks with me and talks with me
 Along life's narrow way
 He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
 You ask me how I know He lives?
 He lives within my heart!



Finance

Giving at Union Chapel during the COVID-19 Interruption:

Thank you Union Chapel members for your faithful prayers, support and giving during this difficult time of COVID-19. We wanted to say we understand these are difficult times for many; businesses, churches and families. Some of you may find yourselves facing immediate financial hardships, if you are in that situation, please contact Pastor Mike, Harry Weiss or Dewey Hodson (members of The Goodwill Fund). Others income may be secure, for that we are thankful. As you continue to give to Union Chapel, do so in the spirit that we find in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

The following updates we hope you will find helpful.....

Church address: 10123 Valley Road Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Marilyn Jarbo giving - total gifts of \$2,829, we wrote her a check for \$2,404, and the balance available is \$425.

Jan & Feb Mission of the month - DC Homeless - Excellent response - \$1,578 has been designated Jan through March.

March Mission of the month - Backpack program - no giving

April Mission of the month - Joshua Fund - \$294 so far this year.

Finally, while we are fortunate to have some money in reserve and are able to meet our financial obligations at this time, please continue to give to the missions and ministries of
Union Chapel United Methodist Church.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE:

Given the continuing gravity of these orders and in keeping with directives from local governments to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, **Bishop LaTrelle Easterling directs churches throughout the BWC to refrain from gathering in their buildings through Sunday, April 26.** Exceptions include essential ministries to the community as outlined by local governments, such as food distribution and daycare, as long as they can meet CDC health requirements

Barring changes from local governments, the first Sunday for resumption of worship in our buildings will be **May 3, 2020.** The staff and leadership of the BWC continues to work to provide resources for congregations to provide vital ministries in these challenging times. Online resources for Palm Sunday and Easter are being planned to continue in ministry during this crisis may be found on the BWC website.



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus.

The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing. You can protect yourself by washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face, and avoiding close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with people who are unwell.

HOW IT SPREADS

Coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or objects that has the virus on it, and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

How Can You Protect Yourself

You can protect yourself by washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face, and avoiding close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with people who are unwell.

What Has Your Safety Team Done

At the February 23, 2020 meeting of the Safety Team, the Team through a unanimous vote, voted to close the Church down to all activities until further notice. This was done pro-actively prior to any other organizations recommendations including the Baltimore Washington Conference. Additionally we have placed three hand sanitizer stations in the kitchen (a replacement), one in the Fellowship Hall and one at the foot of the stairs to the second floor of the education wing. When the Church reopens, please use these stations.

We are continuing work in the areas of security systems evaluation, striker plates on the exterior doors (provided at no charge to the Church by the Crane family), key holders list, two-way radio purchase and training and congregation concealed carry list.

June is safety month, we will be providing training for those in the congregation that are interested in the areas of CPR, AED, and First Aid. Additionally we will be showing safety videos (between services).

Stay tuned for more, until then, do social distancing, hand washing, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. BE SAFE!

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, H.R. 748, contains a host of tax measures as part of a \$2 trillion aid package designed to help the economy as it suffers from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tax and Financial Relief to Individuals

Cash and Retirement Plans

Rebates of up to \$1,200 for single filers and \$2,400 for joint filers (with amounts increased by \$500 per child). These payments are subject to phase-outs beginning at \$75,000 / \$150,000 adjusted gross income (AGI) for single filers / joint filers. Individuals who have no income or those whose income comes from entirely non-taxable means-tested benefit programs are eligible to receive.

A waiver of the early withdrawal penalty for certain coronavirus-related withdrawals from qualified retirement plans up to \$100,000. In addition, income attributable to those distributions would be subject to tax over three years and the taxpayer can recontribute those funds within the three period without regard to the annual contribution cap.

A waiver of the required minimum distribution rules for certain defined contribution plans and IRAs for calendar year 2020.

Unemployment

Establish a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program through December 31, 2020, to provide payment to those not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, those with limited work history and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency.

Provide an additional \$600 per week payment to each recipient of unemployment insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for up to four months.

Provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020, to help those who remain unemployed after weeks of state unemployment benefits are no longer available.

Charitable Deductions

Allowance of up to \$300 of charitable deductions for non-itemizing taxpayers for tax years beginning in 2020 and relaxation of the limitations for those taxpayers who itemize.

The 50% of adjusted gross income limitations on deductions for charitable contributions is suspended for 2020.

Student Loans

Student loan repayment contribution by the employer for an employee is not taxable to the employee up to \$5,250 annual cap for contributions made prior to January 1, 2021.

Mission Monthly Joshua's Fund

This month we want to highlight the Joshua Fund. Special envelopes will be in the back of the sanctuary for gifts to the Joshua Fund in January. Just place your gift in the box in the back of the sanctuary or in the offering plate. The Joshua Fund was established by Union Chapel UMC members, Rex and Connie Barnes, in memory of their son Joshua Barnes, who died of an opioid overdose in January 2017 at the age of 26. As Joshua's life ended much too early, Rex and Connie established this fund with the hope of saving lives and to leave Joshua's footprint on the world. Rex and Connie created the fund through the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation (EWVCF). Distributions from the fund support West Virginia based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations working to address drug abuse prevention, education, and treatment in Morgan County. This fund helps save lives and helps those who are suffering.



I hope this month's finds you all well and with God's grace we will all get through this trying time.

If anyone needs anything please reach out.

No one is alone and we are all here for each other.

The below was planned for April, but due to our circumstances it's uncertain.

As the dates get closer we will know better.

Any questions please call my cell.
813 230 3773 Nancy Jordan

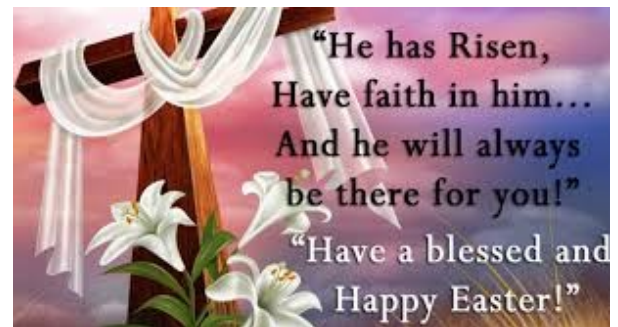
April 21st 3:00pm Tuesday Bowling at Berkeley Springs

April 28th Tuesday 12:00pm Morgan on Main lunch

April 15th Wednesday 10:30 am The Bible Study
"The Story" will resume on Chapter 7

If we are able.

Future event: Silent Auction at Becky Miller's.



DC Homeless Mission

Last Sunday of each month our Homeless team makes a trip to Washington D.C. Our goal is to deliver meals, water, clothing, health kits, blankets, and shoes to the homeless of Washington D.C.

Contact: Arnie Stotler 304-433-1222 /
Vickie Miller 304-279-7103

If you would like to go see and experience first hand what the DC Homeless Missions is all about just let Arnie or Vickie know and we will save you a spot in the van.

The United Methodist Church:

www.umc.org

Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church:

www.bwcumc.org

Western Region of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church:

www.bwcumc.org/westernregion



**Simeon and Anna Squad
Union Chapel
United Methodist Church**

**SIGHT AND SOUND TRIP
QUEEN ESTHER – 17 JUNE**

Simeon and Anna will once again conduct a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Ronks, (Strasburg) PA. This year will be a new production of **Queen Esther**. Come with us for a day of fellowship, fun and food. Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament. Enjoy magnificent music, acting, voices, sets, special effects and the wonderful live animals.

Our trip is scheduled for the **17th of June, 2020**. The cost is the same as last year; \$130 per person. This includes the bus transportation, breakfast in a bag and refreshments on the bus, tickets to the show, dinner at the delicious Hershey Family Restaurant and games, prizes and fellowship on the bus.

So please mark your calendar, get on the list and look forward to a wonderful event. Seats on the bus always sell out quickly so please see Dave Harden or Joyce Kline to confirm your reservation. Payments may be coordinated with Dave, with all payments due by Wednesday the 6th of May.

Checks payable to **Simeon and Anna**. Cancellations may not be made after 20 May, 2020. That is the date our final payments are due for the bus and show.

If you haven't been to **Sight and Sound**, check out their website at www.Sight-Sound.com.



Nurse's Corner April 2020

I hope everyone is doing well during this time of uncertainty. It can be a very lonely time especially now with the stay home order. I feel especially alone during the evening hours when I'm the only one. But, I read, do puzzles, reflect on what's happening. Call friends and family members and work on things around the house. I also pray. I pray for the health and safety of my church family, my family and friends and for our nation and the world. I know without a doubt God is in control and I know this will all end soon and life will go on. My hope is that people who don't believe in God will come to know Him and turn their lives over to Him and begin a new life. Stay safe, do as we are asked to do. I really miss being in church with all of you. Hopefully we'll be together soon. Thank you Pastor Mike and Jill for all you are both doing to keep us connected.

Blessings, Kim.

**ATTENTION
FELLOWSHIP HALL
USERS**

When you leave the hall please ensure that the blinds are left open. This is necessary so that the Sheriff and the Deputies can see in when responding to a security issue here.

Thank You, Your Board of Trustees



Kathy Zeigler, our Administrative Assistant will be working in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please email her at ucumcwv@gmail.com with Newsletter information and Bulletin information.

ATTENTION—

If you see any areas of the Church that need attention, either inside or outside, please contact Dave Fink at: dave.finkucumc@gmail.com or Harry Weiss at: harryweissucumc@aol.com or any members of the Union Chapel Board of Trustees

If you are interested in any information discussed from meetings, minutes are available by printed copy or can be sent via email. Please contact Kathy if you are interested in meeting minutes.

To join the Church's e-mail prayer chain, or to submit your own prayer request for a friend, family member, or neighbor, contact Darlene Unger (304) 671-0340 atlantaplus5@aol.com

Offering Envelopes

If you need offering envelopes for 2020 please sign up on the yellow pad in the narthex or call Bruce Elliott (cell 540.246.4237). If you have unused envelopes from 2019 please use them.

“SAVE THE GIRLS”

“SAVE THE GIRLS” Help ladies who need: bras – new or fairly new, underwear – new or fairly new, Always pads, tampons. There will be a collection box for donations of these items in the Narthex. Cash donations will also be gratefully accepted.

May God Bless You Contact
Joyce Kline 304-258-5199

CHURCH USERS

If you raise or lower the temperature in the space you are using, please read the posted temperature settings located under each thermostat throughout the Church. Thanks, Your Board of Trustees

Christ is Risen!



“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.”

- Luke 24:2-3



Recycle your Upper Room and Daily Bread booklets. There is a labeled container in the Narthex for the used booklets. They will be included with meals for the homeless when the church members visit DC each month.

**MCEIC-
MCEAT**
Mission Request
For April
Cans of Corn

MCIEC
Is in need of volunteers. Two people must work each shift. They are open Tuesdays and Fridays 9 to 3. There are two shifts each day. If there is only one volunteer Bill Locke can team you up with someone. Please have the volunteers contact Bill at 304-258-3327.



SHOEBOXES
For the Month of
April
Stuffed Animals
(no toothpaste)

NOT ALLOWED—Breakables, food products, chocolate, medicine, liquids, candy, toothpaste, bodywash, lotion, used or dirty items, money (except \$9 shipping), war-related toys and games, pocket knives, paint sets, bubbles, hand sanitizer, balls with glitter liquid inside, drink mixes, seeds

If you would like the opportunity to serve with this ministry, please contact Debbie Weiss, 304-258-8831. Also we are always looking for ways to raise money for this mission. Won't YOU be a part of this heartwarming mission to bring children all over the world, closer to God? You won't be disappointed.

Stuffed Animals

April

"When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! I just remember hugging it."
—Yuliya, Central Asia

Scott Hovermale	4/1
Elijah Stevens	4/1
Roger Shoop	4/1
Darlene Unger	4/1
Debbie Weiss	4/7
Steve Ellyson	4/7
Jay Didawick	4/12
Portia Henry	4/12
Christina Twigg	4/12
Terri Morgan	4/13
Dani Canoles	4/16
Brittany Johnson	4/17
Amanda Stevens	4/19
Margaret Klein	4/19
Lin Dunham Jr.	4/21
Joyce Bonner	4/27
Ed Shriver	4/28
Phyllis Hovermale	4/28



**"Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples."
PSALM 96:3**

CHRIST THE LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!

Goodwill Fund

Donations accepted in wooden box at Back of Sanctuary. Goodwill Fund is collected the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each



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Instagram



Like us on
Facebook

Just a reminder, we email the monthly newsletter in a PDF File, if a paper copy is needed please let Kathy know. Please make sure Kathy has your correct email address for electronic information.

