



The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia August 2021

www.clarksburyumc.com

Our Mission:

To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

Pastor Ken's Corner

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NRSV)

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord!! Doesn't it feel great to be in church together? Let us celebrate the new freedoms and yet keep in mind that the threat is not eliminated, **merely diminished**. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our PRG is working on proposing a plan to the District Superintendent for review that is based on our LOCAL conditions. The Church Council has replaced the HCT in Phase 3 of our Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG). The PRG put in place the following modifications to our in-person services.

These steps are:

1. Fully vaccinated leaders may preach without a mask.
2. Fully vaccinated persons may be unmasked in indoor and outdoor settings.
3. Fully vaccinated persons may sing without a mask in indoor and outdoor settings.
4. Eating outdoors may occur with individually packed meals.
5. We will resume our social time in the social hall after Church using prepackaged snacks.
6. **Additionally**, the PRG determined that we will resume our normal method of receiving offerings and also we will resume receiving communion (pre-packaged elements) at the rail during our communion services.

We will continue to look at other services and worship here at Clarksbury with an eye toward not just returning to the old normal but to improving our outreach and worship opportunities. We will get used to these new plans and will adapt for our local context and continue to be safe. We will continue with our in-person services and will continue to video and post on Facebook.

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

How very relevant these words are for the climate and circumstances of our time. God has a plan which takes the world, changing as it is, into account and still gives us wisdom and prudent and wise counsel. We look at the conditions around us even as we emerge from the first round of the pandemic and new challenges arrive. We live by faith in God, not faith in MAN. We live by faith and hope for things not made evident yet.

So we must use our wisdom and NOT be foolish. We must pray, stay in the word of God and practice safe standards with regard to COVID. But COVID is only one of the many threats to our lives and how we live. Are we modeling Jesus to our neighbors and our community? Are we welcoming and helpful when we encounter our brothers and sisters in need? Are we doing all we can to be as wise and discerning as Jesus wants us to be, and are we doing all we can to understand what the will of God is?

¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to be making prudent and sober judgments for our lives and for those for whom we are responsible. We need to be filled with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, as we sing and worship and lift joyful noises to our Lord with our whole hearts.

We must give thanks to the Father at all times for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...even when times are difficult, and we don't understand why bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people. He even goes so far as to make known to us the mystery of His intention to bring us all to Himself...all of us, everything in heaven and on earth.

In Jesus we see and hear the word of truth and the good news of our salvation, and in our belief and FAITH in Jesus we are marked by the seal of the Holy Spirit. Our names are written in the Book of Life and we will dwell with Him forevermore.

Today we can draw comfort from how nurturing and caring God the Father is...how He seeks out ALL of us and wants us to be with HIM in His kingdom.

We continue to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. They provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and phone calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

Jerry does a great job with cards and letters, and the Prayer Partners and Prayer Warriors are great avenues for continuing and strengthening our relationships. We need to continue these efforts!

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and be exposed to or suffer from the illness. Many of us have gotten the vaccines or are scheduled to receive them.

Be ready for changes in how we follow the regulations and live into the new opportunities we have to serve and worship safely, spiritually and meaningfully in our local context.

Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken

A Note from your Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST SPIRITUALITY AND THEOLOGY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES: THE GENERAL RULES



The "General Rules" of United Methodist Christians includes three basic principles which guide our practice of the spiritual life. John Wesley first proposed these in the mid-1700s as he began a number of small group meetings (called classes or societies) to encourage, spiritually develop and support his new Methodists. The three principles, each with some detailed instructions, are condensed and paraphrased here from our book of theology and order, *The United Methodist Discipline*:

First, by doing no harm: avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced; such as...taking of the name of God in vain...profaning of the day of the Lord...Drunkenness...Slaveholding...Fighting, quarreling, brawling, returning evil for evil. Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation. Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us. Doing what we know is not for the glory of God. Softness and needless self-indulgence.

Second, by doing good: by being in every kind merciful after (our) power; as (we) have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and as far as possible to all: *to their bodies* by giving food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison...*to their souls*, by instructing, reproofing or exhorting all we (converse) with...*to fellow Christians* by the means we have available.

Third, by using the means of grace: public worship, listening to the Scriptures read, receiving the Lord's Supper, family and private prayer, searching the Scriptures (in private study), and Fasting or Abstinence.

United Methodists encourage spiritual growth. Wesley taught that Christian spirituality should include "the means of grace" or "works of piety". The means of grace included:

Centering in Prayer: Wesley encouraged daily private devotion, usually in both the morning and evening, as well as time for family or household devotions. He suggested that these prayers should include expressing: (1) love and gratitude to God, (2) regret for our failures to love and serve others, (3) telling our thoughts, feelings and requests to God, (4) intercessions for others' needs, and (5) simply listening for what God might want to say to guide or correct us.

Searching the Scriptures: Wesley encouraged daily reading of the Scriptures. He suggested that we read the Bible seriously (with prayer), systematically (reading entire books or through the Bible), carefully (with good commentaries and scholarship), and fruitfully (immediately putting into practice

what we learn). We are also urged to meditate on what we read and to take every opportunity we can find to hear the Bible read by others in worship or small groups. Wesley asked Christians to always keep a Bible with them so they could read whenever they had time available.

Conferring with Others: Methodists welcome the opportunity to "confer" or converse individually and in small groups in order to encourage one another in the spiritual life, and to help each one to be accountable for responsible discipleship.

Worship and the Lord's Supper: Methodist Christians are encouraged to worship often, at least weekly, and to share in the Lord's Supper or Communion as often as possible, as a means of union with Christ and with other Christians.

Fasting: It's not a discipline that is familiar or popular these days, but in Wesley's era his Methodists were instructed to fast a day or so every week. The motives included: self-denial (how many of us could use a little humility today?), voluntary simplicity, giving our surplus of food or money to the needs of the poor, and as a measure for good health.

Matthew 18:19-20-"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Worship Committee

David Dobson

"CLARKSBURY CARES" was previously mentioned in an earlier Grapevine. This mantra is being put into action the following way. I have placed a large box in the fellowship hall that I expect we can fill to the brim with school supplies over the next couple of weeks. I have received notice from Susan Fleet at the high school that the typical items would be very much appreciated:

- Pencils, Pens, Highlighters
- Spiral notebooks and Composition books
- Loose leaf paper (college rule and standard)



Although I have not received response from Ms. Allen at MES or Ms. Sanders at SCW, based on our own experience I am certain the above plus these items would be of great use:

- Colored pencils and crayons
- Index cards
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Binders

Let us all support the belief that knowledge produces wisdom. Here is the starter package...



Coming in September, let us fulfill the promise to Never Forget! A special ceremony of remembrance of September 11, 2001 will be held, this being the 20th since that somber day. Volunteers will be needed

Thank You, Thank You!!

To my Church Family, I cannot begin to thank you enough for all that you have done for Kathy and me during my recovery from my accident. All the prayers, assistance, meals, cards, and telephone calls have been a true blessing. From Lee, Matthew, and Pastor Ken rearranging our living room to accommodate my favorite recliner on my return home from the hospital to getting me in and out of the house. Thanks to Becky for bringing us an armload of groceries on the night that I came home from the hospital to arranging meals for us the first week. Thanks to Terry and Pastor Ken for providing us our first meal on the night that I came home from the hospital. Thanks to all of you that provided meals and desserts, all of them were truly awesome. Thanks to Bob and Pastor Ken for taking our trash to the recycle centers. All of you are truly amazing and we love each and every one of you.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** to God and the Father by him.

Warren and Kathy

Nurture and Outreach

Jerry Dant

Nurture and Outreach

Our Church has had the pleasure of making and giving the "Soup Ladies" "goodie bags for the residents at Fishing Bay Estates as well as some in the community. These ladies do a great



job delivering food to the residents and others in the community on Cryer Food Day. We have so many members of our church, who help others in the community. Linda Bartz and perhaps others help at the Cryer Center with needs in the community. Pastor Ken and some of the men

pick up food for the Cryer Food Bank on the first Saturday of each month. Other church members are there to help the residents getting the food in their cars as well as members of Zoar and Philippi on alternate months.

Nurture and Outreach is not just a committee it is all members helping with the necessary needs of community members. Our committee would like to thank all members and friends of Clarksbury for their help serving the community.



Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!

If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed. Why not make a home bound member smile by sending them a card often as well as on their birthday. If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.



A-C		
D-G		
H-L		
	Myrtle Clark 10/2 P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22514
Marion Miller 08/06 c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive Gloucester, VA 23061	M-Z Lewis Musick 6023 Dixon Lane Gloucester, Va., 23061	

August POP



Why You Should Not Be Timid in Your Prayers

(Guideposts) Bob Hostetler How to Pray, Jun 29, 2021

We can learn a lot about life, faith and prayer from the heroes and anti-heroes of the Bible.

One of my favorite accounts involves the patriarch Abraham when three mysterious visitors arrived at his tent "near the great trees of Mamre"

(Genesis 18:1, NIV). After revealing to Abraham and his wife, Sarah, that she would soon bring a son into the world, two of the visitors journeyed on to Sodom. The one who lingered revealed to Abraham that the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were scheduled for divine judgment.

Abraham, apparently suspecting or recognizing his visitor as the Lord, began to plead: "What if there are 50 righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous people in it?" (Genesis 18:24, NIV)

The Lord agreed to spare the city for the sake of 50 righteous people. Abraham pressed the matter like the Middle Eastern merchant he was: What about 45? 40? 30? 20? 10? The Lord agreed, "For the sake of 10, I will not destroy it" (Genesis 18:32, NIV).

It's a striking, memorable scene that corresponds nicely with Jesus' teaching about perseverance—even audacity—in prayer (see Luke 11:5-8), Abraham's negotiations with God may embolden us to be persistent in our own prayers. But I think there's more in that Genesis 18 account than may first appear. Because, after interceding for Sodom with such boldness and tenacity, Abraham apparently stopped asking at the number 10. But there weren't 10 righteous people in Sodom. Only Abraham's nephew, Lot, his wife, and two daughters were given an angelic escort out of the doomed city.

Might things have been different if Abraham had kept asking? If he had continued pressing his appeal to, say, five? Or even one? If he had not stopped asking until God stopped granting?

We don't know. But when Jesus taught on the subject of prayer, telling a story of someone knocking on a friend's door at midnight, pleading for bread, He applied His teaching: "So I say to you, ask and keep on asking, and it will be given to you" (Luke 11:9, Amplified Bible).

Years later, James, the brother of Jesus, wrote to early Jewish Christians, saying, "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2, NASB). So, one thing we might learn from Abraham, Jesus and James, is to be persistent, bold—even *greedy*—in prayer. To "pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1 NIV). To not be timid. To not confine ourselves to small requests. And to not cease from asking until our pleas are granted. To ask...and to keep asking, and asking, and asking...and "it will be given t you."



Clarksbury
UMC

Grapevine August 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Noon Prayer	6 Marion Miller Noon Prayer	7 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
8 Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Gayle Gilliland Donald Willhite Noon Prayer	12 Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer	14 Noon Prayer
15 Noon Prayer	16 Noon Prayer	17 Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Noon Prayer	21 Noon Prayer
22 Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Noon Prayer	27 BettyAnn Tabler Jim Chenowith Noon Prayer	28 Noon Prayer
29 Lynn Bisogno Noon Prayer	30 Noon Prayer	31 Noon Prayer				

The deadline for the **September 2021** Grapevine will be **Monday, August 23**

Send email to pwalian2@gmail.com

August **Birthdays** (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)

Ushers for the month of August Linda Dobbins and Cacky Guill

Scripture Reader for August is Lucy Blevins