

THUSE NEWS

MARCH 2024

SOUTH PARKERSBURG UMC

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

EDGELAWN UMC

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



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KIDS' STUFF

"People [won't] say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Luke 17:21

Here's an old Bob Dylan lyric: "I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now." When I hear that, I first picture a foolish young man. He's sure he knows what's what. Then I picture a wise older man. Like a child, he embraces the mystery of what he doesn't understand. Is that maybe how it is with the kingdom of God?

People were bringing little kids—even babies—to Jesus. Parents wanted Jesus to bless their little ones. But the disciples knew better: Jesus was busy with important stuff, grown-up stuff. There was no time to waste on little kids. Well, Jesus set them straight, didn't he? "Cut it out!" he said. "Let the kids come right here to me. Don't you know that the kingdom of God is *their* kingdom? That God is *their* God?"

The kingdom of God is kids' stuff. And if we grown-ups don't add a bunch of big words and picky rules, then kids will see the kingdom for what it is. And they will welcome it the way they welcome a carnival or a snow day. When something so unexpected and so wonderful comes along, of course they'll want to be a part of it!

If we grown-ups don't feel the same way about the kingdom of God, we've most likely missed the point.

Bob Arbogast — Info@todaydevotional.com 1/17/24

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS



On Sunday, February 18th, South Parkersburg United Methodist Church welcomed new members to our church family – Mike Miller, David & Jeanne Wade, and Adalynn Bechtold... Our Ministry team members, Nick Reed & Kathryn Miller, also joined our new members at the front of the church...



Edgelawn United Methodist Church also welcomed a new member to their congregation – Nancy Guinn... Nancy transferred her membership to Edgelawn when the church she attended, Rosemar United Methodist, closed. She has been a blessing to the church in that she is willing to do most anything she is called to do, from decorating the church for Christmas to running the sound system if needed. She is truly a wonderful addition to our church family

Here in our churches, people have gathered seeking a higher purpose and a deeper life than they could find alone. We are grateful today for each one of you, that you have found your way here, and that you have decided to make a commitment to our communities of faith. We hope that as members of our churches you will allow yourselves to know and to be known, to minister to and to be ministered unto, to love and to be loved, by our church families.

SPARK & YOUTH BOWLING PARTY



SPARK & Youth Bowling Party On January 28th

**SPARK “MINUTE TO WIN IT” CHALLENGE
FEBRUARY 2024**



**CHILDREN’S CHOIR PERFORMING AT CHURCH
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH**



Love!

How appropriate that the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, fell on Valentine's Day when the choir sang "Bow the Knee", directed by Anita Baum. These Holy Moments leading us to Holy Week are opportunities of faith - to trust our Father - to bow our knee - to bow our will to His will, to His plan.

Isn't that what Christ did - living his Father's will - knowing what lay ahead - enduring it all - because of ***love?!!***

In 1984's "*Via Dolorosa*" (The Way of Suffering) composer Billy Sprague reflects, "He **chose** to walk that road out of **His love for you and me.**"

And the work would be completed at Golgotha's hill. In Gloria Gaither's "*It Is Finished!*" (1976) it is Friday - trials, tortures, execution - and earth itself, with earthquakes and darkness, rebelling against this assault on The Creator. And The Light of the World could not be destroyed!

It is Friday. But Sunday is coming!

On Easter morning the Adult Choir will be joined by the Children's Choir as we sing Charles Wesley's "*Hymn for Easter Day*" (1739) and "*Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*" (1746), as well as "*Resurrection Day*" by contemporary artists, Tony Wood and Joel Lindsey. "Alleluia! Glory, Glory! Celebrate the empty grave! Hope is dawning like the morning! This is Resurrection Day!"

On February 25th our Adult Choir was privileged to sing at our sister church, Edgelawn UMC. Although we weren't able to stay for their entire service, we were embraced by their warm welcome and sweet spirit, as Valma Adams described it. Thank you, Edgelawn!

And Thank You to all our talented singers, accompanists, and sound techs. Your faithfulness and selflessness and, most importantly, love of God make such a fine choir possible!!

Remember, all are invited to sing with us. Sunday evening rehearsals are 5:00 - 6:00 and before service the first and third Sundays.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



This month has brought new and exciting opportunities to our group. The Lord has shown me what true friendship is and what our Godly sisterhood can accomplish. This month we have grown closer with each other, but our focus is strengthening our relationships with the Lord. At our first meeting in February, we made prayer boards. As a group we decided we needed to spend more time in prayer. Our boards are a daily reminder we need to spend time reading God's word and praying. During our second meeting we attended a worship event. Seasons Ministry for Women held an event that was a blessing to many. Our evening consisted of singing and listening to a message about Jonah. It was a great to see women of all ages, churches and walks of life come together to worship God.

We are very excited to have our own Women's Conference this weekend! All women of the church please put **March 1st 6:00pm-7:30pm and March 2nd 9:00am-12:00pm** on your calendars. Friday evening will consist of worship songs and a short devotional. Saturday we will have two speakers from Seasons Ministry for Women and lunch. Please come and join us for one or both days. This event and time spent with other women worshipping God is something you don't want to miss. Each day there will be childcare available. If you cannot join us, please be in prayer for the event.

The Lord is doing amazing things, and we want to invite you to join us. We would love to have you!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & COMMUNION SERVICE

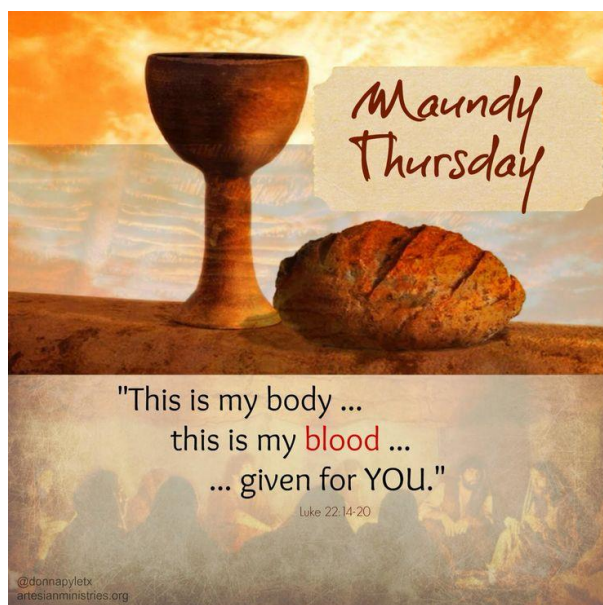
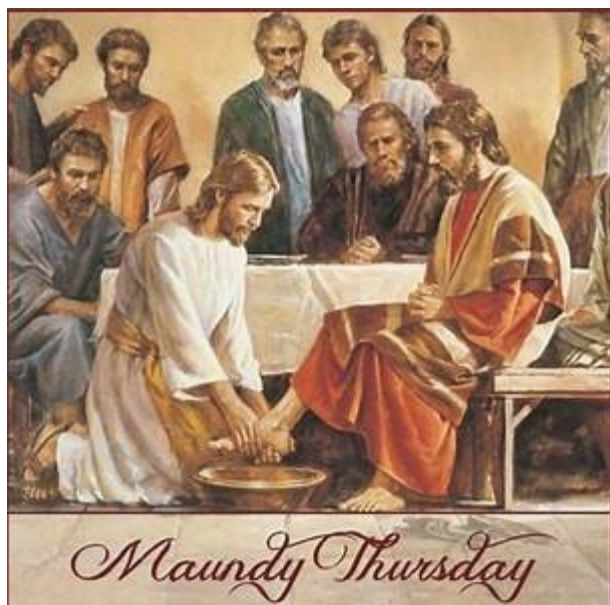
Please join us in the South Parkersburg UMC Christian Fellowship Center on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 6:00** as we share a Christian Passover Seder meal commemorating Christ's Last Supper. After a light meal of vegetable soup (or mac 'n' cheese for kids), bread, and fruit, as part of his message, Pastor Edward will explain the elements of the Jewish Passover meal which Jesus would have celebrated with his disciples.

The Adult Choir will perform the anthem, "Remember Me".

As we share the Lord's Supper on this holy night, may we be mindful of Christ's sacrifice, His wondrous, unfailing love, giving us His indescribable gift of eternal life!

This meal is a ministry of the SPUMC Women's Bible Study Group, under the leadership of Dani Reed, which is open to all women. If you miss the reservation sheet at SPUMC or Edgelawn, please call or text Jan Kinder at 740.502.6741 by March 24, if possible.

MAUNDY THURSDAY



Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels.

It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment."

UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 10TH 2024

UMCOR – The **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**ommittee **O**n **R**elief is our church organization focusing on those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. If you are interested in learning more about UMCOR and making donations, you can visit their website – <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

GIRL SCOUT UPDATE



World Thinking Day 2024 Our World, Our Thriving Future: The environment and global poverty. We had a guest speaker, Pastor Tim from Gospel Mission Church. He has been to the Philippines many times. We helped our environment by planting seeds in a terrarium and we hope to plant these in the Spring. We ate Ube and Sticky rice along with some fruit. A live Video was made of girls sharing what they learned as our take action project. We had 21 girls that had a great time.

CLOTHING BIG SALE



The Clothing BIG SALE will be held in the CFC on Friday, March 22nd & Saturday, March 23rd

FRIDAY – 9:00AM to 4:00PM

SATURDAY – 9:00AM to 4:00PM

A list of the CFC drop-off days & times in March will be listed in our weekly Church Bulletins... A GREAT TIME TO DROP OFF ITEMS IS TO BRING THEM TO CHURCH WITH YOU AND TO TAKE THEM TO THE CFC AFTER CHURCH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL... Items in the sale also include shoes, purses, scarves, belts, socks, and other accessories worn with clothing... Items should be in good wearable condition...

The kitchen will also be in operation during the sale with food and drinks being served. Financial donations to support food purchases would be greatly appreciated, and donated baked goods are also being requested for the sale... Thank You for your support!!!

COLLEGE STUDENT UPDATE

College students will be receiving St. Patrick's Day greetings with reminders that luck is not needed when God is on our side! The updated address list is available on the welcome center desk in the basement if you would like to send our college students encouragement during this Spring Semester! Students (& Families) – Please notify the Church Office or Melissa Kuhl-Hupp if you are not receiving items through your campus address!

Shamrocks and Shenanigans for all!



Why look for leprechauns or four-leaf clovers when we have Christ working for us?!

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20

KROGERS COMMUNITY REWARDS



Do You Shop at Krogers???

Have You Designated SPUMC To Receive Your Community Rewards???

If using your online account at Kroger.com:

STEP 1: Log in and go to My Account by clicking on your name at the Top Right portion of the screen

STEP 2: Select Community Rewards from the Menu that appears on the Left Side of the Screen.

STEP 3: Enter the code **GA026** and save SPUMC as your Community Rewards organization!

If using your Kroger app:

STEP 1: Click the 3 lines on the top left corner of the app to access the Menu.

STEP 2: Select Rewards from the Menu that appears.

STEP 3: Select Community Rewards

STEP 4: Enter the code **GA026** and save SPUMC as your Community Rewards organization!

Participation in the Community Rewards program

- ***DOES NOT INCREASE your Kroger GROCERY BILL whether you shop in store, have groceries delivered, or pick up your groceries through ClickList!***
- ***DOES NOT AFFECT your Kroger points towards GAS SAVINGS!***

Questions? Please see Melissa Kuhl-Hupp or another Finance Committee Member!

FINANCE – MONTHLY SILVER PLATE SCHEDULE CHANGES

- The Building & Improvement Fund Silver Plate Offering originally scheduled for June, has been moved to March...
- The Old Man Rivers Silver Plate Offering originally scheduled for March, has been moved to June...

The reason for the change was that current HVAC issues needing to be resolved as quickly as possible require financial support on a more timely basis...

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Mark your calendars! The Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held this year on **Saturday, May 18 at 1 pm** in the CFC. All Women of SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend. It will be a covered dish! More details to come... The next meeting will be on March 12 at 6pm in the church basement.

All Women from SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Next meeting will be held on March 12, 2024 at 6pm in the church basement. All Men of SPUMC and Edgelawn are invited to attend.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

On February 18th the Faithful Friends list was put out on the Welcome Center along with a basket to put your cards. We encourage all church families to pick up a list and do cards for them, NO POSTAGE NECESSARY but by doing so, they will bring lots of smiles to many faces! **We will collect cards through Sunday Morning, March 17th** so we will have time to sort and give them to the visitation team...

Thanks Church Family, you all are the BEST!

Jill & Jimmy Youell

A WOMAN'S PRAYER

The author of the Prayer below is a Mother Superior who prefers to remain anonymous

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will someday be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try and straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point.

I ask for Grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains – they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are hard to live with – but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all – but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end...

A POWERFUL SCRIPTURE VERSE

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening church service when she was startled by an intruder. She caught a man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a Scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and two 38's!!!"

Acts 2:38 REALLY is a Powerful Verse

"Repent and be Baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

YOUR KINGDOM COME

“The kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Matthew 12:28

When Christians pray the Lord’s Prayer, we say, “Your kingdom come.” In the long run, we’re asking for Jesus to come again and make everything new: heaven and earth, peoples and nations, each one of us. We’re asking God to put right everything that is wrong.

The Bible paints some lovely pictures of the kingdom of God in this ultimate sense: the wolf living with the lamb, weapons of war remade into tools of peace, no more death or mourning or crying or pain, justice at last.

But the kingdom of God is not just an ultimate reality in the future. The kingdom of God is also a present reality. It comes near through Jesus Christ, who announces the kingdom of God and makes it real. And it remains near through the Holy Spirit.

So when Christians pray, “Your kingdom come,” we’re not just asking God to change the world for good. We’re asking God to change us too—and to change us now. Because we want to see the kingdom that’s already here through Jesus. And we want to participate in that kingdom by the Holy Spirit.

Otherwise we remain captive to kingdoms of this world with their pride and their greed and their hatred and their violence. “Your kingdom come” is our plea that God will free us from all of that—so that we can begin to be new.

Heavenly Father, give us a new way to see the world and a new way to be in the world. Set us free to live as citizens of your kingdom. Amen.

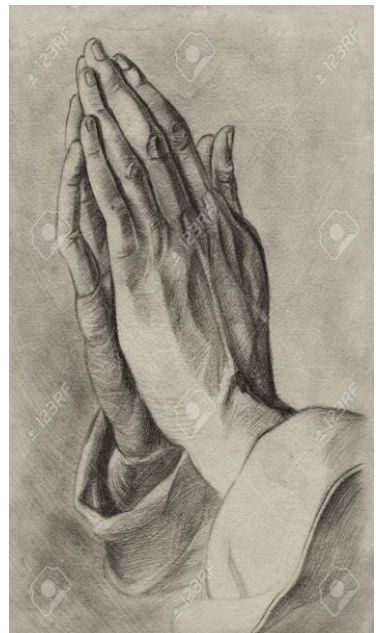
Written by: *Bob Arbogast*

PRAYER LIST



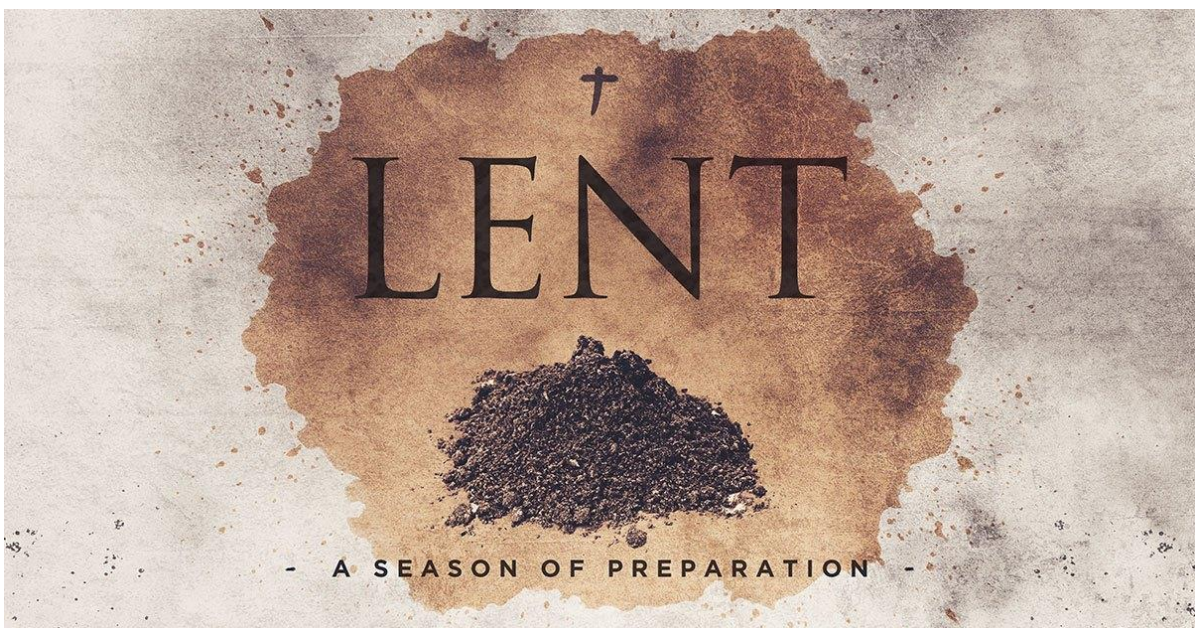
Ann Thorne
Prison Ministry
Ron Sams
Kristi Sams
Doug Dudrow
Dave Hennessee
Eleanor Wilcox
Nancy Russell
Jennifer Metz
Shirley Tice
Jan Kinder
Mary Knott's
Daughter
Flem & Christine
Rowe
Matt
Daniel Smith
Lee Morrison
Jim Braden
Rita Choteau
Sheila Spencer

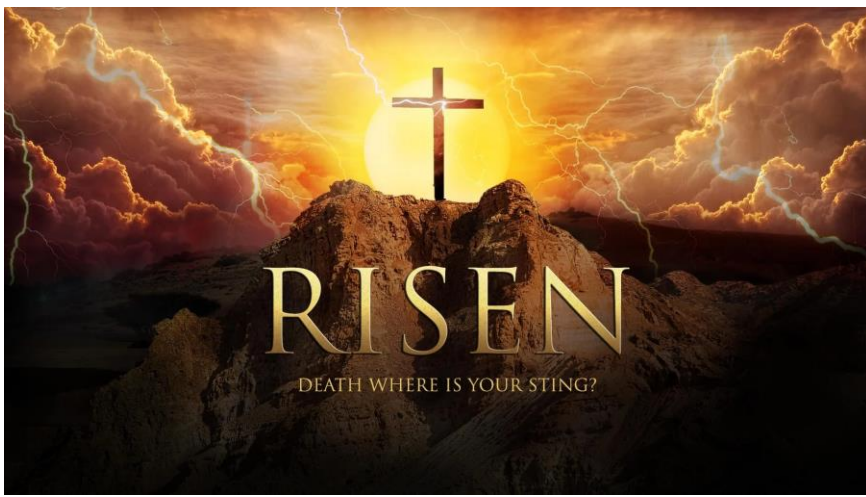
Garry Gumm - Kim
Dora Jean Gumm -
Kim
Lori Parsons
Jim Gilmore
Faithful Friends
Sue Galland & Logan
Betty Swiger
Cindy Winans
Rick Beaty
Robert Knight
Kendal Duley
Bob Beckett
Kevin Barker
Crystal Boggs
Edie Gilmore
John Mollendick Sr. &
Family
Wanda Starkey
Derek Schwendeman



Remember the Families of:

Judy Bowersock
Nicholas Pavelich
Steve Perkins
Brodie Delancy





EASTER IS COMING!!!

*The Greatest Man in history is Jesus.
He had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
He had no medicines , yet they called Him Healer.
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.*

BIBLE QUIZ

The answers to this Month's quiz come from the Book of Acts.
You can find, or check, your answer in the Scripture listed after
each question... Good Luck!!!

1. Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles?
2. What man is the Acts of the Apostles addressed to? (Acts 1:1)
3. After His Resurrection, how many days did Jesus appear to the Apostles? (Acts 1:3)
4. After His Resurrection and while appearing to the Apostles, about what did Jesus speak? (Acts 1:3)
5. As Jesus was taken up to Heaven, 2 men in white apparel suddenly appeared besides the Apostles. How did those men address the Apostles? (Acts 1:11)
6. When returning to Jerusalem and going to the upper room, who else joined the Disciples in that room? (Acts 1:14)
7. How many Disciples were in Jerusalem after the Ascension? (Acts 1:15)
8. Who stood up in the midst of the Disciples and spoke after they had returned to Jerusalem from Mount Olivet? (Acts 1:15)
9. How did they choose the replacement of Judas? (Acts 1:26)
10. Who took Judas' place as one of the 12 Apostles? (Acts 1:26)