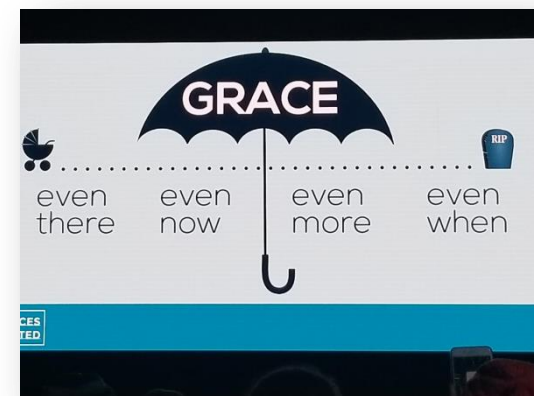


RESURRECTION 2019



Eleven youth, five adults and one younger sibling with ties to FUMC attended **Resurrection 2019** together in Pigeon Forge, TN, January 25th thru 27th. Everyone attended four worship services that featured music from *I Am They*, a contemporary Christian band, and a message from Jorge Acevedo on grace. There was also time for fellowship

within the group with meals together and gatherings each night for snacks, worship follow-up



and prayer. Our take away from Rev. Acevedo: "At every stage, in every age, from the cradle to the grave, God's grace follows you."



MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS



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ANNIVERSARIES



John & Billie Buchanan 3/22



BIRTHDAYS



Mary Weddle	03/01	Debbie Tompkins	03/07	Judy Farmer	03/20
Keri Grimes	03/02	Reba Harris	03/16	Michael Larrowe	03/28
Austin Spencer	03/04	Alyssa Boyer	03/17		

UMW NEWS

Our next UMW meeting will be held March 12th at 10 a.m. in the UMW room. Cindy Viers, New River District UMW Spiritual Growth coordinator, will be with us to present the Call to Prayer and Self-denial program. Lunch plans will be announced later. Please make every effort to be at our meeting.

Pancakes are coming March 5th from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Come and enjoy all you can eat pancakes with fixings. There is no charge but donations will be accepted for the ongoing mission work of the UMW.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Missions Committee met February 12th and voted to use some of the money raised last fall to give a donation to Willing Partners and to the Free Clinic. We all feel these are very worthy local missions. Announcements will be made soon for a fundraiser meal in late spring or early summer.

MARCH CALENDAR

Mon 4 th	10-12 a.m.	Kid Junction
Tues 5 th	5-7 p.m.	UMW Shrove Tuesday
Wed 6 th	6 p.m.	Ash Wednesday
	11 a.m.	Choir
	12 & 6:45 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs 7 th	10:00 a.m.	Knitting
Sun 10 th		Daylight Savings Time
Tues 12 th	10:00 a.m.	UMW Meeting
Wed 13 th	11 a.m.	Choir
	12 & 6 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs 14 th	10 a.m.	Knitting
	11 a.m.	Adult Council
	7 p.m.	Finance Committee
Mon 17 th	10-12 a.m.	Kid Junction
Wed 20 th	11 a.m.	Choir
	12 & 6 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs 21 st	10a.m.	Knitting
	7 p.m.	Administrative Board
Wed 27 th	11 a.m.	Choir
	12 & 6 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs 28 th	10 a.m.	Knitting
Sun 31 st	6 p.m.	Birthday Dinner

MARCH ALTAR GUILD WOMEN

Monette Senter and Sandy Grabman

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be on March 5th from 5-7 p.m. All you can eat pancakes with fixings, by donation.



March 2019 “I am the vine...you are the branches” VOL. 64 – ISSUE 3

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – 306 W. Center St. (P.O. Box 445) – Galax, VA 24333
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VISION STATEMENT: *Jesus calls us to be a community of loving and growing Christians committed to spreading the Good News while serving God and our neighbors.*

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Welcome to windy March! Although we know there will be some cold and windy days ahead, spring is around the corner. It was a wet February and for that matter, since I have moved here, it has been a season (or seasons) of rain. As I write this first draft it is sunny and in the 50s. Enjoy the sunshine!

March is a time of anticipation on the liturgical calendar. As Advent anticipated the celebration of Christmas, Lenten Season anticipates the celebration of Easter. Before Lenten Season even begins, we have Shrove Tuesday (“Fat Tuesday”). We have a chance to clear our pantries of rich food-stuff that threatens our Lenten discipline. Of course, that is the tradition of Shrove Tuesday. Fat Tuesday is the celebration of “carnival” before the time of Lenten discipline. We will leave Fat Tuesday to New Orleans and enjoy pancakes in Galax on Tuesday (March 5).

What do you give up for Lenten Season to draw closer to God? I personally plan to give up cabbage. It will be tough! On a more serious note, think of things other than food to give up or give less time to. For example, spend less time on the phone, Facebook, computer, watching TV, and so forth, but not March Madness. Replace the food given and/or reallocate time to reflect upon your relationship with God. Consider a spiritual food that requires more attention: Scripture reading and reflection, prayer, fellowshiping with others, study with others, visiting someone, worship, a walk or bike ride, drive into the countryside. Whatever deepens your walk with God, take time to do it in Lenten Season. Lenten season as a time of spiritual discipline/reflection that prepares us for a joyous celebration of Easter.

Lenten Season begins Ash Wednesday (March 6 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary). We will sing portions of a few hymns, some responsive and Scripture Readings, and prayers. The main part of the service is the Ash Wednesday Cross marked on our foreheads with the ashes of Palm Leaves from Palm Sunday. The Ash Wednesday cross reminds us of our sin, need of repentance, and mortality.

By the way, I do order the ashes from a Catholic distributor, so I am sure they are the ashes of palm leaves. I have found them safe to use. I used to make my own ashes, but one year mine went “bad” and the crosses I made enflamed the forehead of almost everyone with a red cross.

Administrative wise, we have a busy March. The Finance Committee and Administrative Board meet this month, as well as a possible Trustee meeting. I also note that the Adult council will be meeting. These meetings ensure that all the “behind the scene” work gets done to ensure we have bulletins, heat, and paid staff to keep it all going at FUMC. I do appreciate your support of this congregation of Christ’s Church!

I end with a special announcement: Men’s Fellowship Meal is coming this March! Our first meeting is Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 at Porky. The Men’s Fellowship Meal is scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 at a location chosen by those who attend. I look forward to seeing the men of FUMC gather for the purpose of fellowshiping.

Pastor Mark McFadden