

The Valley Voice

Our Mission:
to Make Disciples of Jesus

MtJacksonUMC.org

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church

July 2022

Annual Conference Speaker Challenged All Laity

The 2022 VA. Annual Conference began with Kay Kotan speaking at the Laity Session. "We all know Methodism was founded as a laity movement," she said. "Since 1968 we have continued to decline. The laity have stepped back. Laity used to take care of the preaching, the discipling. We do need clergy but there's no reason why we shouldn't hold up our end. How many have said, 'I'm just a lay person? There is no such thing as *just* laity.'"

Kotan encouraged the laity to start a movement just like Wesley did many years ago. "Sometimes we have to get rid of some old stuff. Do you sense something new is on the horizon? God is on the move."

She encouraged the laity to think about how much is committed to that one hour on Sunday and move into more community-minded ministries. How are we connecting? We need to be less pastor-centric. There is a holy disturbance brewing." She asked, "How will you lead your church to take full advantage of this opportunity we have before us? How will you start the movement?"

Kotan's words challenge all laity to renew their passion and commitment to be the Church that makes disciple of Jesus.



Men's Night Out: (Thurs.) July 14 at 7 pm

The United Methodist Men have stepped up to the plate by scheduling a **Men's Night Out** for a Valley League Baseball game. The Valley League has produced well over 1,000 professional baseball players. Last year, 25 Valley League alumni were playing in the Major Leagues, and 21 were selected in the 20-round MLB draft.

Men's Night Out will be (Thurs.) July 14 at 7 pm. The ballgame will be held at Central High School in Woodstock as the River Bandits will play against the Strasburg Express.

Contact Rick Koontz for **free tickets** by July 3rd. Bring a friend and enjoy a great game.

From Vision to Reality

We recently adopted a 2-year Vision Statement to *engage in hospitality and community outreach*. It is our desire to demonstrate God's love by building better relationships with our neighbors. So every member is encouraged to participate in serving our community and connecting with our community. Look for upcoming opportunities and take steps to make our vision an ongoing reality that reflects the heart of Jesus.



From the Pastor...

The question came out of nowhere. "Are you a follower of Jesus?" I remember being asked that question two different times in my late teens. And I understood the question...but my answer of "Yes" was crippled with uncertainty. I believed Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I learned that in Sunday School. But that wasn't the question. "Are you a follower of Jesus?" The question went beyond what I was taught or even believed. It was a question of identity. Does my belief influence my behavior?

God used people in my past to move me toward the future. It was years after those people planted those seeds that led me to a pivotal decision to be a follower of Jesus. I am grateful for the long line of family, friends, and even perfect strangers that boldly planted seeds that eventually took root.

There are people all around us who need to hear that question..."Are you a follower of Jesus?". It's a great question to stimulate minds, open eyes, and encourage movement. You may or may not get a positive response to that question, but the Holy Spirit is at work depositing seed that can one day produce a hundredfold crop. So, are you a follower of Jesus? If so, let's inspire the question in others.

The Valley Voice is a monthly newsletter of Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church. All articles or photos for the next issue should be submitted to Pastor Lee by the 20th of each month. Email it to leecrosby@vaumc.org. Use the same address to be put on our email list.

Ladies Night Out

(Mon.) July 25, 6 pm

The U.M. Women invite all the ladies of the church and their friends to attend the next *Ladies Night Out*. We will meet at Pizza Bella in Woodstock on Monday, July 25th at 6:00 pm. If you need transportation, just contact Jennifer to reserve your spot.



We have a great time, so join in the fun!



Hygiene Kits to Conference

by Sharon Clark

Six ladies of the Dorcas group met last month to assemble hygiene kits for 2022. In two hours the ladies assembled 132 hygiene kits, combined with 22 from Quicksburg UMC, gave a grand total of 154 kits from the charge. The kits were then delivered to Mt Tabor UMC to be taken to Virginia Annual Conference. These kits will then be distributed throughout the state and nation. A special thanks to both congregations for their generous donations and the work of the Dorcas women in making this project a success yet again.



Welcome Baby Eli

Chrissy and Jonathan Koontz gave birth to their first son, Eli on June 9th. He weighed 9lbs. 2 oz. We give a joy-filled congratulations to the couple.



Join The Care Team

Pastor Lee is looking for a team of people with a heart for visiting members who are in the hospital or homebound. You will work together with Pastor Lee and the others on the team to call or visit those in need. You can visit by yourself or team up with others to listen, talk, pray, or just be present. If you're interested in being part of the team, contact Pastor Lee for more information. Let the presence of God be seen through you.



July 3 -- Betsy Reynolds
 July 3 -- Shirley Bock
 July 12 -- Bill Golladay
 July 12 -- Troy Hackenbracht
 July 16 -- Linda Cave
 July 18 -- Ruth Crosby
 July 26 -- Cindy Frye
 July 27 -- Kimberly Frye
 July 29 -- Wayne Shaffer
 July 31 -- Wendell Cochran

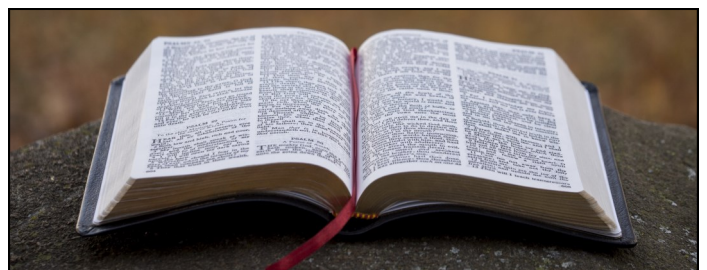


Financial Report

by Faye Cochran

May 2022

General Fund Income \$9,457.40
 Expenses \$6,623.80
 Difference \$2,833.60
 Designated Giving
 Health & Welfare \$ 55.30
 Building Fund \$ 85.00
 Scholarship \$ 40.00



Bishop's Bible Reading Plan

Go to: vaumc.org/2022BibleChallenge