



MtJacksonUMC.org

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church

May 2023

Prayer Stations Set The Scene For Good Friday

Nineteen people began a quiet journey through four prayer stations that represented the Garden of Gethsemane, the Judgement seat of Pilate, the cross, and the tomb. Prayer Guides directed the participants to meditate on the personal meaning and emotion of each station. At the final station, participants came to the altar to remember their baptism. The watery cross on the forehead made for a nice completion of the smudged cross of Ash Wednesday. (See photos of each station on p. 4)



CPR Class: A Lively Success

By Catherine Ambrose

On Sunday, April 23, we held our first community CPR/AED class with a total of 16 participants! Members of both our church and our community enjoyed delicious food, lighthearted fellowship, and a “breathtaking” class packed with lifesaving information! Topics covered included Adult and Child CPR, choking relief, and the use of an AED, with a brief demonstration of how to use our own AED. A HUGE thank you to our wonderful nurse educators, Robin Tusing and Maxine Minter; to the Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Foundation; to all who signed up; and to everyone who helped to make this event possible!

Honoring First Responders

(Wed.) May 10, 11-1 pm

The Shenandoah Valley’s police, fire, and rescue workers are the frontline of emergency services. They place themselves in dangerous circumstances to rescue others. In appreciation for their heroic efforts, we are hosting a BBQ lunch in our Social Hall. It is free to first responders and dispatchers. About 45 people were served at last year’s event. Helpers are again needed for this year. Please plan to arrive by 9:30-10:00 am. We will host the lunch from 11-1 pm. Take-out orders will be provided as well. Let’s demonstrate our gratitude and God’s love to our First Responders.





2023 Hygiene Kit Drive

by Sharon Clark

It is time once again for UMCOR hygiene kits. This year we're doing things a little different. Instead of asking for donations of physical items, or monetary donations for a whole kit, we are just asking for \$5 donations. This is because we have an abundance of supplies already donated, and we need monetary donations for the shipping cost and the increased cost of the towels needed in the kits. Therefore, \$5 donations will be accepted until May 7th. Hygiene kits will be delivered to UMCOR early June. For more information, please contact Sharon Clark or Marcia Joseph. Thank you for your support.

From the Pastor...

I enjoy building backyard ponds. Usually, I would build a waterfall that drops directly into the pond. But when we came to the Shenandoah Valley, I added a winding stream between the waterfalls and the pond to imitate the Shenandoah River. Then, I discovered that the water evaporated very fast because the stream was long and shallow. This Spring, I am redesigning the water flow to a more direct route. Directing the water flow can be a bit frustrating. The placement of rocks can make the water twist and turn, but water always seeks the lowest point. If there is a tiny gap, water will flow under a rock instead of around it. There can be many "sneaky leaks" where water finds a different path to travel. Again, it's because water will always seek the lowest position.

Water is a great example in humility. I have heard it said that humility is not thinking less of yourself. It is thinking of yourself less. Jesus taught us that if we want to be great, we must become a servant. We want to use the gifts of grace God gave us, so don't think less of yourself. But when we seek to serve others, we think of ourselves less. As water seeks the lowest position, so do we as we serve others. That's when we flow towards greatness. So, continue to let your greatness "leak".

Financial Report by Faye Cochran	
	March 2023
General Fund Income	\$ 8,854.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 10,466.51</u>
Difference	\$ -1,612.51
Designated Giving	
Health & Welfare	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 75.00
Scholarship	\$ 10.00

Ladies Night Out

by Jennifer Hackenbracht

The next *Ladies Night Out* will be held May 22nd at 6:15 pm at Pizza Bella in Woodstock. Join us for a fun time of food and fellowship. Please let Michelle Koontz or Jennifer Hackenbracht know by Sunday, May 21st if plan to attend.



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.



Church Explores Upgrade

The church leadership is exploring an upgrade in audio and visual technology for the sanctuary. The discussion is about installing a new sound system and video screens. The sound system can provide an improved quality for music while still serving the needs of the hearing impaired. The LCD screens can add visual imagery to a call-to-worship, songs, sermon illustrations, and church-event videos.

For example, imagine at the beginning of worship, you see a video of the sun rising over the mountain with the hymn *"Morning Has Broken"* playing. And then we read together Psalm 90:2, *"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth, from beginning to end, you are God."*

Share your thoughts with the church leaders as they continue to assess this decision.



Touch-A-Truck is a fun community event for kids and their families to explore big trucks such as a Fire truck, Rescue Squad, VDOT Truck, Grader, Tractor, Farm equipment, and more. Hayrides are also included.

Where: TRIPLETT TECH, 6375 S. Main St.
Come enjoy a fun day with our neighbors.



D.S. Speaks on Disaffiliation

by Cindy Crosby

Our District Superintendent Victor Gomez spoke to 26 folks from Mt Jackson and Quicksburg churches related to the denomination's disaffiliation process. He gave detailed information on what is required to separate from the UMC. This process was officiated by paragraph 2553 of the 2019 *Book of Discipline* that allows a church to disaffiliate from the UMC over issues related to human sexuality.

In 2020 the COVID pandemic prevented General Conference to meet because delegates worldwide were not able to obtain VISAS, or travel, and a host of other issues. Therefore, General Conference was postponed until May 2024 where the issue would once again be addressed.

Churches that desires to disaffiliate before then, will begin with a 30-day period of prayer, followed by documented voting, engage legal counsel, and managing financial responsibilities. A disaffiliating church will no longer be "United Methodist" and must decide their new identity. They can become independent, or join another denomination.

Mt Jackson and Quicksburg Administrative Boards will continue to discuss this issue and will keep the congregations included and informed.

DS Gomez provided an excellent review of this process, while expressing a heavy heart at this very difficult time. He is dedicated to the Lord's service, and his congregations, and will work to assist churches in whatever decisions are made.



May 3 -- Warren Hepler
 May 4 -- Julianne Rexrode
 May 4 -- Chris Dove
 May 7 -- Mary Weaver
 May 9 -- Tim Ambrose
 May 9 -- Lee Crosby
 May 13 -- Millie Cassell
 May 22 -- Timothy Frye
 May 22 -- Tammy Hall
 May 23 -- Susan Maziarz
 May 24 -- Reid Byram



Transportation Assistance



If anyone is in need of a ride to medical appointments, the grocery, church, etc. please know that there are friends you can lean on and we are closer than you think. Below is the most current list of individuals who are willing to help provide rides. This list is also located on the church bulletin board in the hallway. Feel free to reach out to anyone on this list and we would be happy to help as available. If you are interested in provide a ride to someone, please to add your name or reach out to Catherine (listed below) to have your name added.

Name	Phone Number
Margaret Harris	540-421-5800
Jennifer Hackenbracht	540-335-6685
Catherine Ambrose	703-606-5224
Rose Fiske	540-624-3988

Good Friday Prayer Station Photos

Station 1: Garden of Gethsemane
 Station 2: The Judgement Seat of Pilate
 Station 3: The Cross
 Station 4: The Tomb

