

DAYTON UNITED METHODIST

Mission Statement: "We invite everyone to become disciples of Christ by loving and serving God and actively living out their faith."

Love. Connect. Serve.

215 Ashby Street, Dayton, VA 22821 | 540-879-2102 | daytonumc@comcast.net | www.daytonumc.net



**MAY
2020**



Dayton United Methodist Church

Finding Inspiration in Troubling Times - by *Connie Gilmer*

It may be helpful during this time of pandemic and isolation to consider how our DUMC vision logo can be a source of inspiration:

LOVE – *Love* our family, friends, church family and the suffering and grieving by praying them into the arms of God.

CONNECT – There are many ways to *connect* with people we do not or cannot see at this time: cards, phone calls, emails, and the many resources offered by social media. Share with others funny videos and inspirational music. We all need a laugh and we certainly need to be reminded that God is with us. Try these on YouTube: Comedian, Jeanne Robertson; "The Isaacs Love Miss Addy" singing *Stand Still*; the Collingsworth Family singing *Joy Is Not Cancelled*; or Andrea Bocelli: *Music for Hope*.

SERVE – Even if we can't get out to *serve*, we can help others who are serving (*examples: Open Doors & Kits for Conference, both mentioned in this issue*). The instance of the farmer in the Midwest sending one of his face masks to Governor Cuomo to give to a health care worker is a sweet illustration of doing something positive in a time when we feel so helpless.

GOD BLESS US ALL!

CONTACT information



Now more than ever we need everyone to provide the church with all your contact information. ***We especially want***

Email addresses. Obviously, if you got this newsletter via email, we have it. If you received this publication in the regular mail, tell us if you use email and share your address, please. We are researching ways to reach out to our members who do not have internet capabilities. If you (or someone you know) do not have internet and have been unable to worship online with us, please send word to the church office.

During this time of restriction on public meetings Mary Beth is sending church announcements, birthdays and anniversaries, and prayer requests during the week via email. We don't want you to miss a thing! And remember to contact the church office if you move or change an email address, drop a land-line or change a phone number, or experience any happy or sad 'life event.'

**Together we will
Love. Connect. Serve.**

During this time of social distancing if you or someone you know needs anything please let me know. We have church members who are more than willing to shop for you if you can't get out. If you or a loved one are ill or if you have a prayer concern, please contact me. Stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you soon!

—Pastor Jenny

Email: jenny.day@comcast.net

Phone: 703-999-4873 (cell)

540-879-1352 (home)

Special Dates in May

National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2020*

Mother's Day, *May 10, 2020*

Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2020*

Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*

Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*

Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."
—Lady Bird Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Birthdays

- 1 Marilyn Hackett
- 2 Ed Byrd
- 2 Josie Nieder
- 3 Tina Shipe
- 4 Todd Nieder
- 6 Andrew Scordo
- 7 Marty Austin
- 7 Brady Witt
- 8 Chuck Garber
- 8 Julie Hamann
- 10 Sheryl Newkirk
- 14 Jeffrey Smith
- 15 Mailee Findley
- 16 Jay Ralston
- 17 Flora Belle Byrd
- 17 Judy Powell
- 18 Ella Tatro
- 20 Judy Estes
- 21 Caden Alley
- 22 Diane Helmick
- 25 Donna McCormick
- 25 Merle Wampler
- 26 Ann Will
- 28 Carolyn Davis
- 30 Linda Covington
- 31 Nancy Dauer



Anniversaries

- 2 Gene & Wanda Wampler
- 2 Matthew & Leslie Sites
- 14 Bill & Kathy Miller ('74)
- 14 Jack & Lena Osborne ('66)
- 20 Rodney & Kim Guyer ('00)
- 22 Neal & Rebecca Wong ('04)
- 23 Jim & Norma Snyder ('59)
- 25 Jim & Carrie Nutter ('69)
- 27 Dan & Jessica Tatro ('06)



Ed Byrd will be 89 on May 2nd and we, along with Flora Belle, would like him to be showered with cards and well wishes. Please mail cards and letters to:

Ed Byrd
Wellness House 287B
Bridgewater Retirement
Community
302 N. Second Street
Bridgewater, VA 22812



Nancy Harper and Darlene Newman

express their appreciation to everyone for the cards, calls and other expressions of sympathy on the death of their niece, Barbara Newman.



We WILL get together as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. **Watch for a date and activity.** If you have questions contact

Elsie Cox (434-9403;
emc112338@gmail.com);
Nancy Harper (828-2221) or
Chris Simmons (820-4333;
cpsimmons03@gmail.com)



~ **Elsie Hyde** passed away on April 4th at the age of 101. She was a lifetime member of DUMC.

~ **Marcella Thomas** died on April 3rd following a brief illness. She was the sister of Elaine Heatwole and Denny Thomas.

~ **Shirley P. Propst**, sister of Charlie Pennybacker passed on April 14th.

~ **Gary Estes** died on April 9th. He is survived by his wife Diane who is the daughter of Don and Wanda Gault.



It has been a difficult time for all of us as we stare down the COVID-19 health fears and restrictions. It must be uniquely challenging for our youth as they miss out on such a memorable time in their lives, especially our upcoming graduates. **Dayton UMC is planning a Graduate Recognition Sunday, online only, for June 7th.** We are requesting parents of this year's graduates to send in about 8 pictures of your youth to be included in a slideshow in that worship service. Dayton UMC now has a Zoom account – we will arrange a **Zoom meeting for all our graduates on MAY 28th, 6:00 PM**, so we can plan our graduate bios for that Sunday, June 7. *-Graham*



Graham Witt also writes, "For all our other youth, things haven't been much easier. Firstly, remember God still holds the entire universe in the palm of His hand and that CHRIST is greater than COVID. I have spoken with Gabe Barrett from Atlanta M25 mission and they are planning to still conduct our mission trip July 19-25. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 in the meantime, but all predictions have us returning to some kind of 'normal' by then. I, Graham, will be leading this trip and we pray for our full contingent (19!) to travel to Atlanta. More details will be coming in May as our COVID situation settles down. Prayers are appreciated!"

Connecting on Sundays Online Live

Pastor Jenny is still preaching every Sunday though we are not in the pews. Worship is **streaming live at 10:00 a.m.** on our **YouTube channel: DaytonUMC-VA**. If your internet connection is unreliable for streaming, the video is saved and can be viewed anytime.



Connecting Through Prayer

Physical connections may be interrupted but we are still a church family that can join hands in spirit and come united before God in prayer. We hope that **every day at 2:15** you are able to stop whatever you are doing and **Pray**.

Connecting Through Service -by Graham Witt

So many thanks to our congregation's response to support **Open Doors** over the last two weeks! Please spread the word to friends and family. Open Doors' emergency shelter has been at JMU's Godwin Hall for just over one month. They are servicing 44 community members at the gymnasium and 11 offsite for high-risk health reasons. Open Doors would never have made it this far without so much community support. It is a blessing to see our gifts and talents at work for this effort to support the 'least and the lost', especially during the added burden of the COVID-19 crisis. Every effort makes such an impact: meals or masks; prayers or protective equipment; coffee or creamer; serving meals or sending supplies. As we all struggle to find our way through this new Earthly challenge of COVID-19, let us never forget, as Pastor Jenny encouraged us, to live boldly in our faith. If you have a desire to volunteer or support this effort you can find links here:

~Volunteer needs: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/3246035/false#/invitation>

~Donation needs: <https://www.valleyopendoors.org/covid-19-response>

~Open Door volunteer, meals and needs coordinator: community@valleyopendoors.org



Connecting Through God-Created Connections! -by Debbe Roadcap

This was the 23rd year for the Easter Baskets for At-Risk Youth project. But, this year was like no other!

In the past, about 950 baskets were assembled by volunteers on Palm Sunday and distributed by local agencies to kids who may not receive a basket otherwise. However, with most agencies closed and their employees working remotely, distribution was just not possible.

It was very sad to accept that, in a year when parents need it most, we could not provide this gift for them. So, God opened the door and provided willing hearts and hands in several unexpected ways.

With the help of the managers at Harris Gardens, Deer Run, and Mosby Heights apartment complexes, we were able to leave supplies for parents to make their own mini baskets. And, our Social Services contact who works with Ferguson Mobile Home Park assembled mini baskets with the supplies we provided, and she had one of the residents distribute them.

In addition, a Girl Scout Troop in Grottoes had pre-filled 2500 eggs for us. We distributed some of them to the Food Pantry at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, Valley Mission in Staunton, and the Pence Backpack Program. Also, Rhonda Johnson with Bridgewater UMC took eggs and items they had collected for our baskets to Mercy House for their kids.

So, although our outreach was smaller than normal, we were still able to reach a few of the communities that would benefit most from our program. And, after Easter, we were able to buy over 1500 buckets at 50% off. These are now stored in the attic at church and ready for next year. *(photo below)*

So to ALL of you, THANKS SO MUCH for continuing to support this project. Even when the world is in the middle of a pandemic, God opens doors so we, collectively, can make a difference in big and small ways.



"We have heard about you, God of all power. You made the world out of kindness, creating order out of confusion ... We have heard about you, Jesus Christ ... the poor man who made others rich; the healer who let himself be wounded ... the Savior who died and rose again ... We have heard about you, Holy Spirit. You broke the bonds of every race and nation, to let God speak in every tongue ... you showed how love made all things new." -Iona Community Prayer; The Newsletter Newsletter April 2018



a note from Pastor Jenny

Dear DUMC family,

As I write to you today, April 23, 2020, it marks 40

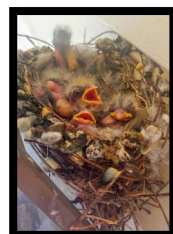
days of social distancing, quarantine, pandemic... whatever you want to label "it". Personally, I want to label it "40 days in the wilderness" because that's certainly what it feels like to me. On March 15th when I preached for the first time to an empty sanctuary, I never dreamed that here at the end of April we'd be in this place of wilderness. After all, Lent is over and that means leaving the wilderness and coming into the joy of resurrection. But this year is a bit different, isn't it? For 40 long days it seems the focus of the entire world has been on one thing: Covid-19. How can it not be when everything seems to be marked by it? When going to the grocery store causes fear? When a simple hug is no longer a simple hug? When plans made months ago continue to get postponed or cancelled? Worst of all, when we hear news of another death?

In these unprecedented times it can be hard to see the good. It can be difficult to remain positive and hold on to the blessings that surround us. I know I have struggled with it myself. But my friends, there *is* still good. There *are* still blessings to be found. God gave me a wonderful reminder of this throughout the last month. On March 21st, during the first week of social distancing, I discovered eggs in a bird's nest built behind my front porch light. For a week I checked on the eggs any time mama bird left to go get food. Then on April 3rd, early in the morning, five little eggs hatched into five little baby sparrows! These ugly, wrinkled, pink blobs were the

most beautiful thing I had seen in a long time! For the next 15 days I watched as those nondescript pink blobs grew into full-grown, feathered birds! What a wonderful gift it was to watch them grow; to have something to look forward to in these days when so much else had been taken away from me.

Then on April 18th I stood on my front porch and watched all five babies, now fully grown, leave the nest and fly off with their mother and father. In that awesome moment I remembered the words found in Luke: "*But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.*" - Luke 12:5-7 With these words ringing in my heart, I praised God for the blessing those five wee birdies were for me throughout this trying time. I thanked God for giving them as a reminder to not be afraid because God is still at work in this world and not even a pandemic can separate us from the love of God nor can it stop God from creating new and wonderful things. So, as we continue to be in the midst of this season in the wilderness, do not be afraid for God watches over even the tiniest of God's creation and God certainly watches over us. Let us remember that the resurrection has come and God continues to break through offering new life for all of us. So, friends, be sure to look for the reminders, like five precious sparrow eggs, that are certain to be found!

-Pastor Jenny



How Some Are Spreading Cheer

Editor's note: I asked folks to share how they are helping and coping during this "world-wide weirdness." Here are the responses so far, plus the poem by Dianne Pennington [pg. 5] & Connie Gilmer's article [pg. 1] :

☺ **Ann Will** writes, "I have been making cotton masks for family, friends and neighbors. If anyone needs one, please let me know. I am grateful for grass to mow and seeds to sow."

☺ **Pastor Jenny** writes, "Beautiful painted rocks are popping up around Dayton and it has inspired me to paint some myself. It then got me thinking, what if I put "Dayton UMC" on the bottom of the rocks and left them all around town? That way when someone finds them, they may just also find their way to our church! If you have paints in the house and rocks lying around the yard, won't you join me in leaving these bits of beauty and hope in our neighborhoods?"

☺ **Debbey Roadcap** sent this photo of a sign she placed in her yard to thank everyone who is still working to keep our community going. It is especially in honor of her daughter Kim Guyer and nieces Aimee & Brittney who all work in healthcare.





"Missing You" -by Dianne Pennington

I miss sitting beside you
 In the pew. . .
 Giving a hug or shaking a hand
 As we "pass the peace" each week like a gospel band. . .
 Meeting you in the middle of the aisle
 As together we head
 For the wine and bread. . .
 Gathering in the kitchen to fix a meal
 And always finding a cookie to steal. . .
 Pulling into the parking lot in my car
 And waving to you from afar. . .
 Waiting nervously to ring a bell, loud or soft
 And seeing a smile or two from friends in the choir loft. . .
 Remembering loved ones we've lost along the way
 But knowing we'll see them again in heaven on a glorious day. . .
 Following the rules and staying home each and every Sunday
 But enjoying the weekly sermons via YouTube from our wonderful Jenny Day. . .
 Missing the youth and leaders on Sunday afternoons
 As we joyfully sing loud and out of tune. . .
 Always remembering that there are better days ahead, full of grace. . .
 And I pray that I see you again soon and can hug you face to face!!!



Even though Dayton UMC continues to be closed due to the COVID-19 our mission of LOVE, CONNECT, SERVE continues in many ways daily and weekly. These are just a few of the many activities and blessings. We look forward to the day when we can all be together again to worship the Lord who is steadfast today and always.



- † Pastor Jenny continues to be in touch with the congregation, prepares the weekly worship service, & connects with the District Superintendent & Bishop. *She has risen to the challenge; keep her in prayer.*
- † Our AV team is preparing our live-streaming each Sunday, reaching a lot of our members and local friends. *What a blessing they are!*
- † Nicole, Yanet and Jeff are selecting music and practicing to enhance our worship service. *They sound wonderful!*
- † The CARE committee is sending cards and making calls to connect with our congregation. *Enriching our lives and enhancing our connections.*
- † Finance and Council meetings are being held via Zoom to continue our mission and work of the church. *Technology has been vital during this time.*
- † The mail is picked up and phone calls are being answered. Emails are sent out to the congregation of concerns and need for prayers. *Hardy thank you's and a big round of applause to Mary Beth!*
- † We look forward to our monthly newsletter which keeps us connected, letting us know what's ahead. *Things are happening just not in the 'normal' way.*
- † Tithe receipts are collected in the mail, by E-giving and via the church office and recorded. Bills continue to come in and are being paid. Our monetary commitments local and distant are being met. *Thank you to JB and members of Finance.*
- † The grass continues to be cut and plants inside and outside are being watered. Several repairs have been made to the church building. Trash is set out as needed. *Thank you to these volunteers!*
- † Donations are dropped off for Open Doors. Our church bus has been used to help with transportation. *Graham, you ROCK. See page 3.*
- † Easter baskets were not assembled here this year, but many baskets were made available to numerous agencies who delivered them to the children. *Debbey & Kim, you inspire!*
- † Plans for Vacation Bible School in August continue and suggestions of donations are on page 6.

Treasurer's Report: Jan - Mar 2020 Budget	
Contributions/Income	\$64,942.97
Expenditures	\$79,428.44
Year-to-Date Budget	\$80,518.25
Designated Contributions	\$3,388.75
Mortgage Report as of March 31, 2020	
Loan Amount	\$650,000.00
Principal payments	\$27,184.63
Loan Balance	\$622,815.37
Extra payments on principal	\$483,667.77 **
** Includes Original + Refinanced Mortgage	

We Accept E-Giving!

Use a checking account, savings account, debit or credit card to quickly and easily make your secure one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) donation.



Automating your donations permits uninterrupted giving during vacations, illness or weather closure.

Just visit our website www.daytonumc.net or call Mary Beth in the church office for more information.

540-879-2102

DaytonUMC@comcast.net



VBS 2020 is August 2-6 "Knights of North Castle."

We are very excited about this year's theme and have already started the planning process. We are in need of supplies for decorations. If you are able to help with any of the following contact Mary Ryder (540-607-6286) or Pastor Jenny.

- Large cardboard Boxes -- refrigerator size boxes or bigger
- Oatmeal Containers (*the tall round cardboard type*) -- need 15-20
- Brown Paper Bags -- grocery size; can have writing on them
- Tea Lights -- need about 15-20

Don't forget that the UMW are collecting items for **School and Hygiene Kits** to take to Virginia Conference in June. Find a list in the March newsletter or call the church office for a copy. The kits are distributed world-wide by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).



Always With Us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

From The Newsletter Newsletter May 2016

Watch Worship Sundays LIVE at 10:00 AM! Check out our YouTube Channel! **DaytonUMC-VA**



"Like" us on Facebook!

Dayton United Methodist Church @Dayton UMC



Remember to contact the church office if you:
Move or change an email address,
Drop a land line or change a phone number,
THANKS!

Direct questions and submissions for this publication to:
Sally Smith, Editor at DUMCNews@comcast.net
I have a box in the Coffee Social Room, too!
Next Deadline: Sunday, May 24

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