

Grace Notes

Community of Grace UMC

April 2018

304-525-3581 E-Mail: communityofgrace@gmail.com

We have seen the Lord!!

*Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" – John 20:18
Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.
So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" - John 20:24-25*

These scriptures are the response of Mary and the disciples when Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD!! What a day of rejoicing that must have been.

As we enter the Easter season, celebrating the resurrection and God's saving work through Jesus, I invite you to celebrate your faith. We too have seen the Lord.

Where you might ask? We see the Lord in the beauty of our world, in the wonder of God's word through scripture, in the redemption of broken lives, in healing of wounded hearts, in the eyes of a compassionate friend, in the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

And what do we do once we've seen the Lord? We do what those early disciples did. We proclaim it....to any and all who will listen..... We have seen the Lord!!

May the blessings of this Easter Season renew and transform you.

In Faith,

Pastor Donna

April Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Birthday:

Teresa Smith	Apr. 1
Anthony Pino	Apr. 9
Meredith Gallaher	Apr. 10
Brod Crawford	Apr. 17
Fred Davis	Apr. 15
Judy Messinger	Apr. 18
Meagan Mueller	Apr. 15
Dorothy Cutright	Apr. 20
Edward Pino	Apr. 20
Linda Beaver	Apr. 20
Matthew Geiger	Apr. 20
Alma Bias	Apr. 16
Seth Thacker	Apr. 25

Upcoming Events

- April 8 Choir Easter Contata during 10am services. Title "This Is God".
- April 13 "Reaching New People" 4:30-9am Steele Memorial UMC--Barboursville This is a leadership workshop. If interested, contact Pastor Donna.
- April 14 Continuation of the "Reaching New People" 9am-4pm. Steele Mem. UMC in Barboursville, WV.
- April 21 Spring District Management UMW Meeting 10am-12n at Kenova UMC. 9am—Coffee. Optional lunch 12noon Cost for lunch \$6.00
- April 22 East Htgn UMC Parrish is having a Pulled Pork luncheon fundraiser for Ebenezer Camp Scholarships 1pm-3pm COGUMC. Cost--\$7.00
- April 29 Fifth Sunday Sing 6pm at Crossroads UMC.
- May 6 Celebration of Mission Events First Methodist UMC 1pm.

Anniversaries:

Duane & Stephanie Hite	Apr. 7
Denis & Debbie Chapman	Apr.10
Ralph & Tammy Bunch	Apr.17
Jerry & Stephanie Gray	Apr. 18
Keith & Sharon Leap	Apr. 22

If you like to meet and talk to people, become a volunteer with the Street Ministry every Saturday at 9am at Trinity Episcopal Church. Call Vickie Adkins at 304-617-3227



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We would like to thank the Trustees for the new kneeling benches and pads in the sanctuary.

We will be conducting CPR and First Aid classes in the near future. Classes will be held here at COGUMC. Dates, times, and cost will be announced later.

A new photo directory is in the future (August 16-18). More information coming soon.

Did you know that this church helps support three (3) food pantries in the Highlawn area: Guyandotte UMC, Trinity Church of God, and New Baptist Church.

We furnish 35 family meal boxes to the children at Highlawn Elementary School on a monthly basis

If you have any news for the newsletter, please submit it by April 25 to Karen Williams or Bonnie Nelson.

Protecting Your Congregation When the Unthinkable Happens

United Methodist Insurance, in an effort to help you provide a safe haven for your ministries, provides the following guidance from the Department of Homeland Security and Ready.gov in the event of an active shooter on the premises. Your local law enforcement organization may also have information for your particular area.

In the event of an active shooter at your church, here is what you should do:

RUN and escape, if possible.

- Safely get out of the church at the nearest exit.
- Encourage others to go with you, but do not hesitate.
- Leave your belongings behind. What is important is your safety.
- Warn and prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Call 911 when you are safe, and describe shooter, location, and weapons.

HIDE, if escape is not possible.

- Take shelter in a safe room or closet, under furniture, behind a large object or outside.
- Silence ringers on mobile devices and make sure they won't vibrate
- Lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off lights.
- Remain quiet
- Don't hide in groups
- Act quickly
- Stay in place until law enforcement gives you the all clear.
- Your hiding place should be out of the shooter's view and provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.

FIGHT as an absolute last resort.

- When there are no other options, commit to your actions and act as aggressively as possible against him/her.
- Recruit others to ambush the shooter with makeshift weapons like chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, books, etc. to distract and disarm the shooter.
- Be prepared to cause severe or lethal injury to the shooter.

AFTER

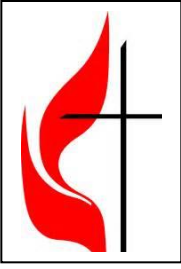
- Keep hands visible and empty
- Know that law enforcement's first task is to end the incident, and they may have to pass injured along the way.
- Follow law enforcement instructions and evacuate in the direction they come from.
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, and/or handguns and may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation.
- Officers will shout commands and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.
- Consider seeking professional help for you and your family to cope with the long-term effects of the trauma.

HELPING the Wounded

- Take care of yourself first, and then you may be able to help the wounded before first responders arrive.
- If the injured are in immediate danger, help get them to safety.
- While you wait for first responder to arrive, provide first aid- apply direct pressure to wounded and use tourniquets if you have been trained to do so.
- Turn wounded people onto their sides if they are unconscious and keep them warm.

Events may evolve quickly. The safety of your congregation may depend upon your preparedness. Create an action plan now in the event the unthinkable happens so that you, your staff, and congregation are prepared.

Ephesians 6:13 - Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.



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