



Fellowship

Emmanuel United Methodist Church Newsletter

Serving God by sharing His Love and Word to cultivate disciples of Jesus Christ

April 2024

Pastor's Corner

As we move forward this month in April our worship messages will focus on “love”. That is interesting, right?

You may think we are always talking about love, and yes, we are because Jesus taught, illustrated, and commanded us to love. So how might that take shape in our own lives this spring. What may be allowed to blossom into our own lives so that others may know love? Sometimes we too are at fault for not taking time to “weed” the garden.



Weeds of discontent, dissatisfaction, jealousy, doubts, fears, spring up into all our gardens. It takes time and courage to pull out those weeds. But when we do we see the new... new growth, new ways of serving and of sharing in the mission of Jesus, and in having the attitude of Christ in our day to day lives as we encounter others.

Pull up those weeds. May we allow this season's garden to blossom of beauty, kindness, consideration, forgiveness and love towards our family members, our friends, our community neighbors, and strangers we do not yet know.

May we “see and show God's love” Remember, God's love is not a heavenly mood beaming down on us, but it is a real, historical love that is visible and life changing. Look and “See” God's love.

May we be “*stylin*” in love this season as we continue to walk the path of salvation. May we get “*stuck in*” and really put our heart into loving, allowing God's love to be our center, our compass.

Blessings,

Pastor Susan

Each day, we have the ability to make a choice. We can choose to live in anticipation of what new blessings may come, or we can choose to relive the same experiences that troubled us before. Remember, God's mercies are new every morning. Therefore, who are we to condemn ourselves based on yesterday's transgressions or, for that same reason, condemn anyone else? In His love, He affords us the opportunity to move past the effects of sin toward better things. Prior woes could find themselves suddenly resolved, but even if they do not, God's Word assures us that His peace is always available (Philippians 4:6-7). Always.

---- Aaron D'Anthony Brown

Trustees' Corner

Your Trustees Committee wants to keep you informed about a few items. We are pleased to announce that Emmanuel Church has been working with the Shenandoah River District of the United Methodist Church to donate the Milburn Cemetery to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. This transfer reduces maintenance responsibilities of Emmanuel while donating the property to an organization that will honor the cemetery's heritage.

We are planning a major heating/venting/air-conditioning project. A replacement system is needed in the Sunday School wing of the church, which is also the space used by Little Friends Learning Center. Cost is expected to be approximately \$12,000 for the system and required electrical upgrades.

Other facility needs have cropped up recently. You may have noticed the narthex being cool; the heating unit was repaired. You may also have noticed that railings were installed on the steps at the front of the church. And we are gradually replacing hallway lights in the Sunday School wing to provide greater cost efficiency and brighter space. Repairs to the railing were made on the back porch at the parsonage, too.

The Trustees Committee always welcomes assistance from the congregation for projects that help maintain the church, shelter, and parsonage. We appreciate your time and contributions!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Paul Simmons

2024:

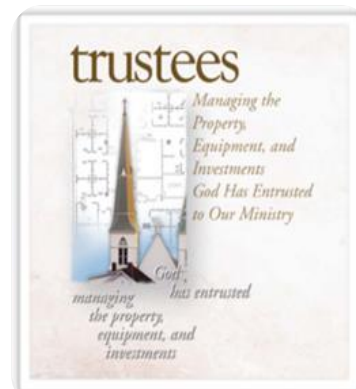
Leo Clouser, Paul Simmons, Richard Swartz

2025:

Joan Kibler, Hank Webb, David Gum

2026:

Debbie Hahn, Cecil Hahn



General Conference News



The latest resource in our General Conference video series covers regionalization, which will be a major focus for General Conference. Regionalization efforts would make the United States, along with existing Central Conferences, to become regional conferences. This practice would allow for contextual adaptation while holding common theology and values. This video, featuring Rev. Grace Han and Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page, is a chance to learn more about regionalization.

Click through to watch the video and learn more. Additional resources and information about General Conference General Conference news and information from Virginia Conference Communications, featuring local clergy and laity. New resources will be added weekly through early May.

https://vaumc.org/gc2024/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Advocate%2C+November+8%2C+2022#resourcesnce can be found at <https://vaumc.org/gc2024/>



June 20-22 Hampton Roads Virginia Annual Conference 2024

Additional information @ <https://vaumc.org/ac2024/>

Check out the conference website page for continual updated information on this year's Annual Conference.

EUMC News and Events:

Pastor Susan is participating in the VAUMC Clergy Leadership Co-hort.
Upcoming dates include **May 13-16 (Richmond); July 17 (Zoom); August 5-8 (Richmond); September 16-19 (Richmond); October 16 (Zoom); November 18-21 (Richmond)**



April 8 at 11:45: Senior Lunch @ BUMC.

April 12 + April 19, 5 pm to 8 pm: Parents' Night Out @ Brucetown UMC.

April 13, 9 am-12noon: North UMC Clergy and Laity Leadership Retreat at Goodson Chapel @ Shenandoah University.



April 13, from 4 pm to 7 pm:
Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Basket Auction
 at Emmanuel.
Sign Up Sheet for the donation of (an) Auction Basket(s) have been put up in the NARTHEX of Church.

April 17: **Bright Futures**
 Please sign up in advance to help pack boxes. -
Contact: Shannon Knuckles allaboutme582@yahoo.com
 or Joy Bly @ 3126bly@comcast.net.

April 18-21: *Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Men's Spring Walk*

April 24, 2 pm: *Prayer & Conversation @ Applebee's*

April 25-28: *Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Women's Spring Walk*

Spring Bible Group Study - Times TBA

****Coming Soon** - Opportunities to participate in Discipleship *Small Group Studies***

Every Wednesday @ 6 pm. at EUMC: *Emmanuel Choir Practice*

Every Thursday Night @ 7 pm: *Live music, food, fellowship & fun at BUMC Corner Cafe.*



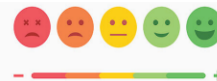
Emmanuel UMC and Brucetown UMC Survey - As of April 1st 2024



Dear Friends of Emmanuel!

In an endeavor to strive to meet the worship needs of both congregations, we ask and recommend you take a moment to please complete the survey that is available since April 1st, 2024. To all Church attendees with email addresses, we've sent the survey by email. All others, or if you don't want to fill in the questionnaire by email, hard copies are on the table, next to the elevator, in the Narthex.

If you are completing this survey "hard copy", please return it to Melissa Conaty, Admin Assistant @ Brucetown UMC, 2161 Brucetown Road, Clear Brook, VA. You may send it via Pastor Susan or via Dorothee Berner, Admin Assistant @ Emmanuel UMC. **Thank You!**



Coming up in May:

May 11, at 7 am - 11 am: *Emmanuel Community Breakfast.*

May 15: **Bright Futures**

Please sign up in advance to help pack boxes. **Contact: Shannon Knuckles @** allaboutme582@yahoo.com or Joy Bly @ 3126bly@comcast.net.

EUMC Financial News:

EUMC Financial News

Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*
Thank you for your past and future support of our church!

Financial Report January/February 2024		
Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$25,294.40	\$30,345.15	(\$5,050.75)

EUMC Ministries & Announcements:

THE GOLDEN ANGELS' MINISTRY

Donna Hinze is the coordinator for the **Golden Angels**. - If you need more information, please give Donna a call on **540-683-9080!**

FOOD PANTRY: Monday, April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 4-6 p.m. at Emmanuel UMC.

On the 5th Monday of April - Monday, April 29th - our Food Pantry will be closed!

FREE COMMUNITY Meal:



Our Free Community Meal will be held on the **4th Monday of each month, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**, that will be this month on **April 22nd**.

You are warmly welcome to stop by the Church and enjoy a delicious meal that we will serve in the basement of the Church building.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Giving to Those in Need:



Please contact the Church office if you know someone who could use the comfort of a Prayer Shawl. The shawls have been lovingly made and have been blessed during our worship services. We want to extend God's love to others and pray that, as they are wrapped in the warmth of the shawl, they will feel His love and receive His comfort, support, and healing in their time of need. – Office hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., phone: 540-532-1269, email: emmanuelfriends@comcast.net

SCRIPTURE READING MINISTRY

We are always looking for people to volunteer for Scripture Reading for Sunday's Worship Service. - Every three months we set up a schedule, on which you can choose your day to read the Scriptures. If you want to join the Scripture Readers group, to help cover the next Reading Schedule, please let the Church Office know: via 540 662 1269 or emmanuelfriends@comcast.net. - Every commitment is welcome!



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
Matthew 18:20



FREEDGE MINISTRY

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE FREEDGE MINISTRY

Sign-up sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board

The Outreach team has partnered to help with the Freedge Ministry located at Montague Ave UMC (corner of 102 Montague Ave and S Braddock St.). This is a great opportunity to help with food insecurity in that area. We are scheduled to pick up and deliver the first and third Tuesday of each month. You need to show up at the Highland Food Pantry (446 Highland Ave, Winchester) between 3:45 and 4:15, and knock on the food pantry door to let them know you are there. They will hand a box (or more) of food for the Freedge. Take it to the church and place the items in the Freedge (located at the back entrance of the church (S Braddock St) – you can use the alley for closest access).



Anybody can help support the Freedge by taking leftovers from meals, parties, accidental double purchases from the store, etc. Just place them in a disposable container, write the date and contents, and drop them at the Freedge. This could also be a great learning experience for your children or grandchildren – boil some eggs or buy a loaf of bread, jar of peanut butter, and jelly and make sandwiches and deliver them to the Freedge explaining this will help people that don't have food to eat. If you have extra fruit or veggies from your garden, you may place them in the Freedge.

Church Calendar:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 EASTER Sunday	1 Food Pantry 4-6pm	2	3 EUMC Choir Practice 6pm	4 Brucetown Corner Café 7pm	5	6
7	8 Senior Lunch at BUMC 11:45am Food Pantry 4-6pm	9	10 EUMC Choir Practice 6pm	11 Brucetown Corner Café 7pm	12 Parents' Night Out @ BUMC 5pm-8pm	13 Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction @ EUMC 4pm-7pm
14	15 Food Pantry 4-6pm	16	17 Bright Futures EUMC Choir Practice 6pm	18 EMMAUS MEN'S Spring WALK Brucetown Corner Café 7pm	19 EMMAUS MEN'S Spring WALK Parents' Night Out @ BUMC 5pm-8pm	20 EMMAUS MEN'S Spring WALK
21	22 Food Pantry 4-6pm Community Meal 4-5:30pm	23	24 EUMC Choir Practice 6pm	25 EMMAUS WOMENS' Spring WALK Brucetown Corner Café 7pm	26 EMMAUS WOMENS' Spring WALK	27 EMMAUS WOMENS' Spring WALK
28	29 NO Food Pantry	30	April			

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

May you be blessed with love and laughter as you celebrate your birthday or anniversary this month. Your Emmanuel UMC family is thinking of you with warmest wishes!

April Birthdays

03 – Betty Parkinson
04 – Denver Giberson
20 – Richard Swartz
21– Sue Simpson
23– Nichole Hounshell
30 – April Burke



April Anniversaries

15 – JoAnn & Leo Clowser
25 – Roy & Sharon Taylor

Happy
Anniversary



Scripture Focus for April 2024

April 7: Second Sunday of Easter- Communion Sunday - Psalm 133
Acts 4: 32-35, 1 John 1:1-2:2



April 14: Third Sunday of Easter - Psalm 4
1 John 3: 1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

April 21: Fourth Sunday of Easter - Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24, John 10: 11-18



April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter - Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8



Shenandoah District News

We're launching a new district website on **April 15th!** The site is still in progress, but our goal is to have more accurate, up-to-date information available. The URL address will remain the same as listed below.

Many thanks to our new webmaster, Rev. Tommy Stelzl.

Physical address: 78 Brook Creek Road,
Toms Brook, VA 22660
540-433-2382 District Office



Web site: ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict>

Don't forget these Friends of EUMC...!

Betty Parkinson, c/o The Willows at Meadow Branch,
1881 Harvest Drive, room#141,
Winchester, VA 22601

Carolyn Kiene, 1373 Jordan Springs Rd.,
Stephenson, VA 22656

Shirley & Mickie Dailey, 24102 Wagonwheel Ct.,
Eustis, FL 32736

Rosalie Wehn, c/o Lynn Care Center, #203, 1000 N. Shenandoah Avenue,
Front Royal, VA 22630

Melvin Crouse, 1095 Greenwood Rd., Winchester, VA 22602

Ernest Bailey, P.O. Box 43, Stephenson, VA 22656

Mary Kay Bailey, c/o Evergreen - Health & Rehab Center, #324
380 Millwood Avenue, Winchester, VA 22601

Roy & Sharon Taylor, 294 Alpine Drive, Bunker Hill, WV 25413

Penny Hounshell & Scott, 577 Ruebuck Road, Clearbrook, VA 22624



Health

Patsy Shewbridge
Bruce, Tom's brother,
and Gail, Bruce's wife.
Tom W.
Shirley Nichols
Barbara Adams
Junior Blanchfield
Larry and Kathy Starnes
Denise & Pat
Sanny Shane
Mark Ways
Stacy Haines
Roger Kirby

Bereavement

Family of Curtis Jennings who
passed away on March 13

Joy

Julianne let us know:
My brother Ty Holmes and his
fiancée successfully relocated to
Kauai after the August fire in
Lahaina, Hawaii. They are now
planning a wedding celebration
in May. In gratitude for all the
prayers.

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

2732 Martinsburg Pike

Stephenson, VA 22656

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

2732 Martinsburg Pike, Stephenson, VA 22656

Phone: 540-662-1269

E-mail—emmanuelfriends@comcast.net

Prayer Chain—emmanuelfriends@comcast.net

Website—EUMC-Stephenson.net

April 2024 Fellowship Newsletter

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3