



# THE OPEN DOOR

A FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE

## WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:00 pm in the  
Sanctuary

Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00  
am in the Sanctuary

Sundays at 9:45 am in  
Kobler hall

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 Adult classes

11:00 Adult class

Children and Youth  
Sunday school classes  
weekly at 9:45 am

## CHURCH OFFICE

Open daily

Monday—Friday  
9:00 am — 4:00 pm.  
(540) 373-9021

[Www.fumcva.org](http://www.fumcva.org)



Social media: @fumcva



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We welcome you to the last volume of our 2019 Open Door Newsletter. Our focus continues to be on sharing the blessings of what has occurred amongst us and our community. As we have Seen All The People this year, we have much to celebrate and share. We hope that you see God in the stories of this newsletter and that you find ways to connect in the opportunities that abound. Then, let us know what you think. What inspired you? If there is a story you want to share, please email us at [newsletter@fumcva.org](mailto:newsletter@fumcva.org). This is a quarterly publication, so **our next deadline is March 15th** with a publication date of the first week of April 2020.

Send your pictures, praises and articles to [newsletter@fumcva.org](mailto:newsletter@fumcva.org)



## From the Senior Pastor

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” <sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.” (Lamentations 3:22-25 NRSV)

These verses from Lamentations chapter three are among my favorite in all of scripture. I love hearing how the Lord’s mercies are “new” for us every single day, without ceasing or change. In our human relationships, we know failures and hurt, and unfortunately, even the pain of abandonment sometimes. This, however, is not our journey with God. God is trustworthy and great is God’s faithfulness. There is no end to the hope that we have anchored in God’s promises.

With this in mind, I look to a New Year with great expectation. Corrie Ten Boom said, “In God’s faithfulness lies eternal security.” When we are faced with uncertainty on the horizon, we can trust the goodness and mercy of God. We have security - no matter what, forever. So, in year 2020, as the future of the United Methodist Church holds uncertainty, as we face the continuation of political divisions in our nation, as you may have concerns about health, finances or within family or work relationships, and even much more that only you can name, we are reminded that God’s faithfulness and mercies are new each day. Our hope is in the Lord who is good to us.

May your soul seek our amazing God in the New Year. May you anchor your trust in God’s mercies and faithfulness, and may God bless you and God’s church at Fredericksburg UMC now and always!

I look forward to our year in ministry together serving Christ, as I give thanks for a wonderful year that has passed. See you in church!

Grace and peace in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

Cornelia Arnolda Johanna "Corrie" ten Boom (15 April 1892 – 15 April 1983) was a Dutch watchmaker and later a writer who worked with her father, Casper ten Boom, her sister Betsie ten Boom and other family members to help many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II by hiding them in her home.



**FROM OUR  
PASTORS**

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2020 together, many of us may try to commit to new year's resolutions. These resolutions often have us attempting to accomplish a personal goal or improve our lives in some way. For some of us, we may try to go to the gym more often (that's one of mine), eat healthier, get more sleep, spend more time with family, and so on. However, according to a U.S. News and World Report, only about 20% of New Year's resolutions succeed, and most lose our resolve by mid-February.

When it comes to our faith lives, I believe we can make a resolution with one another and with God this year that will have a much higher success rate than the traditional resolutions we attempt. We can resolve to continue to follow Christ and recommit our lives to Him. When we celebrated Christmas together, we named that God drew near to us in the Christ child so that we may know God's unconditional love for us all. In 2020, let us recommit to the incredible relationship God freely offers each one of us through his Son. This is a resolution that we can make in community with one another, empowered by the Holy Spirit. I believe our lives will be greatly improved in the best way possible.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Josh*



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Here's an update on our financial health through the end of November 2019.

- Total income through November is \$1,130,998. This is about \$42K or 3.5% below our budgeted target, but I'm not worried. December is historically one of our strongest giving months and I'm prayerfully confident we'll make up the difference.
- The principal on Kobler Hall is now down to \$820K. Praise!
- All apportionments have been paid to date.

Thank YOU for continuing to give. And thank YOU for your 2020 pledges and prayers as we plan for next year. This is my final month as Finance Chair - beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> the Finance Committee will be led by Mike Sienkowski – YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS!

Regards, David Bertauski



## United Methodist Women Updates

The United Methodist Women resumed their efforts this Fall with some changes to the various circles. Despite the increase in church participation the number of UMW members is sadly declining for a variety of reasons: mothers of small children who find it difficult to get out of the house without childcare, working women too many responsibilities, women who no longer drive at night, health issues, and more. Consequently the ACTS and Mary Ellen Stephenson Circles have combined into one circle while maintaining their different focuses by alternating meetings. Meanwhile, the Wesley Circle will soon be determining their fate come January.

At the final missions meeting of the year it was reported that there is a \$400 deficit in the budget, the first time this has happened. If you have not met your pledge or if you would simply like to give a donation to the United Methodist Women for the important ministries that they support, please put a check in an envelope and leave it in the UMW mail slot at the church. Your generous donation will be most appreciated.

On a happier note, this year's mission work culminated in a special dinner of the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women where Special Mission Recognition Awards were presented to Sharon Bradshaw, William Evans, Denise and Tim Gates and Jayne Manger for their unwavering dedication and generous service to several different ministries of the church.

Wishing you a healthy, happy, and joyful Christmas season and a blessed new year!

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! COME JOIN THE FUN AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.



Upcoming Mission Opportunity—Available to all

**Mission to Guatemala**  
August 1 – 9, 2020

**Empower women Transform your life**

To request information

contact Trish Vaughan: [trish\\_vaughan@live.com](mailto:trish_vaughan@live.com) ; 540-656-0905





FUMC Preschool had a fun fall season! We started off our school year with class pictures and visits from Jackson, a local therapy dog who likes to read to the children! We held our annual Mother's Nights in October, and our students and their mothers enjoyed an evening of crafts, music, photos, games, and snacks. Our annual Halloween costume parade through the church was fun, and we thank all the church staff for participating with us. In November, we hosted an Usborne Books and More book faire and earned over 40 free books for our classroom libraries! We celebrated Thanksgiving with feasts in our classroom this year and learned about Native Americans when one of our preschool grandfathers gave a presentation for our classes. We also supported a number of church mission opportunities during November and December, including collecting new books for the Salvation Army Toy Shop, items for the Micah Cold Weather Shelter, and the Angel and Dove tree gift projects.



In January, registration begins for next school year! Registration dates are:

- January 21: Fall registration begins at 10:00am via email for current students
- January 27: Fall registration begins at 10:00am via email for church members, siblings of current students, and alumni families returning to FUMC Preschool
- Sunday, February 2: Fall registration opens to the public, from 2:00-3:00pm in person in the Preschool Office.

More information about fall registration is available by calling 540-899-3712 or by emailing [preschool@fumcva.org](mailto:preschool@fumcva.org).



The **Youth of FUMC** can't stop, won't stop! These past few months have been filled with a movie night, family potluck at Snead's Farm, a bonfire at Kenny's Farm, music with the Youth Worship Band, a very exciting and successful VAUMC Fall Youth Retreat to Lynchburg (14 youth in attendance and 4 very brave adult chaperones), and food pounding. The Christmas Parade fundraiser was a great success! And the Christmas Party was held on December 15, where the kids enjoyed music, games and a white elephant gift exchange. The youth council is an ongoing machine of ideas and goals and there are many events on the horizon. Looking into 2020, we have locked in dates for summer mission trips. Jeremiah Project for Middle School will be July 19-25 and June 21-27 for High School. Carolina Cross Connection (CCC) will take place June 28-July 4. So far we have 28 youth signed up for missions next summer! Be sure to check out our Facebook Page at 'Fredericksburg UMC Youth' for even more information and photos of our fantastic youth meetings.

## Children's Ministry News

Our 1st-5th grade Sunday School classes are wrapping up the third quarter of Group's "Dig In" - The Heart of God. Each week the kids learn a different bible story and theme which correlates to their everyday life. Every week is different! They play games, do experiments, crafts, etc, all which tie in the theme and concept of the week. One of our most memorable lessons was learning about how Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches, by playing a relay with a hula hoop! Our Preschool and Kindergarten classes are getting "Back to Basics" by learning the main stories and characters of the Old Testament. We are so grateful for all of our volunteer



teachers who help teach and share the love of God each week!

In November, we held a three week program called "Reel to Real" featuring the Pixar movie "Inside Out."

This movie depicted a girl who was dealing with some difficult emotions as she moved to a new town. We spent each week discussing our emotions, reading scripture, and discussing how God can help us get through hard times, and celebrates

with us in the joyful times! We even had some crafts and popcorn too!

Advent Adventure was held on December 4th this year, and as always it was a popular program amongst FUMC families and members of our preschool and community. We opened our doors to over 50 kids who took part in eight different craft stations, all based on the symbols of Christmas. Not only did the kids have fun making each item, they also learned about what each symbol represents and why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. We were blessed with many youth and adult volunteers that helped to make it another successful Wednesday night at FUMC.

The SEEK team organized a community-wide outreach opportunity by opening up the Methodist Green gates on December 7th and welcoming in friends and family to participate in activities before the downtown Christmas Parade. Lots of families showed up to play ring toss, bean bag throw, warm up next to the fire and make smores, and hear some of the best caroling around (courtesy of Pastor Josh and crew!).

Huge congratulations to our Children's Choir for their amazing performance of "We Three Spies" on December 15th. We are blessed with very talented children who entertained the congregation during the 9:45 service. Thank you to all who were involved!



The FUMC Upward basketball season is here! Our program has grown tremendously this year. We have added a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade division and expanded our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade to full-court games. Evaluation Day (11/16) was a success with over 200 players in attendance. Beginning January 4, 2020, FUMC will welcome 242 players and their families, 44 coaches, 20 referees, and many more volunteers!

The Upward Sports' mission is to "promote the discovery of Jesus through sports" and we are excited to continue our part in this.



The Children's Choir had a very exciting Fall. They worked hard to prepare for their Christmas musical. The children presented "We Three Spies," to a packed house on December 15th. It was exciting to watch the Christmas Intelligence Kids change Ms. Harriet King's mind about the real meaning of Christmas.

Children's Choir too a short break for the remainder of December, everyone is excited to start back up on January 12th.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR



## Better Health

In September **STRENGTHSFINDER** was launched as a church wide effort to help live into who you were created to be. We were inspired by the powerful message by Dr. Patti Lisk, who used her faith and her strengths to survive the tragic death of her children and to thrive and find joy again.

Over 75 people have taken the STRENGTHSFINDERS tool and most have received their individual coaching! This is an ongoing effort and in January Strengths Based Parenting will be introduced! To get your unique code to take the assessment, write to [Strengths@fumcva.org](mailto:Strengths@fumcva.org)

**Better Health Topics** continue with some amazing speakers and most classes are now ZOOMED across 5 states! Take a look at who has already presented:

Dale Fletcher: Understanding the Link Between Faith and Health

Keeley Lore: Preparing Our Bodies for the Cold and Flu Season

Ann Cowper, RN, Improve Your Relationships  
Improve Your Health

Zachary Daniels The Brain 101

Lori Meyers: Alzheimer's Disease, What it is, What it is NOT

Donna Hetrick: Fitness Begins in the Kitchen, Not in the Gym

R. Leigh Frackelton – Hospitalization and Your Rights, What you need to know now!

Dr. Christine Thompson - Whole Health Tips for the Holidays

Dr. Mark McClannahan – Everything You Wanted (or Needed) to know about Diabetes, Pre-Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome

Lori Meyers: Healthy Brain, Healthy Body

These **Health Topics** will continue through May! Consider attending Wednesday nights (following the dinners) at 6:30 in room 236. Watch the FUMC news blast for upcoming topics. Can't make the class? That's OK, most classes can be attended by FaceTime meeting or ZOOM! Contact [betterhealth@fumcva.org](mailto:betterhealth@fumcva.org) for more information.

**FREEZER MEALS:** Making better food choices through Proper Prep! Chef Barbara Simpson taught us how to make yummy freezer meals using the Slow cooker and Instant Pot! After a short instructional time the group hit the kitchen to make a delicious meal for 4! Then there was the taste testing!! Chef Simpson had



prepared several dishes for sampling, and full table of tried and true recipes. The pièce de résistance Cheesecake #17.

The **American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held on the January 5, 2020. The FIRST SUNDAY of the NEW YEAR. Resolve to Give the Gift of Life! Sign up with [Betterhealth@fumcva.org](mailto:Betterhealth@fumcva.org).



### WHAT IS AN ESCAPE ROOM?

An Escape Room is an opportunity for FUN, Fellowship, Team building, and it just might increase Bible literacy!

### Just WHAT is IN this ROOM?

A series of simple Bible based puzzles awaits 3 to 6 adults. The Better you know the Bible, the faster your time to solve ALL of the puzzles will be. Not sure of the answers, no worries, just like in life, ALL of the answers are in the BIBLE which is IN THE ROOM!

Over 130 people, and representatives from 4 different churches, have been through the room so far. It has been held over and will be open through the end of January! So, there is still time to get a team together and try to beat those rascally, Knuckles Heads who continue to hold the number one spot at an incredible 34 minutes!

Check out some pictures of a few of our teams on the next page!



# ESCAPE ROOM ESCAPEES



**WHEN PIGS FLY**



**THE GIRLFRIENDS**



**CHARLOTTE'S WEBB**



**SATURDAY NIGHT BELIEVERS**



**THE HOLLY ROLLERS**



**THE KUNCKLES HEADS**



**JILLIAN'S PRAYER WARRIORS**



**THE DOWNWARD DOGS**



## CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING, AGAIN!

Mission trip to Newport, NC Mission Trip compiled  
by "Newport Eleven" team member Gary Gross

Friends and Family,

We invite you to take a moment to look at photos and videos of our recent trip to NC to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Florence in September, 2018.

Our assignment was to completely gut a 1945 home soaked by over 20" of rain when the winds tore off the tin roof. Gutting meant tearing out the ceilings, walls, floors, windows, and fixtures and some of the exterior siding before tyveking and furring stripping it in anticipation of adding cement fiber clapboard. The walls, floors, and ceilings all had rotting tongue and groove pine flooring beneath the mildewed drywall and/or plywood. The floors also had asbestos tile between the layers of wood. When we tore up the floor, it exposed not only rotting floor joists that we had to replace or sister, but also the original 6" x 6" beams that spanned brick piers and that ran along top of the sill plates for the exterior foundation walls. Some of the beams were rotted as well. At one point we were using 5 jacks at one time to jack up the house in order to remove and replace the rotten beams. By the end of the week we had new plywood-covered flooring and new interior partitions and new wiring and a tyveked and furring-stripped exterior ready for new siding and removed windows with re-framed openings ready to receive new windows. The gutted debris completely filled 5 very large trailers.

The Newport Eleven are interested in standing up another team for 2020. If any of you are interested in joining, just let us know.

Bill & Sue Botts





## Food Pantry News



# FUMC FOOD PANTRY

## NEW

## Family Service Opportunity 2020

**We want to take TEFAP (USDA) Foods into the Hazel Hill Community starting in 2020!**

We will gather up on Sundays at 11:00 am for 2 hours once or twice a month to help load, distribute or check-in clients at the Hazel Hill community center down past the train station. This is a really family friendly service experience and a way to build relationships with those we are serving.



Some of the skills needed as a family: Smiles and willingness to serve the hungry, ability to lift a 30 lb. box, easy data entry (training provided), a vehicle to transport prepacked bags.

**Sign-up as a Servant family in action: [pantry@fumcva.org](mailto:pantry@fumcva.org)**

*The church is leaving the building!*



Our afternoon receptionists and our pantry volunteers serve with grace and smiles together feeding our neighbors.

**Here are Bonnie and Jayne  
having a giggle!**





## Church Picnic Fun!

