



Sunset Rays

The "Son" still shines at Sunset Church

April 2017

Newsletter for: SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy



"From Maundy Thursday to Resurrection"

During this Season of Lent our fellowship has concentrated in prayer, music, book study, and in gathered worship as we have journeyed to the Cross of Calvary. The road to that Cross of long ago was fraught with intensity, with pain, and much pathos as Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for you and for me.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter Sunday, the journey must still be made. In spirit and in our mind's eye, we continue our journey capturing once again the significant aspects of our Lord's ministry. On Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will join in worship recalling Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem amid the hallelujahs. Then, during the week following, called Holy Week, we will revisit Maundy Thursday a time when our Savior gathered his disciples for a farewell meal. Our service will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The next evening at 7 p.m., Good Friday, we will gather once again to experience the pathos, agony, and deep love our Lord shared for our salvation. Though the darkness of death seemed to have defeated our Master, God had another plan...Resurrection! On Sunday, April 16th, we will "Rejoice and Celebrate" life over death, joy over defeat, hope realized in spite of despair. On that Sunday we will gather on the Mountain for our Sunrise Service as darkness breaks into dawn, as New Life is proclaimed. Then, we will come to church at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and sing, proclaim the glories of a Gracious God and a Sacrificial Son, and we will humbly bow before our Maker and Redeemer.

From Maundy Thursday to Resurrection Morn we need to join together in remembering and celebrating what the Lord God has done for us. Won't you plan to be a part of these occasions? In doing so, your Easter will have more meaning.

In Sympathy

- **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to ***The Alma Crider Family*** . ***Alma*** passed away on Thursday, March 16th . She will be greatly missed by the Sunset Drive Family.
- **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to ***The Terry Ford Family*** . ***Terry*** passed away on Sunday, March 19th . He will be greatly missed by the Sunset Drive Family.

Congratulations

- ***Congratulations*** to Katherine Malloy! She will be commissioned on June 17th as a deacon in the VAUMC.

Upcoming Church Events



- **WRE Annual Spring Concert** at Varsity Court at EMU on Saturday, April 1st, at 4pm.
- Transition Team Meeting on Sunday, April 2nd, at 6pm.
- **UMM** will meet on Tuesday, April 4th, at 7pm.
- **Bible Study** will continue meeting on Wednesdays April 5th, April 12th, April 19th, and April 25th at 6:30 pm. We are continuing to study the prophet Isaiah. All are Welcome!!
- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, April 8th, from 7:30am to 9am. Meal includes- Turner ham, bacon, pancakes, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hot and cold drinks. Donations to be used for United Methodist Men's projects. The breakfast is open to the Community, so spread the word.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, April 11th and Tuesday, April 25th from 1pm to 3pm. New members are welcome.
- **May 2017 Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, April 18th. Please have all information to church office.
- **Sunset Drive Ladies** will meet on Thursday, April 20th, at 6:30pm.
- **Carry-In Luncheon** on Sunday, April 23rd, after worship service.
- **Sunset Ladies Lunch** will be on Tuesday, April 25th, at 11:30 am Please bring a covered dish to share in some wonderful fellowship.

Keep current with News & Events

submitted by Barry Davis

A friendly reminder that you can find an up-to-date calendar, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, upcoming events and online giving information on our website. Please take a few minutes and browse the site to see what's there. You'll be surprised at how much information is right at your fingertips.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve our website or our Facebook page, please feel free to contact me at barry8360@yahoo.com

Our website: <http://www.sunsetdriveumc.com>

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sunsetdriveumc>

Children's Group

submitted by Erica Kann

Join the children on Sunday, April 23rd, to hear the Resurrection Story in a way I guarantee you have never heard it before. The children will present a skit called Building Easter during the 10am worship service.

Pictorial Directory

submitted by Lee Jackson

The Pictorial directories are here. If you have not pick up your copy, they will be available for pick up at the church office during normal office hours.

Altar Flowers

submitted by Judy Post

Altar Flowers brighten our sanctuary as we worship God. Please consider giving to the Altar Flower Fund to honor your loved ones living or deceased.

Special occasions can also be celebrated with the placing of Flowers on the altar in the sanctuary. Your name and your loved one name/names will be printed in the Sunday Worship Bulletin. For your convenience Flower Order Forms are available on the table in the narthex just outside the sanctuary doors. These forms should be dropped in the offering plate with a check attached for your contribution and indicate on the "memo" line that it is for the Altar Flower Fund.

You can help beautify the altar in our church and honor your loved ones at the same time. If you have any question about dates or how to order, please call Judy Post at 896-7189. We hope that you think about Altar Flowers when you think about the people, days, and events in your life. Remember that the flowers are completely funded by contribution from the congregation.

Mission Outreach

submitted by Alan Laughlin

Your Mission Outreach Team had been very busy this last month doing a porch in Mayland. We demolished back to the framework and put on new siding and windows. We installed a new storm door and there will be a company installing a new roof on the porch and trailer. We have trim to install and then we will move inside to repair the floor that was damaged by the roof leaking.

I want to thank everyone that worked on the project. We couldn't have taken on such a project without you. Thank you.

Future projects in Marion, Virginia the week on Monday, July 31st through Friday, August 4th.

Barbeque Chicken Time

submitted by Brenda Hoover

It's Chicken BBQ time again!!
Please mark your calendars!!
The dates for Sunset Drive Chicken BBQ will be:
Saturday, April 8th
Saturday, May 6th
Saturday, June 10th (tentatively)



Volunteers will be needed for cooking, wrapping and selling. The cooking crew begins at 5:00 a.m. Wrapping begins at approximately 7:30 a.m. and selling begins soon after that. Anyone interested in helping please contact Eric Hoover, 896-1319 or Susan Holsinger, 896-3667. Please join us for another season of "Barbecuey" Food, Fellowship and Fun as we raise money for our church!

Greetings to all and thanks to the Lord that spring is here along with the wonderful month of April. With the winter months behind us, we as a church can now turn our focus toward the following special events, Palm Sunday on April 9th, Maundy Thursday on April 13th, Good Friday on April 14th and Easter Sunday on April 16th. We all know that these events mean so much to the church as a whole and help form the corner stone of our belief in Jesus and our faith in God our Father in Heaven. We all know that these events serve as an opportunity to celebrate with family, friends and our neighbors both within the church and within the community. But more importantly these events give us as individuals the opportunity to live our faith, grow in our discipleship and reach out to others. In terms of communications, these special events provide the perfect opportunity for each of us to practice being evangelist and introducing ourselves in church and in the community. These special events provide the perfect time for each of us to communicate our story to those within our community, to invite those within our community to be a guest and to rise up, live and act like Christians. These special events are perfect times to bring a visitor to church and get them involved in worship, bible study and Sunday school. Doing this gives us the church the opportunity to directly communicate about one or more of the wonderful ministries of the church that benefits them and the community. Upon doing this, each of us together can help our visitors discover their spiritual gifts and enable them to put their spiritual gifts to work with others, and in essence complete the making of a disciple.

I know, this sounds very grandiose, but with each of us focusing on being an evangelist, and with the help of our worship team, membership care team, spiritual development team, mission and outreach team and communications team, it can be done, as it is in heaven...seriously..! By doing this, what does one have to loose, very little, by doing this, what does one have to gain, a lot. That becoming more like the true Christian that one confirms to be when joining the church in the presence of God almighty.

In closing, let us rejoice for the many good things we do as a church. Let us work together and keep the church and community informed of the good works of the church. Let us keep the faith and prepare ourselves for the upcoming Holy Week, let us truly rejoice because we know he lives within our hearts.

In Ephesians 3:17 God reminds us, "*That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith.*"
Love and Blessings to all.

Relay For Life

Our church has started a Relay For Life team, Sunset Drive UMC For a Cure. Check your email for an invite to join our team. You can also sign up online at ACSEvents.org and contact Beth Hoover for further questions at hoovere33@aol.com.

This month the youth will be busy with preparing for Holy Week as well as upcoming mission work and VBS. Please notice the change in this month ONLY that youth group will meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30, not Wednesday's. Here is the calendar for April.

April:

6th- Youth group 6:30-7:30 (Death of Jesus)

8th- Chicken BBQ (youth to help from 7:45-9)

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and Easter service plans TBA next week.

We would love to have everyone participate at least once during this week!

20th- Youth group to visit shut-ins and drop off card and cookies. 6:30-7:30

23rd: SS 9 AM (Matthew) *Church luncheon directly after church. Bring a dish and enjoy some good Fellowship!

27th- Backpack program and dinner

29th- Church bake sale!

30th- SS 9AM (Matthew)

Thank you for supporting our youth group at Sunset Drive! If you would like to check out our weekly lessons, you may visit our Facebook page or email laceyroberts1@hotmail.com.

Sunset Drive United Methodist Ladies

submitted by Donna Belle Dove

Sunset Drive United Methodist Ladies met Thursday, March 16th at the church. Judy Rhodes had a program that correlated with Lent. It was called "Out of the Ashes We Rise". Along with the monthly donation to the local food pantry, a donation will be made to our Relay for Life team. Our yard/bake sale will be held on April 29. If you would like to contribute, we are accepting donations of everything, but clothing. Our secret prayer pal name exchange will be held on April 23rd, the Sunday after Easter. If you're interested, participation forms will be available soon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 at the church. All ladies are invited to attend.

Bible Collection

We are still collecting Bibles for the Salvation Army Bible studies and for clients to take home. The box is still in the narthex. Thank you to those who have donated Bibles, New Testaments and money.

Many will be blessed by your generosity.

Yard Sale

The SDUMC Ladies annual yard/bake sale will be held on Saturday, April 29. We are accepting donations of all kinds except clothing. If you have something to contribute that needs to be picked up let us know and we'll make arrangements. We can take donations at any time, but preferably the week before the yard sale. Let us know if you have questions.

Fellowship Meals:

The following church wide fellowship meals are planned for the year:

- Sunday, April 16, 2017 – Carry-in breakfast after sunrise service (This will be at the Grandles’s cabin on the mountain.)
- Sunday, April 23, 2017 – Carry-in Luncheon after worship service (The children will be performing an Easter play as part of the worship service.)
- This summer we plan to have a church picnic at the park. A date and time will be announced later.
- Sunday, August 27, 2017 – Carry-in Breakfast at 8:15 a.m.
- Sunday, September 24, 2017 –Carry-in Luncheon after our Homecoming Worship Service

Graduate Recognition:

We plan to recognize our high school and college graduates (including grad school) on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Information about each graduate will be included in our June newsletter. Please contact Sandy Cupp at 896-7882 or sandycupp@aol.com with any information on our graduates.

Bible School:

Our Vacation Bible School is planned for July 30 through August 3. We have a great program planned on the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus! Thanks to everyone who has agreed to help with Bible School. We still have a few adult volunteer slots to fill.

Bereavement Meals

Thanks to everyone who donated and prepared food for the bereavement meals for Alma Crider’s family and Terry Ford’s family. Both families were very grateful for the love shown to them by our church family.

Community Events

Our local MS Walk will be Sunday, April 23rd at Harrisonburg High School. Registration is at 1:00 and the walk starts at 2:00. Please consider walking, and/or donating, to help find a cure and/or treatments for this disease. The name of our team is We want Great! Please talk to Karla or Mike Dick if you have any questions. Here are three ways to donate:

1. Go to this web address: <http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/WeWantGreat2017>
2. Go to the WalkMS webpage and type in our team name and then follow the prompts to donate.
3. Please send checks to: National MS Society, Virginia-West Virginia Chapter
4200 Innslake Dr., Ste. 301
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Please include “We Want Great!/Walk MS Harrisonburg 2017” on the memo line of the check to ensure donations will be attributed to the team.

April Birthdays

- 2 Juanita Fulk
- 4 Nora Blair, Shirley Getz, Bea Sager
- 5 Beau Turner
- 7 Bonnie Goff, Phillip Hoover, Sarah Moore
- 8 Bill Thomas, Debe Thomas, Tammy Lohr
- 9 Issac Hulvey
- 11 Tina Dove
- 13 Ashley Formica, Matthew Hoover,
- 14 Michael Hoover
- 15 Holly Packard, Sharon Jones
- 16 Janet Wager
- 17 Jonny Wisman, Seth Wenger
- 18 Reese Arbogast, Dwayne Runion, Bill Mason
- 19 Lisa Lantz, Delores Fulk, Karen Hoover,
- 20 Clemson Almquist, Jill Fidler,
- 21 Ashleigh Fulk, Christopher Runion, Stephanie Kimble, Summer Cichosz
- 22 Kris Kann
- 23 Eliana Formica
- 24 Erin Powell
- 26 Ryan Deavers, Marge Alexander
- 27 JR. Almquist
- 29 Kim Koeppen
- 30 Wilton Thomas, Trevor White, Leah Jo Fulk,



April Anniversaries

- 25 Jeff and Susan Holsinger
- 28 Carl Grey and Nancy Hoover

Happy Anniversary