

Sunset Rays

The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church

May 2021

Newsletter for SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy



"Change of Seasons/Change of Life Style"

While out early one of these past mornings, walking my two Scottie dogs, I concentrated on the sounds and sights around me. The cardinals were up early just singing their hearts out. There was a soft wind blowing through the budding trees. I noticed the grass starting to pierce the ground with its patches of green. The flowers were starting to reveal their colors. All like a chorus of nature signaling the coming of spring. All combined as a symphony of sounds and sights. My soul rejoiced!

It reminded me of the story of little Billy who said to his mother, *"Won't spring ever come? I'm sick of winter."* Mother replied, *"Spring is on the way."* *"But I want to see the flowers and the birds and the grass,"* said Billy.

Well, God is at work in nature all of the time and the flowers would not ever be seen except for the growing which takes place under the soil during the winter months. Whatever season is here, the next season is already on the way. We are well into spring, and summer is on the way. Can you feel the coming of summer? Each day is breaking forth from warm to cool and back again. It seems to me, though real summer will not officially arrive until June 20th, it is well on its way. Things are breaking forth...do you not see it...do you not feel it? Like many of you, I have yearned for these coming months of renewal.

I am excited about the news that some of our restrictions are being eased across our land relative to the COVID-19 virus. Masks are beginning to come off while observing distancing outside with the added protection of COVID-19 shots. Because of the shots becoming available for all, we can come together outside the home, observe 'near normal' activity, meaning we can come to church. Oh, how I selfishly miss so many of our people who normally come to worship at Sunset Drive Church. The smiles, the fellowship, the renewed communication as we praise Almighty God together. Circumstances are changing that allow us to resume 'habits' so necessary to enjoy full life. Always be cautious in all things but let not fear dominate your lifestyle. As spring breaks forth, how about breaking forth into the "new day"? In scripture Timothy reminds us *"God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."* (2 Timothy 1:7) Let us grab hold of these words of encouragement and wisdom. Let us be cautious in all things but let us step out in faith. As our church makes plans for continued worship, church school, and special activities, plan to join with us as you feel led to do so. You are special, and we long to have you "back home" in church as the Lord leads.

Pastor Tom

Upcoming Church Events

- *Red Cross Blood Drive* is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th from 4pm until 7pm at Sunset Drive. Watch bulletins for more information.
- *June 2021 Newsletter Deadline:* Tuesday, May 25th . Please have all information to church office.



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: <https://www.sunsetdriveumc.com>

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

Thank You

For the first time in almost a year, Nancy Hoover was able to visit with Carl Grey Sunday in his room at VMRC. She discovered a huge pile of cards, letters, photos, and a variety of other things. Most of the mail hadn't been opened. She found birthday cards, Christmas cards, valentines, photos, and all kinds of other "goodies." She had no idea that he had received all of that mail, and she feels bad that she hasn't thanked everyone for their kindness and thoughtfulness. She would like everyone to know how much she appreciates all the "well wishes" you have been sending to Carl Grey. Hopefully, the COVID restrictions on VMRC's visitation guidelines will soon be reduced and family members will be able to visit on a regular basis again.

Once again, Nancy thanks all of you for your support.

Barbeque Chicken Dates

submitted by Leon Miller

It's Chicken BBQ time again!!

Please mark your calendars!!
Sunset Drive Chicken BBQ will be
Saturday, May 8th

Best BBQ Chicken in the Valley. Carl Grey's secret recipe.
If you would like to volunteer to help contact Leon Miller at 540-578-3423



Return to Sunday School

submitted by Sandy Cupp

We are happy to announce that we will be offering a Sunday School class beginning **Sunday, May 16 from 9:00 – 9:40 a.m. in the fellowship hall**. This class is geared for adults, but youth are welcome as well. This class will continue throughout the summer. We will wear masks and practice social distancing.

We plan to return to our regular Sunday School program with classes for children, youth, and adults in September 2021. We are so excited to be studying God's word and sharing with one other during Sunday School!

Children's Church is Returning

submitted by Sandy Cupp

Parents and children, mark your calendars! **Beginning, Sunday, May 16, Children's Church is back at 10:00 a.m.** You can take your children ages 3- 11 to the fellowship hall before you go to the sanctuary for the 10:00 am worship service. Our Children's Church leaders will share scripture, a Bible story, and an activity that relates to the story. You can pick up your children after the service. Children will wear masks and practice social distancing. Again, we are delighted for the return of our Children's Church!

Celebrating our High School and College Graduates

submitted by Sandy Cupp

Graduation season is upon us! We plan to recognize our graduates in June. If you have a high school, college, or post college graduate this spring, please let us know. You can send info to Sandy Cupp at sandycupp@aol.com
Info to include:

Graduate's name, parent's names, along with grandparent's names (if you choose), high school or college, future plans, and any other info that you would like to share. Also send a picture for us to include in the newsletter and on screen during our Graduate Recognition Sunday.



In Honor and In Memory for Mother's Day

We will be offering an "In Honor" and "In Memory" insert in the Mother's Day bulletin. The cost is \$1 for each name listed and *the funds will go to the Sunset Drive Ladies' Ministry.*



Forms and envelopes are available in the narthex (Please put cash or check with the form in the "Mother's Day" envelopes located in the bulletin or narthex. Then place the envelope in the offering plate or put in Mother's Day form box in narthex). *Information MUST be turned into Church office no later than Wednesday, May 5th.* Names will be listed in bulletin on Sunday, May 9th.

This will also be offered for Father's Day.

Upcoming Community Events

Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir Auditions

If your child enjoys singing, they will love being a part of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir! We are a nationally acclaimed children's choir based in Harrisonburg, VA, that values education, fun, musical excellence and community. SVCC will hold auditions for performing choirs (2nd-12th grade) on May 5 & 6 from 4-7pm. Please call 540-432-4650 or email svcc@emu.edu for more information and to schedule an audition!

Happy Birthday

May

- 2 Mike Malloy
- 6 Mark Hadley, Larry Bowman
- 7 Bryce Turner, Amanda Harpine
- 8 Jim Branner, Nancy Hoover, Jacob Gilley
- 10 Judy Rhodes
- 12 George Hadley
- 13 Penny Lohr
- 14 Jeff Holsinger, Jacque Roach
- 18 Dawn Long, Virgil Mumaw, Dick Strawderman, Adam Haviland
- 19 Clara Lorenzen
- 20 Dennis Turner
- 23 Valerie Arbogast
- 24 Mike Hawkins
- 28 Roger Conner
- 29 Phyllis Reeves



Happy Anniversary

May

- 2 Darren and Diana Drury
- 4 Tom and Amy Hoover, Phillip and Joanna Thompson
- 7 Don and Shannon Rellins
- 12 David and Tammy Jordan
- 21 Dwayne and Sheila Runion
- 29 Leon and Dixie Miller



Happy Birthday

June



- 1 Tim Proctor
- 2 Eric Hoover
- 3 Jessica Koeppen, George Dowrey
- 5 Mia Orebaugh
- 7 Aiden Bennett
- 10 Sheila Proctor, Rocky Fisher
- 11 Cecee Hawkins
- 15 Tom Boller
- 21 Maggie Roberts
- 22 Jean Dove
- 24 Lilah Deavers
- 26 Whit Grandle
- 27 Lacey Roberts, Dave Jordan
- 28 Virginia Ann Hulvey

Happy Anniversary

June

- 7 Scott and Diann Harris
- 14 Alan and Ann Laughlin
- 16 C.W. and Peggy Grandle
- 19 Tim and Charlene Gilley, Steve and Judy Rhodes, Trent and Lori Turner
- 21 Sam and Christina Harris
- 22 Margaret and Beck Whitmore, Mark and Donica Hadley,
- 24 Travis and Ashleigh Fulk
- 26 Matt and Jodi Clarke, Ed and Jacque Roach
- 29 Lowell and Dianne Fulk





THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY: **Virginia Annual Conference UMC**

Drop off Locations at:
Grottoes United Methodist Church
300 4th St. Grottoes, Va. 24441

Manor Memorial United Methodist Church
9320 N. Congress St., New Market, Va. 22844

What will we collect on the Harrisonburg District?

Non-perishable/ canned food:

Each church is asked to conduct a food drive prior to Annual Conference

Modified School Kits:

(1) pair of blunt scissors (round tip no plastic scissors), (1) box (24 count) crayons, (3) one subject spiral ring notebooks, (1) pack of loose-leaf paper (100-200 pages, wide or college rule), (1) hand held pencil sharpener, (1) 12" ruler, (6) unsharpened pencils, (1) 2" eraser, (1) one gallon re-sealable plastic bag
All exterior packaging should be removed except for: crayons, loose-leaf paper

Modified Hygiene Kits:

(1) hand towel (15X25 – 17X27 – No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels), (1) washcloth (no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber cloths), (1) sturdy Comb w/ 6" of teeth (no picks, or combs with handles), (1) toenail / fingernail clipper, (1) bath sized soap (3oz bar or larger), (1) toothbrush, (1) toothpaste (6oz), (10) Adhesive bandages (3/4x3 inches), (1) shampoo (12-15oz), (1) One-gallon size re-sealable bag. *All exterior Packing should be removed except for: soap, toothbrush, adhesive bandages.*

Money will not need to be sent with kits or sent to the conference office this year for toothpaste or shipping costs.