

# Living the Adventure

at Bunker Hill United Methodist Church

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### Pastor's Ponderings

Happy New Year to all of you! There is an old Irish blessing that I love to share this time of year, because it is a reminder to focus on the good in life, rather than the difficulties, as is my hope and prayer for everyone this year. Here it is!

#### COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS



Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full times instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Love your neighbor as much as yourself.

COUNT \*\*your\*\*
Blessings

As we enter into 2023, we will begin a new sermon series on renewing and refreshing. Sometimes, to learn something new, we need to go back and review what we already know, so that we can expand upon it. The sermons series is called "Back to the Basics" and we will focus on prayer, scripture, confession and service. I am looking forward to spending this time with you as we delve into what each of these means and how they are integral to our relationship with God. Happy 2023!

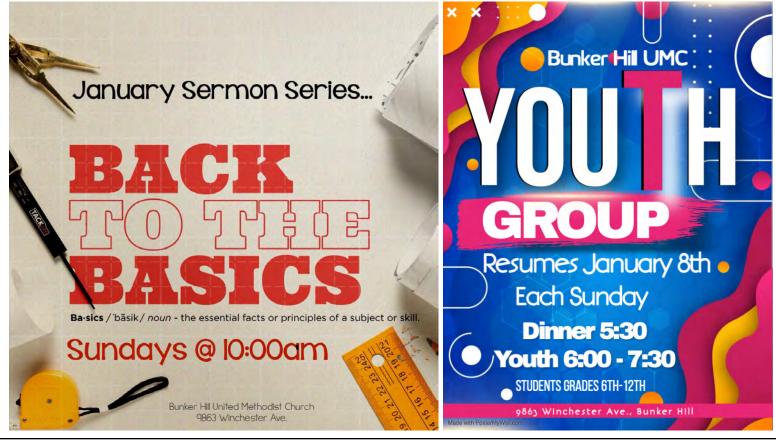
In Christ's Love, Paston Katy

## January 2023 Events

Sunday, January 1 Worship- NO Sunday Sc		AN
Wednesday, January 4		PM
United Women of Faith Mee Friday, January 64:30 The Table	• •	
Tuesday, January 10 Finance Committee Meet		PM
Tuesday, January 10 SPRC Meeting	7:00	PM

Monday, January 16Noon Newsletter Submission Deadline
Tuesday, January 176:00 PM Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, January 177:00 PM Church Council Meeting
Friday, January 204:30-6:00 PM The Table







## UMW Green Moment

#### Yes, Virginia, Tom, Dick, Sally, and EVERYONE....

There IS plastic recycling available in Berkeley County! An operation known as "Materials Recovery Facility" in Hagerstown, MD is now in the hands of Apple Valley Waste. They bail and market the trash from receptacles at the Grapevine Road site. Direct questions to Berkeley County's Solid Waste Authority at 304-267-9370.

News Flash: Officials at the Solid Waste Authority are telling us that <u>all</u> trash has been removed from the Entsorga Recourse Recovery Facility in the Grapevine Road area.

#### Celebrating Our Musicians

While church friends were gathered in the social room for the United Methodist Women's Christmas Program (See pg 5), others were seated in the gymnasium of Mountain Ridge Middle School for a band concert. Our very own Dylan King (7th grade) and Kadyn McCarty (8th grade) both play percussion in the school's band. They performed with a wide array of instruments- from a snare drum to a battery operated drill! It was exciting for spectators that the two grade levels played together for a number of selections. There was even a number where the boys were right beside each other! We're so thankful to have these boys as part of our church and grateful they're such great buddies!



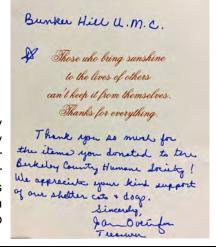
#### Carryover Items From Earlier

- Advent season is when we pause to remember the Board of Child Care and their ministry to children and youth. Some across the congregation have been placing "filled" red stockings and envelopes in the offering plates. The United Women of Faith (or UMW) appreciate these generous gestures and remind everyone that we will accept more donations in January.
- The United Women of Faith (UMW) is planning ahead for their January 4th meeting at 7:00 pm in the social room. They will be hosting Alisha Puller, founder and executive director of "Stars That Shine". She will be on hand to introduce the work of her organization. She will highlight her group's practice of distributing feminine hygiene products. All women are invited to attend this session.
- Meals on Wheels Executive Director Dianne Waldron and Bunker HIII's United Woman of Faith Michelle Albert pose with 140 snowmen ornaments that were delivered with client meals on Tuesday, December 20th. Here is the thank you note the women received.



# Animal Partnership Brings Thanks

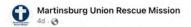
The Berkeley County Humane Society has registered their gratitude with Bunker Hill for their donations from this past fall's "Man or Beast" campaign to collect textiles.



# A "Little Thing" Morphed Into A "Large Tug" At The Heart

Before the holiday preparations began among Bunker Hill constituents, they received a challenge from the Crusaders Class, an adult Sunday School group. They had determined to provide seed money to purchase five dollar gift cards from local fast food restaurants: the plan was to gift these cards to men at the Martinsburg Rescue Mission who needed a boost. Publicity for this venture sifted over folks in the pews. Before the gift cards were blessed on December 18th, the \$100 seed money had grown to \$550 worth of cards.

On December 21st Pastor Tim Guerino, Mission Director, dropped by the church to greet Pastor Katy and to be gifted with the bounty of cards that will become bonus incentives for the men. Thanks to all who responded positively to this small act of kindness that evolved into a major holiday dividend.



Thank you so much to Michelle (not pictured), Pastor Katy & Bonnie and the rest from Bunker Hill United Methodist Church, Bunker Hill, WV for your continued support and inspiration. Your recent donations of 110 Gift cards at \$5 each will be a tremendous help to the men in our Program.

www.MartinsburgUnionRescueMission.com





Happiness depends upon your outlook on life. - Find the good in all situations.

Attitude is just as important as ability.— Keep your attitude positive.

Passion find yours this year! - Do what you love and you will never work.

Positive thoughts make everything easier.

- Stay focused and stay positive.

**Y**ou are unique, with special gifts, - Never forget you have talent.

New beginnings with a new year.

Enthusiasm a true secret of success.

Wishes may they turn into goals.

**Y**ears go by too quickly, enjoy them.— Wisdom from your elders, listen.

Energy may you have lots of it.- Take care of yourself.

Appreciation of life, don't take it for granted.— Live each day.

Relax take the time to relax in this coming year. - Keep a balance in your life.



#### Open Hearts · Open Minds · Open Doors

#### Ho! Ho! Ho! It's Christmas Bingo

Approximately 25 folks form the congregation gathered in the social room with the United Women of Faith (UMW) on Wednesday, December 7th to usher in the holiday season. With Sharon Cooley at the piano, the evening opened with a Christmas devotional and group singing of carols.

An interlude of refreshments followed before Christmas bingo games began. Kenny Feagan's was the caller for the activity that featured prizes the women had assembled for the affair. Goodwill prevailed around the room as many participants shouted "Ho! Ho! Bingo!" Everyone left the affair with loads of Christmas spirit!



















We love that Isla is eager to help her mother Kelly (Bunker Hill's Finance Secretary) transport the offering each week. She looks forward to carrying the filled offering plates alongside her mother to their special, secure location and then promptly returns the empty plates to the sanctuary so they are ready for the next week. Isla takes her job very seriously, sometimes even having to stretch to return the offering plates to their seasonal location when we've changed up the sanctuary decor. She will even frequently bring along a trusted stuffed assistant! We're so blessed to have young folks with a desire to serve in our church as well as a congregation who welcomes them to serve!









## Daily Lectionary Scripture for January

Monday, January 2, 2023: Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12 Tuesday, January 3, 2023: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22 Wednesday, January 4, 2023: Psalm 72; Exodus 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:23-31 **Thursday, January 5, 2023**: Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2 Friday, January 6, 2023: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12 **Saturday, January 7, 2023**: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21 Monday, January 9, 2023: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48 **Tuesday, January 10, 2023**: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13 Wednesday, January 11, 2023: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21 **Thursday, January 12, 2023**: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12 Friday, January 13, 2023: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5 Saturday, January 14, 2023: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11 Monday, January 16, 2023: Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40 **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4 Wednesday, January 18, 2023: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17 **Thursday, January 19, 2023**: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24 Friday, January 20, 2023: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10 Saturday, January 21, 2023: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32 Monday, January 23, 2023: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14 **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18 Wednesday, January 25, 2023: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79

Thursday, January 26, 2023: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12 Friday, January 27, 2023: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24 Saturday, January 28, 2023: Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35 Monday, January 30, 2023: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25 Tuesday, January 31, 2023: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6



#### Open Hearts · Open Minds · Open Doors



Usually in this section of the newsletter we provide financial figures. We've been comparing our budget to Finance our offerings we've received and given a report to keep you aware of how we're doing throughout the year as a way to be transparent. This is our

January 2023 edition. That means we've reached a new year! As we rounded out 2022, we've had holidays and folks out of town. As of publication, we didn't feel it was a fair depiction of December's finances to provide this information. We would, however, like to take a moment to announce a change in our financial team. For many years our Finance Chair, Bonnie Brannon has led us through financial highs She has spent countless hours preparing for meetings, making phone calls, linking those that needed to be in touch, among many other tasks. We are eternally grateful for all the time and talents she has shared with us through the years! What an asset she has been! As we transition, we welcome Sharon Cooley to our finance team as our new Finance Chair! This year we've also welcomed Susan Lewis as our Treasurer. We thank Carolyn for all she has done for our church, especially in her roll of treasurer! We're grateful for Susan who has picked up a mess (due to a computer crash!) and is working hard to get things back up and running smoothly! We're thankful that Kelly Kulha will continue her roll as Finance Secretary. We're so blessed by so many willing to serve in so many ways at Bunker Hill! Thank God for placing all of our leaders here with their gifts and talents!

#### Stewardship Journey Pointers

To master a personal journey in becoming a generous person follow these ten ways to become a more generous person as offered by Joshua Becker. (See December 2022's column (pg 11) for the first six "lifters")

- 7. Take note of people in your life that you admire. What causes do they support? How can you adopt some of their ideas?
- 8. Spend time with people who actually need help. Volunteer at a homeless shelter for one meal. Get the impressions of the people you meet; these ideas could change your outlook.
- 9. Spend time with a generous person. Ask questions like when did they become generous? conversations can be life-changing.
- 10. Practice living on less. That act may give you more space and time to be generous, to have more funds and energy.

Generosity is not a chance operation. journey an intentional one by employing some of these tips.

#### Keeping Up with Finances

Following our regular monthly loan payment of \$629.76 our current loan balance is \$38,667.19. Thank you to those who continue to donate specifically to this expense.

#### Extra Ways to Support BHUMC



If you are not able to worship with us in person, or prefer giving electronically, you may give via PayPal.

Link can be found on our website:

bhumcwv.com



Go to Smile.amazon.com Make sure you're Logged in to your personal account

Select Bunker Hill United Methodist Church as your Charity

0.5% of the price of Amazon Smile purchases goes to support Bunker Hill United Methodist Church.

Please make sure to shop via smile.amazon.com each time you shop. Your account will purchases made directly through Amazon.com are not eligible for the 0.5% donation



# Living the Discipleship Adventure at Bunker Hill United Methodist Church

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Our Mission is to enable all people to have a personal relationship with Christ through discipleship and ministry.

Our Vision is to grow as Christians and to reach out in love and service to all people.

#### **Opportunities for Ministry and Mission**

#### Loaves and Fishes

December's appeal for the local food pantry has been for "mixtures" that flavor hot/warm water. We have spent the month collecting tea, ground coffee, and hot cocoa mix. These items will be blessed in early 2023, which will give donors more time to contribute these groceries.

For January 2023 the food emphasis will be canned soup; all sizes from small to family sizes will be acceptable. These soup gifts will help us continue the theme of "warmth"- a feeling that gives benefits to donors and to receivers.

Loaves & Fishes January Emphasis:

Canned Soup (any size can)

Bunker Hill UMC P.O. Box 327 Bunker Hill, WV 25413

