

The Grapevine

Our Mission: To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

Editor's Note:

As winter progresses we are quickly moving into the *Lenten season*. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our journey in the Lenten season at which the start is to seek repentance and reconciliation. We confront our mortality and confess our sins before God. The Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful, non-verbal way to participate in the call to repentance. Lent is the season in which we "intentionally

grow closer to Christ, reflect on his passion, and engage in spiritual disciplines." It is a time of self examination and reflection. Many people choose a form of fasting that often involves food or meals, however; at its core, fasting is meant to remove something that hinders us from drawing nearer to God. How can you accomplish this feeling? Let's take this journey together as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

In Christ's Love Petra

Monthly Scriptures :

February 5 :

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Title:

Salt and Light

February 12:

Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon Title:

"But I say to You"

February 19:

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon Title:

Can You see The LIGHT?

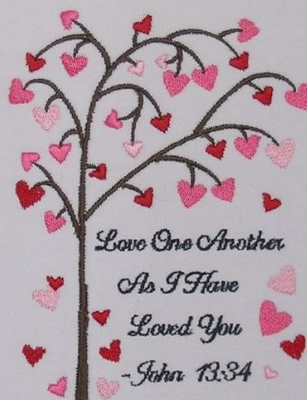
February 26:

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Title:

Led By The Spirit

For God
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life



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Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 5:13–20 (NRSV)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Flying through the New year, and **Easter** is early this year as well, April 9th.

So, **Ash Wednesday** is February 22 and **Lent Begins**.

We will have six sessions commencing on Wednesday March 1st at 2 PM. Warren Wright and I look forward to see you there.

I have ordered 12 Books for a Lenten Study “In His Footsteps” By Max Lucado. Anyone interested can let me know at Church or by text. Books are \$11, however; I have decided to underwrite the cost of materials by PDF. However, If anyone wants to contribute the cost back to PDF ... feel free to do so. A brief explanation of what the study will cover:

In the Footsteps of the Savior is an invitation to come alongside Max as he shares meaningful, insights on the people and places that shaped Jesus's life. In this special compilation, Max weaves together in-depth teaching from his bestsellers with poignant reflections on his time in the Holy Land, guiding you through three distinct aspects of Jesus' life:

The arrival of the Savior

Jesus's ministry

The crossroads and the cross

With beautiful photographs and thoughtful questions for reflection, In the Footsteps of the Savior will take you on a journey through Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, the Jordan River, Bethany, Jerusalem, and more.

As you see the places Jesus walked from a new perspective, you'll also deepen your connection with the King of the universe who became the Savior on the cross.

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Lent gives us a time to Reflect, to Meditate, to Read and pray on what God is doing for us through the gift of Jesus' teaching and His sacrifice on Calvary. A Link to understanding more about Lent...[Lent | Definition, History, Meaning, Catholic, & Practices | Britannica](#)

Lent, in the Christian [church](#), a period of penitential preparation for [Easter](#). In Western churches it begins on [Ash Wednesday](#), six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for [fasting](#) and [abstinence](#) (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of [Jesus Christ](#)'s fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. In Eastern churches Lent begins on the Monday of the seventh week before Easter and ends on the Friday that is nine days before Easter. This 40-day "Great Lent" includes Saturdays and Sundays as relaxed fast days.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter [festival](#) since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the [First Council of Nicaea](#) in 325 CE. It was a time of preparation of candidates for [baptism](#) and a time of [penance](#) for grievous sinners who were [excluded](#) from Communion and were preparing for their restoration. As a sign of their penitence, they wore sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. This form of public penance began to die out in the 9th century, and it became customary for all the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence by receiving an imposition of ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent—hence the name Ash Wednesday

This Passage is directed at each of us who chose to follow Jesus and walk in His light.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

We are the Light of the World. As you walk in the world following the Light of the World, others will see *you* and what *you* do. Let all you do give Glory to the Father above.

We should preform Acts of mercy: helping people; praying for them; visiting them; calling them; writing the notes or sending cards to them. In other words, we demonstrate they are relevant in a world that continually minimizes people and makes them just a number or a statistic.

Our society and news media continues to tell us that the culture is changing around us and we MUST conform to evolving standards and morals. I disagree with that idea.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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Jesus says the opposite about the world changes.

He calls us to continue to be faithful to the scriptures and to teach others to do so as well. **So That** we can be a part of the everlasting blessing, The Kingdom of Heaven.

We need to know how to “Walk the Walk,” not just “Talk the Talk.”

It is in Doing for others as we would do for the Lord that we “Walk the Walk” of Jesus’ message.

We continue to lift the health concerns of our church family as well as life events and even the routine daily events of our community around us.

We must continue to pray for all the world and local agencies that work to improve the lives of those devastated by storms and other natural disasters. Pray for our local first responders as well as Our military and national guard & coast guard responders at work around the world and their families waiting patiently for their safe return.

We know from current news reports the risks that children and teachers face in the classrooms. Pray for school safety and productive learning environments for our children. We pray for the adults headed back to school in our Universities and Institutions of higher learning.

Our Cryer Mobile Food Pantry has been scheduled for February 4th from 9-11 AM

We pray for all our community services: food pantry; meals on wheels; and other ministries; we provide to our community are **our Community Outreach**. We are performing Loving witness to our community to **demonstrate God’s love to us**.

May God Richly bless all of you and your loved ones.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Ken

LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

Valentine's Day, Christian or Pagan?

Have you ever thought about the origin of Valentine's Day? This is the best story that I could find. As Christianity became prevalent, priests attempted to replace old heathen practices. To Christianize the ancient pagan celebration of the Feast of Lubercus, the church officials changed the name to St. Valentine's Day. To give the celebration further meaning and eliminate pagan traditions, priests substituted the drawing of Saints names for the names of the girls. On St. Valentine's Day the priest placed saint's names into an urn or box. The young people then drew a name from the container. In the following year, the youth was supposed to emulate the life of the saint whose name he had drawn. By the fourteenth century they reverted to the use of girl's names. In the sixteenth century they once again tried to have saintly valentines, but it was as unsuccessful as the first attempt. While it can't be proven historically, there were seven men named Valentine who were honored with feasts on February 14th. Of these men, two stories link incidents that could have given our present day meaning to St. Valentine's Day. One of these men named Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Valentine was revered by the young and old, rich and poor, with people of all walks of life attending his services. At this time, Emperor Claudius was heavily recruiting men to serve as soldiers for his wars without much success. The men preferred not to leave their wives, families, and sweethearts to fight in foreign lands. Claudius became angry and declared that no more marriages could be performed, and all engagements were cancelled. Valentine thought this to be unfair and secretly married several couples. When Claudius found out, he threw Valentine in prison where he died. Friends of the priest retrieved his body and buried it in a churchyard in Rome. Another version had St. Valentine jailed for helping Christians. While Valentine was in prison, he cured a jailer's daughter of blindness. Claudius became enraged and had Valentine clubbed and beheaded on February 14, 269 A.D. Yet another story claims that Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her letters that were signed "From your Valentine." All of the seven Valentines eventually evolved into one. In 496 Pope Gelasius declared the day in honor of St. Valentine. Through the centuries the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. Lovers' quarrels come under his jurisdiction and, naturally, he is the patron saint of engaged couples and of anyone wishing to marry.

I Cor. 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.



THE GRAPEVINE

Ministries:

UMM

The next meeting of the UMM will be on Monday February 27th at 7 PM. Remember there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

RECOVERING

Betty Johnson Connie Robertson Carl Tate

Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

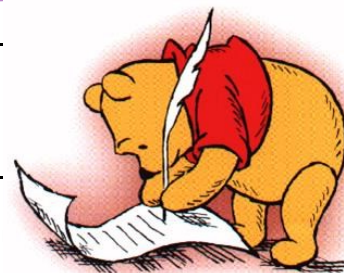
The Nurture and Outreach Committee would like to welcome our new members,

Pat Hooper and **Nancy Quinn** for 2023. They were a great help with making homemade items for the "goodie bags" for the residents

at Fishing Bay Estates. Let's all think about items for the upcoming holidays for the residents. Also, please remember to send cards to our homebound members for Valentines. They look forward to getting mail from all of us at Clarksbury.



"Love that is shared is a beautiful thing -- it enriches the soul and makes the heart sing."



Myrtle Clark (10/2)
P.O. Box 302
Deltaville, VA 23043

Mickie Crittenden
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Betty Johnson (804) 384-3618 (4/26)
Dockside Health & Rehab Ctr
74 Mizpah Road Room 504
Locust Hill VA 23092

Lewis Musick
6023 Dixon Lane
Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller (08/06)
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House
7657 Meredith Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061

Connie Robertson (7/28)
74 Spring Cove Lane
Topping, VA 23169

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24
26306 Mattaponi Trail
Milford, VA 22514

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Ministries and ETC:



Mobile Food Pantry -
Clarksbury United Methodist
Saturday, February 4, 2023
9:00am-11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United



Church Service Assistants for the month of February

Ushers:

Milagritos Laurraura &
 Tommy Crittenden

Liturgist:

Charles Townes

Counters:

Lee White and Eileen Crittenden

*Open Hearts Open Minds
 Open Doors*

Deadline for the February newsletter is Monday, February 20!
 Please send your emails and articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.



**Like us on
Facebook!**

**Check out our
Website**

Annual Budget 2023 Operating Funds	118,440.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 01/22/2023	10,640.22
Total Needed by end of January	-770.22

THE GRAPEVINE

Notices:

We mourn the death of our dear friend
Val Bradley

Be in prayers for Scott & Christie and family.
Val was a crucial and important participant in the Life
of Clarksbury, she will be missed.

She transitioned from the Church Militant to the
Church Triumphant surrounded by family and her
pups...
Pastor ken

New Group Forms at Clarksbury!

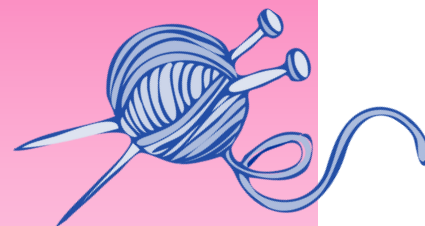
Yarnies

A knitting and crochet group has just started at
Clarksbury. Join the Yarnies
each Tuesday from **3:30pm-5:30pm**

Everyone is welcome.

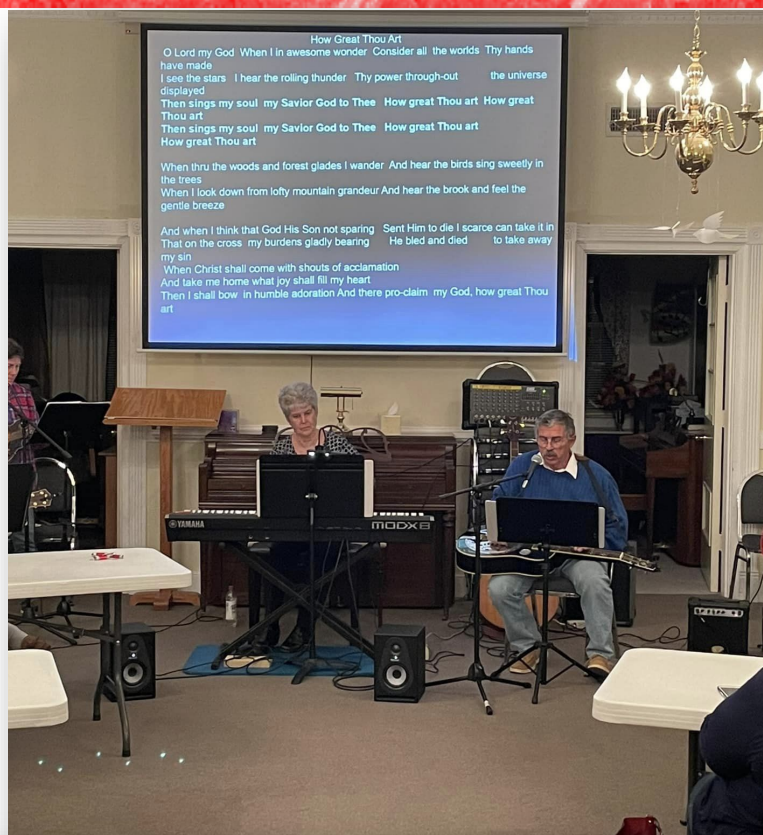
Please contact:

Eileen Crittenden or Linda Bartz if you have
any questions



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Christmas Sing A-long



Church Leadership:

Spiritual Leader:

Ken Cleveland

(276) 224- 4935

kencleveland@vaumc.org

Church Council Chair:

Lee White

(804) 832- 9450

leewhite0105@gmail.com

Ministers of Music:

Becky Wilhite

(804) 832- 2003

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Ann Thomas

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Lay Leader:

Warren Wright

(804) 241- 5686

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Financial Secretary:

Suzanne Ramsburg

(804) 815- 6989

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Trustees Committee Chair:

Don Bartz

(804) 338- 4872

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Nurture & Outreach Chair:

Jerry Dant

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jerryd1935@msn.com

Recording Secretary:

Betty & Carl Tate

B: (804) 347- 2461

Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love



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February 2023

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Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Al Johnston</i>	6	7 <i>George Lee Clark</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 <i>Anne Tompkins</i>	16	17 <i>Danny Mauney</i>	18 <i>John Robertson</i>
19	20	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	23 <i>Virginia Clark</i>	24 <i>Hannah Clark</i>	25
26	27 <i>Diane Faulkner</i> <i>UMM 7pm</i>	28				

February Birthdays (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)