



The Grapevine

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

Editor's Note:

The long journey of Lent will soon be over. During the journey I hope we have faced our challenges with Grace and discovered how much God loves Us, that we all have leaned into the power of prayer, worship and study. His arms are open to Love you by giving his only Son. Now to move from Lent through the Easter season and take what we have learned about ourselves and apply changes to our daily lives may be a continued challenge.

But remember each day the sun rises is a "new beginning" and a step towards a bright future. We are called by God, therefore we greet Easter Sunday with joy. Look up to the light of each new day that we can serve, learn and love.

Psalm 121:

**I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
Happy Easter!

In Christ's Love Petra

Monthly Scriptures :

April 2 :

Matthew 21:1-11 Sermon Title:

Hosanna!

April 9

John 20:1-18

Sermon Title:

I Have seen the Lord!

April 16:

Act 2:14, 22-32

Sermon Title:

We Are Witnesses

April 30:

1 Peter 2:19-25

Sermon Title:

He Bore OUR SIN!



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Pastor Ken's Corner

John 20:11–18 (NRSV)

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

As we conclude the Season of **Lent** and renew our Walk and our Witness to the Lord's work in our lives... Let the same elation and excitement voiced by Mary Magdalene be part of our message and Story of how Christ has redeemed us and is ALIVE in our Lives...

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Imagine for a moment that you are in Mary's place... She saw Him Crucified, she saw His Lifeless body laid in a tomb. What hope can she have other than to prepare His body with spices and herbs as was the traditional process of burial and grief. She wants to care for His Body and pay her respects for the one who healed and saved and yet was rejected and murdered so cruelly.

How many of us have had our hopes dashed by some unforeseen event? That missed promotion that goes to someone else after it was promised to you. How many have had promising relationships, that held great promise of Love and affection, only to be betrayed by the very person you were counting on when you see them start up another relationship with another ... right in front of you, or behind your back.

Jesus was the hope of many to cast down the rule of Rome and lift up a New Jewish Kingdom in the fashion of King David, and Earthly power and Kingdom.

Jesus rejected that idea and stayed true to the purpose that The Father had for Him. He had even told them the Father's will for Him...

John 6:37–40 (NRSV)

³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

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Jesus was about His Father's business **even if he would be killed for it.**

It should not be surprising that Mary Didn't understand what had occurred and was weeping because she had come to find the Body of Jesus yet found an empty tomb. And she was weeping and distraught.

How many times have we had some catastrophe come from out of the blue and dash our plans, our hopes?

Just as Losing Jesus in this horrible way on Golgotha and now even his body is missing and Mary can't even find that small piece of lament and sorrow for her grief. She cries out for some small glimmer of hope for honoring the body of Jesus. The two angels ask her why she is weeping... Have they no idea of the cruelty that had transpired just last Friday, three short days before???

Her anguished reply to their question... ***"They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."***

Then

¹⁴ *When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.* ¹⁵ *Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."* ¹⁶ *Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).* ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ***'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'***"* ¹⁸ *Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ***"I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.****

Beyond all Hope there behind her is Her Lord, even though she doesn't recognize Him... When He speaks to her though..."Mary" instantly she knows He is there ... Teacher!!! And Then Jesus tells her that He hasn't ascended to the Father yet but that she should go and tell His brothers, the Disciples, and to give them a message... ***'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'***

Can you imagine how quickly the return trip to the disciples went? Mary Literally flew over the path and through the streets to where the disciples were... Breathless, I imagine she gives witness to what she has just seen and heard. It is impossible.... Yet still it is true .. she saw Jesus and She Heard Jesus and He commanded her to go Tell the Disciples ***'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'***

Still breathless I can hear her bear witness ***"I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.***

We may NOT have had the same experience as Mary that morning at the tomb. Yet we Believe and because we believe that Jesus is Risen from the DEAD we CAN have the same fervor and passion of Mary and We can join Her Cry.... ***"I have seen the Lord" with our own affirmation of Faith... He is risen... He is Risen Indeed!***

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God's Love for us, even though we are sinners and enemies to God, brought Christ to die for US. God does the work required for our reconciliation to Him through the Son, Jesus Christ.

Know that you are reconciled to God.

Praise be to our Lord Jesus the Christ !

We are reconciled to God through Christ and our Faith in Him.

As we walk in the world **physically** following the Footsteps of Christ, others will see you and what you do. Let all you do give Glory to the Father above.

We continue to lift up 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 the international organizations flooding aid and resources to these devastated areas and help minimize the loss of life.

Pray for our **local first responders** of Law enforcement, Fire and rescue and Emergency medical Teams, as well as Our Military and National Guard & Coast Guard responders at work around the world and all the 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 April 1st From 9-11 AM... No Fooling

We pray for all of our Community Services: food pantry; meals on wheels; and other ministries; we provide to our community are **our Community Outreach.**

We pray for the hurting people of this world. We pray for Our country and our Leaders that they may Be Blessed by Our Lord to do His will.

May we be a Loving witness to our community to **demonstrate God's love to us.**

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

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LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT WHY WE NEED APRIL SHOWERS IN OUR LIVES

We need the Shower of the Holy Spirit in our lives like never before. During a good rain, vegetation is nourished -- animals are nourished -- the grass gets greener; rain refreshes the land.

Rain causes things to grow and be fruitful. We as well need to be spiritually nourished and refreshed through the word of God and through the Holy Spirit. We all know people who are in a drought!

There comes a time in every person's life when they experience a drought of some kind. It may be the drought of health-when it seems like there is no end in sight to your physical problems. It may be the drought of finances-when it seems like the bills are coming in faster than the money to pay them. It may be the drought of your occupation-because you have lost the enjoyment of doing what you do for a living.

But of all the droughts I can think of, the worst is a Spiritual Drought.

Deuteronomy 11:14-17-14 that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. 15He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. 16 Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. 17 Or the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you.

Today my prayer is, "Lord, we need rain!"



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Ministries:

UMM

The UMM will next **meet on Monday April 3rd at 7 PM**. We will be planning our Spring activities including our Mother's Day breakfast. 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.

*Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life. -
Janine Di Giovanni*

RECOVERING

Betty Johnson Connie Robertson Carl Tate

Nurture & Outreach Jerry Dant

At our March N&O meeting we discussed an Easter "Goodie Basket" for the residents at Fishing Bay Estates. Pat Hooper had some ideas, as well as the rest, of the committee. We put our ideas together and she will shop for the items, and we will fix the baskets and the "soupie girls" will deliver them for our church. Our next meeting will be in April, and we will discuss Mother's Day for the ladies. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

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

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

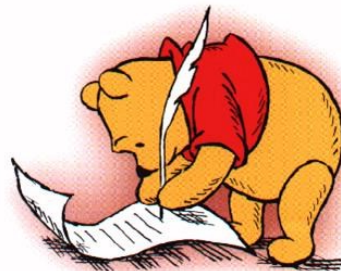
Betty Johnson (804) 384-3618 (4/26)
Dockside Health & Rehab Ctr
74 Mizpah Road Room 504
Locust Hill VA 23092

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)
Dockside Health and Rehab. Ctr.
74 Mizpah Road, Room 107
Locust Hill, Va., 2309

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, April 1, 2023
9:00am-11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United



Church Service Assistants for the month of *April*

Ushers:

Ronnie and Cheryl Teagle

Liturgist:

John Hooper

Counters:

Fran Miller and Dawn Wilt

Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors

Deadline for the April newsletter is
 Friday, April 21

Please send your emails and
 articles to pwalian2@gmail.com for
 inclusion in the newsletter.



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Annual Budget 2023 Operating Funds	118,440.00
Total Received for Operating Funds 03/19/23	29,671.82
Total Needed by end of March	-61.82

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Ministry Notices:

Soup Ministry; Warming Tree Ministry; Coat Rack Ministry
Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner

The Soup Ministry continues to distribute soup to our recipients, the third Monday of each month. This is because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday to our recipients. The soup ministry delivered Thanksgiving meals to residents at Fishing Bay and our other soup recipients as well. During December we delivered Christmas gift bags, prepared by Jerry Dant and her Outreach and Nurture Committee, to each of our folks.

We also were able to distribute warming tree items and coats during our first-of-the-month Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry distribution which continues through the first weekend of March. We DO HAVE some warming articles and coats if needed. You just need to contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you.

THANK YOU for supporting these very important ministries of your church. If you would like to help in any way, just contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email kdwright@va.metrocast.net. God Bless.



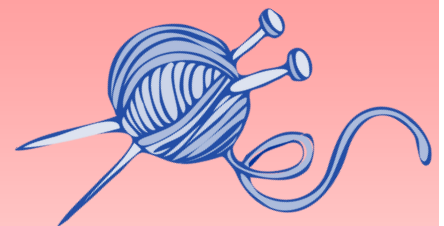
New Group Forms Clarksbury Crafters!

A knitting and crochet group has just started at
Clarksbury. Join the Clarksbury Crafters
each Tuesday from **3:00pm-5:00pm**

Everyone is welcome.

Please contact:

Eileen Crittenden or Linda Bartz if you have any questions



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Ministry Notices:

Important Notice

In adherence to the requirements of the UMC in the process of disaffiliation, Clarksbury UMC will complete thirty days of prayer and discernment on March 28, 2023. We must then take a straw poll to determine if a majority wish to proceed. This vote by the membership will be held immediately following the service on Sunday morning, April 2nd, 2023.

Meals on Wheels - a little-known Clarksbury Mission

"Meals on Wheels is a national program to deliver meals to seniors who are unable to leave their home or prepare their own meals. It is administered locally by Bay Aging. Our church provides volunteers to cover deliveries in the Del-taville area for one month each quarter. Volunteers meet a delivery person at the church and take the prepackaged food to the homes of the recipients. Currently the time required to make the deliveries is less than two hours. If you would be interested in helping out with this mission and make the deliveries please Linda Bartz.



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Easter Baskets!



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
bwilhite4@verizon.net

Ann Thomas
540-270-6527
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Lay Leader:

Warren Wright
(804) 241- 5686
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Financial Secretary:

Suzanne Ramsburg
(804) 815- 6989
ssramsburg@va.metrocast.net

Trustees Committee Chair:

Don Bartz
(804) 338- 4872
dbartz@gmail.com
Nurture & Outreach Chair:
Jerry Dant
804-229-9051
jerryd1935@msn.com

Recording Secretary:

Betty & Carl Tate
B: (804) 347- 2461

Puzzle #3

EASTER

Q	M	D	G	B	M	O	T	H	O	R	N	S	X	H
Z	F	F	E	W	Q	U	S	C	R	O	I	V	A	S
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	N	W	Y
X	B	S	W	Y	A	D	D	R	I	H	T	F	L	P
O	R	S	P	H	T	I	A	F	E	L	X	W	H	H
W	E	Y	Y	S	Y	O	N	X	X	J	F	R	Z	W
E	D	M	F	B	E	V	A	C	R	O	W	N	J	T
O	E	E	P	O	V	Y	T	P	R	I	S	E	N	P
I	M	S	L	H	R	G	A	H	O	O	Y	F	Y	T
E	P	S	P	C	U	G	G	D	I	S	S	A	J	E
B	T	I	C	V	A	H	I	B	N	D	T	S	P	E
E	I	A	I	S	B	R	I	V	M	U	G	L	E	W
S	O	H	Q	Z	I	Q	I	K	E	A	S	T	E	R
E	N	V	T	R	N	R	L	M	Y	N	L	Y	P	S
U	L	K	R	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	D	F

APOSTLES
CAVE
CROSS
CROWN
EASTER
FAITH
FORGIVEN

LAMB
MESSIAH
MIRACLE
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SACRIFICE

SAVIOR
SUNDAY
THIRD DAY
THORNS
TOMB



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APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Contemporary Woship 5pm
2 Palm Sunday	3	4 Alan Miller Elizabeth Sibley Clarksbury Crafters 3-5	5	6 Paulette Topping Choir Practice 11am	7 Good Friday	8 Contemporary Woship 5pm
9 Easter	10	11 Clarksbury Crafters 3-5	12	13 Choir Practice 11am	14	15 Emily Farmer Contemporary Woship 5pm
16	17	18 Richard Sisson Clarksbury Crafters 3-5	19 Richard Purcell	20 Choir Practice 11am	21 Jerry Crittenden	22 Contemporary Woship 5pm
23	24	25 Clarksbury Crafters 3-5	26 Betty Johnson	27 Choir Practice 11am	28	29 Contemporary Woship 5pm
30						

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