



The Grapevine

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

Steady my heart father, so I can remain confident in your goodness despite any disappointments or obstacles that I may encounter on this journey. I know you are good and you withhold no good thing from me. I will meditate on your words day and night Lord. I will wait on you because I know you don't put the righteous to shame. I will trust that you will protect me from bad relationships, wolves in sheep

*clothings,
unGodly council, and false prophets that seek to corrupt your word and cause me to stumble. O' how I love you father. I love how you love me. And I ask for a heart that can choose you all the days of my life. Amen.*

In Christ's Love, Petra

*Just living is not enough ... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.
-Hans Christian Andersen*



Crazylittlelovebirds.blogspot.com

Monthly Scriptures :

August 6 :

Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon Title:

"Five Loaves and Two Fish"

August 13:

Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon Title:

"Take Heart"

August 20:

Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon Title:

"Great Faith"

August 27:

Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Title:

"But who do you say I am?"

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Pastor Ken's Corner

Matthew 14:13–21 (NRSV) Feeding the Five Thousand (Mk 6:30–44; Lk 9:10–17; Jn 6:1–14)

They followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

We are fully into summer complete with time for relaxing and for vacations; and for Terry and me a trip to Oklahoma City to visit Amanda, Kevin and grandsons Calvin and Nolan. We enjoy every moment with them. I'm reminded of Jesus' love for children....we LOVE our grandsons and we are surely blessed to have them as part of our lives. We treasure the moments; they fly by too quickly.

What are your **expectations and anticipations** for this August?

I pray for safe and joyous celebrations and activities for all of you.

They followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

How many times I've read this passage and marveled at how the Disciples knew that Jesus had performed many miracles, but like the rest of us couldn't imagine how Jesus solved circumstances and challenges in totally unexpected ways. The disciples had **expectations** that the crowd was too large and too hungry, and their **expectations** were locked into the earthly solution to the problem. *We don't have enough food here so send them AWAY to the villages to buy their own food.* That was **their anticipation** of a normal solution--to send the people away and let THEM find their own food. The disciples had only a little lad's lunch of **five loaves of bread and two fish!!!** How on earth could so many people be feed on so little food???

The only way for a successful solution is to defy expectations and anticipations and trust in God to provide. Imagine the questions on the minds of the disciples when he tells them how to solve their dilemma!

¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

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²¹ *And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

Jesus takes the small amount of provisions they have before them and exceeds their wildest **expectations** by blessing and breaking the loaves and giving the pieces to the disciples who passed them on to the crowd. If we were in similar circumstances who of **you** would/could anticipate this outcome? All were fed and filled and 12 baskets remained after feeding “**about five thousand men, besides women and children.**”

God sent Jesus to save us. WE need to be convinced to have FAITH in HIM, demonstrated by how He did things so far above expectations.

By hearing Jesus teach and by observing the power of God demonstrated through Him, the Jewish people and the Gentiles are brought to an understanding and realization and HOPE. Jesus **creates** a new frame of reference for **expectations and anticipations** for all of us-- not just the people 2000 years ago. God's power is limitless and beyond our expectations.

Healing, feeding, teaching, comforting--with Jesus this is only the beginning, He draws us into the family of God, makes us HIS children, and SAVES us from SIN AND DEATH.

Again, let me remind each of you that you are a member of the body of Christ, an integral part of the church and God's perfect plan of salvation. You may not realize right now at this moment how integral **ALL individuals are in His ministries**. We may not all have the same gifts but we all are blessed with some for the common good to glorify God.

Christ is Risen.... Christ is Risen Indeed! 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 us and what we do. **Use your Gifts of the Spirit to 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 agencies that work to improve the lives of those devastated by storms and other natural disasters.

Pray for our **local first responders** of Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue and Emergency Medical Teams, as well as our Military, National Guard and Coast Guard Responders at work around the world and all the families waiting patiently for their safe return.

Our Cryer Mobile Food Pantry has been scheduled for August 6 from 9 to 11 a.m.

We pray for all of our community outreach services: food pantry, meals on wheels, and other ministries that we provide to our community through **our 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 for us.**

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

Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken

LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

I know that it is early, but in the next few months your elected Church Council and Finance Committee will once again be meeting to discuss and prepare a budget for 2024. Like any other entity, your church needs capital to operate and that money comes directly from you the members and other affiliated persons of Clarksbury. In the coming months, I want us to begin a prayerful process as we individually decide what we will give to the ministry of our church. In the scriptures, God has a plan for us and it's not what we hear on the economic news each day. You hear about the stock market and its ups and downs, the rising and falling prices of oil and the problems faced by the banks and S&L institutions. You're well aware of the world's economic plan or the lack of it. But I want to tell you about God's economic plan. In **1 Timothy 6:17-19**, is a passage that may explain God's economic plan better than any other.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

One of the greatest mistakes, I think, that we make when we talk about money in the church is that we often do it in the context of a special appeal or in a crisis situation.

If we are told that there are thousands of starving people who need our help and a special offering is taken, if that strikes your fancy, you'll probably give and maybe even give sacrificially to help meet that need. Or if you are reminded that the church needs your gift for the building fund, and you feel that that's a legitimate need, then you will give generously in response to that need, too.

And the result is that too often Christian people have been conditioned to think that the only time they really need to get serious about giving is when there is a need that appeals to their particular emotion. And some needs are just more appealing than others, aren't they?

But the problem actually starts with us, with people who don't recognize that the **teaching of Scripture is not to give to needs but to give to the glory of God**. We are stewards of God's wealth. God provides it to us, and He says, "Here you are, you are all stewards." We don't have a choice in that. Our God is a giving God. He has given all to us, and He wants His people to learn how to be generous, too, and willing to share.

We are like the people in the parable of the talents. God gives us something to use for a while, and then finally He comes back, like the master in the parable, and He says, "Now give me an accounting. What have you done with what I have given you to use during your time on the face of the earth?" The Day of Judgment will be the day of accounting.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. —1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV

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Ministries:

UMM

The UMM will not meet during August. Returning on Monday September 25th 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

*"A single sunbeam is
enough to drive away
many shadows." —
Unknown*



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

Mickie Crittenden
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @ Gloucester House
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., 23092

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

Ann Tompkins
7402 Walker Ave #8
Gloucester, VA 23061

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Ministries and ETC:



Mobile Food Pantry -
Clarksbury United Methodist
Saturday, August 5, 2023
9:00am-11:00am
Clarksbury United Methodist,
Deltaville, VA 23043, United



Church Service Assistants for the month of *August*

Ushers:

Linda Bartz and Linda Dobbins

Liturgist:

Linda Dobbins

Counters:

Alan Miller and David Dobson

Open Hearts Open Minds
Open Doors

Deadline for the September newsletter is Friday, August 25
 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 07/30/2023	77,053.39
Total Needed by end of August	1,906.11

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Ministry and Notices:

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 Delta-ville 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.



August	Volunteer Name
6	Don and Linda Bartz
13	Cheryl Teagle
20	Dawn Wilt and Charlie Townes
27	Eileen and Randy Crittenden

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Bake Sale and Nursing Home Visits



*Glorify
Him in All
You Do*

PrayerAtTheHearL.org



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
agtt55@gmail.com

Lay Leader:

Warren Wright
(804) 241- 5686
wright@va.metrocast.net

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:

Becky Foster



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AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Choir Practice 11am	4	5 Cryer Mobile Food Pantry 9am
6 Marion Miller	7	8	9	10 Choir Practice 11am	11 Gayle Gilliland Donald Wilhite	12
13	14	15	16	17 Choir Practice 11am	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Choir Practice 11am	25	26
27 Betty Ann Tabler Jim Chenowith	28	29 Lynn Bisogno	30	31 Choir Practice 11am		

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