



# The Grapevine

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

## Prayer For The Month Of October

Heavenly and Blessed Father, we welcome the new month of October with great expectation and hope.

Lord, it's difficult to find the words to express my gratitude for all the ways You have blessed my life.

As I prepare for this new month, I know that I cannot do it without You. But Your love and strength empower me.

Thank You for Your unconditional love. I embrace Your love and peace.

I will keep my eyes focused on You. In Jesus name I pray,  
Amen!

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## Monthly Scriptures :

### **October 1:**

*Matthew 21:23-32*

*Sermon Title: "The Will of the Father"*

### **October 8:**

*Romans 7:15-25*

*Sermon Title: "People who Produce Fruit"*

### **October 15:**

*Matthew 22:1-14*

*Sermon Title:*

*"The Wedding Feast "*

### **October 22:**

*Matthew 22:15-22*

*Sermon Title:*

*"Give to God The Things that are God's"*

### **October 2:**

*Matthew 22:34-46 9*

*Sermon Title: "Love the Lord your God with all you Heart"*

### **Romans 8:26-39**

*Sermon Title:*

*"Nothing Separates us from the Love Of God"*

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## Pastor Ken's Corner

### [Matthew 22:15-22 \(NRSV\)](#)

*15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are since teacher, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.*

This **October 2023** will be a very important month in the life of Clarksbury Church.

Your leadership and you as a congregation have made a decision to be faithful to the **traditional** interpretation /understanding of the scriptures... not to be negative, rather to be positive.

We as a Church have determined, as guided by the scriptures, to continue to render *to God the things that are God's*...to serve God as the **scriptures**, our **Wesleyan tradition**, our **Christian experience**, and our understanding and **reason** call us to.

On October 7, 2023, starting at 8:30 a.m. at an **Annual Conference Session via Zoom** there will be a vote to ratify **YOUR** decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Pray for the will of God to be made known in this vote. Amen

Much **work, legal and otherwise**, will follow after the decision of that meeting.

**Clarksbury** will continue to be welcoming, loving, and faithful to our community. We will continue to love our neighbors; we will comfort the sick and the poor; we will serve our community with peace, love and mercy; and we will honor the sacraments as prescribed in scriptures.

What are your **expectations and anticipations** for this October and the future ahead?

I urge all of us to pray for our nation; for safety in returning to school and peaceful activities in all of our communities.

As often as I've read this passage, I see the process for putting into action the priorities and distinctions for our Christian lives. We render to God that which is God's...plain and forthright.

God is here among us **when we pray** and **as we pray**. What a powerful **Promise**.

I will state again from last month because it is very important to **FOCUS** on God, not his fallen world.

Remember: Christ has a **Passion** (Love) for us; he has a **Plan** for us; and a **Promise** to us.

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**Passion:** John 13:34–35 (NRSV)

<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another. Just as I have loved** you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another.**

**Plan:** John 6:38–39 (NRSV)

<sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> **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.**

**Promise:** Matthew 28:18–20 (NRSV)<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. **And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Jesus lets us know **His expectation and His anticipation** for us in His Passion, His Plan and His Promise that He has made to us in the above scriptures and others.

**God sent Jesus to save us; in order to do that WE needed to be convinced to have FAITH in HIM.**

Jesus **creates** a new frame of reference for **expectations and anticipations** for all of us--not just the people two thousand 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.

Each of you is a member of the body, an integral part of the church and God's perfect plan of salvation. **You** are more important now than you were in the past because we move forward in a faith-filled path. You may not realize right now at this moment how integral **ALL of you are to 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.



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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 Service members at work around the world and all the families waiting patiently for their safe return.

Our **Cryer Mobile Food Pantry** has been scheduled for **October 7 from 9 to 11 a.m.** We need willing hands and prayers for this event as we always do on the first Saturday of the month in partnership with the Cryer Center.

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 those who are in the path of hurricanes and other storms. We pray for the victims of violence. 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

Stewardship, God's economic plan

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.

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## Ministries:

### UMM

The Clarksbury Church Men will meet on Monday October 23rd at 7 PM. At this meeting we will be making plans for our Fall/Winter activities. 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

#### Crafting and Caring For Dockside-Pat Hooper

Clarksbury's Nurture and Outreach Ministry will be taking on the task of providing the Dockside Health and Rehab facility with as many needed crafting, comfort and entertainment items as we can. There is a great need there for things such as crafting and needlework items, blankets, comforters, games and old movies.

More details will follow in the October 1st bulletin.

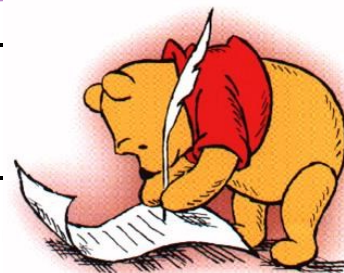
#### New Prayer Group-Linda Bartz

We are planning a new Prayer Group that will meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30am. The group will be open to the community and meet for no longer than one hour. We hope to have our first meeting by mid to late October. Watch the bulletin and local media for announcements.

***"Where two or more are gathered there I will be also"***

*“The power of imagination makes us infinite.”*

*John Muir*



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., 23079

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, October 7, 2023**  
**9:00am-11:00am**  
**Clarksbury United Methodist,**  
**Deltaville, VA 23043, United**



### Church Service Assistants for the month of *October*

#### Ushers:

*Pat & John Hooper*

*Pam & Bryan Motes*

#### Liturgist:

*Warren Wright*

#### Counters:

*Charlie Townes and John Hooper*

*Open Hearts Open Minds*  
*Open Doors*

Deadline for the November newsletter is Friday, July 23  
 Please send your emails and articles to [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto: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 09/24/2023	97,314.47
Total Needed by end of September	-8,484.47

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## Ministry and Notices:

### Soup Ministry/Warming Tree/and Coat Ministry – October 2023

Chairperson-Kathy Wright; Lucy Blevins, Diane Faulkner, and Pat Hooper

At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during the summer months. We will begin delivering the third Monday of October. We only deliver once a month because we deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month, including during the summer months. If you would like to make homemade soup for our recipients, let one of the committee members listed above know. The containers (one quart size) are provided and you will need to make four quarts, variety your choice (most like vegetable or chicken noodle soup), and return your soup to the church.



**Our warming tree and coat rack ministries** will begin the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March. If you would like to provide warming tree items, etc. gloves, hats, scarves, home-made or store bought, you may bring them to the church and place your items under the angel “warming tree”. **ONLY COATS** (for the coat rack) and they should be new or **slightly used, clean**, in children’s or adult sizes.

**THANK YOU** for supporting these very important ministries at **Clarksbury United Methodist Church**. If **you would like to help in any way**, contact one of the committee members listed above, or myself, Kathy Wright (757-373-9166) or email [kdwright@va.metrocast.net](mailto:kdwright@va.metrocast.net). **God Bless.**

## 5 Things for Christians to Keep in Mind This Fall

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

Autumn has a beauty all its own as the crisp cool air meets the warm hues of red, orange, and yellow leaves as they gracefully float down from the once lush, green, and stately trees.

It’s as if autumn softly sings a bittersweet symphony reminding us that this life is fragile, yet majestic, filled with awe and wonder.

As we settle into school routines and look forward to the football games (or the snacks in my case) while eagerly awaiting the pumpkin patch pickings and harvest festivals, there is this open invitation to take notice of God’s goodness.

From the breathtaking landscapes to the bounty of blessings tucked within our homes, this time of year seems to prompt us to pause and reflect.

So, here is my question for you. How are you going into this semi-sweet season? Is it with a heart full of thanksgiving, or is there a bit of numbness and pain associated with it?

Whether you find that it brings you utter joy or leaves you seeping in sorrow, do keep in mind that there is something about autumn’s warm glow and drastic changes that can trigger our emotions and fuel our thoughts.

Romans 12:2 tells us not to be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of our mind. As we head into a new autumn season, and the transformation slowly shifts and takes place, it also creates a prime opportunity for us to shift our focus as well.

Will you join me in seeking a Christ-like mindset? Let’s renew our thoughts to savor the goodness that God intended



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## Fall Food Pantry



### Church Leadership:

#### *Spiritual Leader:*

Ken Cleveland  
(276) 224- 4935  
kencleveland@vaumc.org

#### *Church Council Chair:*

Lee White  
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#### *Ministers of Music:*

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#### *Lay Leader:*

Warren Wright  
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#### *Financial Secretary:*

Suzanne Ramsburg  
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#### *Trustees Committee Chair:*

Don Bartz  
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dbartz@gmail.com

#### *Nurture & Outreach Chair:*

Jerry Dant  
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jerryd1935@msn.com

#### *Recording Secretary:*

Becky Foster



# The Grapevine

## October 2023

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Myrtle Clark	3	4 Tommy Crittenden	5	6	7 Cryer Center FP 9am
8	9 Jasper Booker	10 Cacky Guill	11	12	13	14
15 Eric Vaudt	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Jerry Duke	26	27 Ann Thomas	28
29 Phyllis Motley	30	31 Kathy Wright				

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