

Highland United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 34
Callaway, VA 24067



THE HIGHLANDER

July 2017

I fear Five Mile Mountain Road! (The past year and half, I have mistakenly called it Six Mile Mountain Road—fear has a way of lengthening reality!) My first months in Franklin County, I drove this twisty, curvy road, with stretches where the yellow lane line disappears— three different times. After the third time, I avoided it! If I needed to go to Floyd, I would take Green's Creek/Callaway Road all the way up to Route 221. I know...I know...talk about taking the loooooonng way!

But, the other day, I had dinner plans with the Rev. Jessica Slusher in Floyd. Jessica and her family live and work in Floyd. Jessica also serves Bethany Church of the Brethren in Callaway! It was a beautiful spring evening and I decided I was going to muster up the courage to take the Five Mile Mountain Way. I texted Jessica to let her know I was on the way and which way I was coming. She responded with a promise of prayerful support and motivation: this way will easily save you 20 to 25 minutes compared to the other way!!!!

This experience of taking a road I feared helped me think about our life of faith--growing to love God and others. My spring Five Mile Mountain Road adventure reminds me how we can and need to take roads and ways we may fear.

We can do what we fear when we have people praying for us and telling us why it is important. Others who have traveled their own risky roads offer support and wisdom of the way. Jessica knew the way, she also knew the benefits. Jessica prayed for me. What do you fear doing for God? Someone can pray for you and cast a vision of why it is worth it!

Facing our fears leads to new prayers and by ways of compassion! "Wow!" I thought as I drove the 5 miles: Jessica and her family drive this road EVERY week, sometimes multiple journeys a week because being a pastor is more than Sunday mornings. Like the post office, she drives the road to be with her flock through rain, snow, ice, and fog! My heart filled with gratitude and inspiration for people who give so much of their life and resources to love God and others. My mind made a note--pray for them on Sunday mornings! What way is God leading you to go, but you are filled with hesitation and doubt? Go—because God will crucify the selfish valley we live in; God fills us with prayers and compassion for others.

Setting our face to go new ways, do something different, step out of our comfort zone, name and talk about a fear, will provide surprising glimpses—we can see more of God and the world we live in. Coming back home that night, around a curve of Five Mile Mountain I suddenly saw a bear! A black young bear! I marveled and awed at God's creation. Yep—I turned into Gomer—"Gawwwleeyy God! You sure are an amazing Creator!" Safe and sound in my car, I could enjoy every moment. Taking new roads of faith, God assures us with promises-locked and covered--we can experience the wild of our world--our world gets bigger--our hearts grow and trust deeper.

I respectfully fear Five Mile Mountain Road. I will not let fear stop me from driving it. I wonder how God is calling me to new by ways and highways of faith. What about you? Where and what is God leading you to do?

Amy

Schedules

Acolytes

July 2 - Jared Jamison
July 9 - Abby Krauss
July 16 - Hannah McPherson
July 23 - Emma McPherson
July 30 - Levi Haskins

Greeter

Lynn Bayly

Nursery

July 2 - Sarah Haskins
July 9 - Sherri Krauss
July 16 - Cindy Jamison
July 23 - Donna Guilliams
July 30 - Crystal Weaver

Piano

Jennifer Brubaker

UMW

There will be **NO** UMW meeting for July. However, there will be an outing on **July 15** for those that can attend. We will be going to the Merchantile in Ferrum for lunch. Further details, please contact Barbara Guilliams.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

July Sermon Series : Songs for Zoe, for Life

One of Highland's littlest sisters in Christ, Zoe, loves to sing! Standing tall, hymnal in hand, though not yet able to read, she praises God—and shares joy! Zoe's zest and energy inspires Amy to wonder, "What songs of faith do I want our littlest siblings in Christ to know?" Did you know that in greek "zoe" means life? What songs give you life and life in God? This July we will have a sermon series on different songs that give us life and we wish to share with all lives! Share your songs: See the table by the Pastor's Office to submit your suggestions. Thank You!

Our church camping trip is quickly approaching! We'll be at SML State Park for the weekend of **July 22**.

On Sunday, **July 16** we'll have a planning meeting after worship. We'll discuss what items your family would like to bring so we don't all show up with the same foods. All of you public speakers, please pray about how you can help with either of the services on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

Friday's events

Homemade Ice Cream Social, 7:30 PM

Saturday's events

Activity or game, mid-morning

Pot luck, 6:00 PM

Devotional service

Group games

S'mores bar by the campfire

Sunday's events

Breakfast, 8:30 AM

Worship service

Remember, if you're not camping you can still join us for the fun and festivities! Any questions, see Crystal Weaver (540)651-2085 or email her: crystalweaver04@yahoo.com

Worship Committee meeting **August 6** after morning worship

Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School so Amazing! Volunteers, donations, people praying—each child received a blessing and shared a blessing!

Thank you to the Disciple Bible Study group—34 lessons— a journey through the Bible! If you are interested in a Bible Study, please contact Amy.

Updates on the Faith Network for Franklin County

FAITH Network is a charitable organization that is a "first response" to families in crisis and seeks to help them establish a plan for stability and change. Churches who want to help may offer to mentor/shepherd one person or family at a time, or more if you are able to do so. This is not about providing financial support!! It is about building relationships.

For the most up to date information you can "like" their Facebook Page at "Faith Network."

Training for those who wanted to be mentors was offered in June. There will be more trainings in the fall. A need for helping people receive transportation to work went out through the Facebook page as well. For more information—to see this ministry take shape and how to pray—a hand out is in the entryway of the church. For more information or to be involved and help you can contact Sherri Scott at <fcfaithnetwork@gmail.com> or the Rev. Susan Hughes at 540-493-8715.

Remember if you would like your copy of the newsletter emailed to you please let Pat know by sending her an email at pswebb08@centurylink.net.

Spring Charge Conference Sharing

"How relaxing and pleasant!" I never thought those words would come out of my mouth, describing a Charge Conference! Our Spring Charge Conference was held on June 4 at 3:00 p.m. at Henry Fork Service Center. This is the first time a spring Charge Conference has been held—it was an experiment. How can we offer support and accountability for how we have committed to making disciples for Jesus Christ?

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Janine Howard, shared the scripture from Mark 6:6-13. She acknowledged all congregations experience obstacles, like the disciples did when Jesus sent them out. Like Jesus instructs, we shake the dust off our feet. She invited us to think about that instruction as shaking off the emotions from our souls so we can keep pressing on. Jesus knows about what it is like to "hit a wall," run out of energy, resources, people. The church can give up easily when not being successful or seeing results or getting tired. We hit obstacles and want to give up. Rev. Howard shared Jesus' encouragement about obstacles.

WOOP—is not just a song, but also a way to plan for the obstacles that will come for ministry. Jesus tells us to be prepared—to expect challenges, hardships, difficulties. WOOP stands for W "wish" O "outcome" O "obstacle" and P "plan." Set a goal, make a wish, vision your why or outcome, name some of the obstacles to this goal and then plan on how to meet the obstacles and not give up. "Reframe the obstacle as part of your process."

The rest of the time was spent sitting at round tables, different congregations sharing their goals and honestly what we have hit up against, and how to press on. Remembering we are not alone is a great consolation and strength. As we ended, the Rev. Lisa Nichols, who leads the Henry Fork Center, shared that over 75 children would begin their summer experience there the next day, June 5. We pray for them.

Prayer List

Mary Wade Akers
Pam Messenger
Unspoken Request
Cheryl Bailey
Lois Leonard
Barbara Guiliams
Dee Jamison
Beth Brown
Patsy Williams
Vicki Hodges
Bevelyne Prillaman
Lisa Dillon
Ron Burroughs
Mike Neal's Mom
Tricia Custer

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 2 A – Kenny and Jean Bernard
July 3 B – Morgan McPherson
July 4 B – Cindy Guiliams
B – Sherri Krauss
B – Jeanette Sledd
July 7 A – Bobby and Mabel Webb
July 8 A – Dempsey and Beth Brown
B – Kelsey McPherson
B – Laura Weaver
July 13 B – Betsy Guiliams
July 14 B – Alan Messenger
July 15 B – Scott Weaver
B – Dot Webb
July 18 B – Mitch Webb
July 20 B – Hannah McPherson
July 23 B – Lynnne Moran
July 25 A – Bob and Judy Prettyman
B – Cassidy Moran
July 26 A – Jeremy and Crystal Weaver
B – Judy Brubaker



Enjoy your Independence Day!!

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR AUGUST!!!