

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (8:30 am) Worship at New Hope UMC
(10 am) Worship at Highland UMC
TUESDAY (9 am) Community Breakfast at Maple Grove UMC *4th Tuesdays*
FRIDAY (7 pm) Franklin County HS Football Game
September 2 (7 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's Episcopal
September 7 (7 pm) Movie Night at Highland UMC
September 8 (6 pm) Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band at Antioch COB
September 9 (9 am) Donuts and Devotions in the Fellowship Hall *2nd Sundays*
Mini Mission Encounter at Smith Memorial UMC
(6 pm) Ice Cream Social at Antioch COB
September 15 Meals and Visiting
September 16 (7:30am) Men's Breakfast at the Roanoker
September 17 (7 pm) UMW *Every 3rd Monday (No meetings Jan, Feb or July)*
September 19 (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany *Every 3rd Wed. of month*
September 20 Newsletter Due
September 21-22 Piedmont Women's Retreat at Pheobe Needles
September 22 Pastor Amy in Richmond for VA Conference Cooperative Praish Workshop
September 23 Pot Luck with Outdoor Games Hosted by the Youth
September 28 (7pm) Franklin County HS Football Game
September 30 Diabetes Walk
October 7 Council Meeting
October 5-7 Smith Mtn. Lake Charity Home Tour
October 14 (3 pm) Danville District UMC Annual Meeting Halesford UMC
October 19 (7 pm) Franklin County HS Football Game
October 20 (9:30-Noon) Charge Conference at Fairview UMC
October 24 Garden Club meets at Highland UMC
November 2 (7 pm) Franklin County HS Football Game
February 23-26, 2019 Called General Conference of the UMC

Get Your Cow Bell Out!

Its football season! Come ring your cow bell and support our youth! Other youth, playing other sports, let us know how we can support you, too!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and PARDON

**God, we admit that too often we confuse
your time for our time.
your world for our world.
We loose sight of what is truly important,
and we think that we have all the answers.
When we feel strong and confident, we forget you.
And we forget our neighbors.
Help us to see that we are wound up
in a tangled web of community,
with you in the center. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Our God is one of patience and understanding.

Even when we stray, we are accompanied by a love that is too deep
for words.

Hear this. Know this. Remember this!

Thanks be to God.

(From Seasons of the Spirit)

CHARGE CONFERENCE

October 20: Let us make our way to Danville for a wonderful experience! This year the whole District is invited to come together for part of a day. After worship, we will break out into three groups. One group will take care of Charge Conference, the other group will learn more about the called General Conference, and the third group will learn more about how we can help our local congregations be disciples of Jesus Christ! This day will take place at Fairview UMC, 1013 Westover Drive, Danville. Martha Stokes, the lay leader of the VA Conference's delegation to the called Conference will come and share. Martha is a hometown girl—she was baptized and grew up in faith in Fieldstone! She is also an amazing person of grace and peace—she can share with us how to be Jesus' disciples in this anxious time.

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT

With a mixture of emotions the youth this week received handwritten notes from Highland's leaders Eric and Sherri Krauss. I share Sherri's words from her email she sent to the youth parents:

“Eric and I have truly enjoyed being a part of the youth group since joining the church. It was, in fact, the youth group that was the deciding factor in our choosing Highland as our home church. Our own children have unforgettable memories and bonds that will last a lifetime. Terry and Cindy served as wonderful examples to us as we served the last few years as youth group leaders, however it truly took the efforts of the entire group of parents for which we are most appreciative.

In truth, over the past year it has been increasingly difficult to commit the time required to be the leaders that this wonderful group of kids deserve. It is after months of discernment and prayer that we are stepping down as leaders. We will continue to offer support and be involved with events and mission projects. However, it is time for someone else who is feeling called to step up to the role of leader....”

I know you will join me in celebrating and thanking Eric and Sherri for their tremendous ministry. Personally connecting with the youth, leading with a passionate heart, sacrifices and so much more. Youth Ministry leadership is not for the faint of heart. Though we are sad, we bless them for what God has next for them. Hearing about their adventures as followers of Jesus grow our own discipleship. Through any change we grieve, celebrate, and hope.

I know you will join me in praying for our youth as well. How can we help them and their parents through this change? Remember, a youth group is not an end in and of itself—a youth group is meant to grow our faith as part of a church—everybody—this means you! You are a youth leader whether you know it or not! We don't “delegate” or “sell out” being in relationship with the youth to “other” people—we all need youth and the youth needs all of us. This is the church!

I know you will join me in praying about where Jesus is leading you and his congregation to serve, help, share. I hope their parents and I will find time to meet in the next month to celebrate what God has been doing, ponder questions about the present and future. Until then, let us give thanks for the people who change our lives for the better.
In Christ—*Amy*

No Easy Button for Fruitful Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries
An excerpt from an article on the Lewis Center (Wesley Seminary) website

“One of the most common and most debilitating myths about youth ministry might just be the all-too-common belief in the Easy Button....Easy Button conversations often begin with “All we need is an (energetic youth worker, edgy worship service, etc.)” Churches that try to build Easy Button youth ministries find themselves just as stuck a decade from now as they are today. On the flip side, effective, sustainable youth ministries are found in churches that give up the search for easy answers and, to borrow from Eugene Peterson, practice “long obedience in the same direction.” There are clear practices in youth ministry that do work and work with dependable consistency. But few, if any, of them are easy...”

Youth Ministry Thoughts from the Lewis Center at Wesley Seminary

- *Understand young persons as participants in ministry, not objects of ministry
- *Don't guess at young people's needs. Solicit input and feedback from teens themselves, not just parents and adults leaders. Invite them to suggest ways the church can help them grow in faith.
- *Appreciate that youth ministry is more than youth group. Encourage youth to be involved in all aspects of church life.
- *Youth ministry is about relationships. Relationships are more important than programs. Young persons are seeking a sense of belonging.
- *Be present for kids. Listen. d discipline.

Commission on the Way Forward Update

The Commission on the Way Forward's report and recommendations has been released in different languages for this UM global church. Amy has printed it out this (200 plus page) report and will be trying to process it. This report is from over two years of prayerful discussion from the Commission. The plans are just proposals—suggestions. What's the next step? These possible plans will be considered by the United Methodist Church Judicial Council. (Like our U.S. government's Supreme Court, we have a Court.) This Judicial Council (our Court) will decide in a few months if these proposed plans are acceptable (okay by our book of Discipline). If they are "okay" (constitutional) then the plans go on to be voted on by the called General Conference in February, 2019. So, we continue to be in a "holding" pattern. We continue to wait and see. What can we do in the meantime? PRAY! Keep informed. There are hand outs on the table by the pastor's office. There are videos to watch. Attend Charge Conference on October 20 and hear more from leaders. Meet with Amy if you have questions or would like to know more. Once the Judicial Council rules on what will be going to the Called General Conference in February, 2019, Amy will hold an informal time of discussion if you have questions.

A Call for Prayer for the Called General Conference

*Pause and pray for our church's mission and way forward daily for four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 a.m. or p.m. in their own time zone OR at another time. This is because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.

*Pray using a weekly prayer calendar that will be posted on the UMCPrays.org website from June 2, 2018, through the end of February 2019. The calendar will list a unique cluster of names each

week. Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, added: “We believe that the acts of weekly fasting and prayer will help us approach General Conference both individually and corporately in a posture of humility and receptivity to one another and to the leadership of God’s Holy Spirit.” For more details, visit UMCPrays.org.