

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to end this year with a huge thank you to everyone of you who served out of your gifts and graces to build the kingdom at Christ Church. I am also proud to say I have the honor to Pastor Christ Church. While this has been a challenging year, I think it has honestly been our best yet.

I want to thank all of the servants who have served in leadership this year! Thank you to all of our ministry team chairs– the work they all do behind the scenes makes everything run so smoothly! More than that they all have dreamed big– risked looking crazy– and served God with full hearts!

I especially want to thank Bonnie Haislip. Bonnie has served as our Chair of Outreach for the past 6 years and through her ministry we have extended our reach to our neighbors in incredible ways. Through her go getter spirit and endless drive we have touched 1,000's of people through the ministries of Parent's Night Out, Angel Tree, Rise Against Hunger, Paint Staunton Blue, and many, many, more. I hope you will find a way as her sisters and brothers to let her know how proud we are of how graciously she has used her gifts in this role. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to use her for his glory in our church.

Thank you to all who have served on a committee, on a team, in a ministry, or at an event! Our UMW and UMM continue to do so much for our church community and for Staunton. Our Thursday meals team, our prayer shawl ministry, our nursery, our Sunday School Teachers, our youth leadership, - all of the volunteers who serve Sunday after Sunday, week after week– each one of you makes a difference for Jesus. Out of your faith you are building bridges of love in our community!

Above all I want to thank you for your generosity. I have read that money follows mission, and we our church is living proof that when mission is our focus funds follow. Two years ago, our leadership met to talk about what we needed to see change if we wanted to grow our reach in our community. Unanimously, we said that, in order to do good ministry, we needed to be financially stable. Today I can say that through your generosity we are so close to that goal. We have paid all of our bills without assistance from outside the general fund. That is a first.

This year, through your generosity we are closer than ever to meeting our financial goals of paying our apportionments at 100%. We have set aside 15% of our weekly offerings, and been able to send more funds than that to the conference and district. As of this month, we are projected to pay 80% of our apportionments. This is wonderful We are closer and closer.

I want to challenge our congregation to close the gap. We are but \$9,000 short of meeting our 100% goal. Your gifts could make the difference. If you would consider giving above your tithe to make this dream a reality- to further mission- to build the connection of churches- and to meet our obligation it This is an opportunity to share in the work that the church is doing on a global scale. Our church has hospitals around the world, and missionaries around the world and this is the way in which we can support them. This is the about being apart unified body of Christ.

I also want to thank our Staff. The ministry that happens week to week cannot happen without the steady loving work of our staff! Jo Ellen, Joe, Wayne, Anne C, and Nancy do more than I can account for to make our church great! Thank you!

As we come to the New Year– I want to invite us all to listen for God's voice. Callings are never forever but for a season– and no matter what phase of life you find yourself in– God wants to use you. Be courageous in saying yes to God. It is ok to let go of something to say yes to God's plans for today. I pray that God can use our gifts for his purpose in his will! You are loved and you are so valued.

Pastor Sarah



Contact Us

Office 540-886-7600
Email christumcs@gmail.com



Our Ministry Staff

Rev. Sarah Dumas Locke
Grady Swink, Lay Leader
Joe Swengel, Director of Music
Ann Clark, Organist
Nancy Simmons, Nursery Care
Jim Sumner, Minister of Visitation



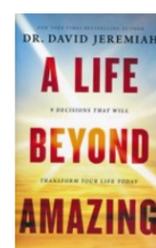
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January/February 2018

The SCRIBE

MORE Wednesday Nights at St. Paul's UMC



January 10-March 14, 2018
Wednesday evenings at 6:15-7:30pm
9 Decisions That Will Transform Your Life Today
St. Paul's Chapel
(Facilitator: Jim Irving)
Dr. David Jeremiah presents a thought-provoking look at how 21st-century believers ought to live--- whether Jesus' return is still far off or just around the corner! Jeremiah unpacks nine spiritual principles to help Christ's followers survive and thrive as we prepare for the societal onslaught building against people of faith.

January 10 - February 28, 2018
Wednesday @ 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Redemptive Compassion
(Facilitator: LOVE INC)



Redemptive Compassion is a biblical philosophy on how we can offer holistic help to those we serve. It has evolved over 15 years of working daily with people who find themselves struggling with needs in their life and unable to overcome them on their own. It challenges many current and common ways of addressing need based upon 6 core principles: everyone has value; we are called to invest relationally in each other; everyone has capacity and potential; mutual participation is important; we must use wisdom & discernment and what we do should transform. Cost is \$10, which covers the cost of the book and other materials.

January 10-March 12, 2018
Wednesday @ 6:15-7:30pm
(Facilitator: Joseph Locke)

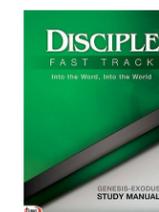


Have you ever wondered what the difference really was between Jews and Christians? Or what the prayer practices of the Muslims really were all about? Do you know the differences between Hindus and Buddhists? Sometimes all we see are differences? Joseph Locke, Professor at Blue Ridge College will offer a 12 week class on the Religions of the World. Each week you will learn and talk about the history of each major world religion, their practices, and discuss what we can learn from our neighbors who believe differently. Book cost is \$10.

"Chat and Chew 2.0" January 27 at Verona UMC with Bishop Sharma Lewis 11 AM

We will be joining with the Harrisonburg and Winchester Districts for the Bishop's Chat and Chew 2.0. Our Bishop, the Rev. Sharma Lewis, has discerned a need to bring focus to the work of the Commission on the Way Forward regarding our Church's dialogue and disagreement regarding human sexuality. She intends to use the "Chat and Chew" approach employed last year to hear lay and clergy voices from across the Conference to engage directly in this conversation. Bishop Lewis will open each session at 9:00 a.m. by setting the stage for the conversation. Then everyone will divide into facilitated groups to engage four questions provided by the Council of Bishops. A 'scribe' in each small group will compile feedback. Worship (11:00 -12:30) will include Bishop Lewis preaching on unity and the celebration of Holy Communion. Lunch (12:30-2:00 p.m.) will conclude the day. Come and be with us in Verona on January 27th!

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK STUDY



January 8th we will start our newest Disciple Study. During the Winter/Spring we will be taking an in depth look at Genesis and Exodus. In this study we will read daily and try some new spiritual disciplines as we seek to see how the Word of God really does lead us to our work in the World! Cost of the book is \$15. Sign up in the communication Center. This Study meets on Monday Mornings from 11-12:30.



January Birthdays

- 1/01 Nicholas Weller
- 1/02 Pluma Wilkerson
- 1/03 Matthew Greaver
- 1/09 Joyce Greaver
- 1/09 Jonathan Swartz
- 1/10 Jim Sumner
- 1/13 Virginia White
- 1/18 Hunter Lee
- 1/27 Bobby Wenger
- 1/28 Jim Myers
- 1/30 Shirley Rexrode
- 1/31 Karen Harris

February Birthdays

- 2/03 Doug Johnston
- 2/05 David Wood
- 2/05 Steve Henderson
- 2/11 Linda Pruitt & Brenda Nair
- 2/14 Sherry Wilson
- 2/20 Margaret Baker
- 2/24 Carol Cash
- 2/25 Frank Swisher
- 2/27 Charlotte Ellinger

Anniversaries

- 2/11 Mark & Patricia Loyd
- 2/11 J.R. & Allison Bishop
- 2/14 John & Denise Swartz

Safety Reminder for the New Year

As per Staunton Fire Department Directives, the following must be adhered to:

1. There must be at least 18" clearance from the ceiling to any stored material.
2. There must be at least 36" clearance in front of electrical panels.
3. Hallways must have at least 45" clearance.
4. Electrical devices must be plugged directly into outlets or surge strips.
5. No parking in fire lane.

Best wishes for a blessed and safe 2018.

Ron Cash, Disaster Coordinator

THANK YOU

I want to thank all my church friends and my family for your prayers, cards and visits while I was in the hospital. Also, thank you to Pastor Sarah and Jim Sumner for their visits.
 God Bless You All, Joetta Weller

NURTURE AND FRIENDS
 CRACKER BARREL, STAUNTON
 1/11/2018 11 AM

Nurture and Friends is not just a committee but a connection of like minded people offering prayers, support/concern, sharing/expanding ideas for personal growth while having fun. Dutch Treat lunch. Inclement weather cancels event. Contact Norma Sumner if you have questions-885-2177.



Sunday January 7th-@ Christ- Youth Chopped Competition (Bring your best Cooking skills for a fun night in the kitchen) Teams will compete to make the best Appetizers, Main Courses, and Desserts

District LOCK-OUT on January 12th to the 13th.

Youth @ St. Paul's January 21st & 28th - Meet at Christ at 5:15.

February 3rd- Mission/ Fun Day in Richmond-We will be packaging meals at "Feed My Children" Mission event. The day will also include a fun stop at a laser tag or trampoline park, lunch, and dinner. All youth need to bring \$40 for the day.

Youth Nights in February- Feb 11th @ St. Paul's (meet @ 5:15) , Feb 18th @ Christ, Feb 25th @ St. Paul's (Meet @ 5:15)



BUILD THE BLOCK



We believe that every community should have safe, affordable housing. Our Christmas Eve Offering will be going to Habitat for Humanity as we partner to Build the Block in 2018. With our help, Habitat will be building and rebuilding 4 houses on Stafford Street. These houses will be sold to our neighbors at a zero percent interest loan. This is only possible when the community comes around the families in love.

In the coming year you can get involved in these ways:

- 1) give through Go Fund me @ <https://www.gofundme.com/forstaunton-build-the-block>.
- 2) You can volunteer to help build by calling Habitat at (540) 886-1944.
- 3) During the months of March and April we will be looking for small teams to feed the Habitat Volunteers lunch during a build. To sign up for this go to www.forstaunton.org.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY READING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| January 1 | Genesis 1-3 | February 1 | Exodus 7-9 |
| January 2 | Genesis 4-7 | February 2 | Exodus 10-12 |
| January 3 | Genesis 8-11 | February 3 | Exodus 13-15 |
| January 4 | Job 1-5 | February 4 | Exodus 16-18 |
| January 5 | Job 6-9 | February 5 | Exodus 19-21 |
| January 6 | Job 10-13 | February 6 | Exodus 22-24 |
| January 7 | Job 14-16 | February 7 | Exodus 25-27 |
| January 8 | Job 17-20 | February 8 | Exodus 28-29 |
| January 9 | Job 21-23 | February 9 | Exodus 30-32 |
| January 10 | Job 24-28 | February 10 | Exodus 33-35 |
| January 11 | Job 29-31 | February 11 | Exodus 36-38 |
| January 12 | Job 32-34 | February 12 | Exodus 39-40 |
| January 13 | Job 35-37 | February 13 | Leviticus 1-4 |
| January 14 | Job 38-39 | February 14 | Leviticus 5-7 |
| January 15 | Job 40-42 | February 15 | Leviticus 8-10 |
| January 16 | Genesis 12-15 | February 16 | Leviticus 11-13 |
| January 17 | Genesis 16-18 | February 17 | Leviticus 14-15 |
| January 18 | Genesis 19-21 | February 18 | Leviticus 16-18 |
| January 19 | Genesis 22-24 | February 19 | Leviticus 19-21 |
| January 20 | Genesis 25-26 | February 20 | Leviticus 22-23 |
| January 21 | Genesis 27-29 | February 21 | Leviticus 24-25 |
| January 22 | Genesis 30-31 | February 22 | Leviticus 26-27 |
| January 23 | Genesis 32-34 | February 23 | Numbers 1-2 |
| January 24 | Genesis 35-37 | February 24 | Numbers 3-4 |
| January 25 | Genesis 38-40 | February 25 | Numbers 5-6 |
| January 26 | Genesis 41-42 | February 26 | Numbers 7 |
| January 27 | Genesis 43-45 | February 27 | Numbers 8-10 |
| January 28 | Genesis 46-47 | February 28 | Numbers 11-13 |
| January 29 | Genesis 48-50 | | |
| January 30 | Exodus 1-3 | | |
| January 31 | Exodus 4-6 | | |

11 AM Worship Helpers
 2018 Schedule

January-December
 First Sundays
 Jeff Wilson

January-December
 Second Sundays
 Kim Burns

January-March
 Third Sundays
 Kevin Block

April-June
 Third Sundays
 Steve Henderson

July-September
 Third Sundays
 Joe Swengel

October-December
 Third Sundays
 Steve Henderson

January-December
 Fourth Sundays
 Kiernan Corey

United Methodist Men
 Meeting Dates
 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1/16 | 8/21 |
| 2/20 | 9/11 |
| 3/20 | 10/16 |
| 4/17 | 11/13 |
| 5/15 | |
| 6/19 | |
| 7/3-4 Food Booth at Park | |



THANK YOU

Many Thanks to all who bought gifts or helped with this year's ANGEL TREE project. We had 13 children plus their caregivers for our party on December 19th.

As usual, Santa was the main attraction. After pizza and cookies, the Christmas story was read along with the meaning of the candy cane.

This was a wonderful group of families. Thanks to Bonnie Haislip, Virginia White and the Youth for their help in making this a memorable evening.

Gwen Conner, Outreach Chair

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

Coffee and Prayer will be every Wednesday during lent in our parking lot from 6-8 a.m. We need several people to sign up to help one or two mornings handing out coffee and praying with folks. If you would like to be involved, please contact the office or Pastor Sarah.

We will have a round table worship in the Fellowship Hall. Keep your eye on the weekly bulletins for more information.

Ash Wednesday service will be at 7 p.m. Come and remember. Come and reflect. Come.