

New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter

The Hilltopper



February 2023

From Pastor Mike

It's February which means our formal month of discernment about the future of New Hope Church has ended. Private discernment is still taking place, but it is time to look at our next steps in this process – the straw poll.

The Church Council made plans for the Straw Poll at their January meeting. The results of this poll will help the Church Council discern whether New Hope moves forward with a Church Conference open to all Professing Members of New Hope Church.

The straw poll will take place after worship on Sunday, February 19th, and is not limited to Professing Members. This poll aims to take a “snapshot” of those who regularly attend worship at New Hope on a given Sunday.

As you leave the sanctuary after worship on February 19th, you will be given a simple ballot to fill out. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for prayer, then those who choose to fill out a ballot will do so. I am working with our Lay Leader, Council Chair, and Staff-Parish Chair on the wording of this ballot.

Proxy ballots will not be allowed at the straw poll. Some may question the decision to only accept in-person ballots. However, this is only a snapshot. A better image may be that we are taking the temperature of the congregation on one Sunday morning.

Once the straw poll has been completed, a team of three people will tabulate the results. We will share the results with those on our email list and our text chain when they are in. If you are not receiving church emails or texts, then let me know if you want to be included.

The members of the Church Council will take those results and enter a 5-day period of discernment prior to the February 23rd meeting. The Church Council will meet at this time to discuss the next steps. Those next steps could be to ask our District Superintendent to call a Church Conference for a formal vote on the question of disaffiliation. If the straw poll does not show support for disaffiliation, then the Council may decide against a Church Conference.

Church Council meetings are open to all who wish to attend but only members of the council have a vote.

Between the straw poll and the church council meeting, we will have a pancake supper on Tuesday, February 21st, and an Ash Wednesday service the next day. This will take place as we begin the forty days of Lent together.

I want to thank all of you for doing the hard work of engaging in the process. It has not always been easy, but I think we have done a good job of giving people room for discernment and discussion.

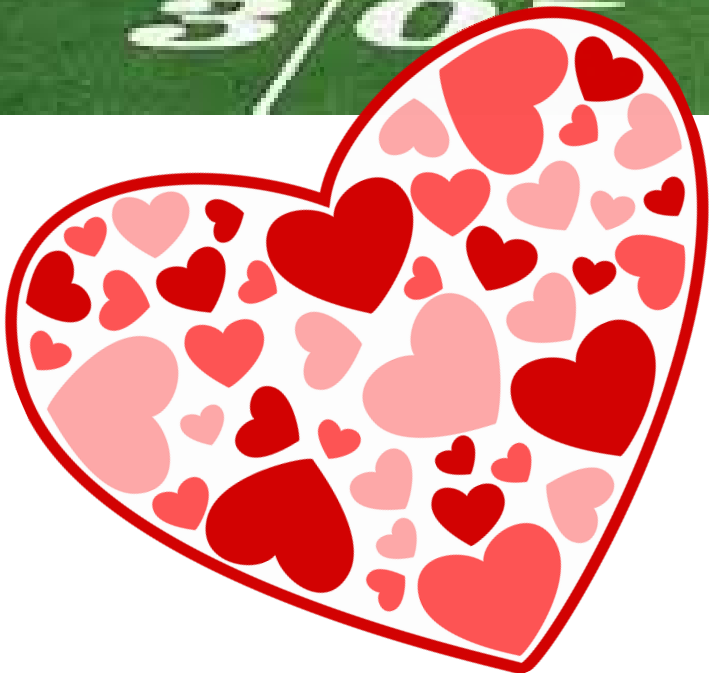
May we continue to work through this with our integrity intact and God's love overflowing in our hearts. May we be instruments of grace and mercy to each other even when we find it difficult.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mike*

Souper Bowl of Caring

and

Hearts Party



The kickoff for this year's Hearts Party and Souper Bowl Sunday Extravaganza will be Sunday, February 12th, following the worship service. This event will bring together the spirit of Valentine's Day and the excitement of the Souper Bowl. Join us for soup, sandwiches, heartfelt games, spirited competition, cheerful fellowship and more!

We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items that will be taken to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The team that brings the most food items wins and together we can help Tackle Hunger and share our loving spirit!



The following are the minutes from the **JANUARY** meeting of the Church Council.

The minutes are available to help the entire church family *stay in the know* about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Church Council Meeting Minutes - January 26, 2022

Present: Kevin Armstrong, Bianca Brensinger, Samantha Brensinger, Andy Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Robin Craun, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Nathan Kutz, Bill Lalla, Pastor Mike, Cindy Sheets, Jennifer Strother, Dallas Van Lear, and Karen Whitmer.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Dallas Van Lear. And Kevin Armstrong read devotions by C.S. Lewis

The minutes from the December meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Report: *(Kevin Armstrong reported)*

- In 2022, we took in \$161,000 in tithing and donations and we spent \$167,000. We had budgeted for \$186,000.
- We were \$7,200 short on our apportionments for the conference in 2022. We paid our district apportionments in full.
- We need approximately \$9,300 to pay for our bills and staffing each month. So far in January, we have taken in about \$10,000.
- Kevin recommended that we not pay any apportionments for this month and use this time to come up with a plan of action starting next month.
- Audits are due April 1st. If someone would like to volunteer to spend about an hour auditing the church's records, please see Kevin.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- We did not have as big of an end-of-the-year (financially speaking) as we did last year.

Financial Secretary: *(Robin Craun reported)*

- Robin mailed out the remaining donation statements that were in the Narthex. If anyone has any questions, please see Robin.

Trustees: *(report from Mitch Brensinger)*

- Mitch Brensinger is the Chairperson, Corey Johnson is the Secretary.
- The trustees are looking into the issue of the cost of the church's propane and possibly finding another provider.

Pastor Mike: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Thanked everyone who made donations of medications for Mike's upcoming trip to Cuba. He will be leaving on the morning of February 10th, and returning late on February 17th. In Mike's absence, Brian Stout will be delivering the message on Sunday, February 12th.
- There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd.

Worship Committee: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Mike will be working to get this committee reassembled.

Spiritual Nurture: *(Samantha Brensinger reported)*

- For the kids, they are looking into having a Parents Night Out, possibly a Carnival, maybe going to the Natural Bridge Zoo, maybe going to an Amusement Park or going tubing locally, maybe ice skating in the winter.
- For the youth, they are looking into taking a trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania, maybe going to The Ark Encounter in Kentucky, having a Bowling Party, and having a Lock-in.

Evangelism: *(Nathan Kutz reported)*

- Thanked everyone for all of their donations over the months. In February they will be collecting soups and socks.
- Toilet paper was an item suggested that they collect for the local shelters.
- As of the date of this meeting the donation count is as follows:
 - 174 pounds of food
 - 35 jars of peanut butter
 - 65 coats
 - 20 disinfectant items
 - 12 boxes of to-go breakfast items
 - 10 large bags of clothing that totaled: 213 pieces of clothing

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- They had their first meeting of 2023 last Thursday with 12 men present.
- Last year they lost their fundraising monies from the New Hope Dump, which totalled \$343 per month.
- They are planning on having a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21st, with Bruce Rogers taking the lead.
- The UMM are planning on having an Easter Sunrise Breakfast on Sunday morning, April 9th, with Dallas Van Lear taking the lead on this.
- The UMM are discussing the possibility of reviving HOTS, but it won't be as big of an event or serve as many people. There will be more details to come as they are worked out further.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The women will be starting their monthly meetings again in March, until then they will be helping where needed.

Staff Parish Relations: *(Andy Breeding reported)*

- They had an early January meeting. They went over annual recommendations and it was agreed that they want Pastor Mike to continue to serve here at New Hope UMC. And that he would support us through any potential transition as needed.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- Karen, Wanda and Mike are working to update and verify membership lists. Old and incomplete records are causing problems along the way.
- They want to eventually create a user-friendly database of our membership records.

Lay Leader: *(Jennifer Strother reported)*

- On February 5th, Jennifer will be guest speaker at a neighboring church.
- We will once again this year hold the Baby Bottle Campaign, this will go to support the Comfort Care Women's Clinic. This will start on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter.

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- The copier in the church office has been repaired and serviced. And we are working to keep it running as long as possible.

Youth: *(Bianca Brensinger reported)*

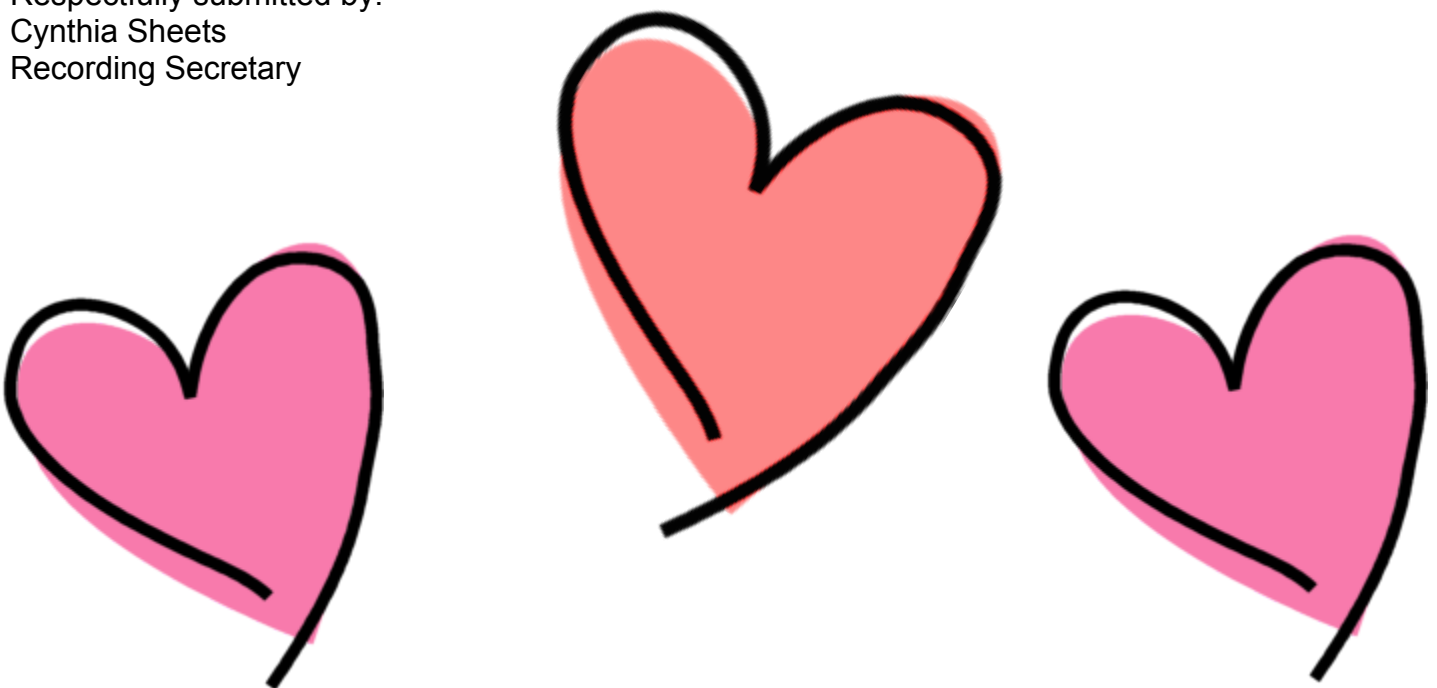
- The Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 12th, and we are also combining the Hearts Party the same day. The youth will decorate the social hall on Saturday, February 11th. There will be two teams, just like last year. This year the team names will be Love and Peace.
- The youth is planning to do a Parents Night Out on Tuesday, February 14th, which is Valentine's Day.
- The youth will begin to plan a trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania.

Unfinished Business:

- We need to develop a plan on what to do once our discernment period is over. Jennifer has been in contact with our District Superintendent, and a straw poll would be the next step.
- After much discussion and questioning; it was decided by the council to hold this straw poll on Sunday, February 19th, after worship service.
- Voting will be in a paper ballot form. Pastor Mike will design the ballot and Jennifer Strother and Dallas Van Lear will approve the ballot.
- The ballots of the straw poll on February 19th will be counted by Jennifer Strother, Samantha Brensinger and Cindy Sheets. The results will remain confidential, but will be shared with Pastor Mike and Dallas Van Lear. A few days later, on February 23rd, we will hold a special council meeting to discuss our potential next steps.

Dallas Van Lear ended the meeting by thanking us for coming. Mike prayed and the meeting ended at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia Sheets
Recording Secretary





Parents Night Out

Parents' Night Out

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Pizza at 5:30pm

Movie starts at 6:00pm



Upcoming Events at New Hope UMC

February 2023

Monday, February 6th at 6:30pm
Sunday, February 12th at 12:00pm
Sunday, February 14th at 5:30pm
Sunday, February 19th at 11:30am
Tuesday, February 21st at 5pm-7pm
Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm
Thursday, February 23rd at 6:30pm

Circle of Love
Souper Bowl & Hearts Party
Parents' Night Out
Straw Poll Voting
Pancake Supper
Ash Wednesday Service
Church Council Meeting

REJECTION

A testimony. A love story.

By: Cynthia Sheets

During this month when people's thoughts turn to love and affection. My thoughts have gone the opposite way. Because my feeling for the month is..... Rejection.

Rejection. Such a cold word.

A clinical process..... To Reject. To remove all emotions, all empathy and discard something ... someone.

I venture to say that we have all been rejected at some point in our lives, in one way or another. We know how awful it hurts... you feel isolated, alone, broken, unworthy.... and unloved.

And rejection hurts most when it's done by those around us whom we love the most. This kind of rejection cuts the deepest. When you are rejected by people whom you thought were your family, your friends, your loved ones, some of the most trusted people in your life. That is when the rejection can start to feel as though you are being pulled apart, like having your guts ripped right out of your body - an emotional disemboweled. And unfortunately for some of us, this horrific sensation can seem almost too real. I have even wondered of late, if it would hurt much worse if this emotional disembowelment was really, Physically, happening to my body?

I have been suffering with this feeling of an emotional disembowelment for many months now. And the pain has manifested in a number of ways. Even at times, I've been physically sick... and sickened by what I have seen and heard.

"By what?" You may ask. Ultimately... the world.... and the hate and the evil in it.

You may say: *"Oh, yes. Me too."* But, I am certain that for most of you, you will never fully understand my current feelings of pain and rejection. And that's okay.... I don't expect you to... And I don't want you to...

It's Too Awful!

It is a nauseatingly, evil pain. Like none I've ever known before, that resonates in the deepest part of my heart and my soul. A feeling, that I would venture to guess, must be used, at least in small part, as a form of torture by the demons in the fiery depths of Hell.

Because of this feeling, I have been in my own personal Hell recently. In my own darkness. Created by outside forces, of those who will never truly understand how and why my feelings are as they are. And more tragically, by those who would not care to try to understand.

I have been living in this comfortable hellscape, masked as my own life. Fooling myself and others. But, I know that I can not stay in this place forever, no matter how much warmth, comfort and familiarity it offers. This is how the evil one has been disguising this current state of pain in my life. But, I know that this is Not real acceptance that the darkness offers. And I do know the right thing. I know what I need to do. My church has taught me that.

So, with an admitted sense of regret, I slowly work to turn away from the warm comfortable blanket of darkness that the evil one has gently, carefully placed upon my shoulders. Somewhat reluctantly, I work to move away from the evil comforts afforded me by Satan. And I move slowly, methodically Back towards the brilliant bright light. Back towards love and True acceptance.

Back towards Jesus.

Jesus. The one true light. The one who will never Reject me. The one who will Always Love Me.

Jesus is Love.

He has loved me. He does love me. He will always love me. For I was made as He desired me to be.

Does this anger people?.... Perhaps.

Does this scare people?..... Clearly.

Does my pain hurt others? As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to try to help the one who is hurting, to alleviate their pain, share in it even; and not to have a hand in inflicting said pain.

But, what if one day, those same people learn, when all truth is given to them, that they were the ones with the blades in their hands; helping to rip me apart: cutting at my flesh, pulling at my guts and clawing at my spirit.

What happens then? A recognition of wrongs? An apology? Maybe. Maybe not. At that point, will it even matter?

Because in the meantime, I lay on the filthy ground, torn open and bleeding by sharpened blades and ripping, clawing hands, emotionally and spiritually disemboweled. My own bloody, oozing entrails and ripped pieces of flesh just out of my reach. I alone can not put myself back together. I alone can not make myself whole.

Because of this incident, I become Destroyed. Disheartened. Uncertain. Untrusting. Uncaring. Hate-filled. Those are the emotions that are trying to leach into my draining soul, and purposefully fill the gaping emptiness that's been created.

Was this the main goal? To destroy one person. No, not at all. This one person was not even thought of in the melee. No, I will just be a casualty in this heartless game that has no real winners.

The only thing that I do know is that God will use this pain-filled ridiculousness for good. As He always does. How? I may never know. But, God always uses the careless and thoughtless actions of mankind for the good of His coming kingdom. There have been many who have suffered, many who are suffering and many who will suffer. Some in the light for the whole world to see and some in the darkness all alone. And I am one of them. Everyday I suffer. Now more than ever.

And right now, in this moment, I can only pray that the people, in my little world, will hear the screams of my heart, acknowledge my intensely horrific pain, drop the blades from their hands, stop the painful tearing of my soul, and Accept me... before my disembowelment becomes too severe to recover from.

No matter what the future holds for me on earth, I know with all certainty in heaven, that one day Jesus will be there waiting for me with outstretched arms and a loving smile... for my return home.

Regardless of all the good things that I have done in my life, and regardless of all the sins that I am ashamed of ... Jesus has made a place for me in Heaven.

He loves me.

He made me.

He forgives me.

He helps me.

He heals me.

He accepts me...

no matter who rejects me on this earth....

.... because ***Jesus Is Love.***

Collections for February

We need your help!



WHAT: Donations of Socks and Soups

WHEN: The entire month of February

WHERE: Place donations in the marked tubs in the Narthex.

WHO: Helping people in our local communities, through local agencies, such as: the Verona Food Pantry, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Valley Mission, and Open Doors Shelter in Harrisonburg.

WHY: To help others in need in New Hope, and the surrounding areas.

QUESTIONS: Contact Cheryl and Nathan Kutz.



RealLifeHeavenlyHands@gmail.com (202) 495-1346

New Hope United Methodist Church – United Methodist Men (UMM)

Minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2023

The meeting was conducted by President Bill Lalla. There were 13 members present: Mitch Brensinger, Darryl Deavers, Jarman Fretwell, Kenny Fretwell, Jeff Hitt, Bill Lalla, Kim Maugans, Pastor Mike Reaves, Rob Riner, Bruce Rogers, Jim Strothers, Dallas Vanlear and Jack Walker. Devotions were provided by Bill Lalla. The meal was prepared and served by Wanda Harding, with assistance from JoEtta Walker.



PROGRAM: There was no scheduled program.

MINUTES: The minutes for the last scheduled meeting on November 17, 2022 were presented by Bruce Rogers. There being no questions, the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was given by Kenny Fretwell. It included a Summary Report for 2022 and a monthly report for January 2023. It includes all expenses and revenue since our last meeting. A copy of his report is part of these minutes.

Checking: \$ 5,251.78 + Savings: \$ 2,224.60 = Total: \$ 7,476.38

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Revenue Committee of Kim Maugans, Bill Lalla and Darryl Deavers was formed to look into the possibility of having some form of HOTS in the Fall of 2023. Suggestions for the Committee to consider should be presented directly to a member of the Committee. The Committee will meet this month and be prepared to discuss their initial findings at the UMM meeting on February 16, 2023.
- The Budget Committee has not met.
- Effective December 31, 2022, the UMM will no longer operate the New Hope Dump Site. The Ruritans have given up their contract with Augusta County and the County will operate the dump site with part-time county employees. We have lost the monthly revenue of \$342 from this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was a question about the UMM sponsoring a breakfast after the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday (April 9, 2023). After some discussion, we decided to have the Sunrise Service Breakfast for the church and the community. Dallas VanLear volunteered to coordinate this function, with help from other UMM members.
- There was a question about the UMM sponsoring a pancake supper on Fat Tuesday (February 21, 2023). After some discussion, we decided to have a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper for the Church and the community. The supper will be Free to everyone, including members of the community who attend. Bruce Rogers volunteered to coordinate this function, with help from other UMM members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Bruce Rogers, Secretary.



Thank you all for your donations to *Medications for Cuba*. Your gifts of medicine will make a big difference in the lives of many in

Cuba. Pastor Mike looks forward to sharing the mission team's experiences in Cuba when he returns.



Hello United Methodist Church,

I have been in your pews even before I took my first breath.

In my 50 years, I have been in over 100 of your spaces and for 10 years received perfect attendance in Sunday School.

You have taught me that my original goodness matters.

In the first month of my life, you poured water on all of my goodness and committed to nurturing my soul.

While just two months prior to my baptism you determined,
my original goodness was incompatible with Christian teaching.
Thus, expecting me to be single or married to a man.

No, I never heard a sermon on God's creativity, that is expressed through our gender and sexuality.

I really didn't even know the difference between homosexuality and heterosexuality till I was in a safe space, at the age of 35 to ask someone...

"Can you tell me the difference between homosexuality and heterosexuality?"
(Now, I offer grace that I am not the only one who didn't understand and who may still not get what LGBTQ means or even what sexuality is.)

Yet somehow I knew.

And I knew deep, deep, deep in my soul...
I knew that if I let my full self out to be set free for joyful obedience,
I would have to leave what felt...
to be so certain
to be so known
to be so comfortable
to be so familiar.

And the reality is...

I had to leave, which is something I lament every day.
I miss the spaces the United Methodist churches I attended sit in.

AND yet over time, I discovered through your many places...

That I was being invited to breathe deeper.
I was invited to learn more about a nurturing God.
I was invited to hear stories of a loving God who fearfully and wonderfully made us.
I was invited to be in spaces with others experiencing injustice and oppression for their original goodness.

And these lived experiences helped me realize that my original goodness is worthy.

That God's creativity and imagination uniquely created me in my mother's womb...
I am loved by the God who created me.
And that God especially loves the parts that have lived in hell on this earth.

That God wants my soul to be nurtured.

That God wants the shame and guilt in my bones for not meeting church expectations,
of being a straight woman to be released.

That God wants my soul to be nurtured so that joy and peace can arise, every day.

And you, United Methodist Church, found me along the way and you said that I could even
preach the gospel...

So now I spend my days with people who are at the end of life as a hospice chaplain..

Many of who have attended church all their lives and wonder if they are enough for the
loving God who created them.

And so, I preach the Good News...

God created you.

God loves you.

(And, God can be loving and pissed off in the same breath when we reject
each other and God still will not let anything get in the way of God's love for
and with us.)

And I have been asked by families who appreciated the care I provided their loved one,
often over a short period of time, to preside at the funeral of their loved one, a member
of a Methodist Church (and over the past few months) I have arrived to these churches
where duct tape marks out the United). After each of these services, people come up to
me and say "You did a great job, for not really knowing them.)

And I leave wondering,

If I was good enough to bring the good news of God's love to your loved
one, why do you not think I am good enough for the God who created, who
longs for me to receive God's love?

And for God's love that has been able to find a way through the United Methodist Church,
I give thanks.

For you have found ways to nurture my soul.

You welcomed me as a gay woman who was in love with a woman.

My soul was strangely warmed the day you let me get married in your
space, with your stain glass windows and 125 people sitting in your pews,
and you gave us a good ole' fashion church punch reception.

United Methodist Church for you I give thanks for teaching me the ambiguities of life...

that it is certain and uncertain

that it is known and unknown

that it is comfortable and uncomfortable

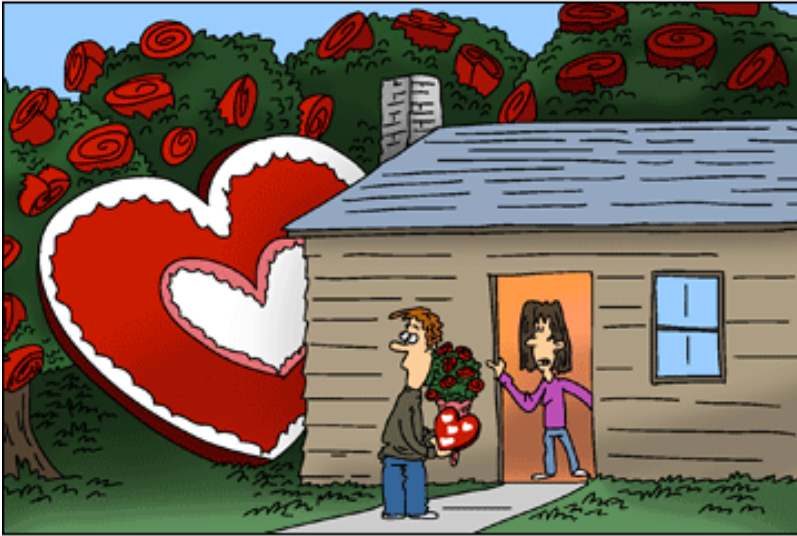
that it is familiar and unfamiliar...

where the peace that surpasses all understanding (I really do not have to know much)

because it is peace that guards my heart and mind in Christ Jesus,

because God's love is with me and for me.

May it be so for All!!!



02-15-2013

JESUS STOPPED BY AND NOBODY LOVES
 MORE THAN HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU GET
 JEALOUS OR ANYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW
 THAT IT IS FOR YOU TOO

VALENTINES FUNNIES

Why are artichokes so beloved?

They're known for their hearts.

What do you call a colorful heart that loves books?

"Well-red."

What did one piece of toast say to the other? "You're my butter half!"

Why didn't the two dogs make serious Valentine's Day plans?

It was just puppy love.

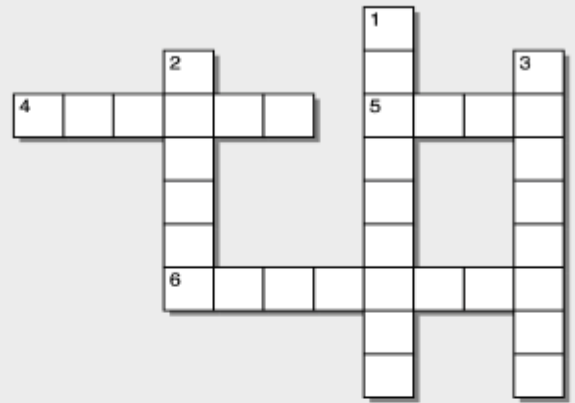
Why did the dad approve of his daughter's goalie-boyfriend?

He was a real keeper.

Why did the skeleton break up with her boyfriend before Valentine's Day?

Her heart wasn't in it.

CrossWORD



Moses is Born

Exodus 2

Across

4. Where Moses fled.
5. Tribe of Moses' parents.
6. Pharaoh's ___ drew Moses from the river.

Down

1. What Moses' basket was made of.
2. Moses ___ an Egyptian.
3. Moses' wife.

Let Them Hear Them

“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” Luke 16:19-31

There is so much that could come from this passage. But I want to keep this as simple and direct as I possibly can. There's a story in the Old Testament, where king Solomon as he is building up Israel gets horses from Egypt. Breaking a law that God had given in Deuteronomy chapter 17. The beginning of the very next chapter, Solomon takes wives from all of the heathen nations around Israel. Because of his great wisdom, he began to have no regard for the clear rules God had given.

Likewise, in the above passage the rich man had a life of luxury. Unless, if I'm wrong, I think Jesus is only referencing one basic law in reference to the rich man's treatment of Lazarus. To love your neighbor, as yourself. Of course, the rich man that Jesus is talking about in this parable probably broke many laws in his life just like the rest of us. But Jesus definitely points out that he had many many opportunities in life to follow the law of God.

When he asked father Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers because they would believe someone coming from the dead to tell them to repent. Abraham told him they have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them. Abraham said it all, if they hear not Moses and the prophets they will not be changed, even if someone came from the dead.

My whole point of this article is for all of us to remember the importance of God's moral laws that carryover into the New Testament. From the smallest to the greatest, to not obey them is sin. To keep doing it, and never have any care to change in this life leads to eternity of torment in hell. The reason why God did not stop Solomon from buying the horses and taking pagan wives was because God had already said not to do it. Solomon thought he was so wise that he no longer needed to care what God said.

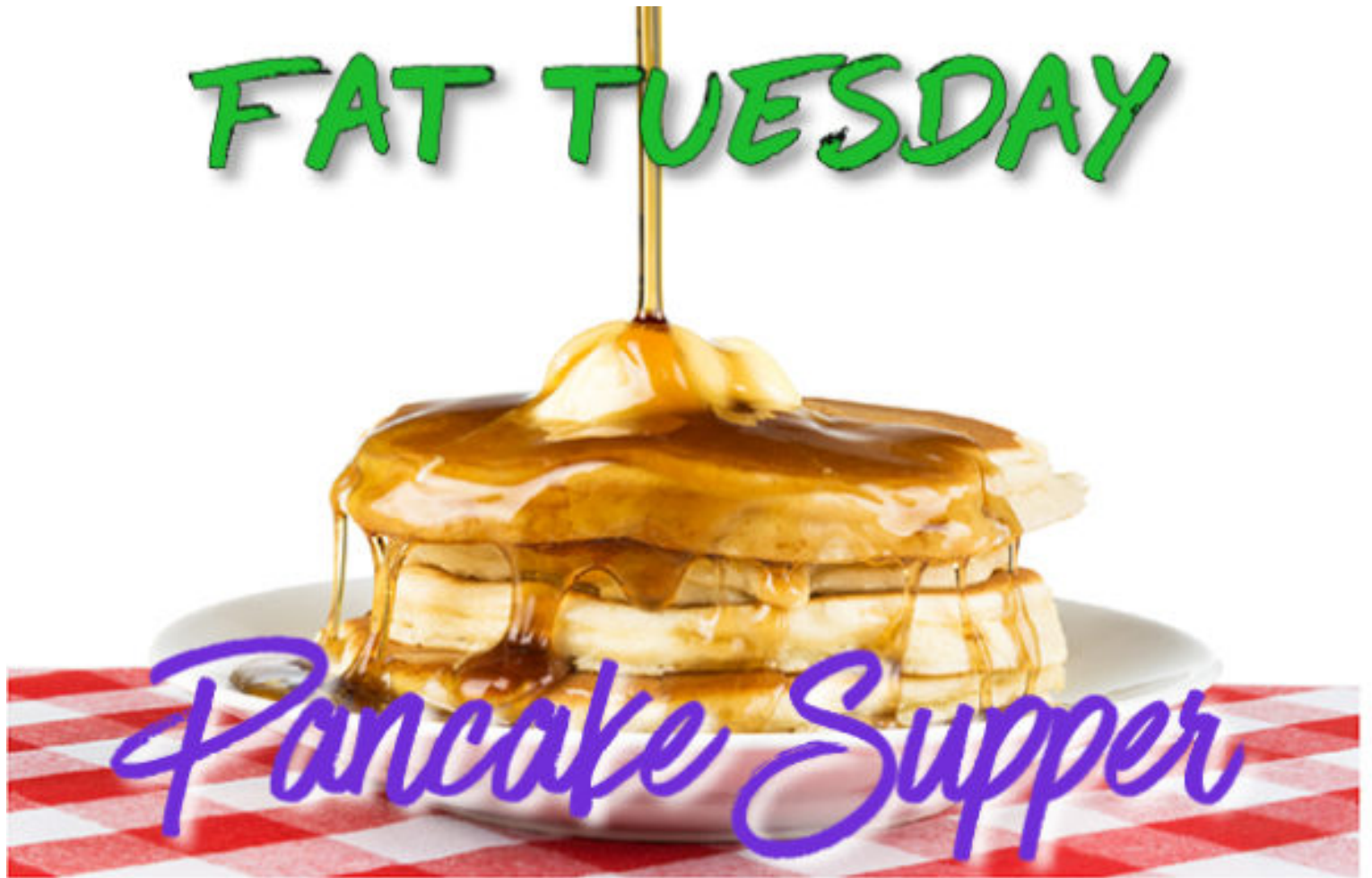
Every time we hold a Bible in our hands, we have a full and perfect set of guidelines for how we are to be as Christians. None of us are perfect and we all need the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the scripture is very plain. He told the woman who was going to be stoned, neither do I condemn you, go forth and sin no more. We are to lift up Jesus Christ, so that all can come to him. But yet all who practice immorality regularly with no regard

for the clear rules that God has given us will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

My sincere hope for all of us is that we will let ourselves hear the word of God. May we let it dictate to us how to live our lives, how to bring everyone who will come to Christ, and most of all how we can enter the kingdom of heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and please let his word be your compass. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:” Hebrews 12:14 KJV

Thank you and we pray that all of you are blessed, Cheryl & Nathan Kutz

FAT TUESDAY



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 2023

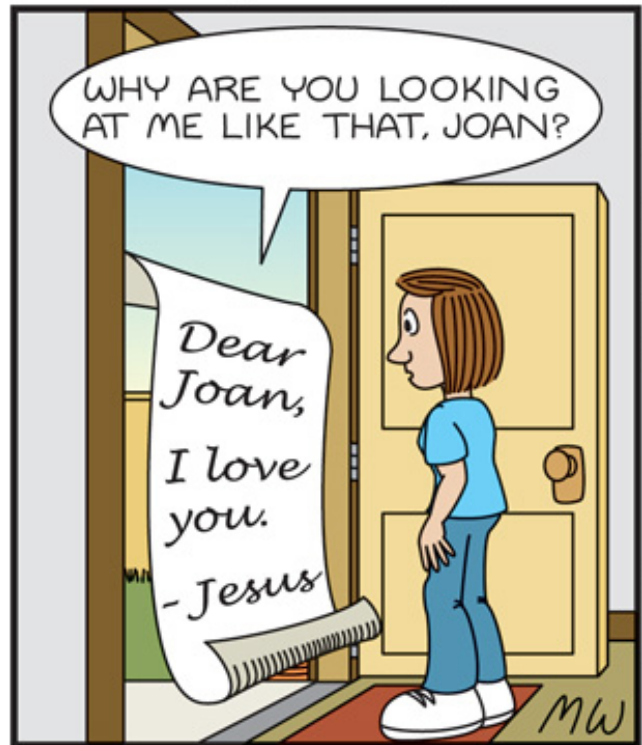
Everyone in the community is invited to join us for a free pancake supper. Goodwill offering accepted for the Verona Community Food Pantry.

Supper served: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Pancakes, Sausage, Apple Sauce, Gravy and Beverage

LOVE LETTER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 3:3 NIV

If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com

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