

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

APRIL 2026

184th Edition



The glory of the empty tomb breaks over the Peak as Worship continues in the Keezletown cemetery. The sunlight broke through just as the "SON" light broke free that morning. Ironic that the towers on the Peak look like the crosses on Golgatha. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

1456 Indian Trail Road Church phone: 540-269-8531

Keezletown VA 22832 Pastor's Cell: 540-908-9482

Pastor's email: kumcshared@gmail.com

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Keezletown UMC website: www.keezletownumc.com

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CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

EXCITING NEWS: KUMC has a new Webpage starting May 1st at KeezletownUMC.com to allow those searching for a Church family to get to know us better. It includes a monthly calendar of all events happening, as well as the Mountain Echoes newsletter for the month. If you would like to start reading the newsletter on line, instead of receiving a paper copy, please e-mail your request to kumcshared@gmail.com or call 540-269-8531 and leave a message, or talk to Diana Davis.

View Worship Online: view the livestream of the 11:00 AM worship live on Keezletown UMC YouTube Channel at 10:45 a.m. or a link on the Keezletown United Methodist Facebook page. If you would like to give a tithe online, please visit this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6261418> . Let us know you worshipped by filling out the KUMC Virtual Connection link: <https://forms.gle/YdbvYW93MjZEGrL38>. Thanks and be blessed.

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## **OUR PASTOR CHATS**



“The church foyer has moved” is a phrase I heard in the last year that suggests the first place people will encounter our congregation and decide if they want to worship with us and join in the life of being disciples of Jesus together does not begin in the building’s foyer when visitors enter, are greeted, and handed a worship bulletin. “The church foyer has moved” points to the place most people interested in visiting our congregation get first impressions of Keezletown UMC online through our website, online worship service, or social media. A family came to visit KUMC the first time in October 2025 and I found out how much “the church foyer has moved.” Before walking into the foyer at KUMC they had been to the church website, read through the newsletter, and watched an online service. They came to worship and already had some familiarity with the service and knew things about the church. Jenn Robinette has been working on a new website for the church. Jenn has set up the new website knowing “the church foyer has moved.” This updated website has been created with the idea it is like our church foyer for people meeting us for the first time. It will be published soon and we are waiting on the transfer of our domain name [keezletownumc.com](http://keezletownumc.com) for the new website. A church foyer or website is one aspect of hospitality and welcoming new people. While architecture (foyer) or technology (website) may be great ways to welcome people, the greatest way we will welcome people is sharing Christ’s welcome and peace. Foyers are first steps and places of welcome, not the last.

When people enter our online foyer or building foyer, they are going to meet the people of Keezletown United Methodist Church and they will know we are Christians by how we love and serve each other and them when they come. After washing the disciples' feet Jesus gave them a new commandment: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35 NRSV). Let us all join in praying for and welcoming new people to Christ's grace and fellowship at KUMC. Diana Davis is planning to share the newsletter and church calendar on the new website. Sherry Summers is planning to share pictures. Small Group Leaders are planning to share information on upcoming classes or small group opportunities. If you would like to help with the new church website, please talk to Jenn Robinette.

*Pastor Joel*

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**CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY:** The United Methodist Men provided a wonderful Potato Bar Lunch after worship for the fifty in attendance on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. These are pictures from that day.



### **\*\*\*MARCH EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**The United Methodist Men** met on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with 8 men present. Breakfast was served by Karen Mooney with an egg-sausage-biscuit and a blueberry bake. Pastor Joel prayed for those needing prayer. Devotion by Scott shared on "Watch and Pray", noting that Jesus gave it all so we may have God. The Pancake Supper will be on a later date. Scott shared the Treasurer Report. Five men attended the District Rally on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Manor Memorial UMC. We served a spaghetti supper for the Lent Service on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Linda Liskey made the spaghetti sauce. Len Williams asked what will we do to reach new members? It was suggested including men in the church to email invite for each meeting. We put down mulch in the church flower beds on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Mike Summers for arranging for mulch delivery and finishing up before Easter. Helpers were Scott, Ricky Johnson, Joel, and Ken Thomas. We will host a Mother's Day Tea on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. and invite everyone to celebrate Mother's Day. We scheduled UMM Sunday for October 11<sup>th</sup>. Joel will check on Rev Richard Bensingers, our district UMM representative, to see if he will preach at that service. We looked at scheduling a UMM Night at a Harrisonburg Turks baseball game. Joel will check on June 17<sup>th</sup>, Dairy Night again this year, as we enjoyed that last year. Since the Virginia Annual Conference meets that day, Joel will check to see if we could invite other UMM from our district and conference to join in with us as they may be in the area that night. The Relay for Life Auction will be March 28<sup>th</sup> and items are still being received. The Easter Sunrise Breakfast will be a fundraiser

for Relay for Life and will be after the Easter Sunrise Service which begins at 7:00 a.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men have a \$10 Campaign encouraging each man in the Virginia Conference to donate \$10 to support ministries like: Heart Havens; Scouting; All God's Children Camp; Camp Rainbow; Society of Saint Andrew; Campus Ministry; Grace Inside; Black Methodists for Church Renewal; Asian American Ministries Association; Native American Caucus; Latino/Hispanic Caucus; Younger Men's Ministry. We decided to give \$100 toward this campaign for 2026. It was noted we need to renew our charter with the General Commission on United Methodist Men. We kept up our annual charter a long time, but lapsed in renewing it a few years ago. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men have a "Knees@Noon", a Daily Prayer Initiative where each day at noon men are invited to pray for: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson; Conference Leadership; District Leadership; All Clergy; Family and Individual Needs. Knees@Noon is also offering a Zoom call on Fridays at noon which is "15 minutes max." Would we want to consider joining in Knees@Noon. We said we will consider this for May 2026. It was noted we may want to invite someone from the JMU Suitcase Clinic to share at a future meeting. We may also want to plan an evening meeting in the summer in July or August. Next meeting: Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast by Joe and Devotions by Ken.

**FIFTH LENT SERVICE** was held on Mar 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. with approximately 60 people attending. St Jacob's Lutheran Church provided a wonderful soup and sandwich meal for all to enjoy. The KUMC choir led us in singing "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" and "Crown Him With Many Crowns", then sang "Lamb of God". Rev Costella Forney of the Edom, Linville, and Mt Tabor UMC churches gave the message "Render Your Heart". She encouraged everyone during the Lent season to take the time to look inside your heart and renew your relationship with Jesus. Pastor Don gave the benediction blessing.

**CHILL-N-CHAT:** Mar 19<sup>th</sup>, five ladies enjoyed fellowship and conversation, as well as helping to fold, and stuff the March newsletters for mailing. A good time was had by all. Thank you, Ladies, for your help.

**PARKER WINS AGAIN:** On 3-21 Jennifer Young posted, "And Parker's project keeps winning and winning!!! He got the call the day after the JMU science fair that his water project received the prestigious Stockholm award!! Highest award for water research. He will receive grant money and continue to the state level next. So exciting and so proud!" And Turner Ashby High School posted, "Parker Young won 1st Place in the Stockholm Water Prize and will advance to the next round of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition. Young's achievement represents the highest water-related award presented at the fair." WAY TO GO, PARKER!!!

**LAMB'S BLOOD SHED:** On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor Joel spoke from John 19:31-42, Jesus dies and is buried, with the message "Jesus Dead and Buried". God became human to die for our salvation. He gave His life willingly, for sinners, captives, enemies of God. How can His burial be good news—He was our Passover Lamb. He died on Preparation Day before the lambs were killed for Passover. His side was pierced and water and blood flowed for us, the living water for all of us. Secret disciples wrapped Jesus in linen and embalmed Him, putting Him in a new tomb. He rose from the dead with a Resurrection body to save us all. Assisting today were

Wendell leading and talking with the children about the Lord's Prayer, and Diana on the organ.

Lunch Bunch enjoyed a delicious buffet at the Village Inn on Mar 25th with three ladies attending. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**SIXTH LENT SERVICE:** The final Lent service was held on Mar 25th at 6:30 p.m. with approximately sixty-five in attendance. Trinity Lutheran Church provided a delicious meal of fried chicken and the sides. Scott and Jenny Dillard led us in singing "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord" and "My Life Is in You Lord". Rev Judith Nandikove, from John Wesley UMC, gave an inspiring message about "Jesus Paid It All", reminding us of the events that took place in Jesus' life that brings us salvation. After her message, we sang "Jesus Paid It All". Pastor Joel gave the benediction blessing.

**LENT COLLECTION:** Each night of the Lent services, a free will collection barrel was available for those wishing to give to the Open Doors Shelter. Because of your generosity, we were able to collect \$1,600.00. Thank you for your support.

*After seeing six plates of deviled eggs at the March 25th Lent meal, Pastor Joel said "I have never seen so many deviled eggs at a meal in my life. We don't like the devil in our Church, so please eat up." We all laughed. He then learned that their proper name is "Salad Eggs". Who'da thunked it?*

CHILL-N-CHAT was enjoyed by five ladies on Mar 26<sup>th</sup>. The time goes by quickly, but the fellowship and sisterhood in Christ go with you. Come join us.

**Weave for a Cure #9** took place on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with 15 ladies and 2 men making baskets. Thanks to you all for participating in this fundraiser for Relay for Life. A second basket making will be held in April.



**PALM SUNDAY** was Mar 29th and Pastor Joel spoke on “The Triumphant Entry” from John 12:12-19 for worship. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a big entrance. This happened during the Passover causing the people to sing, show, and believed Jesus to be the one who would save them. They called him the “King of Israel”. They wanted to welcome Jesus as our King today, Hosanna!, they shouted, save us, and we still shout it today.



during the Passover causing the wave palm branches to show they one who would save them. They Israel”. They wanted to welcome welcome Jesus as our King today, Hosanna!, they shouted, save us, Assisting with the service were

Len, leading; Pastor Joel talking to the children about Holy Week, and Chris on the piano. Palm branches were given out and waved during the service.

## **FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Happy Bday Cole*



*Happy Anniversary*



*Enjoying ramen*



*Cruisin' spring break*



*Rylynn & Triton*

## **WAYS TO GIVE AND HELP OTHERS**

**Gathering Non-Perishable Food items:** Drop off items at KUMC for our local food pantry. Non-perishable foods and hygiene items are welcome. Items are distributed through Massanutten Presbyterian Church for residents of Keezletown, Penn Laird, and McGaheysville. The pantry is open 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays from 10 – 11 AM and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM.

**Serving Meals to Kingsway Prison Ministry:** Karen Mooney is leading preparing a meal twice each month for this ministry. Please contact her if you can help or donate.

**US Disaster Response:** For United States disaster relief designate your gift to “UMCOR US Disaster Response: Advance #901670.” For international disasters please designate your gift to “UMCOR International Disaster Response: Advance #982450.”

**Mission Central Equipment for Caring:** The medical equipment loaner closet loans out and receive donations of (1) durable medical equipment like hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bedside commodes, etc. and (2) disposable supplies like adult diapers, briefs, and wound care items. It is open Mondays 5 – 7 PM and Thursdays 9 - 11 AM. The location is Mt. Tabor UMC in Lacey Spring.

**Mission Central Children’s Clothes Closet:** gives and receives donations of children’s clothes including winter coats and shoes from sizes infant to 18 years old. New underwear, socks, and undergarments are also received. It is open 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10 AM – 1 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 4 – 7 PM.

**KUMC Backpack Project:** We will provide weekend food for students in need at Cub Run Elementary School this year. To sponsor students, checks can be made to “KUMC

Backpack Project” and given to Jenny Dillard. Packing bags is OFTEN Mondays at 11:15 A.M., but sometimes at other times and help is always welcome.

## **BIBLE STUDY:**

**Sunday School Classes** includes Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class; Grades 2 – 5 Elementary School Class; Middle and High School Youth Class; An adult class *Disciples of Christ*; An adult class taught by Chris Cole using *Adult Bible Studies* materials. Join in a Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM..

**Steve Suter** began a new Substack "**The Bible Reader**". You can read it online at <https://thebiblereader.substack.com>

**The Bible in a Year:** Keezletown UMC has a Bible reading plan for reading the entire Bible in a year. This plan has four chapters of Bible reading each day: two chapters reading through the Bible; one chapter from Psalms, wisdom, poetry, or instructional materials; and one chapter from the Gospels or Acts. If you do this reading plan you will actually read through the Gospels and Acts three times during the 365 days. Printouts available at KUMC or online at [www.keezletownumc.com](http://www.keezletownumc.com).

**A Disciple's Path: Service:** A Disciple's Path is a once a month class for new comers and new members at KUMC. Learn about Service: Spiritual Gifts and Gift-based Service on May 17 from 3 – 5 PM. Sign up with Pastor Joel and bring a Bible along and books for the study if you already have them. If you don't have books yet, you'll get *A Disciple's Path Reader* and *A Disciple's Path Workbook* at that session.

"I still pray for things I can't put into words. Things that hurt too much or feel too complicated to express. Sometimes I try to string together a sentence and it only comes out in broken pieces. And on the days where I feel most exhausted, I reach out my hand as though I am touching the hem of His robe, asking Him to heal my bones—I tried to pray today and all that came out were these tears. I hope He can make sense of them somehow." ullie-keye

## **\*\*\*APRIL EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** the Church families of St Jacobs and Trinity Lutheran, and Keezletown United Methodist churches met at St Jacobs on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate Maundy Thursday and Holy Communion. After the prelude, and the Prayer of Confession, we sang "Beneath the Cross of Jesus". The greeting, a Canticle of Praise, and prayer followed. The first lesson was from Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, then Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, then reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, and the Gospel from John 13:1-17, 31b-35. Pastor Joel then spoke on "Feet Washer Jesus Loves to the End", followed by singing "Let Us Break Bread Together", the Apostles Creed, the Prayers of Intercession, the Passing of the Peace, collecting the offering, and the Great Thanksgiving Communion service. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books were then removed from the worship space. All departed in silence.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** the Church families of St Jacobs and Trinity Lutheran, and Keezletown United Methodist churches met at Trinity on Friday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. to remember Good Friday. The opening hymn was “Lift High the Cross”, followed by readings from Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; and Hebrews 10:16-25. We were reminded of the Seven Sayings from the Cross, followed by singing “Were You There” and saying the Lord’s Prayer. A responsive reading “Solemn Reproaches” was read before all departed in silence.

*“And God watched it all. When His Son cried out, did the Father turn toward His angelic troops, the command poised on His tongue? He could have done it: sent the angels. Swept Jesus into His arms. Wiped away the blood and tears. But the Father held back the rescue, and the Son held back the plea. As the hours crawled by, each moment an agony, at any point, Jesus could have said, Enough. He could have breathed the prayer, Save me. He saved us instead.” (Encouragement for Today Devotions; He Saved Us Instead | Elizabeth Laing Thompson)*

**SUNRISE SERVICE** was held in the Keezletown Cemetery on Easter morning, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. Pastor Joel welcomed the 25 plus in attendance and they sang “The Risen Christ”, followed by the reading of Psalm 148 and the “Gloria Patri”. All then sang “He Rose”, accompanied by Pastor Joel on the guitar and Barrett on the banjo. The Gospel lesson was John 20:1-18 and the message was “The First Day of New Creation”, followed by a morning prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. The closing hymn was “Up From the Grave He Arose”, followed by the Dismissal blessing.



**EASTER BREAKFAST** was served by the KUMC Relay for Life team on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> after the Sunrise Service. Approximately thirty people enjoyed breakfast casseroles, sausage, crispy crown potatoes, quiches, fruits, and other goodies. Thank you to all who donated, all who ate, and all who helped.



Three men, three crosses, one hill. One man cursed, one man prayed, one man promised. One died condemned, one died forgiven, one died innocent. One died in sin, one died to sin, one died for sin. One was held by death, one was released by death, one conquered death. One lost life, one gained life, one was life. Thank you, Jesus for your sacrifice and praise God we have eternal life!

**EASTER SUNDAY**, April 5<sup>th</sup>, saw the altar covered with beautiful flowers, as well as



the cross at the head of the walkway. We began by singing “The Holy City” as the start to worship. Scripture from John 20:1-18, coming to the empty tomb, was read by Carol, before Pastor Joel came to deliver the message “Empty Grave and Risen



Lord”. What’s the difference between a tragedy and a comedy? A tragedy is death, sorrow, woe, waste, and folly. Comedies have happy endings. The Gospel of John about Jesus’s death ends in Jesus showing resurrection, after all the pain He suffered, an empty grave, and a risen Lord. God’s grace, God’s gift is Easter. Mary was still grieving when she found the empty tomb, except for the angels. Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. The happy ending does not end suffering and sin, but gives us the salvation and the gift of eternal life in the Heaven and home with God. Assisting today were Ken leading and telling the children about “Baseball is Like Life”; Carol reading Scripture; Scott, Jenny, Mike, Lynn, and Ken assisting with Communion; and Diana on the Organ.

**Keezletown Ruritans** fed: four ladies from the UWIF served the 38 guests at the Keezletown Ruritan monthly meeting on Apr 6<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed spiral ham, macaroni and cheese, peas, baked apples, rolls, and cakes and ice cream. Thank you to all who donated and helped..

**Lunch Bunch** met on April 8<sup>th</sup> with four ladies enjoying good food and good fellowship at Appleby’s. You are always welcome to join us.

**Chill-N-Chat** met on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with four ladies present, enjoying good conversation and fellowship. You are welcome to join us,

**The United Women in Faith** met Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial meal and meeting. Judy opened the meeting with prayer and greeted the ten members and one guest present. Chris and Lorie prepared the meal that showed that one can eat a meal without spending a lot. We were asked to contribute in our offering what we would have paid by eating a restaurant meal. Chris led the program about the National Mission Institute that helps children. We repeated the UWIF Purpose. Diana read the March minutes, which were approved. New UWIF directories were distributed. Cheryl gave the

Treasurer's report, which was approved. The Mission of the Month was for the Call to Prayer and Self Denial. Karen reported that 52 flowers were ordered for Easter. Sherry reported that the "Lunch Out" (instead of the Evening Out) for June 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon will be at the Southern Kitchen in New Market. We served the Keezletown Ruritans on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be serving the Mt Crawford Ruritans on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will be packing conference Health kits after the May meeting. Judy asked the group about changing our meeting time to 11:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month, except for August, which is the picnic, and December, which is the Christmas dinner/party. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to change the time. After some discussion, we decided to do Love Bags for Valentine's Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Nine Cards were signed. Sherry advised that the Service of Hope has been moved to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Judy closed with prayer and we assembled kits. Next meeting is Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Chill-N-Chat met on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with four ladies present. Pastor Joel and Jenn also joined us and asked us to take a look at the new Website for KUMC and to make suggestions for changes.

**Apr 9<sup>th</sup> Today these Montevideo FFA students competed in the Regional Cattleworking Contest, placing 12<sup>th</sup>. They did an amazing job calmly working their cattle and we couldn't be prouder! Great job Carson, Peyson and Quinn!**



**LEARNING ABOUT MOSES:** On April 12<sup>th</sup>, guest speaker Barrett Bowman spoke to us about Moses, with a message entitled "Don't Give Up" from Numbers 20:1-13 and Deuteronomy 34:1-12. She encouraged us to read the Old Testament and learn that things weren't much different than today. The Old Testament leads us to the New Testament. The story of Moses, born Hebrew, floating in a basket on the Nile, raised Egyptian, talked to God in a burning bush, led the Israelites through the wilderness to Canaan, but could never enter. Moses was afraid and was helped by Aaron. The



Israelites were short on water in the desert—they were mad at Moses and complaining—it was his fault. God told Moses to talk to the rock and water would come forth. Moses, mad at the people, struck the rock twice and then yelled at the people, as the water gushed forth. God was angry at Moses and told him he would never enter the Promised Land. Both Aaron and Moses died before Joshua led the people in, but Moses was allowed by God to see the Promised Land from a mountain top. Moses never gave up. Pastor Joel led the service; Diana told the Children about Jesus's promise to return; Scott read the Scripture; and Chris played the piano. The clematis vine planted on the iron cross in front of the Church was beautiful this day.

**Worship Planning** was held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon at Vito's in Penn Laird. Three folks helped plan the worship services thru June. You are welcome to attend and input.

Chill-N-Chat met on April 16<sup>th</sup> in the Church social hall with six ladies attending, with Pastor Joel stopping in for a few moments. We enjoyed assorted fruit Danish pastry. Everyone is welcome.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Spotswood High School students who attended in April, the FCCLA State Conference! Our own Haiden Dillard won a silver medal and is a Nationals Qualifier. Way to go Haiden!



## **MORE FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Happy Bday Cory*



*Baseball proud*



*Season Begins*



*Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniv*



*Parker is 16*

**AND BY THE WAY:** No one took my challenge to find the missing word. I hope that does not mean that you didn't read the articles, but that you thought someone else would do it, or you didn't want your name published for finding it. To those who are interested, it was on page 9, under "The Fourth Lent Service" near the bottom, where it said "He then all of us in the singing". Of course, I meant he led us. And yes, my keyboard and I have had a talk!

## **\*\*\*APRIL EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\***

- Apr 19      **United Methodist Men, 8:00 AM**  
**Sunday School, 9:45 AM**  
**Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Seeing and Believing" from John 20:19-29**  
**A Disciple's Path: Gifts, 3 – 5 PM**
- Apr 20      **John study, 10:00 AM**  
**Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM**
- Apr 21      **Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM**  
**John study, 7:00 PM**
- Apr 22      **Lunch Bunch at Cici's Pizza; carpool at 11:15 AM**
- Apr 23      **Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM**  
**Weave for a Cure**
- Apr 25      **District Training Day at Bridgewater UMC at 10:00 a.m.**
- Apr 26      **Sunday School, 9:45 AM**  
**Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Big Catch" from John 21:1-14**
- Apr 27      **John study, 10:00 AM**

Apr 28 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 John study, 7:00 PM  
 Apr 29 Choir Practice 6:30 PM  
 Apr 30 Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM  
 Staff-Parish Relations Meeting, 6:30 PM

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**Worship Music Practice:** If you like to sing or play an instrument, consider joining in the Worship Music Team. We practice many Tuesday evenings at 6:00 P.M. Check the current calendar or bulletin for latest practice dates.

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**\*\*\*MAY EVENTS HAPPENING\*\*\***

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

|        |                        |        |                  |
|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------|
| May 1  | Scott Dillard          | May 18 | Denise Sites     |
| May 6  | Holly Mason            | May 23 | Lori Zylich      |
| May 7  | Gena Dove              | May 26 | Bruce Hoover     |
| May 8  | Joseph Johnson         | May 26 | Walt Shafrer     |
| May 8  | Sam Hedrick Jr         | May 27 | Tara Meadows     |
| May 9  | Allyse (Dillard) Kyger | May 27 | Charlotte Bahle  |
| May 14 | Erica Heishman         | May 29 | Connor Guilliams |
| May 15 | Barbara Knicely        | May 30 | Beth Cole        |
| May 16 | Lataya Coffman         | May 31 | Patrick Propst   |

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

|              |                         |          |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------|
| May 4, 2002  | David & Janet Clements  | 24 years |
| May 6, 1996  | Mike & Erica Heishman   | 30 years |
| May 10, 2025 | Josh & Emily Wilt       | 1 year   |
| May 18, 2019 | Andrew & Whitney Krauss | 7 years  |
| May 20, 2017 | Brian & Amanda Summers  | 9 years  |
| May 28, 1983 | Walt & Jan Shafer       | 43 years |

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OR MORE:** CONGRATULATIONS to church family couples that have been married 40 or more years in May:



Walt and Jan Shafer for 43 years on May 28th  
 Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

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**MAY EVENTS CALENDAR**

May 3 Small Group Leaders' Gathering, 8:45 AM  
 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: Service of Hope sermon by Steve Suter  
 May 4 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 May 5 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 May 6 UWIF serve Mt. Crawford Ruritans , 6:30 PM  
 May 7 United Women in Faith meet in Church social hall, 11:00 AM

May 9 Relay for Life at Rockingham County Fairgrounds, 5 – 10 PM  
 May 10 **Mother's Day Tea, 9:45 AM, sponsored by UMM; all invited**  
**Worship, 11:00 AM; Message "So You May Believe" from John 20:30-31;**  
**21:20-25**  
 May 11 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 Worship Planning at Vito's at Noon  
 May 12 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 May 13 Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 AM to Longhorn Steak House  
 Choir Practice, 6:30 PM  
 May 14 Chill & Chat, Church social hall, 11:00 AM  
 May 15 Newsletter Items Due  
 May 17 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Born Again" from John 3:1-21  
 A Disciple's Path: Service, 3 – 5 PM  
 May 18 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 May 19 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 May 21 Chill & Chat, Church social hall, 11:00 AM  
 May 24 Sunday School, 9:45 AM; Pentecost Sunday—WEAR RED  
 Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "The Spirit Given without Measure" from John  
 3:22-36  
 May 25 Backpack Project Packing, 11:00 AM  
 May 26 Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM  
 May 27 Lunch Bunch carpool at 11:15 AM to Macados  
 Choir Practice, 6:30 PM  
 May 28 Chill & Chat, Church social hall, 11:00 AM  
 Parsonage Review, 11:00 AM  
 May 31 Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
 Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Trinity Sharing" John 16:12-15

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**RELAY FOR LIFE: TEAM KUMC:** Theme is "Festival for Hope" on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Any Questions, see Lynn Siler.

**Mother's Day Tea:** Everyone is invited to Mother's Day Tea at 9:45 AM on May 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be refreshments, devotion, and games provided by the United Methodist Men. No Sunday School, we'll be all together for Mother's Day Tea.

**MAY 24<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday—Please WEAR RED**

**Knees@Noon in June:** The Keezletown United Methodist Men are joining in the Virginia Conference UMM Knees@Noon in June 2026. Here's how it works: each day at noon, the men of the VA Conference are invited to pray for: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson; Conference Leadership; District Leadership; All Clergy; Family and Individual Needs. Each Friday people

may sign on for a “15 minutes max” prayer Zoom call and if you are interested in that please check the Zoom codes on the Knees@Noon flyer available at KUMC. Knees@Noon is a daily prayer initiative that continues through the year. Our KUMM are highlighting it this June.

**United Methodist Men Breakfast:** The next United Methodist Men meeting will be Sunday, June 14th at 8:00 A.M. and we'll begin with breakfast. Everyone is welcome.

**UMM at Harrisonburg Turks Baseball:** The Keezletown United Methodist Men will have a night at the Harrisonburg Turks on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, when they play Charlottesville. Free admission when you share you are with the Keezletown United Methodist Men. It will also be Dairy Night. Since the Virginia Annual Conference will be in Harrisonburg we are inviting them and other UMM to join us, too. Game begins at 7:00 PM. Arrive as early as 6:15 PM for pre-game fellowship.

**Virginia Annual Conference** is June 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic Union Bank Center on the campus of JMU. Calling all Shenandoah Valley folks with gifts for kindness and hospitality. We are searching for over 150 volunteers to help us host our first Shenandoah River District-area Annual Conference this year. We need folks with lots of kindness, knowledge and/or stories of the area to make this an unforgettable experience full of Shenandoah Valley hospitality for all. If you are interested, please indicate your willingness, abilities, and availability. Our District Team will continue working with the Annual Conference Planning Committee to determine what jobs are available and then we will reach out and work with you one-on-one to find a job that suits you. Some areas of help that will be needed are: Help with set up of conference at the Atlantic Union Bank Center in the days before and take down after the event; help with golf carts as they arrive at the center in the days before AC; Registration Table (signing in Laity and Clergy); Ushers (Wednesday through Saturday at noon); Hospitality; Golf carts (driving and assisting persons into the arena); and Tech Desk. The official sign-up sheet is coming soon, but now is the time to be thinking about what you can offer by giving of your gifts and talents!

**Rise and Shine Vacation Bible School:** Save the date for Vacation Bible School which be July 21-24. We will celebrate VBS on the following Sunday with Outdoor Worship at the Ruritan Park at 11:00 AM and a picnic lunch afterwards. If you would like to help with VBS or sign up participants please see Jenny Dillard.

**\$10 Campaign United Methodist Men:** The Keezletown United Methodist Men has given \$100 to join in the Virginia Conference UMM \$10 Campaign to support 12 ministries: Heart Havens; Scouting; All God's Children Camp; Camp Rainbow; Society of St. Andrew; Campus Ministry; Grace Inside; Black Methodists for Church Renewal; Asian American Ministries Association; Native American Caucus; Latino/Hispanic Caucus; and Younger Men's Ministry. If you would like to join in this \$10 campaign please see Scott Dillard.

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## MY PERSONAL NOTE

Miracles happen every day. Little ones we take for granted, like getting out of bed, seeing the sun come up, hearing the birds, breathing the fresh air. Sometimes we see a big one in our life that makes us stop and think about our relationship with God. I was driving home the other day after lunch, and I had the heat seat on and the heater. Yes, it was a cold day. But I didn't realize that I was getting as warm as I was until I dropped off to sleep. Thank you, Jesus, for the cuts in the yellow stripes on the road that growl when you run over them and abruptly wake you up. Yes, I avoided being in and/or causing an accident...but only by the grace of God. And yes, I was saying "Thank you Father" the rest of the day. I kept trying to not think about what could have been, but what did happen. It was a miracle, and I am very thankful. If you don't already tell Him "Thank you" every day, you might want to start. That day could have been my last one.

*Diana*

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### **Editor's Note**

**The May deadline for submissions is May 15<sup>th</sup>.** My e-mail is [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net). I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you.

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"HE didn't wait for me to get it right. HE died knowing I couldn't, and loved me anyway." (Mindful Christianity)