

MOuNTaiN ECHoeS

JULY 2026

187th Edition



Psalm 100:3: "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." (KJV)

KEEZLETOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. T. Joel Robinette, Pastor

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"Sometimes God lets you hit rock bottom so that you realize that God is the rock at the bottom." (Living Christian.org)

KUMC has a new Webpage 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**

I grew up in a Christian family who helped me be involved in small groups from when I was very young. I had examples of my parents being involved in Sunday school, Bible studies, and leading in children's ministry. I was put into groups like Sunday school and a Christian scouting program. Later when I was a teen, I was a regular at my congregation's Sunday school and youth group, but I also visited other youth groups and school opportunities for faith like Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a school Bible study. There are a few ways these groups were big blessings to me. I had many examples of Christian leadership for non-clergy, and got to see how they interacted with the scripture, prayed, and lived their lives in faith. I got to spend time with peers and hearing their faith and life questions and it was a blessing to see their struggles with faith and Christian living as well as their joy and trust in Jesus. Over years I also witnessed the transformation and growth the Holy Spirit brought in their lives and my life. My life and faith have been challenged, formed, and nurtured in sharing life together, failures and victories, with other Christians. I have often learned from others when they shared things about the scriptures I had not learned on my own, or asked questions I was afraid to ask and found God and Christians could wrestle with those, and when someone shared a witness about their faith, ministry, or prayers that widened my understanding of the grace of God. Through the scriptures we see God calls people to life together in God, in the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Christ. In the preface to *Hymns and Sacred Poems* John Wesley wrote, "Whereas, according to the judgment of our Lord and the writings of his apostles, it is only when we are 'knit together' that we 'have nourishment from him,' and 'increase with the increase of God.' Neither is there any time when the weakest member can say to the strongest, or the strongest to the weakest, 'I have no need of thee.'...Solitary religion is not to be found there. 'Holy solitaires' is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than holy adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness." From scriptures, United Methodist history, and experience we see the grace of being joined together as people in Jesus Christ in small groups, worship, and service. We are not too strong nor too weak for life together as it is the way of life Jesus has given us to build each other up in the grace. There are many small groups of Christians around us in our congregation and community to join in to build each other up in Christ. I pray we all share in the grace of small groups together. *Pastor Joel*

## **UPDATE ON RELAY FOR LIFE:**



Total dollars raised: \$154,659. Registered Participants: 316. Participating Teams: 49. Cancer Survivors: 125. The local Relay for Life event was in the top 5% of all relays in the US. And our own Ken and Pat led the Survivors Walk.

## **\*\*\*JUNE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**UNITED METHODIST MEN** met June 14th with nine members present at the breakfast meeting served by Scott Dillard. They enjoyed a breakfast casserole and fruit. Scott opened the meeting with prayer, and Leonard led devotions on the beauty of God's creation and giving thanks for all God has made. April minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved. Keezletown UMM night at Harrisonburg Turks baseball game is June 17th at 6:00 PM, with free admission and is also Dairy Night. The Virginia Annual Conference United Methodist Men and Annual Conference has been invited to attend. Outdoor Worship will be July 26th at 11:00 AM at the Keezletown Ruritan Park, with the Vacation Bible School celebration and a meal after. UMM will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. The Low Country Boil will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Joel volunteered to make a flyer so we can begin inviting people and providing details and information for the event. UMM Sunday will be October 11th and Tom DeVore from Asbury UMC has agreed to preach that day. There are seven children and youth connected to KUMC through attendance and family going to Camp Overlook this summer. We agreed to give \$400.00 from UMM in support of those attending in memory of Noland Suter and Asher Deets. The Conference United Methodist Men Spiritual Retreat will be September 18th-19th at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center and the theme will be "B1, Inspire1 – Men of Faith, Sharing Their Faith". Dr. Clarence Brown will be the keynote speaker and topics include discipleship, mentoring, and prayer life. Flyers with all the details are available. Knees@Noon is a Virginia Conference United Methodist Men initiative for daily prayer where at Noon each day men pray for: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Conference Leadership, District Leadership, All Clergy, Family, and Individual Need. We encourage KUMM to join that prayer initiative in June. Next meeting is July 19th at 8:00 AM with Breakfast by Jim and Carol Dillard and Devotions by Ken Thomas.

**Conference kits totals:** Hygiene 14,483 (\$173,786); Cleaning buckets 1,332 (\$99,900); Feminine hygiene 1,163 (\$27,912); for total estimated value of \$301,008. KUMC contributed 36 Feminine Hygiene kits, 112 Health kits, and 25 Cleaning Buckets.

**WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING:** Pastor Joel spoke from John 6:16-21, where Jesus walks on water, for his worship message on June 21<sup>st</sup> entitled "Walks on Water". Jesus walks on water in the storm to bring His disciples to shore. After seeing Jesus feed the 5000, the people wanted to force Jesus to be king, and He flees to the

mountains. The disciples are trying to row home and a storm comes, with crashing waves, and harsh winds. Jesus sees their plight and walks on the water to their boat, terrifying them. He tells them not to be afraid. His presence did not stop the storm, but brought peace in the chaos to get them thru the storm. He does and will come to you in your storms and bring you peace. Assisting today were Ken leading, John Young reading Scripture, Pastor Joel talking about Father's Day to the children, and the Worship Team of Pastor Joel, Karen, Sharon, and Barrett providing the music.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS, STEP-FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES, AND ALL WHO CARE FOR OTHERS AS A FATHER.

**LUNCH BUNCH** met at Chili's on June 24<sup>th</sup> with four ladies present. A time of wonderful fellowship and laughter was had by all. Think about joining us.

**CHILL-N-CHAT** met at 11 o'clock in the Church social hall on June 25<sup>th</sup> with five ladies enjoying good conversation. You are invited to attend any Thursday morning.

**AND HOW BIG DO YOU THINK HE IS?** While Pastor Joel was taking some well-deserved vacation, Wendell spoke for Worship on June 28<sup>th</sup> from Psalm 8:1-9, with a message entitled "How Big Is God?" You may have noticed that in my sermons, I usually have a question. How big is God? I cannot give you an answer; I don't think anyone can. But I checked with AI anyway, and it still couldn't quantify God, using words like infinite, and immeasurable. We try to measure everything. Can we measure what God has Done? He created everything and we believe He did. He put us humans in charge of everything, stewards of it all. Why would God do that knowing we are flawed? He did it because He loves us. We can't get away from God and His power. Why do we try to confine God or think that He only accepts certain religious types or people? This all-powerful God wants to be small enough to live in each of our hearts. Also assisting today were Ken leading, Judy reading Scripture, Wendell talking with the children about how big God is, and Diana on the organ.

**BACKPACK PROJECT:** During Worship on June 28<sup>th</sup>, Becky gave a report for the Backpack folks, stating that this year we had served 23 (with up to 36 during the year). The funds account is in good shape for right now, and Jenny and Becky have already started purchasing for the new year. Anyone is invited to help obtain supplies and get them to the Backpack room. She also gave a big thank you to all of those who donated, bought supplies, packed, delivered, and kept this much needed program going.

**SMILES AND GIGGLES OR JUST SHAKE YOUR HEAD:**

**It doesn't matter how old you are, an empty wrapping paper roll makes a fine light saber or just something to bonk somebody on the head with. Admit it...you've done it. Fun, huh?**

There's a new taxi service for senior citizens. It's called Olds-mobile.  
 When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."  
 Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.  
 There's never enough time to do all of the nothing you want to do.

## **KEEZLETOWN PROUD:**



Our Keezletown Rookie All Star team! (Connor is fifth from the right on the front row and Coach Cory is second from the left on the second row.)

**PROUD OF CONNOR:** June 25 Lynette's FB: "The Ktown Rookies finished their state tournament run with a 17-0 win in their last game. They finished 2-2 overall, 3rd in their pool, with the top 2 moving on. They gave it their all and represented Keezletown with good sportsmanship. This has been a fun journey with great players, coaches, and families!"



## **FAMILY FUN PICTURES**



*Happy Birthday*



*Barbara & Gary*



*Dale is 85*



*WV: Carson pitching; Connor zonked*



## **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.

## **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).

**Nursery Ministry Need:** People are needed to serve in the nursery for ministry for our youngest church member in worship and Sunday school. Would you have interest in serving in the nursery on a monthly or weekly basis for worship or Sunday school? It takes two adults to serve in the nursery for plenty of support and safety. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Joel or sign up in the narthex.

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**TO HONOR OUR CAMPERS AND ASHER:** The following was a letter Asher Deets wrote for KUMC about his experiences in camp. He was quite a mischievous young man, but going to camp and meeting God there, changed His life. A life taken too soon, at only 17, by a house fire. Read what he says and remember how it feels when you know God is in your heart.

## Asher Deets letter about Camp Overlook 2023

shared with Keezletown United Methodist Church on July 16, 2023

Asher Deets died November 27, 2023 at the age of 17 in a house fire in Morrisdale, Pennsylvania



Picture: Noah Robinette (left) and Asher Deets (right) July 16, 2017

Hi everyone, I'm Asher Deets and I can't be present but I'd like to share my experience at Camp Overlook with everyone. This year at camp we explored the story of the Old Testament. My cabin didn't get to attend morning watch most of the week as we were doing activities including caving, high ropes, and canoeing. But the story this year moved me. It was my fourth year attending camp, my first year back since 3 years. My younger self never really realized how special it is. But as a young man, who's matured, grown in many ways, and accepted the Bible as my guide through life, it was different this year. We learned about the creation of the earth, the ark, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lion, the burning bush, Joseph, and many more. But something that stands out was the worship service on Thursday. On Thursday we had a worship service. The chaplain spoke and when the lights dimmed and during a moment of prayer, you could see lightning outside and hear thunder. Pastor Josh then welcomed those to come forward in a time for prayer. People were slow to go up to the altar. But after some went, a lot went. There were tears, sobs, and many other emotional sounds. The feeling in the chapel at that time—there are no words to describe it—it felt like a direct connection to the Lord. I myself went to the altar, down on my knees and prayed. I prayed for my mother, for my sister, for my family, for my church, for my friends, for myself. I cried and that's when my counselor Mikah came and laid a hand on my shoulder and prayed for me. At the moment I felt whole. I felt the Holy Spirit fulfilling me. I then prayed for Mikah. I prayed that he continues his work at the camp. Because being a counselor there is much more than just a title. It's a role model, it's being a future for the kids that go to camp. They do a lot for kids there. At that time I realized something, I'll be returning to camp next year, but as a counselor to share my testimony. Thank you for listening.—

Asher Deets

**CAMP OVERLOOK:** We are over halfway through our Summer Program at Camp Overlook, studying the Missionary Journeys of Paul this summer. Each morning in our Morning Watch we are learning a piece of a lesson that Paul instructs to one of the churches through his letters and in Bible Study the groups are expanding more on the topic from Morning Watch or learning about other letters from Paul. Our evenings are filled with games and other activities including Coliseum Games, Roman Times, an Agape Feast, and Foot Washing service (after watching Jesus wash his Disciples' feet). Throughout the day we are engaging in traditional camp activities like Arts & Crafts, Hiking, Archery, Nature, Climbing the Rock Wall, Zipping down the Zip Line, Swimming in the Lake, and a lot of singing. We have seen an increase in enrollment this summer over last year, primarily in our Day Camp and Mini Camp programs. Hopefully these younger campers will move into our full week, overnight program in the near future.

I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

### **\*\*\*JULY EVENTS THAT HAPPENED\*\*\***

**"BIG K DINER" WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!!** It was a HOT July 3rd evening, and we had some really "HOT" guys working the Big K Grill for us cooking Hot Dogs and French Fries to help us fund 6 kids to go to Camp Overlook for summer camp. Thank you, Joe, Mike, Carl, John, and everyone else who had a hand in keeping the grill running that evening. There were lots of delicious toppings for the dogs, thank you Linda and others, and the dogs were so big the buns could hardly contain it all! There was Chocolate, Vanilla, and Banana Ice Cream (some of which got a little soupy in the heat but was still delicious) and lots of fresh and sweet toppings for that as well. We had decorated and were all decked out in our Red, White, and Blue to celebrate the holiday weekend and give people the chance to have their all-American cookout with lots of friends and neighbors. We had a great turnout, and it looked like everyone really enjoyed their meal and time to fellowship together. Our goal was to raise \$2,440 to fully fund each camper. That evening, through your generous contributions, we took in \$1,667!! With a few other donations given and contributions from the KUMC Men's and Women's groups we were able to reach our goal!! Thank you so, so, so much to ALL of those who came out and supported this event. It is a joy to be part of such a caring and kind community!!





## **INDEPENDENCE DAY—HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY**



“My dream is that...America will come into the full light of the day when all shall know that she puts human rights above all other rights and that her flag is the flag not only of America but of humanity.”  
~Woodrow Wilson

**YOU ARE UNBELIEVABLE, JESUS:** On Sunday morning July 5<sup>th</sup>, during worship, Pastor Joel led us in “The Confusion and Uncertainty Jesus Brings” using John 7:1-52 as the Scripture. When Jesus shows up, there is confusion and uncertainty among the people during the Festival of Booths. Jesus goes to the temple and starts teaching and preaching, making people wonder who He is and how He can know all that He tells. Soldiers go to arrest Him and can’t. Jesus offers to all the living water and the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus’s brothers question who He is. Early Methodists following Jesus resolved to follow these three rules: (1) Do No Harm; (2) Do Good; and (3) Stay in Love with God. Jesus will give us the power to do these three things, holding us and showing us how to walk with each other. Assisting today were Ken leading and talking with the children about America; Chris on the piano; Diana reading Scripture; Jenny, Scott, Kathy, Ken, and Leonard serving Communion.

**WORSHIP PLANNING** met on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Vito’s for lunch and selecting hymns for the upcoming worship services. Chris, Diana, and Pastor Joel attended. Noah also came and shared lunch with us. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**LUNCH BUNCH** had a “freezing” good time at IHOP on July 7<sup>th</sup> (the room was very chilly), but the food and the fellowship warmed our hearts. Two gentlemen and five ladies attended, keeping the poor waitress going as the number kept changing and we kept moving tables. Think about coming out with us.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL** met July 8<sup>th</sup> in the Church social hall with nine members present. Susan called the meeting to order and Pastor Joel gave the opening prayer. The May minutes, and Treasurer’s report were approved. Old business: At conference, Joel volunteered; the kits were presented; Sherry shared about the positive comments she heard; attending were Karen, Wendell, Barrett, Chris, and Lorie. UWif reported about the upcoming Aug 6<sup>th</sup> UWif sponsored

Church picnic at the Ruritan Park; the June "lunch out" at Southern Kitchen in New Market; helped serve the Overlook Camp counsellors lunch after worship; provided food for the Donuts for Dad Sunday; and UWIF Sunday will be in September. UMM reported outdoor service is upcoming; September low boil with other UMM's is being planned; Turks baseball nightout was a success. Trustees advised that Scott Sprague will be finishing the sound system soon. There will be a Missions meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Sherry distributed a summary of the meeting held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, showing projects completed and upcoming projects thru June 2027. WOW services will be held in October. Pastor Joel suggested the Free Will Offering be given to John Nday and Partnerships of Hope. This was approved. Jenny reported that Staff Parish did the parsonage walk thru and found only small items needing attention. This committee will meet again in August to recognize KUMC's lay speakers and discuss salaries. Jenny reminded all that Vacation Bible School is upcoming July 21<sup>st</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup> and that anyone is welcome to come and help. Pastor Joel distributed a VA Annual Conference 2026 Report and spoke about the number of kits given; talked about the new Bible study beginning in September; and reminded us to have budget requests to Council by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The balance of his report had already been discussed. Cheryl Carr was recognized as our newest retiree. Next meeting will be September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**United Women in Faith** met July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with 13 members and 1 guest present. Judy opened the meeting with prayer, and we recited the UWIF purpose. Diana led the devotions with a reading about holding unto God's hand. Minutes for the May meeting were read, and the Treasurer's report was given; both were approved. Missions of the month were to the Camper's Scholarship for Camp Overlook and UMCOR for North Carolina. Judy talked about the need for flowers on the altar; an announcement will be made Sunday to let folks know they can call or e-mail the Church to place an arrangement in honor or memory of someone. Sherry advised that we serve the Mt Crawford Ruritans on August 5<sup>th</sup>; serve the Keezletown Ruritans on September 14<sup>th</sup>; and Mt Crawford again in October. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have our UWIF Church Picnic at 5:00 PM at the Ruritan Park pavilion. We will help with the Wendell and Faye Cochran 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. August 29<sup>th</sup> will be the Ice Cream Social, making ice cream on the 26<sup>th</sup>. September 20<sup>th</sup> will be UWIF Sunday, with a meal following worship. Sherry advised that we are in need of hats, and that Kingsway is collecting toothpaste thru July, to be dedicated on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will also be collecting school supplies for MCCC through the middle of August. Upcoming events were September 12<sup>th</sup> for the Prayer Breakfast at Mt Valley; the WOW services in October (we agreed to serve the meal on October 7); and the Harvest Party/Hayride on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Joel stated that at Conference Women in Clergy were recognized as having served 70 years. Thirteen Cards were signed. Judy closed the meeting with prayer and we assembled 30 "Love Bags". With August being the picnic, the next meeting will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall.

**JESUS WROTE IN THE DIRT:** For the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Joel led the Worship service on July 12<sup>th</sup>, using John 7:53-8:11, the Adulteress Woman, with a message entitled “Let Anyone Among You Who Is Without Sin Be the First to Throw a Stone”. A challenging passage, this John passage was not included in the original writings of John. It is one that is often avoided, but is used to illustrate forgiveness and God’s grace. During the Festival of Tabernacles, Jesus is at the temple to teach, but some in attendance wanted to trap Jesus. So, they brought a woman caught in adultery. They presented her and asked Jesus what is to be done with her. Will she be stoned by the law or forgiven? Jesus writes in the dirt with His finger. Then He sat up and said “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone”. Then He starts writing again, giving them all time to think about their sins. They started to walk away, all of them, leaving only the woman and Jesus. He asks her, “Woman, where are they—has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one”. Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you, go, and sin no more”. Precious words of forgiveness and grace. Assisting today were Diana on the organ, Pastor Joel telling the children about planting seeds, and Bob Threewitts reading Scripture. Also, during the service, summaries of their experiences at Conference were given by Karen Mooney and Wendell Cochran.

**OPEN DOOR NEWS:** Nate Riddle posted this on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Facebook: “On June 18, I shared my intention to resign as Executive Director of Open Doors, effective July 31. Serving this organization has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. Together, we navigated a period of meaningful transformation—expanding services, strengthening community partnerships, building organizational capacity, and more than doubling annual revenue in a single budget year. More importantly, we positioned Open Doors with a stronger foundation for the future. None of this was accomplished alone. I am deeply grateful to our Board of Directors, staff, community partners, volunteers, donors, and everyone who has invested their time, talent, and trust in this mission. It has been an honor to work alongside so many dedicated people committed to serving our neighbors. I leave with tremendous confidence in Open Doors' future. The organization is well-positioned for its next chapter, and I look forward to cheering on its continued success for years to come. As for me, I'm excited for what lies ahead. I'll have more to share soon about my own next chapter. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey.”

**CHILL-N-CHAT** met on July 16<sup>th</sup> with seven ladies and Pastor Joel in attendance. After a time of good fellowship, three of the ladies also went out to lunch. Come join us.

Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin!

### \*\*\*JULY EVENTS IN NEXT ISSUE\*\*\*

July 19      United Methodist Men, breakfast meeting at 8:00 AM  
                 Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "The Hour of Jesus" John 12:20-50  
                 A Disciple's Path, 3:00 PM

July 21-23    Rise & Shine Vacation Bible School, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

July 22      Lunch Bunch at O'Neills; carpool 11:15 AM Church parking lot

July 23      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM in Social Hall

July 26      Outdoor Worship at Ruritan Park, 11:00 AM; NO Sunday School  
                 Rise & Shine VBS Picnic at Ruritan Park, Noon

July 28      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM

July 30      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM in Social Hall

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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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### \*\*\*AUGUST EVENTS HAPPENING\*\*\*

#### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

|        |                  |        |                  |
|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Aug 1  | Jim Dillard      | Aug 23 | Brian Zylich     |
| Aug 4  | Susan Threewitts | Aug 25 | Elinor Botkin    |
| Aug 4  | Connor Miller    | Aug 25 | Jeb Painter      |
| Aug 6  | Hayley Johnson   | Aug 27 | Darryl Eppard    |
| Aug 6  | Adam Ford        | Aug 27 | Florence Cochran |
| Aug 7  | Carol Sacra      | Aug 28 | Carmella Bahle   |
| Aug 10 | Creed Combs      | Aug 29 | Amy Coffman      |
| Aug 12 | Samuel Ramsey    | Aug 31 | Kendra Dodrill   |
| Aug 14 | David Reed       | Aug 31 | Carson Pusey     |
| Aug 18 | BJ Smith         |        |                  |

#### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

|                 |                        |          |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| August 10, 1991 | Aaron & Cheryl Dillard | 35 years |
| August 13, 2004 | Brian & Melissa Kelly  | 22 years |
| August 14, 2010 | Brent & Mary Combs     | 16 years |
| August 20, 1966 | Wendell & Faye Cochran | 60 years |

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



**Wendell and Faye Cochran for 60 years on August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Best wishes from your KUMC family. May you have many more.

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## AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR

- August 2      Small Group Leaders Gathering, 8:45 AM  
Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Communion; Message: "I Am the Bread of Life" from John 6:22-71  
Dedication of Toothpaste for Kingsway Ministries
- Aug 3      Worship Planning at Vito's, Noon
- Aug 4      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM
- Aug 5      UWIF Serve Mt. Crawford Ruritans Meal
- Aug 6      UWIF Church-wide Picnic at Ruritan Park, 5:00 PM
- Aug 9      Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message "I Am the Light of the World" from John 8:12-30
- Aug 11      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM
- Aug 12      Lunch Bunch at El Charo (Linda Lane/East Market) at 11:30 AM; carpool at church at 11:15 AM
- Aug 13      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM in Church Social Hall  
Serve Kingsway Meal
- Aug 14      Newsletter items/pictures due
- Aug 16      United Methodist Men, 8:00 AM Breakfast Meeting  
Sunday School, 9:45 AM; Back to School Blessings Sunday  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "Jesus the I AM" from John 8:31-59  
A Disciple's Path, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM  
School Supplies due for Mission Central
- Aug 18      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM
- Aug 20      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM in Church Social Hall  
Serve Kingsway Meal
- Aug 23      Sunday School, 9:45 AM  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "I Am the Gate" John 10:1-10
- Aug 25      Worship Music Practice, 6:00 PM
- Aug 26      Lunch Bunch at Village Inn (Rt 11 South) at 11:30 AM; carpool at church at 11:15 AM  
Ice Cream Making, 6:30 PM
- Aug 27      Chill & Chat, 11:00 AM in Church Social Hall  
Staff-Parish Relations Meeting, 6:30 PM recognizing lay servants
- Aug 29      Community Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM
- Aug 30      Sunday School, 9:45 AM; Sunday School and Small Groups Kick Off  
Worship, 11:00 AM; Message: "I Am the Good Shepherd" from John 10:11-41

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

### COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS:

**Kingsway Prison Ministry** is hosting Christmas in July Toothpaste Drive - collecting 3-6 oz tubes of toothpaste without mouthwash, such as Scope til August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Any and all School Supplies for **MCCC** through August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Open Doors** is requesting donations of Sunscreen, smaller packages of Laundry Detergent, smaller packages of Dryer Sheets, all sizes of Underware, in addition to the "Shopping List" found in the bulletin or back of the church. Open Doors Tub is in the back of the church.

**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.

**Outdoor Worship, Picnic, and VBS Celebration:** We'll have outdoor worship and picnic for a Vacation Bible School celebration on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Keezletown Ruritan Park. No Sunday school July 26<sup>th</sup>. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and beverages will be provided. Please bring sides and desserts to share.

**Back to School Blessing:** Students, teachers, bus drivers, and staff come for a back-to-school blessing during worship Sunday, **August 16<sup>th</sup>**. You are invited to bring a backpack or item in your school work as a reminder of the school year ahead.

### A Disciple's Path: What Does It Mean to be a United Methodist?

A Disciple's Path is a once-a-month class for new comers and new members at KUMC. Learn about What It Means to Be a United Methodist on August 16 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.

**United Methodist Men Fall Rally:** The Keezletown UMM are having a Fall Rally with a Low Country Boil on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 6:30 PM. The Co-Director for the JMU Suitcase Clinic Kimberley Jennings Beers will be our featured speaker. Rev. Richard Bensinger our district United Methodist Men representative will also share with us. There will be a freewill offering to cover the cost of food and support the JMU Suitcase Clinic. Please RSVP to Scott Dillard at 540-810-0903 so we have plenty of food for everyone.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY SEPTEMBER:** "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously—Miracle Sunday". This is a six-week study with materials from United Methodist leaders around the world. There is a free study guide available with Scriptures, reflections, and questions for small group study. We will take an offering for Theological education for pastors in Africa,

Europe, and the Philippines. This study will meet Mondays at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Conference United Methodist Men Spiritual Retreat** will be September 18th-19th at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center and the theme will be “B1, Inspire1 – Men of Faith, Sharing Their Faith”. Dr. Clarence Brown will be the keynote speaker and topics include discipleship, mentoring, and prayer life. There will be breakout sessions, fellowship time, and gospel singing. The 24-hour retreat is from 3 PM – 3 PM and all registrations include dinner, breakfast, and lunch with \$150 for overnight lodging and \$65 without overnight lodging. Flyers with all the details are available.

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### **MY PERSONAL NOTE**

Today a friend of mine was talking about me to someone I had just met, and she told her, “She’s good for the soul”. What? Who Me? I could have cried. In fact, when I hugged her later and told her that I knew what she had said, I did cry. She said, don’t cry, it’s true. I just don’t think about God using me to touch souls. I just try to do what He asks, when He asks, where He asks, and let him see the outcome. We don’t know who we touch or how we touch them with His love until He blesses us with words like that. Little did she know that her words touched my soul, and I needed it so badly today. God always puts us where we need to be. My soul thanks you, Father. May someone touch your soul.

*Diana*

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### **Editor’s Note**

**The Aug deadline for article or picture submissions is Aug 14th.** My e-mail is [AntDyna@comcast.net](mailto:AntDyna@comcast.net). I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as I enjoy preparing it for you. God bless you.

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People ask: “Do I really need Jesus to go to Heaven?” Folks, you need Jesus just to go to Walmart! And if you need an exercise in patience, go on a Saturday...take Jesus!