



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

April Newsletter 2024

As I write this there is a robin sitting outside my office window. The robin is sitting on a power line with no movement. I'm not sure what it is really doing, except just sitting there. The longer I watch I began to realize I am watching a bird do nothing. I'm watching something do nothing. Sounds as if I am having a busy morning, doesn't it? If someone would have come into my office and asked what I was doing, I would have had to be honest. I would have said, "I'm watching a robin sitting on a power line". And I'm sure they would have asked, "What's it doing?" and my reply would have been "nothing, just sitting there". And I can imagine that they would have walked out of my office shaking their head and wondering if the Pastor finally went over the edge.

However, as I watched the robin, it all became very clear why I was watching it. The reason I was watching is this; I was watching something I had been hoping to see. I had been hoping for that robin to show up for 5 or 6 months. That little fat robin is telling us that things are about to change. That do nothing little bird on that wire doing nothing is telling me that spring is here! That little bird brought me a message of hope and that message is winter is going away!! I can hear everyone sing out Praise to God for that news.

As spring arrives so comes the excitement, the joy, and the hope of Easter. Easter is all about hope; it is all about joy; and it is definitely about celebration. Easter is not just about a special church service; it is about hope realized. The hope and joy that not only death has been defeated through the resurrection of Christ Jesus; it is that Jesus is alive! Our hope lives forever more.

I become very excited at Easter. Things always seem a little brighter. People seem a little happier and the world for just a short time seems to be a little more caring. That is what Easter is. It is an experience of hope realized. It is knowing that we do not walk alone. In our struggles and fears, we are not alone. In our achievements and successes we are not alone. Life has been given and that life is forever. Thanks be to God!!

I have been a pastor for 20 years. And many times I have had people come to me and ask, "Do you really believe this stuff? Do you really believe that Jesus rose from the dead?"

My response is always the same: "I not only believe it; I'm counting on it." I'm counting on the fact that there is hope. I'm counting on the fact that God walks with us through hard and difficult times and gives us hope. I'm counting on the fact that God forgives our sins and that he's the God of second chances. I'm counting on the fact that ultimately, we don't have to be afraid. I'm counting on the fact that sin and hate and sickness and death will not have the final word. When we walk in the footsteps of the resurrected Christ, we walk with hope.

Peter and the disciples counted on it. What are you counting on? What is your story of Easter experience? What is your story of hope?

Easter Blessings, Pastor Brian

News from Snap

We enjoyed a fun-filled March with bowling, Bingo, seeing the movie ***Kung Fu Panda 4***, and a tour of the Cultural Center's "History of West Virginia" exhibit. We prepared a Quiche in class and took in a live performance of ***The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*** followed by lunch at Rio Grande! ... and we enjoyed an Easter luncheon and egg hunt.

April looks to be busy as well with Bingo, bowling, and cooking in class. We'll also be celebrating a birthday at Tammy's Country Kitchen where one of our gals works on her day off from SNAP.

SNAP is grateful for all your love and support. If you would like to make a donation, please do so to Special Needs Adult Program, Inc

Did you know that we love visitors? If you would like to stop in to visit with us - to read a story or share an experience with us - we would love for you to come by.

Happy Spring! Ms. Ruth, Ms. Wanda, Ms Linda and our SNAP family



Church Contribution Options

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2024, I would encourage each of you to begin thinking about and looking at your church contribution options. Regardless how you plan to financially share your gifts with the Church, one thing to ask yourself is **“am I retired and/or am I eligible to take an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) this year?”**

If you are eligible and are taking an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your IRA or 401K then I would urge you to consider a donation to the Church with a portion of that money. If you are eligible for a distribution and do not take it, then you could be assessed a penalty. For 2024, you can donate up to \$105,000 from your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution to avoid taxes if:

- Your IRA custodian agrees to transfer the funds to your chosen charity on your behalf. (You cannot make the donation directly; it must be made payable to the Church by your Financial Institution.)
- You don't claim that donation as a charitable deduction on your taxes.

RMD contributions to the Church or other Qualified Charitable organization reduce your tax obligation on your RMD by the amount of your donation. If you think you qualify for this option on your 401K or Traditional IRA RMD, please take the time to contact your Financial Institution and discuss this option with them. This option will save you money on your taxes while you make your contribution to the church, a win, win.

IF you would like to speak with someone at the church on the Finance Team about this option, please contact Ernie Downey (Finance Team Chair) or Walter Wood, either of which would be glad to discuss this possibility with you. This donation can be done anytime during the year, and many Financial Institutions will work with you to make these contributions quarterly, monthly, etc. during the year. **The only thing you need to be mindful of is the timing on your RMD gift which needs to be to the church before the end of the year.**

CELEBRATE



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

David Bradley April 8

Joyce Dickson April 7

Nolan Duncan April 8

Phyllis Garner April 8

Mary Lou Hutton April 12

Lucille Orndorff April 20

Andy Theodos April 9

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

David and Pam Duncan April 24

Pat and Joanne Hart April 20

Oscar and Carol Hutchison April 27

James and Sonya Lawson April 18

V. J. Smith and Lori Counts-Smith April 30

Dan and Peggy White April 14

LIFE LINE SCREENING

We will be at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in St. Albans on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Life Line Screening goes beyond regular screening to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up.

Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Atrial Fibrillation testing ... all four screenings for \$ 149.00.

Flyers will be available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or you may contact the church office (304-727-7114) for more information.



Parsonage Update

As previously announced the decision by the Trustees and Church Council to sell the Parsonage on Baier Street was acted upon during a special meeting March 4 with the two groups and our District Superintendent. With our church on a charge with Lakeview and Pastor Brian and Zondra living in the Lakeview parsonage, selling the parsonage and investing the money was determined to be the best option.

The Parsonage was placed on the market and we received multiple offers and with one accepted for \$10,000 above the asking price. The Church closed on the sale of the parsonage on Friday, March 29. Options for investing the money into a guaranteed return are being reviewed and a decision will be made within the next week. Any questions please feel free to ask Ernie Downey, Finance Team Chair or Oscar Hutchison, Trustees Chair

APRIL CALENDAR

SNAP – Mondays through Wednesdays when school is in session, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Karate - Mondays in Friendship Hall, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Boy Scouts – Mondays in Cottrell Hall, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Amy's and Bob's small groups – Wednesdays, ZOOM, 6:30 PM

Diana's and Tim's small group – Thursday, ZOOM, at 11:00 AM

Cub Scouts – Thursdays in Cottrell Hall, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Choir Practice – Sunday mornings in Room 210, 9:30 AM

APRIL CALENDER

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| April 7 | THE TABLE AT 4:44 PM |
| April 9 | Trustees, Parlor, 6:30 PM |
| April 11 | Fishermen Small Group in Wesley Classroom 11:00 AM |
| April 13 | Bridal shower in Friendship Hall |
| April 14 | Finance, Parlor, 2:00 PM |
| April 25 | Fishermen Small Group at Christ Kitchen |
| April 27 | Family Day sponsored by Children's Activities |



Lawn Care

SAINT ALBANS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2024

Team A

Randy Robinson

Tim Henrich

Jim Bowles

Team B

Rich Ingram

Bobby Holly

Team C

Joe Hart & Company

Team D

John Radachio

Rich Ingram

APRIL	April 5-6	A	MAY	May 3-4	A
	April 12-13	B		May 10-11	B
	April 19-20	C		May 17-18	C
	April 26-27	D		May 24-25	D
JUNE	May 31-June 1	A	JULY	July 5-6	B
	June 7-8	B		July 12-13	C
	June 14-15	C		July 19-20	D
	June 21-22	D		July 26-27	A
AUGUST	August 2-3	B	SEPTEMBER	September 6-7	C
	August 9-10	C		September 13-14	D
	August 16-17	D		September 20-2	A
	August 23-24	A		September 27-28	B
	August 30-31	B			
	OCTOBER		October 4-5	C	
			October 11-12		



CHILDREN'S CORNER

FAMILY CELEBRATION

April 27

1:00 to 3:00 PM

Games, Refreshments, Fun!

ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE IN ROOM 203

Reminder that the church nursery is available for newborns to three years old.

In the same room, we also have a worship-related activity for children ages 4 to 11.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bob Lilly at (304)382-4183



Project Graduation 2024 for St. Albans High School is now in the planning stages. This Graduation night activity allows graduates to spend the night celebrating their accomplishments with their fellow classmates. This year's activity will be held Friday, May 24 from 10 PM to 5:00 AM at the South Charleston Recreation Center.

There are several ways of supporting this activity from monetarily, merchandise, food, gift certificates, etc. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to support this year's activity, you may make your donation in one of the following ways:

- Take your donation directly to City National Bank in St. Albans and let them know you are making a donation to Project Graduation.
- Send your donation to Project Graduation, 157 Riverbend Blvd, St. Albans, WV 25177
- Call 304-539-3539 and arrange for your donation to be picked up.
If you need more information, you may contact St. Albans High School,

PRAYER LIST

Barbara and Gary Asbury

Emma Gandee

Rev. Jarrold and Debbie Lanham

Peg Henrich

Allison Hubbard-Jones and Bob Hubbard

Don and Anna Nichols

Jill Taylor, friend of John Danford

Libby Lamp Thompson, former member

Nancy Carte, Randy Robinson's sister having health problems

Peggy White's brother, James Donahew

Eric McAllister (and wife, Joyce) friends of Leigh Long

Teenie Morrison in the passing of her husband, Bill

Gilbert Baker, Joanne Hart's nephew

Elizabeth Arney, former neighbor of Joanne Hart

Shea Kagan, friend of Leigh Long

Family and friends of Rev. Barry Moll in his passing