



Address Service Requested

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Doggett Chapel United Methodist Church
www.doggettchapel.com
&
Fayetteville United Methodist Church
www.fayettevilleumc.com
E-mail— fayettevilleumc@frontier.com
Rev. Rick Crawford
P.O. Box 87
Fayetteville, WV 25840-0087
Office (304) 574-0187
Parsonage (304) 900-5156
Secretary: Pamela Smith
Bishop: Sandra Steiner Ball
District Superintendent: Reverend Dr. Joe Kenaston

Paddling through Lent — and life



Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you’ve ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn’t a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it’s no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we’re traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heart-

felt prayer: “Jesus, set me straight again!” Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don’t get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.
—Author unknown

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When our current president was asked in 2016 whether he had ever asked God for forgiveness, his response was, “No,” and then clarified: “I don’t think in those terms. If something doesn’t work I try to make it right. I just try to do a better job.” Now it would be easy for me to give a political commentary on what I like or dislike about president Trump, but the basic fact is I don’t think he is alone in this flawed theology. Sometimes as Christians, we don’t think much about sin, and we definitely do try to do better.

Trying to do better is certainly a worthwhile goal that we should all aspire to, but is that enough in and of itself? Well..... no. In living our lives in such a matter, it seems we forget entirely about the word “sin”. We put labels of “not right” or “less than ideal” or “not good”, but in reality many of the things in our lives that we label so creatively are indeed sin. Defining sin is something that we won’t get into too deeply, but we all have sinned and we all most certainly will sin again.

When we don’t give sin much thought, we also are minimizing forgiveness and healing. Understanding what is sin and seeking forgiveness is what is necessary to start the healing that will free us from the bondage we sometimes find ourselves in.

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return” is a phrase used by myself and many pastors over the years, and it certainly resounds with a call to reflect on our lives, and even our very souls. It speaks to me of the impermanence of our lives on earth, and the necessity to make time to get ready. We need to reflect on those things that keep us from a closer relationship with our Lord and ask forgiveness for our time is short. There is not a moment to be wasted as we make ourselves ready for our journey through Lent.

Peace be with you all

Pastor Rick



The World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday, March 6th this year.

The host country this year is Zimbabwe. The World Day of Prayer 2020 is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not been able to act upon the opportunities given. (John 5:2-9)

Jesus asked, "Do you want to be made well?" The theme is "Rise! Take your mat and walk."

What will you do with this opportunity to pray for the many concerns world-wide?

We will not be having a formal program, but request that you take time to pray for world concerns on March 6th..

Some suggestions:

1. An end to violence in America and abroad.
2. A cure to be found for the coronavirus.
3. God's protective hand upon our military serving in dangerous regions of the world.
4. Pray that the Gospel of Christ will reach the unsaved.
5. Pray that doors once closed to missionaries will open.
6. Pray for our brothers and sisters (in Christ) in Zimbabwe.

Prayer and Action are what link us together around the globe.

May God Bless You for Praying!

Love in Christ,

Fayetteville Baptist Church
SonShine Mission Circle



Catherine Britt	1 st
Beth Hudspeth	1 st
Frances Nugen	5 th
Martha Carver	6 th
Christina Trofy	6 th
Nancy Garvin	8 th
Yvonne Arthur	11 th
Betty Sue Mulligan	12 th
Bradley Murrell	17 th
Mary Corder	18 th
Angela Akers	20 th
Bea Arthur	20 th
Myrna Pilato	27 rd



Phyllis & Pete Gagich

25th



Erin's Closet



Erin's Closet

March 26th
10:00 am - noon
and
March 28th
10:00 am - 1:30 pm



We are continuing to collect 2lb bags of pinto beans for the Food Pantry. If you are able to participate in this food drive there will be a box in the Narthex for you to put the beans in. Thank you for your help!

DOGGETT CHAPEL UMC

*At Doggett Chapel we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ by having & practicing
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*

*Doggett Chapel has a Bible Discussion
Group on the 3rd Wednesday of every
month at 6:30 pm.*

Doggett Chapel web site, check it out at
www.doggettchapel.com
& on facebook at:
Doggett Chapel



Free Community Lunch
Saturday, March 28th
11:00 am - 1:30 pm

*Join us for Fellowship & Nourishment for your body and soul.
All served with the Love of Christ.*



Christian Sympathy is extended to the
family and friends of
Carl "Eddie" Spearen
who entered eternal life on February 24, 2020

Eddie was the brother of Gregg Spearen



C.O.M.E. MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

Thanks to all who helped make our 2019 COME campaign a success! The Conference total cash collected was \$108,016.92 and has been distributed to 12 conference funds. Our Southern District was great and the music wonderful! Way to go!

We now need to turn our attention to our 2020 C.O.M.E. We are again combining C.O.M.E. with the District Conference which will be held April 19, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., at United Methodist Temple in Beckley.

We are keeping the competition between churches to raise the most money per capita based on average attendance. The winning church (or group of churches) in each parish will have the honor of having their choir, or other group/individual/etc., perform at the District event.

Each parish will be holding a pre-C.O.M.E., or mini-C.O.M.E. with the churches in their parish. By having a hymn sing format, each church can be involved by having their choir or other group participate. Mission opportunities in your area can be highlighted with speakers, videos, etc. and items for our two designated mission projects can be collected. Sue Lowther has a video you can show about the New Vision Depot and there is a video link on Heart & Hand Outreach Ministries Facebook page.

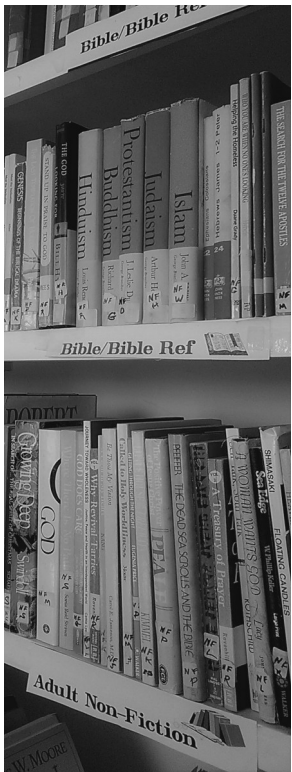
Our two mission programs we are highlighting this year are the New Vision Depot and Heart & Hand Outreach Ministries in Charleston. Here are the items we will be collecting for each program:

New Vision Depot: Cleaning Kit (fka Flood Bucket) Items: 5 gallon buckets with re-sealable lids (no screw lids), 32-64 oz bottles of liquid laundry detergent, 16-40 oz bottles liquid concentrate household cleaner (no spray cleaners), 16-34 oz bottles dish soap, 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener, 6-14 oz pump spray insect repellent (or pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable), scrub brushes, re-usable cleaning wipes (no terry cloth, microfiber or paper towels), scouring pads (Scotch Brite type), wood clothspins, 50-100 ft clothesline (cotton or plastic), heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon), N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness), kitchen gloves, work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather).

Heart & Hand Outreach Ministries: Canned soup, breakfast food (cereal, breakfast bars, pancake mix, syrup), large size diapers (3,4,5, pullups), baby wipes, laundry detergent.

Ideas for fundraisers range from special offerings, bake sales, no-bake bake sales, car washes, dinners, auctions, pie auctions, silent auctions, dinners, etc. All money should be raised by your parish hymn sing and sent TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE to receive accurate credit.

DON'T WAIT!!! START NOW!! ONLY YOU CAN MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS!!!!!!!!!!



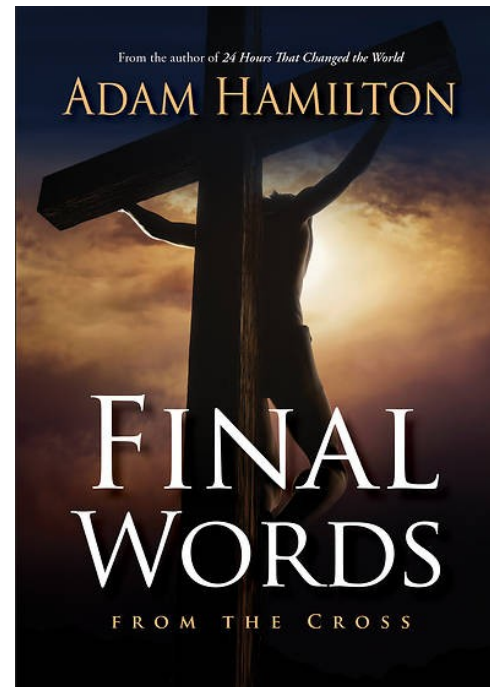
Check Out the FUMC Library – No Card Required to Borrow a Selection!

Where: The library is located on the upper level, between the sanctuary and Pastor Rick’s office.

When: Wednesday through Fridays, 8:30 AM to Noon
Sundays, 10:30 to 11 AM

The church’s library offers a wide range of reading and is organized for leisurely browsing. Groupings on the shelves include: Bible/Bible Reference, Biography, Adult Non-Fiction, and Devotions ... to name a few. A convenient self-check-out system enables borrowing without renewal requirements.

Through donations, the collection continues to grow. Give yourself a few minutes to check out this opportunity. Mornings, when the east sunlight floods this space, is a particularly delightful time to visit, browse and borrow!



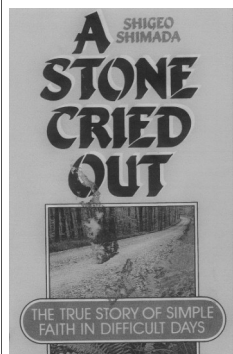
New Bible Study for Lent

Pastor Rick is doing a Bible Study for the season of Lent for both churches. Class will start on Sunday March 1 at 5:00 pm and again on Tuesday, March 3, at 10 am. Classes will be held at FUMC. We will be studying from the book Final Words From the Cross by Adam Hamilton.

(The book is provided, but if you are able to purchase the book the cost is \$9.00.)

A Good Read from the “Biography” shelf in the Fayetteville UMC’s library ...

A Stone Cried Out



“You are no longer my son. Get out of my house and never come back!” With his father's bitter words cutting deep into his mind, Shigeo Shimada determined to become a Christian minister. Life in Buddhist Japan had not been easy for Shimada following his decision for Christ. He was persecuted in school, at home, and in the army.

With \$300 in his pocket, Shimada entered the United States with high hopes for enrolling in a seminary. The story of his struggle to become an ordained minister is a heartwarming witness of unwavering faith in Christ's ability to sustain him through times of financial stress, internment in an American relocation center during World War II, and his early years as a pastor helping Japanese-Americans rebuild their lives after the war.

Shimada tells how he covenanted with God to lead his father to Christ and the joy he felt when this promise was realized. His efforts to build a beautiful church on worthless rocky ground and his experiences as a missionary to Japan are inspiring testimonies to Shimada's unwavering faith. Looking back over his life, Shimada says very simply, "A little stone on a road in the poorest section of Kanazaea City, Japan, was picked up by Jesus Christ and has been used as his servant."

Shigeo Shimada served as pastor of the Highland Park Methodist Church, Spokane, Washington. For three years after retirement he and his wife taught at Seiwa Women's College in Japan. They now live in Seattle, Washington.”

The description above may be somewhat dated. It was drawn from the dust jacket of an original hardback which was copyrighted in 1986. The autobiography’s message, however, remains current in most respects and offers a thought-provoking read to today’s Christians. Liz Watson



Dear Friends,

There are times when days are tough and difficult situations arise. For some, it seems as if there is only darkness around. You offered light and hope to our neighbors with your generosity and kindness in 2019. You have assisted the Upshur Parish House and Crosslines in fulfilling our mission. We are most appreciative of your support and partnership with us, and we wish you a happy and healthy New Year 2020!

With gratitude,

Kristi Wilkerson,
Director