UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS!

May 2022

INTO THE WILD

Rev. John White

According to Luke 5:16, Jesus "would slip away to the wilderness to pray." The same word here translated "wilderness" is also cited as one of the locales where John the Baptist preached and where Jesus spent forty days being tempted by the devil. In His day, the wilderness of Israel was filled with mountains, rocks, caves, forests, and even WILD BEASTS! Yet, it was here where Jesus would spend time, God the Son communing with God the Father in some intimate, personal "Trinity" sort of way…and He did this apart from other people being present. (One can only imagine the content of these prayer sessions, but surely, the example of Jesus doing this has become an opportunity for us to follow His lead.)

In my opinion, there's nothing quite like spending time with the Lord somewhere in the great outdoors - on a mountain, on a beach, in a forest, in a garden, maybe even in a cave. When there is no-one else around but God Himself, God Who sees, knows, hears, cares and TALKS, what an awesome time this can be! Maybe we have a particular favorite place to which we prefer to return again and again. There's just something pure and lovely about encountering the Lord in a setting that He crafted and that He, like us, recognizes as bearing the hallmarks of what He originally deemed as being "VERY GOOD." (Think of the first part of the hymn "In The Garden": "I come to the garden alone when the dew is still on the roses and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses…")

INTO THE WILD, CONT'D

Quite honestly, whether we can make it outside or we find ourselves secluded in the privacy of our own living room, either place will suffice just as fittingly, as a place for us to encounter our Lord. The Bible teaches in James 4:8 "draw near to God and He will draw near to you." By all means, this is why we follow the lead of Jesus, to both know and have the opportunity to experience the Lord close at hand. He loves us beyond what we can ever imagine. He knows us far better than we know ourselves. He has words of encouragement to offer and maybe even some words of rebuke! At the same time, in these moments, He is likely to prepare us for what may next come our way, prepare us not only for our own sake, but also for the sake of others who may well need our help. Perhaps, like no other spiritual discipline, slipping away to be with the Lord is uplifting, empowering, and it absolutely enlivens the soul.

> BUT JESUS HIMSELF WOULD OFTEN SLIP AWAY TO THE WILDERNESS AND PRAY.
> LUKE 5:16

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Laura Devine

Once again, UPC is sponsoring the Backpack Program at the school. There is a box in the Narthex for food. There is a list of food you can contribute.

Let's do all we can to show our love and compassion to those less fortunate.

Thank you in advance for caring and sharing -

Laura Devine

KATE RIKER CIRCLE

Laura Devine

We will meet Monday, May 2nd at 10:30am in the basement.

Lesson Number One in our books.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. If you are not a member, we would love to have you join us.

God's Blessings to each of you -
Laura F. Devine, Moderator

AGAIN I SAY TO YOU, THAT IF TWO OF YOU AGREE ON EARTH ABOUT ANYTHING THAT THEY MAY ASK, IT SHALL BE DONE FOR THEM BY MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME, I AM THERE IN THEIR MIDST.

MATTHEW 18:19-20

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Jackie Corbit

As mentioned last month in the newsletter, Hospitality is working on a special Sunday celebration to remember those we lost since 2019. We were closed a number of weeks during these years because of Covid, and many had very limited memorial services or none at all. We as a church family, just didn't get to adequately share in celebrating the contributions of these beloved church members. In addition to remembering those we lost during this time, there will be an opportunity for you to celebrate the life of loved ones you have lost regardless of the timeframe. Details are in the planning stage, but be sure to put the date on your calendar: Sunday, May 29.

MOTHER

When God made mothers
He made a special one for me
One who could love seven of us easily.
Always there to listen and understand,
She mended broken hearts, kissed your cuts away,
helped you know what to say when life was treating you badly.
Never too busy to listen.
Took us to Sunday School and Church
Teaching each of us to trust God no matter where life took us.
Tucked us into bed at night, listened to our prayers.
She didn't have to say she loved you - you knew she cared.
It didn't matter how old each of us got
We were still "her babies."
I looked forward to calling her each night at 9 o'clock
Just to hear her sweet voice on the phone
I felt her love, I wasn't alone.
She had no favorites as far as we could see
She loved us all equally.
Never had a bad word to say about anyone
She lived by, if you didn't have something
good to say about someone, say nothing.
Made you feel welcomed in her home
You felt her love!!

She's in Heaven now!!
Her work here is done
Each one of us miss her every day.
So Happy Mother's Day - Mommy
from your oldest daughter, me.
One of these days your loving face I'll see.
Until then, I'll hold my memories
and love in my heart.
In that way - we are never apart.

Laura F. Devine, May 2022

In Memory of My Mother
Thelma Etta Fugate
1925 - 2019

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Mercer/Boyle County Church Women United is returning to their Celebrations on Friday, May 6 @ 9:30 AM! In the Spirit of Friendship Day, a Pot Luck breakfast will be served, followed by a short business meeting and celebration of May Friendship Day. This is an opportunity to get together in Friendship to prepare a dish and then share the dish.

The meeting will be held on Friday, May 6th, 2022 at 9:30am, at Centennial Baptist Church, which is located at 291 West Lane, Harrodsburg, KY. Questions may be directed to CWU President, Wendy Hood at 859-613-2575 or wendy7hood@icloud.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 – Hospitality Committee Meeting, following worship
May 2 – Kate Riker Circle Meeting, 10:30am
May 4 – Mission & Outreach Meeting, 10:30am
May 29 - Memorial Day Service, 10:45am

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3rd – Vanna Prigmore
4th – Sherri Howe Prigmore
12th – Beverly Woodard
18th – Mary Ann Rawlings
21st – Dixon Dedman
24th – Zach Belding
24th – Josh Belding
24th – Jo Holbrook
26th – Jennifer Baxter
26th – David Berry
28th – Trudy Sutherland
31st – Jamie Woodard Rucker

12th – Dick & Shirley Howe

STATED SESSION MEETING: ACTIONS TAKEN APRIL 13, 2022

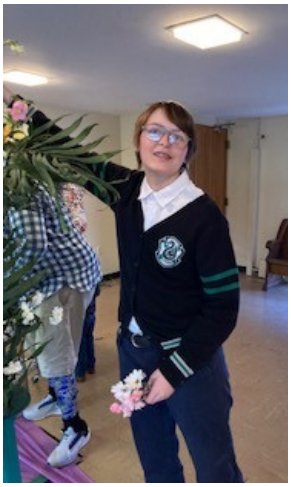
1. **Approved the motion from Mission and Outreach to request $4,000 from Foundation's Curry fund to donate to the following: $1,000 to Transylvania Presbytery for Ukrainian relief; $1,000 to Ukrainian Pentecostal Church in Lexington for Ukrainian relief efforts; $1,000 to Youth Ministries International, Inc. for their Ukrainian relief efforts; $1,000 to Mercer Transformation's Hands Up Ministry to help rehabilitate drug addicts for the workplace.**
2. **Approved the motion from Mission and Outreach to donate $500 from Jan Hylan Youth Fund to Mercer County Senior High School Project Graduation.**
3. **Approved the motion from Mission and Outreach to donate $500 to Christian Life Center from Mission, Outreach, Hospitality fund.**
4. **Approved Property Committee's motion to purchase a new sign. The total cost will include removal of current sign, disposal, shipping, electrical connections, and installation of the new sign for $11,071.70. Delivery expected approximately six weeks from order.**
5. **After consultation with Myra Reed, approved donating the remaining funds from Gertrude Reed toward landscaping the front of the church. (Myra feels this is the best use of the remaining funds since her mother was very involved in floral arrangements for the church.)**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Balance 3-1-22 ..... $ 2,1813.01

Received: ..... $ 5,333.89

Disbursed: ..... ($ 6,339.75)

Balance 3-31-22 ..... $ 20,807.15

EASTER MEMORIES