

117 N. Second Street  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Phone: 304-623-3397  
website: [www.cfumc.org](http://www.cfumc.org)  
E-mail: [cfumc@wvdsi.net](mailto:cfumc@wvdsi.net)



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CLARKSBURG, WV  
PERMIT #74



# THE GRAPEVINE

FEBRUARY 2012

CLARKSBURG FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST

OPEN HEARTS... OPEN MINDS... OPEN DOORS  
THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

## FUMC Staff

Rev. Rick Sale, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Elizabeth Baker, Minister of Spiritual  
Formation and Lay Ministry Development  
Don Gardner, Director of Music and Operations  
Carrie Whaley, Director of Youth Ministries  
Elizabeth Jones, Director of Children's Ministries  
Dr. Roy Knight, Organist  
John Greaver & John Jones, Custodians  
Lynn Mucci, Secretary

*First  
United  
Methodist  
Church*



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M. .... SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 A.M. .... ALL ARE WELCOME!

## FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

### "Lent is the Time to Mend the Tears in our Relationship with God"

Lent is a forty day time period (not including Sundays) in which we take a serious look at our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This year the Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and continues through Holy Saturday, April 7, the day before Easter. In the early church, Lent was an intense time of spiritual preparation for those who would be baptized and join the church on Easter Sunday. Through prayer, penitential practices, self-evaluation, and repentance in these forty days, they would be prepared to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day.

It is in this context of the early church that I hope we observe Lent. Through prayer, penitential practices such as self-denial and fasting, self-evaluation of our commitment to the Lord, and repentance of our unfaithfulness to God; we will be prepared to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day and the remaining days of our lives! One way I attempt to do this is to view Lent as an opportunity to mend the tears in my relationship with God. We all have tears in our relationship with God, don't we?

Several years ago I had a favorite shirt I wore everywhere. If it wasn't in the washing machine being washed, it was on my back. It was a long-sleeved

casual shirt with multi-colored stripes which seemed to fit the bill for many occasions (at least I thought so. I'm not sure others agreed). I remember when there was a small tear on one sleeve and then the other sleeve. Then there was an unnoticeable tear on the pocket. I ignored these small tears at first. When they became noticeable tears, I didn't want to take the time to mend them. What do you think happened? The small tears became large tears and over time the shirt was beyond repair.

We all have tears in our relationship with God. We don't take the time to prayer to the Lord one day. One day of not praying to the Lord becomes one week, two weeks, one month, two months of not praying to the Lord. A small tear becomes a large tear. We miss reading God's Word one week then the one week turns into several weeks and months without God's Word in our life. A small tear in our relationship with God becomes a large tear. We miss going to church or Sunday school several weeks in a row. Soon these several weeks become several months. A small tear becomes a large tear. We have good intentions to commit to a ministry of the church but just can't find the time to do it. A small tear in our relationship with God becomes a large tear.

Maybe, just maybe, Lent is the time to mend the tears in our relationship with God. Through prayer, penitential practices, self-evaluation of our commitment to the Lord, and repentance of our unfaithfulness to God; Jesus Christ will mend the tears in our relationship with God! There is no tear too large, and unlike my favorite shirt, there is no tear beyond repair. Isn't this what Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is about?

*Rick*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON	2
LIGHT & LIFE	3
MUSIC & WORSHIP	4
FUMC OPPORTUNITY	5
FINANCIAL NUGGET	6
OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY	7
FUMC INFO	8
BIRTHDAYS, GREETERS, MEETINGS	9
CAN-DO KIDS	10
BREAKAWAY YOUTH	11

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CONFIRMATION
- WVWC SPRING ARTS ALIVE
- OUTREACH LUNCHEON
- FEBRUARY CALENDAR (INSERT)



**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON**



*A rich person does wrong, and even adds insults;  
a poor person suffers wrong, and must add apologies.  
When the rich person totters, he is supported by friends,  
but when the humble falls, he is pushed away even by his friends.  
If the rich person slips, many come to the rescue;  
he speaks unseemly words, but they justify him.  
If the humble person slips, they even criticize him;  
he talks sense, but is not given a hearing.  
The rich person speaks and they are all silent;  
they extol to the clouds what he says.  
The poor person speaks and they say, "Who is this fellow?"  
And should he stumble, they even push him down.  
Riches are good if they are free from sin;  
poverty is evil only in the opinion of the ungodly.*



If you don't recognize those words, but they sound "scriptural" to you, that's because they come from the Apocrypha, an inter-testamental section of the Bible of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. These "hidden" writings hold much truth and are deserving of our study along with the books of the Holy Bible. The words above come from the Apocryphal book of Ecclesiasticus (13:3, 21-24). Ancient though the words may be, they seem to reflect a modern-day assessment of issues and attitudes revolving around wealth and poverty.

We, as members of First United Methodist Church, need to take a strong look at the issues of poverty and our attitudes about (and toward) those who are victims of poverty. Our church sits in the midst of much poverty. On a daily basis the poor come to our church seeking assistance and occasionally, thank God, some of the economically disadvantaged are brave enough to come to our worship services. How are they received at our church? With acceptance, yes! But with a desire to relate to them? Not always! That's usually because most of us have a basic lack of understanding about poverty.

That's why I'm so happy to announce that during the six Sundays of Lent, there will be a special Sunday School offering based on the book, **What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty**. We will be blessed by the gifts and knowledge of our teacher/leader, Shelley Spellman. It is my hope that every leader, every volunteer, every usher, every greeter—in fact EVERY MEMBER of our church will make a determined effort to attend Sunday School for at least these six weeks out of the year. Let's make it our Lenten Discipline; let's make it our commitment to serve all God's children!

I've already begun the study and have been blown away by a new awareness, new understandings I've gained. I'm looking forward to being a participant in the class along with each of you. Come and join us each Sunday morning at 9:30, beginning February 26 running through April 1, as we learn to be better neighbors, better Christians!

On the journey with you, *Elizabeth*

**Breakaway Youth**

**February Events**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 – All in the Family after school. We will be setting up for the Rummage Sale. | 12– Sunday School 9:30<br>Worship 10:45<br>Youth 5:30-7:30 | 19– Sunday School 9:30<br>Worship 10:45<br>Breakaway Youth 5:30-7:30 |
| 2– Youth Rummage Sale!  | 15– All in the Family after school. Dinner at 5:45.        | 22– Ash Wednesday. All in the Family after school. Dinner at 5:45    |
| 3– Youth Rummage Sale!  |  | 26– Sunday school 9:30<br>Worship 10:45<br>Breakaway Youth 5:30-7:30 |
| 5– Sunday School 9:30<br>Worship 10:45<br>NO BREAKAWAY YOUTH                    |  | 29– All in the Family after school. Dinner at 5:45.                  |
| 8– All in the Family after school. Dinner at 5:45.                              |  |  |



**BIG EVENT COMING SOON: International Dinner March 18! Be sure to mark it on your calendar!**

"Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."  
(1 Peter 5:6)

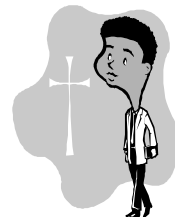


# Can-Do Kids

News for Children & Their Families!

## Sunday School

Every Sunday at 9:30 AM-10:30 AM on the 2nd Floor!  
Pre-K and Kindergarten in Room #207 with Jill Lilly  
1st-5th Grade in the Clubhouse with Beth Skidmore and Nancy Ferber



## Children's Church

Every Sunday during the Worship hour, children Kindergarten-5th Grade are excused after the children's sermon for a fun half hour of lessons, songs, games, memory verses and more!

January 8th-5th: Agents In Motion  
February 12th- March 11th: Imagine



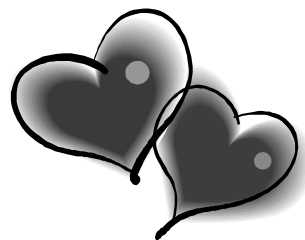
## K'Motion: Sunday Evening Program

Our Sunday Evening Program, K'Motion, is where kids are active and in motion through worship and activities! K'Motion is an extension of KidMo! on Sunday mornings. For Ages Kindergarten-5th Grade Activities Start at 4:30 PM in the Clubhouse



## Valentine's Party

Sunday, February 12th @ 4:30 PM in the Clubhouse  
Ages Kindergarten-5th Grade  
Join us for food, games, and crafts to celebrate the greatest love of all... Jesus!



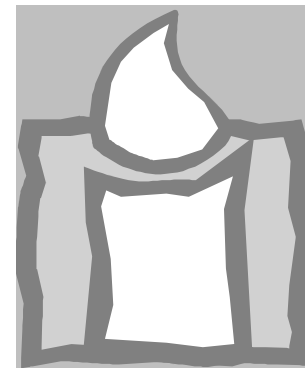
Children's Ministry Team Meeting:

Sunday, February 5th Immediately Following Worship in the Can-Do Kids Clubhouse!

Lizzy Jones, Children's Director  
Questions? (304)812-4787, [lizzyadrienne@gmail.com](mailto:lizzyadrienne@gmail.com)  
Lizzy is at 1st UMC every Wednesday and Sunday. Come Visit Her!

# Light and Life

"In My Opinion...." February 2012



## "Compassionate Accountability"

"You gotta treat people with love and appreciation," he said.

This is from Paul Singer, retired corporate executive with MSA Industries, as offered in Tom Morris' [If Aristotle Ran General Motors](#).

Morris included this in a chapter entitled "The Beauty of Business".

Beauty; along with Truth, Goodness and Unity; form --- if I may borrow a concept from John Wesley ---- Morris' quadrilateral --- the four essential values in running a business.

Throughout his book, Morris gives example after example of thriving companies who embrace these values.... companies that are not only successful but also are known for employee and customer satisfaction.

I have been thinking about such things because I have just finished the second year as Director of Operations here at First Church, a position where I hope to impact "how" we do ministry, rather than just "what" ministry we do.

### Compassionate Accountability

What of this? How do we as people of faith develop the practice of kind, mutual

support and evaluation which enable us to grow in love and service to God and God's people?

Parents deal with this all the time. I'm not talking here about "tough love", but rather about the constant loving correction that fills the days in teaching a child to grow into a wise and considerate adult.

Everything is not acceptable.  
Everything is not OK.

There are those things we do which are spiteful, selfish, foolish, dangerous, or simply wrong. "I don't care what the Schmidts do. We don't do that in this family."

So, what of the First Church family? How do we grow in our attempts to hold each other lovingly accountable?

I believe that we will never grow to our full potential as God's family if we don't help each other strive to be the best we can be.

"...love and appreciation"? Yep, they're on the list. But so are cajoling and encouraging and nudging, and even loving criticism.

How does this remain "loving" and avoid



the possibility of cruel, harmful criticism? Two things have guided me .... prayer and a constant reminder that we are in this together, as the family of God. It is not, "me against you", "us against them". We are all God's children, an incredible journey together here at First United Methodist of Clarksburg.

I'm excited about 2012. In so many ways --- structure, staff, finances, vision --- we are poised to grow as First Church.

"Eyes on the prize, hand on the plow --- and hold on!"

Don Gardner,  
Director of Music and Operations

"Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console."

From the Prayer of St. Francis

Light and Life

MUSIC AND WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 2

A Service of Holy Communion

On this day when we gather at the table in remembrance of God's sacrificial love for us, his children, it is appropriate for us to sing of our connection to our God.

"You Alone Know Our Hunger" is relatively new to us, but it's folk gospel style makes it immediately accessible. The music transports us to the hills of Ireland with its robust triple meter. Harmonies are simple and strong, and the text reminds us that we are God's people, whom he knows and loves.

Also on this communion day in February, the handbells and new bellchimes will be played during distribution of the elements.

Sunday, February 12

One of the HeartSong selections that has become a favorite is "Children of the Light".

*We walk as children of the light.*

*We live in Christ;*

*We are God's new creation.*

A gospel song with engaging rhythm, this piece sets the tone of abandoning the darkness and seeking the light, a theme also captured by the Carol Choir in their song, "This Little Light of Mine"

Combining this theme of light with that of the missional theme of Epiphany, the women of the Chancel Choir are joined by the high school girls in "Witness", a great anthem asking the musical question....

*"Who'll be a witness for my Lord?"*

Sunday, February 19

On this last Sunday in Epiphany, we join with other liturgical Protestant churches in celebrating "The Transfiguration of our Lord."

As Christ, Peter, James and John seek the stillness of a mountaintop, the three disciples witness the miraculous "transformation" of Christ appearing to them in divine glory, flanked by Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets).

In an attempt to capture the majesty of this transformation in song, the Chancel Choir sings a medley of "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" and the wonderful hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy".

We pray that, in hearing these songs, we, too, may be transported into the presence of the divine, and experience our own divine transformation of heart and soul and mind.

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Plan to come worship on this Wednesday evening as we begin the penitential season of Lent with the traditional Ash Wednesday service, at 6:45 pm in our sanctuary

Sunday, February 26

*Kyrie Eleison*

*Christe Eleison*

*Kyrie Eleison*

These words, in Greek and Latin, voice our repeated plea, "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy."

The Chancel Choir and the New Jerusalem Singers will join in singing a powerful setting of this ancient "Kyrie" text.

It begins with the women "praying" the initial petition for God's forgiveness. The men join, with the resulting interplay between the voices creating a moving statement of our ongoing need for the Lord's mercy and grace.

A second song continues with this plea for mercy, but is entirely in English. "O Lord, Have Mercy on Us" is from a youth musical on the life of Jonah. It occurs in the play at the point when the reluctant Jonah has finally arrived in the great and evil city of Ninevah. However, upon hearing God's word, they repent, and sing this song (at least in the kid's musical version, they do!)

It's a beautiful chorus...I hope it finds its way into an edition of our hymnal someday.

Don Gardner, Director of Music

"Christ,  
Whose  
Glory  
Fills the  
Skies,  
Christ  
the True,  
the Only  
Light!"

WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW SINGERS TO OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

If you love to sing (in tune, please!), can read music, and feel that singing in the choir is something you'd like to explore, contact Don Gardner at 304-623-3397 or [dgardner55@yahoo.com](mailto:dgardner55@yahoo.com)

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

JUST A REMINDER ...



Tuesday, February 14

5:15 pm Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 pm SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, February 15

4:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 21

5:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

PLEASE MAKE NOTE AND PLAN TO ATTEND.

FEBRUARY GREETERS

FEBRUARY 5

Narthex - Lori & Victoria Stingo  
Elevator - Gary & Donna Mills

FEBRUARY 12

Narthex - Jim & Cindy Pritchard  
Elevator - Tim & Linda Brannon

FEBRUARY 19

Narthex - Jack & Sue Brandimarte  
Elevator - Tom & Cay Davisson

FEBRUARY 26

Narthex - Barbara Patton & Judy Burns  
Elevator - Laurel Klein & Cheryl Moorhead



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to All!!

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 02/01 Benjamin Rogers    | 02/18 Lizzie Jones        |
| 02/02 Cathy Rogers       | 02/18 Anna Rodriguez      |
| 02/02 Tom Barratt        | 02/19 Rachel Harpold      |
| 02/02 Bruce Rogers       | 02/21 Jim Guiher          |
| 02/02 Meade Winters      | 02/21 Chuck Kersting      |
| 02/02 Michael Moore      | 02/22 Paul Gurley         |
| 02/03 Keith Murphy       | 02/23 Scott Fornash       |
| 02/03 Lauren Warner      | 02/23 Donnie Lantz        |
| 02/03 Bradley Kersting   | 02/23 Lucas Selan         |
| 02/04 Shirley Lightner   | 02/23 Lexie Davis         |
| 02/05 Sue Atkinson       | 02/24 Bella Bigger        |
| 02/05 Matthew Rogers     | 02/26 Brian Yost          |
| 02/08 Thurza Righter     | 02/26 Stephanie McCollom  |
| 02/08 Boyd Warner        | 02/26 Olivia Lopez        |
| 02/08 Cora Whaley        | 02/27 Marlana Burnside    |
| 02/08 Tom Davisson       | 02/27 Jocelyn Spellman Do |
| 02/08 Amberly Wait       | 02/27 Tera Blurton        |
| 02/08 Taylor Wagner      | 02/28 Scott Matson        |
| 02/10 Amelia Wait        |                           |
| 02/11 Brody Bigger       |                           |
| 02/11 Jackson Walls      |                           |
| 02/12 Donna Mills        |                           |
| 02/14 Paul Williams      |                           |
| 02/16 Patty Wilson       |                           |
| 02/17 Diane Logue        |                           |
| 02/17 Evangeline Samples |                           |
| 02/17 Brandi Mines       |                           |
| 02/18 Les Carpenter      |                           |
| 02/18 Jaime Pyles        |                           |

*If there are corrections or omissions, please accept our apologies, and let us know. Thank you*

STEPHEN MINISTRY ... CARING MOMENTS



Trish just couldn't believe her eyes, she struggled to make the words right themselves on the page, but she knew what was there. Jesse had said to her just last night, "I don't want to be married to you anymore. You'll get the papers in the morning". Eight years, eight good years, she thought. Eight years and one son; a beautiful, happy, 4 year old son who missed his Dad when he was away. These last several years, Jesse had been working "on the road" a lot, but he usually got home regularly every third weekend. Lately, though, the weekends had been spotty. Just the other day, little Tommy had said, "Mom, why don't we know what day Dad is coming home? Even then, Trish had not been really worried, she had always trusted Jesse. But enough of that, Tommy was the important thing now. How could she explain this to Tommy? Trish felt her world tumbling down like that proverbial house of cards. She so needed someone to talk to. She decided her best call would be to the church she and Tommy attended, she knew the minister would give her good advice.

Trish's situation is not uncommon in our society as the number of divorces increase almost every year. This is just one crisis area where Stephen ministry is supportive both to the person affected by the divorce and to the church and its minister(s). A Stephen minister is trained to and is willing to provide the time needed to walk along beside the person as they go through this crisis, and to be a listening ear for as long as it takes. A Stephen minister is there "in between" the times the minister can give.

If you or someone you know is going through a crisis, take the time to call the church at 304-623-3397. Rev. Baker or Cheryl Morehead can tell you more about Stephen ministry.

Remember, Stephen Ministry is Both Caring and Confidential

THE WOMEN OF FUMC

You are invited...

Join us on Thursday, February 16 at 12 noon for a luncheon in the church fellowship hall.

Our cook will be Thelma Reeves. Our devotion will be shared by Patty Wells.

Our program will be "The Hymns of Fanny Crosby," led by Don Gardner.



Those who have received rides from the van drivers would like to say a very special

"THANK YOU."

To all of you who selflessly take the time to drive the van, pick us up, and bring us to church, we are most appreciative.

You are part of a very special and important CFUMC ministry.

FUMC OPPORTUNITY

CONFIRMATION

Each year about this time we start planning Confirmation Classes for any 6th Graders who want to go through the Confirmation process in preparation for becoming members of the church. We anticipate a small group this year and Rev. Sale and Rev. Baker are making plans now for the format we will use for the class.

6th graders who have been part of the church family will be notified of plans for Confirmation as soon as they are complete. But, If you (or your child) are a 6th grader who is new to First Church, or if you (or your child), for any reason, missed Confirmation when you were in 6th grade and want to go through the process, please fill out the form below and send or bring it to the church office no later than Sunday, February 12 so that we can be sure to include you in this year's Confirmation Class.

Questions? Call Rev. Baker at the church, 304-623-3397.

Please notify me of your plans for the 2012 Confirmation Class

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



ARTS ALIVE AT WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN



Join Don Gardner on one of the Spring performances at West Virginia Wesleyan in Buckhannon.

For more details or to sign-up, call Don at 304-623-3397, or [dgardner55@yahoo.com](mailto:dgardner55@yahoo.com)

Prices given below include admission to the performance and transportation fees.

April 1, Palm Sunday  
2:00 departure – 6:00 return  
Messiah, Parts I & II – \$5.00

April 12, Thursday  
6:45 departure–10:30 return  
"The Diary of Anne Frank" – \$8.00

April 15, Sunday  
2:00 departure–6:00 return  
WV Wesleyan College Alumni Choir – \$5.00

## FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP NUGGET

Family Lenten Offering .... By Linda Holland

*"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)*



Every family has at least two kinds of treasures. One is money and another is time. During the forty days of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter, take the time each day to share regular family devotions with your children. That will be "valuable" time. Also, plan a special family offering with them.

There is a tradition during the forty days of Lent for Christians to "give up" something. Families have chosen a wide variety of things: from television viewing (a time commitment) to chocolate (a money and health commitment). A distraction is set intentionally aside so that one's attention is on our relationship with Christ. Money is set aside for a purpose that brings higher satisfaction.

For instance, your family may choose to do without a weekly visit to a fast food restaurant. A simple meal at home can become a special meal. Have each member of the family participate in some way. Talk together about the amount of money that was saved by eating the simple meal at home. Then place the savings in a jar or other container. Plan a brief, age-appropriate devotional that connects the simple meal to the Lenten theme. On Easter Sunday, this money becomes a special family offering. If your church designates a special Easter offering, talk together about what the money will do specifically for others.

Other things to "sacrifice" could include weekly trips to the zoo or ice cream parlor, an hour of television or video games each day, or a Saturday movie outing or video rental. Working together toward a common goal and spending time together in God's presence will far outweigh anything your family chooses to "give up" during Lent.

Questions for Discussion

- How does giving up something help us draw closer to God? How does giving up become gaining?
- Jesus often ate with people. What do suppose they talked about when they ate together?
- Why do we prepare for Easter and why is it so important to us?

"Copyright General Board of Discipleship. [www.GBOD.org](http://www.GBOD.org) Used by permission."

## RUMMAGE SALE

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS ... RUMMAGE SALE**  
**Thursday, February 2 & Friday February 3**

Be sure to bring in your donations  
 by **Wednesday, February 1.**  
 To help set-up, call Carrie Whaley.

Proceeds benefit the  
 Breakaway Youth Ministry.



## OUTREACH INFORMATION

### SOUP DAY—Monday, February 27

We need LOTS of volunteers to help with our annual Soup Day —the day we prepare and deliver soup to our homebound members of FUMC.

WE NEED:

Cooks, vegetable cutters,  
 soup stirrers, jar fillers,  
 dishwashers, and people  
 to deliver the soup.



We will publicize ingredients  
 needed to make the soup and  
 cash donations will also be ac-  
 cepted if you do not want to shop.  
 We are also in need of jar lids.

If you can help, please call  
 Barbara Patton at 745-4905.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS



February Outreach Meeting :

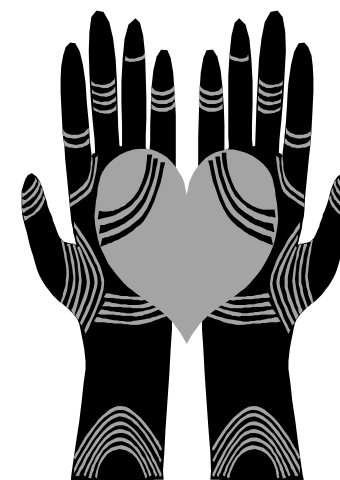
**FEBRUARY 21st**  
 @ 5:00 PM.

Thank you....  
 To all who participated in and/or con-  
 tributed to our Holiday Baskets, our  
 Christmas Angel Tree and The Shoe-  
 box Project.

## OUTREACH AT 1st CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

"Lunch to Benefit  
Local Mission"



The New Spirit Class  
 will host a luncheon  
 to benefit the  
 ministries of the  
 Clarksburg Mission.

Plan to stay for lunch  
 after worship,  
 enjoy a great meal,  
 and support the Mission!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS --- IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Fall Bazaar to be held  
 at earlier date!

Due to heavy church scheduling  
 in late October / November,  
 we have decided to move the  
 Bazaar date to October 11th.  
 Please note this is 2-3 weeks  
 earlier than our usual date.

So....all involved,  
 please mark your calendars!!!