



# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Eleven

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## **Warning: Bible Study Might Be Hazardous to Your Faith!**

14th century monk, Martin Luther is famous for hammering his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Chapel in Germany. He was frustrated with Pope Leo X's approval of selling indulgences to help build St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Leo and other Roman Catholic leaders encouraged people to buy an indulgence (a get out of hell or purgatory free card) to poor, frightened souls who felt heartbroken at the thought of their beloved relatives (Grandma and Grandpa, for instance) spending an eternity in a state of damnation. Though Luther intended these to be discussion points, the 95 Theses laid out a devastating critique of the indulgences, good works (which sometimes involved monetary donations) that popes could grant to the people to cancel out penance for sins, as corrupting people's faith. Luther also sent a copy to Archbishop Albert Albrecht of Mainz, calling on him to end the sale of indulgences. Aided by the printing press, copies of the 95 Theses spread throughout Germany within two weeks and throughout Europe within two months.

But what led to Luther's frustration? Bible Study! In 1513, Luther was preparing lectures for his students and read the first line of the 22nd Psalm. That's the verse Jesus cried while hanging on the cross and it resonated with Luther, who was struggling with feelings of disillusionment with religion along with feeling abandoned by God. He meditated on this

passage continually for some time. Then two years later, he was preparing a lecture on Paul's letter to the Romans and came across Romans 1:17b, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." He meditated at some length on this verse until eventually he had an epiphany. Luther came to understand that the power to save belonged to God and that the way to spiritual salvation was not to fear God or be enslaved by religious rules but to believe, to have faith, that God would deliver people from sin and its consequences.

This intense study and interpretation of Scripture changed everything for Luther and for the entire world. No longer would there be one global church(denomination). No longer would people be required to live in particular ways. No longer would people need to save their limited funds in order to spring Uncle Henry or Aunt Sally from Purgatory. Instead, Christians were liberated to focus on the saving grace of Jesus Christ. From then on, Luther preached that salvation is given to us by God's grace alone, and our role is to accept it with joy and gratitude.

It's been 500 years since the day Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Chapel door. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Debra



## Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg  
 Jimmy Cloud  
 Kenny Cushwa  
 Mary Hodges  
 Irvin Horst  
 Ted Largent  
 The McKune Family  
 Pete and Scott Mekkelson  
 Patty Runkles  
 Virginia Snyder  
 Bill Zombro



## Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart



Hedgesville Presbyterian will host this year's **Community Thanksgiving Service** on November 21 at 7:00 p.m. Come join us as we worship with Hedgesville churches of

all denominations and raise our prayers of thanksgiving to God. A cookie and punch reception will follow the service.

## Poinsettias



Those wishing to donate money for the purchase of **poinsettias** to decorate our sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones should see Susie Cushwa

before **November 26th**. The average cost per flower \$14.00. Please keep this in mind when making your contribution. **Checks may be made payable to Susie Cushwa.**

## Greeters for November

Renee Campbell- Head Elder

Nov. 5	Renee, Steve and Sara Tamplin
Nov. 12	Renee, Steve and Kristie Redding
Nov. 19	Renee, Bill and Judith Lawrensen
Nov. 26	Renee, Becky and Larry Brown

## Time For the Spaghetti Dinner!!



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 26**, when the Sardines will be serving you up an early dinner after church. There will be serving spaghetti,

salad, garlic bread and a variety of delicious desserts. A good meal to fill you up and send you home to curl up for your Sunday afternoon nap -- what could be better? Maybe this -- the price of your dinner is whatever you may think the meal is worth. Now how many restaurants give you that option? Any proceeds from the dinner will be used toward the Youth Fellowship upcoming events and projects. These folks are the future of our church, so please plan on joining them, getting to know them and supporting them.

## Happy Birthday -November

- 1 Dixie Blizzard
- 3 Virginia Snyder
- 3 Becky Hawthorne
- 3 Kadence Blaine
- 5 Jeanie Cushwa
- 8 Kirk Chambers
- 8 Austin Cushwa
- 12 Rod DeKett
- 14 Becky Brown
- 21 Denny Grove
- 22 Trent Carper
- 30 Brent Cushwa
- 30 Lillie Largent



## Set Your Clocks



**End of  
Daylight  
Savings...  
FALL BACK!**

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5. Please remember to turn your clocks **back** one hour.

## Warm the Children



For the past five years members of FWPC have made a donation at Christmas to the **Warm the Children** fund through the Martinsburg Journal. This program has donated about \$431,000 in warm clothing to thousands of children in

Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties. Last year the number of children served was nearly 500. There are no administrative costs and 100% of the money is used directly for the children. The program relies solely on volunteers - those who coordinate the program and also those who donate their time to shop with the parents. Patty Runkles has volunteered with this program for the last 5 years. Checks may be made payable to "Warm the Children" and given to Patty Runkles. Cash donations are also welcome. **Cut-off date is December 10.** Patty and the Journal thank you for your generosity in the past and hope you will continue to support the program this year.

## Operation Christmas Child

Is our heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God. That's the motivation behind Operation Christmas Child, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.



Take an ordinary shoe box, fill it with toys and other presents, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope.

FWPC will again this year participate in OCC.

Our goal is to make 90 boxes. Content guidelines are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, and watches. Do not include used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers or aerosol cans. **Shoe boxes will be collected November 12.** Please note that the shipping cost has increased to \$9.00.

*The Falling Waters Messenger*  
Falling Waters Presbyterian Church  
2928 Hammonds Mill Rd.  
Hedgesville, WV 25427

## Nursery Attendants

November 5	Ruth Berg, Marge Chamblin
November 12	Robin Brown, Helen Brown
November 19	Kelsey and Kadence Blaine
November 26	Kathy Goodell, JR Sloan

## November Movie Night



Please join us for **Movie Night** on November 19th. We will eat dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Cracker Barrel in Martinsburg followed by the movie "Sully" starring Tom Hanks at 7:00.

## We Need Your Help



Remember  
Our  
Homebound  
Members

The Congregational Nurture Committee is making **holiday baskets for our shut-ins** and needs your help. It is collecting small gifts such as packaged snacks, personal care items, candy, and books. A basket will be placed in

Fellowship Hall for the collection. The cut off date is **November 26**. Please see Jessica Ruqus if you have any questions.

## Flock Notes

**Pete and Sue Mekkelson** have headed south for the winter. Their winter address is: 17402 Silver Shores Lane, Odessa, FL, 33556. We wish them the best and will look forward to seeing them again in the spring.

**Alexandria N. Arvon, MD**, has opened a new practice, WV Medical Primary Care - Pendleton, in Martinsburg, and is accepting new patients. Congratulations, Nikki! Nikki is the daughter of Skip and Yvonne Lantz.

**Robin and Billy Brown** have had an exciting fall. Their daughter Holly married Zach Stolipher on September 30. On October 21, their granddaughter, Emerie Grace Brown was born to their son Cody and Ashley. Holly and Cody are the grandchildren of Helen Brown.

## What is the "Four Cents A Meal Offering"?

This hunger offering is collected on the first Sunday of each month. 25% of the offering benefits Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes and the other 75% is sent to the PCUSA for world-wide hunger programs. It is called Four Cents A Meal because it is suggested that each family contribute four cents for each meal each family member eats in one month, i.e. a family of four would contribute 16 cents per meal per day. 16 cents x 3 meals a day = 48 cents. 48 cents x 30 days = \$14.40 per month.

## Amazing Grace Fund



Plans are under way to ensure that approximately 20 disadvantaged families in our local area are provided fixings for a Christmas dinner, a turkey, gifts (for children) and other essential products. Tuscarora Presbyterian Church is already working on the food boxes and children's gifts. Therefore we here at FWPC plan to provide the turkeys and other essential necessities. This is where we need your help. Boxes have been placed in the Fellowship Hall and downstairs to collect items such as **(lots of) toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent**. Anyone wanting to make a donation please contact Beth Henry (274-2112) or Brenda Carper (274-3053). Items are needed no later than **December 3**. Your kind gestures will change lives.

## You Can Help



FWPC is collecting food and money for turkeys for Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes. The following items are needed: Turkeys, Instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn, gravy, fruit cocktail, brownie mixes, jiffy muffin mixes.

Distribution dates are November 17 for Thanksgiving and December 15 for Christmas. Donated food may be delivered to Hedgesville Methodist Church, 201 S. Mary St. Please call before you deliver to make sure someone is available to let you into the pantry. 304-754-8793

Checks are always welcome and should be written to Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Sobol, 304-754-3152.

## Book Review

"What Is The Bible" by Rob Bell

Pastor Debra would like to include a book review in the newsletter. We all read a good many good books and it is helpful to share what we have read. Now I know we don't all share the same interests and we certainly don't have the same outlook on the Bible. But I think the book "What is The Bible" is well worth anybody's reading.

Mr. Bell explains that the Bible was written by many writers over several hundred years. It contains poetry, drama, history and many, many questions of faith. Many books were stories that people heard over the centuries sitting around a campfire. Many writers were trying to understand the new God of Abraham who was so different from the many gods whom others worshiped.

This book is an interesting read. He retells the same familiar stories, gives them context, and then shares some fresh and new insights. Learning new things isn't always easy, but it has made my reading the Bible much more understandable. I recommend "What is the Bible" to all of you.

Margy McKune

## Giving Sunday

"Giving Sunday" will be celebrated on November 12, 2017. During the worship service that day, we will be invited to turn in an estimate of what we hope to give to the church in the coming year.

## An Invitation from Judith and Bill

We would love it if you could join us at our home for a **New Members Get Together**. Take this opportunity to get to know some of the "freshman class", as well as our Pastors and a few of the Elders. Dessert and Coffee (or something better if you choose) will be served.

When: Sunday, November 5 at 7:00 PM EST (Note this is the day Daylight Savings Ends)

Where: 33 Lacawanna Lane

Falling Waters (in the new Brookfield Development, off Broad Lane)

Dress: Casual

RSVP: Call 681-242-3535 or email Bill at [wlawrenson@aol.com](mailto:wlawrenson@aol.com)

Hope you can make it.

Bill and Judith Lawrenson

## Announcements

**November 9** - History and Heritage Night Rescheduled. Come for dinner at 6:00 and stay for a presentation by Ron Hansen and Bettie Jane Porterfield. The church will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a covered-dish to share.

**November 19** - Concerts in the Community hosts "D'Amore Duo", chamber music for oboe and guitar, at 3:00 p.m. See Kate Lewis Brown for tickets.