



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2022

Court Street United Methodist Church

What is a Christian View of Halloween?

Although our modern celebration of Halloween has religious influences, there is nothing biblical about the holiday. It is affiliated with "All Saints' Day," but even this holiday is not supported by Scripture. The Bible does not tell us to pray for the dead. There is no purgatory the dead need to escape from. The spirits of the dead do not come back to visit us on earth. And although the Bible does not forbid us from remembering our loved ones, neither does it ordain the practice, and attempting to contact them was punishable by death (Leviticus 19:31). Christians can celebrate Halloween to the extent that they feel the freedom to do so and to the degree that the practices do not celebrate the occult. The various pieces of Halloween can be analyzed individually for their current cultural and personal significance. It is not biblical to endorse or represent demons, evil, sin, or anything that would lead another to sin. But there is no injunction in the Bible against making lanterns out of gourds, wearing superhero and princess costumes, and asking neighbors for candy. Many churches and Christian organizations have Halloween alternatives, like Harvest Parties. Others encourage their members to use Halloween to meet neighbors in hopes of getting a chance to witness. At the same time, if the origins of Halloween convict a Christian to reject the entire holiday, he or she should feel the freedom to do so, while giving others the freedom to act on their own beliefs. Within the church, we are not to judge anyone who uses their Christian liberty in a way that contradicts our personal convictions. Romans 14:5-6 says, "*One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.*" Verses 13-19 say we are not to use our liberty to lead another into an act that he or she regards as sin. Our heart attitude should not be one that tries to justify the secular tradition of Halloween; nor should it be one that seeks out evil intent where there is none. Instead, we should strive to glorify God in all that we do. Whether we go trick-or-treating, attend a Harvest Party, or ignore the day altogether, our actions should reflect God's leading on our own lives.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

GLORIFY THE LORD IN ALL THAT YOU SAY AND DO

OCTOBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

October 2: "**Sharing with the Vulnerable**"

October 9: "**Gifts of the Widows**"

October 16: "**Blinded by the Truth**"

October 23: "**Justice for the Persistent**"

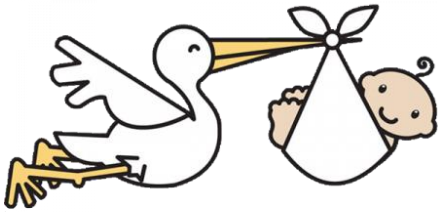
October 30: "**Hospitality without Boundaries**"

**Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.
Children's Sunday School meets on the main floor off the Bishop Early Hall.**

OCTOBER 16TH is Pastor Appreciation Sunday!!!!

Pastor appreciation month is October and according to Google; October 9th is pastor appreciation Sunday, BUT pastor Burleigh will be out that Sunday so we at Court Street will celebrate it the next Sunday the 16th. As always, the best gift you can give is the gift of your attendance in church. We know pastor Bill and Jesse will be pleased to see you!

We have a great ministry at Court Street and want to thank them for all that they do for our church and our community. ~ *The Members of Court Street*



Congratulations to Christine and Karl Speer on the birth of their baby, Hugo Barnaby Speer, born September 22, 2022 at 2:27 a.m., 8 lbs 15 oz, 20.5 inches long. Karl is the son of Karen and Randall Speer.



OCTOBER 29TH FROM 5-7PM

Calling all Trunk or Treaters to the 6th Street Parking lot on Saturday the 29th!!! The turn out for Trunk or Treat last year was so great we hope you can volunteer again this year to hand out treats from your trunk. Please see Jesse to sign up.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY will be celebrated on November 6TH during worship service. We will be honoring those who have passed since November 2021. Please contact the church office to place a name in the bulletin of a friend or family member that you would like to have remembered. Email: 621courtstunc@gmail.com or call 845-3427 by November 2ND.

Join The Adult Care Center for a White Glove Tea

a social fundraising event to provide scholarship and program funds for our dear participant family.

Join us on Sunday, November 6, 1-2:30pm in your Sunday best for tea and a variety of delectable appetizers and confections.

Purchase your tickets **TODAY** at:

<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/taccocv/event/855364/>



DISTRICT NEWS

CHARGE CONFERENCE also known as: **Mountain View District Palooza** is scheduled for Saturday November 5th from 9:30am – noon at Heritage UMC located at 582 Leesville Road, Lynchburg, VA. Together we will enjoy a morning of worship, fellowship, and learning, along with tending to the business of all the local churches' annual Charge Conferences and our District Conference. This is joint conference of the newly formed Mountain View District formerly the Danville and Lynchburg Districts.

FROM DISTRICT SUPERINTENDANT DENISE BATES

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. -Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT)

One of the most beautiful aspects of being United Methodists is our connection to one another. It is a connection that is our human living out of the perfect connection to God that each of us was created into. We are not always perfect in our connection to God, and we are not always perfect in our connection to each other. Our United Methodist (and before 1968, our Methodist) connection has lived through stresses and strains in the past, and we are experiencing a time of stress in our connection with each other in the present. Because our connection with the Lord is eternal, we can choose how we navigate these turbulent times. I hope that all of us will remember that whether we are connected as United Methodists in the future or not, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Nothing changes that, because it is not from us, but is a gift of God to each of us and all of us together.

Indeed, we are in the midst of troubling times, both within our United Methodist connection and in the world at large. We know that we are in a time of rapid change, and we can't quite make out what it will be like when the "merry-go-round" stops. It is easy to feel out of control, and that can lead to anxiety, fear, and even anger. While there are many things we individually cannot change, we can choose how we live through these times. We can all lean into the Holy Spirit and double up on our prayer time. We can all be mindful and caring towards our neighbors, whether we agree or disagree with them. For me, it is also helpful to have good information that I can rely on.

I have had the blessing of visiting with several church families to share information about the VAUMC disaffiliation process. These church families have found it helpful to have this information to assist them with their prayerful discernment and to free them to move forward calmly. Whether they decide to go forward into the disaffiliation process or just wanted to know what was going on, information and conversation nurture our connection as sisters and brothers of Christ, and as United Methodists. As your District Superintendent, it is my responsibility and my ministry among you to equip you for living out these days. While I have shared with church families who may be curious, interested, or committed to disaffiliation, I feel it is critical that all of the Mountain View District have the benefit of accurate information about the disaffiliation process.


While I (and the Bishop, Cabinet, and Conference Leadership) would desire all of us to remain connected as United Methodists, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, I do realize that there are some who are feeling called to a different path. I hope this information will be helpful in clearing up some confusion you may be experiencing and leave all of us equipped to focus on the Kingdom work we are ALL called to as God's family in Christ.

- No church is required to vote. No one is making anyone do anything
- If your church is curious, interested, or committed to disaffiliation, contact me (DS Denise or MV District office) to schedule an information meeting
- The process can be stopped by the local church at any time
- The process is the same regardless of what faith tradition you align with or become independent following disaffiliation
- There is no need to justify "why" to anyone outside of your church family. This process is centered on the discernment of the local church family
 - Clergy are not to influence /pressure their church families—this is the church family's discernment
 - Laity are not to pressure/influence their pastor—they have their own discernment
 - Clergy and Laity are not to influence/pressure other church families or clergy
- Following the Disaffiliation Process and paying the Disaffiliation Costs relaxes the Trust Clause, allowing the local church to leave with ALL of their property, real and personal, tangible and intangible. The cost is in NO WAY related to the value of your property

Friends, I know this is a lot of information, but it is the information for these days and for disaffiliation. My desire is for everyone to have the correct information as we paddle through these times together. ~ Denise Bates

Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays		November Birthdays	
Jeb Haley	October 01	Gina Wright	November 01
Charles Sweeney	October 05	Chiswell Logan	November 06
GiGi Sweeney	October 05	Landen Larkin	November 10
Addison Johnson	October 08	Phyllis Coleman	November 11
Libba McCraw	October 09	Megan Straw	November 12
Caroline McCraw	October 09	Nada Sweeney	November 12
Leah Jackson	October 09	Cornell Thompson	November 18
Pat Haley	October 10	Jodi Center	November 19
Karen Hudnall	October 13	Julia McConnell	November 21
Susan Leazer	October 16	Rosemary Heusted	November 23
Irby Hudson	October 22		
Charles Thaxton	October 22		
Robin Hudson	October 23		
Jesse Jackson	October 23		
Anne Quillian	October 28		
Karl Speer	October 29		



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

- Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Matthew Diuguid – 3501 A Ave. 1st Platoon, Bravo Company 266 Qm Bn; Fort Lee, VA 23801
- Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502
Grandson of *Mary Tyree

In Need of Prayer

- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Dave Petty – 1519 Clayton Ave. Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *John Sweeney - 1487 Jennings Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin
- *Church members

Gifts to the church

To The Flowers in memory of:
Anne Burleigh by Ray Pulliam

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 9/25/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$249,416
Received since last update	\$00.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

