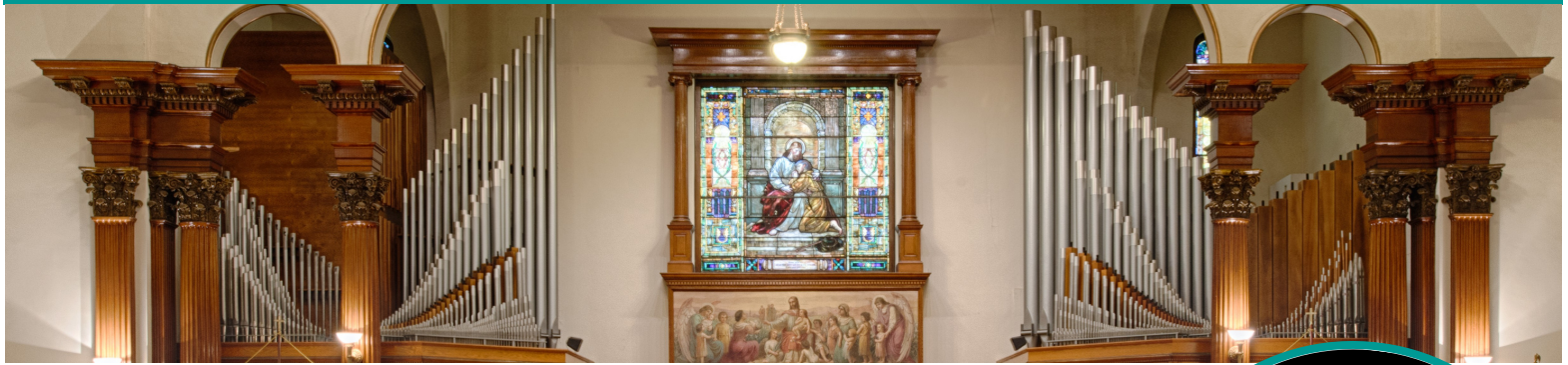


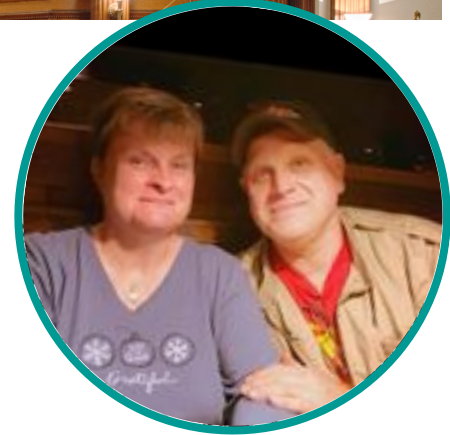


15TH AUGUST 2023 | @621COURTSTREET | 434-845-3427



Change is a Necessary Part of Life

Change is very much a part of our everyday lives. Just look through some old picture albums, and change becomes a reality. Change is all around us. Children grow from infants into adults. The seasons change as the earth rotates around the sun. Gray hair and wrinkles emerge almost weekly. The clothes we wore ten years ago are outdated because new styles have emerged. The clothes we wore a year ago just don't fit how they used to. We lose jobs, relationships end, and, yes, churches transition.



The change in our biological bodies cannot be stopped (perhaps delayed) but not stopped. I have also discovered that the older I get, the less I like to change. I would venture to suggest that the same is often true for each of us. We don't like change. We like things to be familiar and predictable. We like to know what to expect when we wake up each morning. But the reality is that life is constantly changing. Change is inevitable. Change can leave us feeling lost and abandoned like we've been tossed overboard in the midst of a storm. We're tempted to run from change as though we can escape it.

As we all encounter major changes in our individual lives, and as the world around us continues to change, we need a place to find security and hope. The truth is, there is one thing that never changes, the one thing that stays the same, and that is our unchanging God. The Bible tells us in *Malachi 3:6* that God never changes. *"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."* There is no transition, inconsistency, or change in our God. The same God who created the earth and placed it into space is the same one who met Abraham and Isaac on Mt Moriah. The same God who forgave David for his adulterous affair is the one who allowed His Son to be crucified in order to change the plight of humanity – *"For the wages of Sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* *Romans 6: 23.*

God does not change, and neither does His Word. All that he has said about himself remains true forever. Everything he has told us about why and how the world came to be, about what's wrong with the world, and about what he has done to save the world will never change. And because His word never changes, His promises for us remain true. (Cont. on Page 2)



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET

LIYA MUSIC CAMP

What a blessing it was to have Liya Music Camp hosted at Court Street again this year. We are already looking forward to next year.



This is what Paul was pointing out in *Romans 8: 38-39*: “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The unchanging nature of God and His unchangeable word are real things on which we can stake our lives. It is a rock big enough and strong enough for us to build a house on it and an anchor big enough and strong enough to hold our souls in the midst of life’s changing waves and storms.

Because of these truths, when everything in life seems flipped upside down, we can say with the psalmist, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling” (*Psalm 46:1-3*). Change has not avoided God’s Church. Change must come, or death will be the result. Adjustments will need to be made. Some long-standing traditions might need to be critically evaluated to assess their effectiveness. Alterations and adjustments must be made to adapt to the changes around us. However, the gospel of Christ must never change. The tools used to present the gospel may change, but never the gospel because the gospel is always truth. No matter what changes we face, we need not get angry. We need not get upset. We need not become fearful. We need not despair. Our rock and anchor remains in our unchanging God, whose character and promises will remain fixed forever. Change is on the horizon. It will be challenging and at times, a struggle. Yet we must be steadfast in the fact that our unchanging God calls for change in order that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. I will be looking for you on Sunday morning.

Pastor Steve



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET

PAST EVENTS

This summer has been full of music and outreach! From organ recitals, the eurobrass concert, to music camp, and to serving veteran's at Valor Farm.



Children's Message during Liya Music Camp



Friends and members of Court Street Church have prepared and served lunch to the veterans and staff at Valor Farm on June 26 and August 11, 2023. Valor Farm is a 339 acre working farm near Altavista, where formerly homeless veterans have a place to live, thrive, and contribute. These lunches are made possible through funds given In Lieu of Poinsettias and in honor of former Pastor Bill Burleigh. The Missions Team will continue this project at future dates to be determined.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET

AUGUST'S MISSION

UPDATES

DIAPER DRIVE

We are collecting the following items :



Supporting **Miriam's House**, a local organization providing shelter, support and wrap-around services to homeless families in Lynchburg



Many have asked, 'why are the pews in the back of the sanctuary roped off?'

Recent heavy rains have caused water leaks. Worshippers are urged not to sit under the affected areas until the leaks can be fixed.



Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39

In response to a request made by Miriam's House, a local organization providing shelter, support and wrap-around services to homeless families in Lynchburg, the Missions Team is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during the month of August. We will be collecting disposable diapers (all sizes, but size 3 and 4 are the most needed), pull-ups and baby wipes. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to CSUMC with a notation of "diapers" on the memo line. (You can combine your offering with direct donations by including the information on the memo line, ie. \$x diapers, \$x offering).

Baskets have been placed in the Bishop Early Hall to receive donations.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET

Upcoming Events

August / September

SUN Sunday Worship
27 9:30 AM
Sunday School
AUG 10:45 AM

Fri Pink Pearl Empowered Homemaking
1 5:00 - 8:00 PM
Open house during Downtown Lynchburg's First
SEP Fridays!

SUN Sunday Worship
3 9:30 AM
Sunday School
SEP 10:45 AM

THU Worship Night
7 7:00 PM
Making Disciples
SEP

SUN Sunday Worship
10 9:30 AM
Sunday School
SEP 10:45 AM

TUE Worship Committee Meeting
12 11:00 AM
In the Wesley Guild Room
SEP

SUN Sunday Worship
17 9:30 AM
Sunday School
SEP 10:45 AM

THU Finance & Trustees Meeting
21 2:00 PM
In the Wesley Guild Room
SEP

Sunday Worship
SUN 9:30 AM
24 Sunday School
10:45 AM
SEP Church Council Meeting
4:00 PM

TBD Nominating Committee
SEP



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET

August/ September Adult Bible Study Class

Aug 20: "A Mother's Persistence"

Aug 27: "The Tragedy of Judas"

Sep 3: "Who is This God?"

Sep10: "Being the Messenger of God"

Sep17: "Twelve Baskets Left Over"

Sep24: "How to hose a Dinner Party"

Coming this Autumn

God Provides

This autumn, our Bible lessons follow the theme "God Provides" and remind us of the ways God meets our needs and God's call to us to help those who lack life's essentials of food, water, and shelter.

Food

Scripture recognizes that hunger, famine, and food insecurity make people vulnerable to a variety of threats. It also testifies to God's generous provision of food for humans and wild creatures and to human responsibility to help those who are hungry and in need. From God's provision of manna in the wilderness to divine provision during famine, from Jesus' feeding of thousands to teaching of a new way of being with the poor and marginalized through table fellowship. Scripture bears witness to God's graciousness and our responsibility as its recipients.

Water

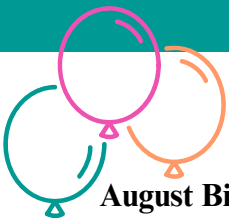
Like food insecurity, water insecurity threatens human life and the earth's species of plants and animals. Scripture uses the water motif in many ways. Water is dangerous as it represents a metaphor for chaos, historical enemies, God's judgment, devastation of drought-stricken land, and personal distress. Water is also a gift from God for the flourishing of all creation, refreshment for the body and soul, and a source of eternal life embodied in Jesus. Thirst for water and provision of water are metaphors for the human relationship with God.

Shelter

In major cities and small towns across the country, many people have experienced homelessness. One of the significant causes of homelessness is rooted in childhood trauma. Mental illness, sometimes stemming from such trauma, is another contributing factor, among others. Exploring the theme of shelter in Scripture cannot find ancient analogies for what today is becoming a crisis compounded by economic and social vulnerabilities. Even so, we can imagine and extrapolate, based on related themes and texts, that the physical security of home is a relevant theological construct then as now. Although various texts may make it easy to rush to focus on spiritual shelter in God's presence, those who experience such a home in God find resources to extend hospitality and care through various means with those who are experiencing homelessness today.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays

Christopher Lilly	01
Walter Wright	08
Charlotte Larkin	09
John Sweeney	09
Martha Moorman	10
Susan Hall	11
Josh Larkin	13
Jay Kelly	18
Ann McDaniel	20
Cheryl West	20
Matthew Diuguid	22
Robert Allen Tyree	31

September Birthdays

Mike Russell	01
Alex Speer	01
Dane Peterson	04
Cecil Kidd	06
Mark Roper	06
David Case, Jr.	07
Kate Dovgalyuk	08
Pam Jackson	10
Dennis Pruitt	10
Yevgeniy Dvogyuk	15
Robert Draper	16
Aubrey McDaniel	29

August & September Anniversaries

Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin	Aug 02
Nancy & Mike Russell	Sep 03
Gary & Sherry Lowe	Sep 09
Stuart & Tracy Jackson	Sep 24
Lisa & Jeff Thaxton	Sep 25



PRAYER REQUESTS (*Church Members)

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh - 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084

Matthew Diuguid - 3501 A Ave. 1st Platoon, B. Company 266 QM BN, Ft. Lee, VA 23801

Robert Allen Tyree - stationed at Ft. Liberty *grandson of *Mary Tyree

In Need of Prayer

Dee Brown ~ aunt of Christopher Lilley

Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Tom Coleman- 303 Tomahawk Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502

*Noel Draper - 501 VES Rd. Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Joanne Johnson - C/O Charlie Johnson @ Forest UMC 1150 Burnbridge Rd, Forest, VA 24551

Kenny Kincaid ~son of *Bobbi Hurst

*Christopher Lilley - 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Gary Lowe - 113 Springvale Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502

*Phil Ripley - C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176

*Alex Speer - 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*John Sweeney ~ 1487 Jennings Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Nada Sweeney ~ 501 VES Rd, Drinkard 621, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504

*Robert Tyree - 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502 son of *Mary Tyree

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Offerings through 7/30/2023:	7,537.00
July Expenses:	<u>15,294.78</u>
Shortfall:	7,757.78



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET



Thank you for your support!



Open Your Camera. Scan QR Code.
Pay with debit or credit card.

ESA is selling the Attractions Dining and Value Guide again this year!
So many great savings in this coupon book.

Second Week at ESA

There are still open spots in:

- Voices of Ecclesia
- Jazz Kids
- Jazz Teens
- Women's Adult Dance
- Ballet Level 1



Princess camp at ESA was a huge success!



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET



Admin Corner: Updates and Musings

Hello friends,

First off, I wanted to formally introduce myself in case we haven't had the opportunity to meet. They say every journey begins with a single step, and for me, that step was when I was 7 at a Christmas Pageant with my aunt. Time passed and at 16, I embarked on a purposeful path by joining the United Methodist Church at Trinity UMC in Lansing, Michigan. My faith journey led me through diverse worship settings as I served in the Army, often away from the comfort of a UMC, yet always finding ways to contribute through worship teams and even a Christian Rock Band. A new chapter unfolded at Bethel UMC in Alberta, Virginia, after returning from duty in Germany. While there, I led worship and taught children's Sunday School.



While I served in the Army, my focuses were Human Resources (HR), HR Systems, and as a Musical Ambassador in the U.S. Army Europe Soldiers' Chorus. I was blessed with the opportunity to sing, dance, teach, and arrange music in the Chorus. My transition from Army life led me to successive administrative and financial roles in Richmond, which helped prepare me for service at Court Street.

The Lord has blessed me with opportunity and talents and I love sharing everything God has given me. I honed my musical skills while I studied vocal performance at Central Michigan University. I am multi-passionate, creative, and love sharing joy through hobbies like knitting, crafting, and making treats for the community.

I would also like to thank everyone for their continued patience, understanding, and kindness as I have transitioned into the administrative role and as worship leader. Your support and encouragement mean a lot to me.

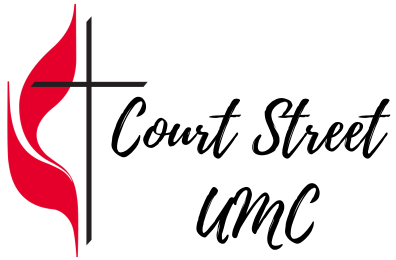
Love + Joy,

Julia Pearl



Do you have photos to share?
Submit articles and photos for
October's Courier by September 15th!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM @621COURTSTREET



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.

Please contact the church office at:

621CourtStUMC@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted online and in the bulletins.