

GreenbrierFUMC

focus

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
GREENBRIER FIRST UNITED METHODIST
JUNE 19-JUNE 30, 2016



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Operation Christmas Child will be here before you know it!

Come July, and there is an air of festivity all over. Everywhere we find people making a mad rush to nearby stores, malls, and shops to buy gift items that are linked to festive occasions. Those out of the loop may wonder at this sudden surge of shopping, although such people are a rarity. It is hard to come by anyone who has not heard about or celebrated the much talked about "Christmas in July". Even Hallmark has come out with cards to send to family and friends. The precise beginnings of Christmas in July is not very clear, although it is commonly believed that it actually started in Europe in the 1980's as a way to remember the coolness of the winter during the scorching summer months. The earliest Christmas in July celebrations included ice cream, other cold foods and gifts.

Greenbrier FUMC will be celebrating Christmas in July this summer and inviting you to bring gifts for our Operation Christmas Child boxes that we will put together in November. You can find some "hot" buys during July to fit in the shoe boxes. Things like soccer ball with pump, stuffed animal, toys (small cars, trucks) yo-yo, jump rope, school supplies, coloring books, crayons, markers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, flashlights (with extra batteries) ...whatever you think would be great for kids ages anywhere from 2-14. Use your imagination and think like a kid...but remember it has to fit in the shoebox!

Our Chrismon Tree will be up in the sanctuary in July as we celebrate Christmas in July and you will be able to place your gifts under the tree as you bring them each week. Also to celebrate all the gifts and a job well done we will bring Christmas in July to a close with the **longest banana split** in GreenbrierFUMC history at our 5th Sunday potluck on July 31st. Don't miss it! Start looking for the bargains!

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The long-range planning committee is reviewing drafts of vision and mission statements. We requested feedback from the congregation as we began the process. If you haven't yet participated, please let us know what 10 words you hope will be used to describe our church in 5 years. The forms for that feedback are on the Welcome Center.

Committee members are working in pairs to draft goals and objectives for several areas that emerged from the congregation and committee meetings. These include such things as worship, facilities, fellowship, education, and outreach.

In July we will solicit feedback from the congregation on the drafts of vision, mission, and goal statements. Please share your thoughts as the process unfolds. We want the plan to represent all of you. We appreciate each person and group that has participated thus far, and we look forward to sharing our work with you in July. If you have thoughts to share or questions to ask, feel free to contact Rebecca Mills, Brother Kevin, or any committee member.

Church Events

- **June 19th – Annual Conference Begins in Hot Springs at 4:00 pm**
- **June 19th – Administrative Council at 5:00 p.m.**
- **June 19th - Youth Choir Tour at Pulaski Heights Methodist**
- **June 22nd – Youth: Hunger Games Begins at 6:30 p.m.**
- **June 23rd - Bethlehem House Meal at 6:00 p.m.**
- **June 27th – Mary/Martha Circle (Adam Hamilton Study: Half Truths begins) at 1:00 p.m.**
- **June 29th – Youth: Hunger Games at 6:30 p.m.**

Food Pantry News

Over 180 served this year! Thanks be to God!

Our church is so blessed to be able to help so many families in our community with emergency food needs. Use of the pantry decreased some last month as the parking lot was renovated, and we had to close for a few days. The number of families coming in this month is on the increase. We have helped 23 families already this month and are at 180 on the year. Last week we had 10 families use the pantry in one day. If we continue at this rate, use of the pantry may meet or exceed 400 on the year. It does not seem possible to continue this pace but God continues to provide when we trust in him.

Current needs are 1# packages of hamburger or ground turkey, canned vegetables, canned luncheon loaf, tuna, and hamburger helper, and cookies or desserts. Peter Pan peanut butter was on sale this past month at both 10 Box and Kroger's for about \$1.50 per jar. We are always looking for buys like this. Please let us know when you run across a great deal.

Thank you to VBS for setting a goal of 500 food items for the pantry. If the goal is reached, Brother Kevin will receive a pie in the face. Wouldn't that be great to see!

Alone we might help a few families but as a community we can do so much more.

Another opportunity to minister to our community

The Greenbrier School District gives out food specifically designed to keep school aged kids fed during the summer months. They are needing more food for their boxes- here is a list of things that would be easy for kids to access: *poptarts, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, cereal bars, can ravioli, can spaghetti o's, bottled water, juice pouch, cookies, pudding, Pringles, packaged nuts, trail mix, can vegetables, box meals, and cereal.

Most of the food they have for the kids is out of date, so they are in great need at the moment.

Donations can be dropped off at Wooster Elementary School

Proverbs 22:17
"A merry heart does good like medicine"

Our Parent's Day Out Program still has a few openings for the fall. PDO meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

If you know anyone who is interested in the PDO program have them call the church for more information.

Anda Block and Judy Foley are the co-directors of our Parent's Day Out Program.

Blessing Bags

Helping those this summer that are hurting, homeless, and on the streets

The summer time heat is here and we need some help to fill up some summertime blessing bags. Here are some items we need so we can put together some additional bags: gallon size ZipLock bags(to hold everything), chapstick, packages of tissue or wet ones, toothbrush and toothpaste., water, juice boxes, gum, trail mix, granola bars, soap, peanut butter crackers, individual cookie packs, mouthwash, coins, bandaids, comb, small Bible, etc.....

This could be a great activity for a Sunday School class or a family to help out with. If one class would supply the Ziplock bags or a family would supply the bottled water or juice boxes...another group could supply granola bars and so on, it would make things a lot easier. If your family or group would be willing to do that, contact Cassidy Broadaway. It will help keep our blessing bag ministry going strong.

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

The Mary/Martha Circle which meets every third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. invites you to join them for Adam Hamilton's book on "Half Truths...Simple phrases that sound Christian yet are not found in the Scripture." The study will begin on **Monday, June 27th**. It is not too late to order the book... It is available online at Amazon or Cokesbury for about \$15. If you would like more information you can contact Carolyn Baker or Norma Jo Humphrey.

Red Bird Mission Team Appreciates Your Support

The Red Bird Mission Team had a fantastic time in Beverly, Kentucky last week. We appreciate your financial and prayerful support that made this trip such a blessing. Members of our team spent the week working around the mission in various ministries as well as working on some significant home repairs for Henry and Charlene, a young couple living in between two ridges of the Appalachian Mountains.

In addition to the ministry that we were able to share, the highlights of the week also included a trip to Cumberland Gap, the Pineapple Tea Room, and your pastor managing to "school" Rhonda Garrett on the basketball court. It was captured on video and it is almost a guarantee that the video will make its way up on the big screens in the near future. A special thanks to Jamie Ward for coordinating the trip and to Bill and Rue Yount for providing our favorite snacks for the entire week.



Red Bird Mission Team 2016

Financial News

Help us reverse the summer slump.

Try online giving this summer... Quick and Easy

Ah, summer—the time of year when heat exhaustion drives families to the white sandy beaches and salty ocean air of the nearest coast. Baseball season is in full swing, the lake is overcrowded with boats, and sleeping in is a regular occurrence.

Unfortunately, all of this rest and recreation often leaves church pews empty and offering plates even emptier. Summertime requires pastors to confront the touchy subject of money as ministry simply can't afford to take a vacation. Some of our most expensive events occur during the summer....like Vacation Bible School that cost us \$1200 and our youth events like Jr. High and Sr. High Assembly. Of course our electric bills are greater during the summer months as we air condition our building. So please continue to support your church in prayer and giving during the summer months. We have made it easy for you to give while you are away. Please try out our online giving at www.greenbrierfumc.org or you can continue to give through the old fashion way of mailing the church a check.

Here is where we stand at the middle of June:

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2016	\$193,796.00
NEEDED TO DATE	\$89,444.31
GIVING AS OF JUNE 15, 2016	\$86,094.63
DEFICIT TO DATE	-\$3,349.68

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and His church during these summer months.



Thanks to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year.

We had a great group of kids and a lot of fun riding the wave of God's amazing grace. A special thanks to Jaime Hamerlinck for directing it this year and for all her hard work. Also, we are thankful for a great group of adult leaders and tons of youth who were here this year to act as "lifeguards" and assistants in our rooms. And a big thanks to all who provided food, materials, decorations, and prayers for this past week. It takes the entire church to do VBS!



YOUTH NEWS

During June and July ... Youth
Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.



Be in prayer for our choir tour kids as they finish up their tour tonight. (Sunday 19th) Three of our youth, Lacey Crosby, Tricia Walker and Brady Harlan (drums) have led worship in seven different churches across Arkansas this week. We will plan to go to their last performance at Pulaski Heights in Little Rock on June 19 (yes, I realize it's Father's Day, so bring your dad with you).

During June and July, we will meet on Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30 PM. We will be **starting the Hunger Games!** The more I have studied this one, the more I like it and I know you are going to love it! Here is how we will do it. We will divide into 3 or 4 districts and we will have a competition every week. The district with the most points every week will be put in to a drawing and one of the members from that district will win a prize. The district who has the most points overall will be put in to a drawing and one of members will win a free event trip, the next one they choose to attend. We will start this study on June 22 and will award the final prizes on July 20. Every week the lesson will revolve around being hungry or thirsty for God. Our verse for this study is Matthew 5:6, **"Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full."**

This is also a great time to welcome upcoming 6th graders to join us in the youth group. The Methodist Family Health Bridge Walk in August is the first event that they get to come to with us but they are welcome to start coming to youth this Summer. If you know of someone that is not on our youth list who has an upcoming 6th grader, please invite them to come join us and be part of our Wednesday night Hunger Games!

We have elected the new leadership team for 2016-2017. Congrats to those youth who are part of our leadership team. They will be required to go to the leadership retreat on August 27-28.

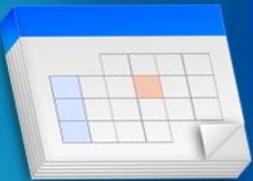
President—Kyle Harshberger-Walker
Vice President—Ethan Woodburn
Secretary—Kyle Bounds
Missions Coordinator—Lacey Crosby
Senior Representatives at Large—Davin Sanders
Tricia Walker
Senior Chaplain—Alyssa Wade
Junior Representatives at Large—Zachary Dunn
Ally Loter
Junior Chaplain—Shelby Hamerlinck
Media Coordinators—Emla Holsted
Colton Sanders
DCYM Reps—Shelby Kirk
Faith Blackshire
Brady Harlan
CCYM Reps—Riley Harlan
John Mark Mathis

Don't Forget on next ADVENTURE SATURDAY is July 16, 2016!
Meet at the church at 8 AM with \$20 and a sack lunch

Miscellaneous ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The United Methodist Women** have a few GFUMC t-shirts available for sale. They are blue and have the cross and flame logo. Sizes include two large and four X large. The shirts are now selling for half-price ... \$6.00 Bargain! You can see them at the Welcome Center but this is the last of the shirts so act fast!
- **Jr. High & Sr. High Assembly** is ALMOST HERE!
One more Adult VOLUNTEER needed!
We have 33 youth signed up to go to Youth Assembly this year, another record year! With that comes a need for more volunteer help. As of right now, we have 4 adults going but we could really use one more female chaperone. The week of Assembly is free to our chaperones!! You will get three meals a day and some amazing quality time with some pretty awesome kids. We need the most help at night during free time and bed checks so technically; you could work during the day and just join us in the evening if work is holding you back. Assembly is July 25-29 and Michelle would need to get you registered by this week if you can join us. Please let Michelle Kirk know ASAP and thank you for considering it.
- **Bethlehem House Meal is Thursday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** If you would like to help serve our monthly meal to the hungry, hurting and homeless in Conway, be sure and be at the house this coming Thursday. We always serve a wonderful Mexican themed meal. If you have a favorite Mexican casserole you would like to fix or a dessert have it to the church by 5:00 p.m. on that day. It is a great ministry and a tremendous way to minister to those in need.
- **GreenbrierFUMC** will be a collection point this year (November) for **Operation Christmas Child boxes**. John Welch is the coordinator for our collection site. He will need four people to work on Wednesday, November 16 from 4-7 p.m. and four people to work on Saturday, November 19 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at our church as people bring their boxes in. The work is simple and John will be glad to give you all the necessary instructions. I know this is a five months away but if you are interested in helping John by filling one of these time slots, go ahead and let him know you will be willing to help.
- The **Arkansas Annual Conference** begins this Sunday, June 19-22 in Hot Springs. All the local United Methodist churches in Arkansas will be represented by at least one pastor and lay person from each church. Your pastor will be going as well as our lay representative, Carolyn Baker. Annual Conferences approve programs and budgets, examine candidates for ministry, receives reports from various agencies, votes on resolutions and worships together. If you would like to follow the proceeding of Annual Conference, all the business sessions and worship services will be live streamed at ac2016.arumc.org. Plus you can follow Annual Conference on [Twitter at #ac2016](https://twitter.com/ac2016). Although there doesn't seem to be any controversial issues coming before the conference this year, please keep the Annual Conference in your prayers this week.
- **Your pastor will be in West Virginia on vacation** from Tuesday, July 5th to Thursday, July 14th. He will be there to conduct a wedding for his niece who will be getting married on Saturday, July 9th. It is an exciting summer for the Lyon family as the only two girls of the family will both be married off in the summer of 2016.

Upcoming Events



Sunday, July 31st - Fifth Sunday Potluck

We haven't had a fifth Sunday potluck in a good while. So plan on joining us and bringing your best dish to share. We will have one worship service at 11:00 a.m. and then gather together with great food and fellowship in the fellowship hall. Let's make this one great summer potluck. So mark your calendar and invite friends and neighbors to join us on this Sunday!.Plus we will have the longest banana split in the history of GBFUMC!

August 5th & 6th - Church-Wide Prayer Vigil

As we get ready for the fall, kick off a new school year, send kids off to college, we want to begin by calling our church to pray. There will be a lot going on and there is no better way to get our church focused. We will start Friday August 5th and care on through Saturday the 6th... More details to come and an opportunity for you to sign up for a spot to come and be in prayer here at the church. Stay tuned!

New Sermon Series Coming in August: "Revelation: Glimpses of What's to Come"

A few years ago, we focused on the first three chapters of the book of Revelation which dealt with the messages to the seven churches.... but we stopped there. There have been a few of you who have wanted to go further on Sunday mornings into this perplexing book of the Bible. Starting on Sunday, August 21st, we will begin a seven week sermon series that will lead us through Chapters 4 – 22. You can use these summer months to be reading through Revelation and asking God to begin to speak to you about some of the key images and how Christ is revealed throughout this book.