



# HAPPENINGS AT HIGH STREET

High Street United Methodist Church

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 218, Franklin, VA 23851 Located at 31164 Camp Parkway, Courtland, VA

757-562-3367 [hsumc@beldar.com](mailto:hsumc@beldar.com) [www.highstreetumcva.org](http://www.highstreetumcva.org)

June 2023

## Newsletter Staff

Rev. Ned Alderman, Pastor

Melissa Lewis, Administrative Assistant

## So What Is This Disaffiliation All About?

By Mike Ponder

Most recently the question has arisen from several members of our congregation, "So why isn't High Street UMC voting on whether or not to leave the United Methodist Church?"

At the Administrative Council meeting on May 15th, the Council reviewed our history on this matter and wanted to let you know where the Council stands on disaffiliation. Four years ago our pastor at that time, Nathan Decker, embarked on a series of small group discussions centered around the United Methodist Church and human sexuality. Specifically, we discussed our beliefs in understanding God's relationship with gay Christians. The results of these discussions were discussed lovingly. We realized some of our High Street family struggled with same sex marriage, but most did not.

We appreciated that we have different opinions about sexuality just as we have different opinions about abortion, capital punishment, gun control, and politics. We did not believe that those differing opinions were problematic, but members believed it was more problematic to be in a church where everyone believed the same thing.

In the last three years the Global Methodist Church (GMC) and the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) have become very aggressive in trying to divide the United Methodist Church primarily over these sexuality issues. The UMC has appropriately created an avenue for churches to leave on this single area of disagreement only and has allowed them to take

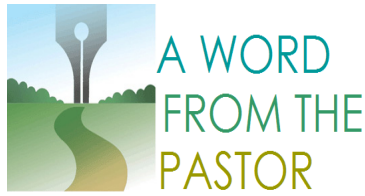


their church facility with them. Each church that chooses to leave must be approved by the Annual Conference. Some areas, especially Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, and Texas have seen more churches leave than other areas, but at this point only about 5% of church membership has chosen to leave.

The Global Methodist Church is a very conservative church and defines marriage as only between a man and a woman and in the confines of marriage. The GMC reserves the right to remove churches and/or pastors from their group if they choose.

The Church Council wants to assure you of several things. First, there will be no membership vote on whether High Street UMC will be leaving the United Methodist Church. Voting is hurtful and divisive.

Secondly, we affirm our belief that God has created all of us and loves the entirety of his creation, and lastly that we are choosing the path of discernment. We will monitor the changing politics in the UMC, but we ARE remaining a United Methodist congregation in Franklin/Southampton County, Virginia. If you have questions, please contact the Pastor or one of the Lay Leaders, Harlan Lewis or Mike Ponder.



I'm happy to turn the balance of space for my column over to Mike Ponder this month (*see page 1, 'So What Is This...'*). Mike addresses disaffiliation for us, as he did at the May 15 church council meeting, where he spoke eloquently.

I guess I'm not a fan of goodbyes, which is why I'm glad that my last Sunday here is on Father's Day, so everyone will have a different focus. I will reiterate my invitation to work with me at the Foodbank Saturday, June 24, noon-2:30

p.m. at 618 High Street. I also plan to volunteer with the Foodbank Tuesday, June 20, noon-3 p.m. at Southampton Meadows. It's always a joy to volunteer there and I'm glad that I'll have one last chance to do so.

Speaking of the Foodbank, food insecurity across the commonwealth of Virginia is one the ministries being supported by our Annual Conference offering. Other concerns include refugee resettlement and Partnerships of Hope, which ministers to Native Americans and in Cambodia, Vietnam, Mozambique, and Brazil. In particular, Brazil Shade and Fresh Water provide care, protection, and life skills for at-risk street children in Brazil. I remember the collection of the Annual Conference offering in 2009, when we were told of the frequency of the disappearance of street children in Brazil. In 2007, *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly* reported that 7 million children live on the streets of Brazil, where they're exposed to pedophiles, corruption, and murder. I'm glad that our conference is aware of this and is responding.

Grace and peace,  
Ned



Greetings from the United Women in Faith!

Our United Methodist Women continue to serve the community through our various activities. The United Women in Faith will have our spring gathering of both the Morning and Evening circles on Monday, May 22 at 12 pm. This will be a covered

dish lunch followed by a program presented by Anne Bryant on her recent trip to the Holy Land. It will be the final meeting until September.

We invite all ladies of the church to join us for fun and fellowship.

**Kathy Worrell**  
President  
United Women in Faith

The Widow's Might meets every **Wednesday at 12-noon** for food, fun and fellowship.

Upcoming gatherings in **June** are:



- |           |                 |         |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|
| June 7 -  | <i>Pino's</i>   | @ 12 PM |
| June 14 - | <i>Serve</i>    | @ 12 PM |
| June 21 - | <i>The Vine</i> | @ 12 PM |
| June 28 - | <i>Joe's</i>    | @ 12 PM |



**No meeting, no agenda...just good food and great conversation!**

**Our Mailing Address**

If you are **MAILING** anything to the church, please use this address and not the physical address!

Thank you so much! -Jennifer

**High Street United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 218**  
**Franklin, VA 23851**



Our Mission of the Month project for May was collecting items for the UMCOR flood buckets that will go to Annual Conference in June. Thanks to everyone who contributed items or donations to go towards this project. We will give you an update in the next newsletter about how many buckets we were able to provide.

Thanks to those who stayed after church on April 30 to help package items for the 210 hygiene kits that were delivered to S.P. Morton Elementary School the following week.

They were very grateful for our donation of toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and soap.

Many of you have been placing your pennies and other coins in the brass buckets or little boxes in the narthex for our "penny project". You may remember that this money is going towards The Society of St. Andrew. We were able to send a check for \$200 to them for an initial donation. We will be sending more once in awhile and also be offering some hands-on projects perhaps this summer and fall. Also we are using their Bible School curriculum, "Abundance Orchard, Where Faith Grows, and Hungry People Are Fed" for our Vacation Bible School this summer, July 23-27. Don't forget to register your children so they can attend.

Thanks to all who have supported our Backpack Feeding Program for 75 food-insecure children at S.P. Morton Elementary School in Franklin this past year. We packed our last bags of food a couple of weeks ago. We will take a break this summer and start back up in the fall.

Our Lenten Butterfly Cross that was in the narthex during the Lenten season raised \$833 from donations to honor or remember loved ones and friends. Thanks to all who participated in this project. The money will go to fund local mission projects.

The Mission Garden out beside the Boy Scout building is starting back up. We will be planting some vegetables to donate to the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia here in Franklin. There are also small plots available to our members for their own use. You can also agree to donate or tithe some of your produce from your garden to the Food Bank as well. Contact Mike Ponder or Jeff brown if you are willing to help out occasionally or if you'd like to have your own garden space. We will be collecting Hygiene Products ONLY for the Franklin Cooperative Ministries beginning this month (*see article below*). As always, please drop off your donations in one of the boxes in the narthex or in the hallway by the church office. Thank you!!



### High Street No Longer Taking Food Donations for FCM

For many years, we as a church have been collecting food items monthly for the food pantry at the Franklin Cooperative Ministries. Since the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia has opened a building on South Street in Franklin, the FCM has decided to close their food pantry and focus more on hygiene and household items since food stamps will not cover these. They also have increased the size of their clothing closet and moved it to their building on First Avenue. They also offer a diaper bank and continue to offer

other services such as help with power bills, dental needs, eye glasses, prescriptions, transportation, medical services, and temporary motel stays.

HSUMC will no longer take food donations, but will gladly collect any of the items listed below as well as monetary donations for the Franklin Cooperative ministries. As always you may bring any of these items to church and place them in the baskets or boxes marked for FCM. Thank you so much for your help for this valuable non-profit organization in our community.

### Franklin Cooperative Ministry Wish List

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> body wash or bars of soap                    | <input type="checkbox"/> household cleaner          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> body lotion                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> paper towels               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deodorant                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> shampoo (12.6 – 22.5 oz.)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> detergent (<14 pod pacs or 31-46 oz. liquid) | <input type="checkbox"/> shaving cream or gel       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dish liquid (8-14oz.)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> tissues                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> disinfecting wipes                           | <input type="checkbox"/> toilet paper               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> disposable razors                            | <input type="checkbox"/> toothbrushes (individual)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hand sanitizer (travel size)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> toothpaste (2.4 – 5.5 oz.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hand soap (7.5 – 13.5 oz.)                   |   |



**Thanks to Ned**

On behalf of the family of faith at High Street Church, we want to thank Ned Alderman for his two years of service to the High Street faith community. We have appreciated your concerns for the needy of our community through efforts with the food bank, and most recently, with your travels with our community police officers. We will pray for you in your new journey in Chesapeake. God Speed!



Thanks to everyone who has been so kind to me since I became a member of your church by sending many beautiful cards and notes to me.

Special thanks to Gaynelle for encouraging me to come to the Easter Maundy service and for Jewel Martin and Louise Blythe for picking up six of us from The Village to attend the most beautiful service!

What a wonderful surprise when I got up Sunday morning and found the Easter bunny had left a lovely basket for me! I am so happy to be a

member of your loving church family!

**Swann Broocke**

**Welcome, Reverend Wayne C. Moore**

High Street United Methodist Church would like to welcome the Reverend Wayne C. Moore, who was recently appointed to serve High Street, and comes to us from Whitmell & St. John's Cooperative Parish of the UMC, in Danville, Va.

Wayne is from Abilene, Va., studied at UVA, is married with two sons, and enjoys hunting, golf, and fishing.

We hope you will come welcome Wayne to High Street, and our community, during his first service on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.



The **Open Door Café** is open each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM for fellowship. If you are interested in hosting the Open Door Café, please contact **Lori Vasser**, or the church office.

WANTED....

For the supper on Maundy Thursday, we asked for folks to lend us their wooden bowls. It takes some gathering to get enough for fifteen tables but we did it! Having learned that some folks did not want theirs returned, we have packed away many bowls, large and small, to be used every year without having to collect so many at that time. Our goal is to find enough bowls that can belong to the church forever more!

We are in need of several large wooden salad bowls as well as some small ones. If you have wooden bowls stashed away in your cabinets and never use them anymore, would you like to just give them to the church to help us get the necessary number needed for our special supper each year?

We found some bowls at Goodwill, CHKD and the Habitat store which we happily bought and paid little for them. Rather than giving yours to Goodwill or CHKD or Habitat, how about giving them to us. Call Gaynelle Riddick if you have questions and also with your willingness to make sure that your bowls will play a part in our church's life for years to come! (757-562-3766)

There are several bowls in the kitchen that have not been picked up by the owner and they have no name on them. Did you leave them for us to keep or have you forgotten to get them? Would like to know something about these bowls if they belong to you! Help!!! Thanks to all of you who said, "Just keep them." Bless you!!!!

On Thursdays at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, join **Megan Pontious**, who will lead the knitting/crocheting time for those who may want to get together with others for a creative, relaxing fellowship.



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
Every Thursday—7am at *Fred's*

**God Talk Bible Study**  
Every Thursday—10:30am at *Daily Dose*



SUMMER SUN

Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes  
Through empty heaven with repose;  
And in the blue and glowing days  
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull  
To keep the shady parlour cool,  
Yet he will find a chink or two  
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad  
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;  
And through the broken edge of tiles  
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around  
He bares to all the garden ground,  
And sheds a warm and glittering look  
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,  
Round the bright air with footing true,  
To please the child, to paint the rose,  
The gardener of the World, he goes.





### Grace's Little Angels

Happy Summer!! The children have been enjoying being able to get outside. As the weather continues to warm up GLA has lots of fun activities for the month of June. We will also be welcoming the school age kids during the first week of June for our summer camp program.

They will be having fun learning all about: Let's go Camping, Summer Safety, Father's Day, Down on the Farm, Independence Day and All Things Summer. GLA will be closed on June 19<sup>th</sup> for Juneteenth National Independence Day. JB Rattles will be visiting GLA on June 28<sup>th</sup> with some of the Reptiles at 9:30am. GLA is starting to collect their items for the July Auction. Donations are welcome. Our online Auction will start on July 8<sup>th</sup> and will end on July 15<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to pick up your auction items at GLA on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. The Auction will be online through an Auction website called Better World. GLA will post the link on our Grace's Little Angels Facebook page and share the link with people by texting them on their phones. Please help share the link to friends and family.



Respectfully,  
Jill Thorpe, Site Manager



Pictured at left is one of High Street UMC's adult Sunday School classes, the Dave Trader Classroom, led by, Mike Ponder. Please joins us at 9:45am for Sunday School!



### High Street Vacation Bible School, 2023 ~ Prek-5th Grade

VBS will be held July 23 - 27 at HSUMC. The theme for this year is *"Abundance Orchard - Where faith grows and hungry people are fed."*

Be sure to register today on the High Street website at [www.highstreetumcva.org](http://www.highstreetumcva.org) and/or contact the church office to volunteer this summer.

**Health Care and Assisted Living Facilities**

Please remember our members who need special care at the following healthcare and assisted living facilities. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers each week.

**Village At Woods Edge**

*(Memory Care Unit)*  
1401 N High Street,  
Franklin, Virginia 23851  
757.562.3100

**Manor At Wood's Edge**

*(Assisted Living)*  
1401 N. High Street  
Franklin, Virginia 23851  
757.562.3100

**Linda Joyner** (Rm 1011)  
**Barbara Prince** (Rm 1006)  
**Marjorie Whitley** (Rm 1020)



**Village At Woods Edge**

*(Independent Living)*  
1401 N High Street,  
Franklin, Virginia 23851  
757.562.3100

**Al Strickler** (Apt. 308)  
**Mildred Mason** (Apt. 117)  
**Bobby & Nancy Turner** (Apt 210)  
**Swann Broocke** (Apt 214)

**East Pavilion**

*(Nursing Home)*  
100 Fairview Drive  
Franklin, Virginia 23851  
757.569.6424

**Doris Bailey** (Rm 114A)  
**Dianne Burns** (Rm 142A)

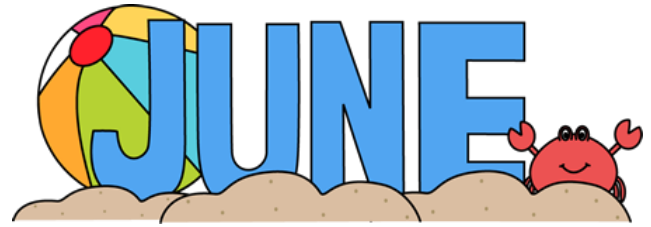
**Mission Team's Hygiene Kits**

After Worship Service on April 30, the Mission Team invited the congregation to participate in putting together 210 "hygiene kits" that are being donated to the 4th and 5th graders at S.P. Morton Elementary School in Franklin. We included soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. Thanks for your help!



# Birthdays This Month....

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Michael-John Oliver | 19 Alex Jones          |
| 3 Will Tawney         | 19 Jackson Smith, IV   |
| 5 LouAnne Hopkins     | 20 Toni Phillips       |
| 5 Brendan Berry       | 20 Larry Reesman       |
| 7 Alex Hasty          | 21 George Parker, III  |
| 8 Paul Phillips       | 21 Brooke Berry        |
| 8 Cindy Councill      | 22 Lois Billings       |
| 8 Lori Vasser         | 22 Terry Smith         |
| 11 Geneva Garland     | 22 Emma Holland        |
| 11 Judy Andrews       | 23 Don Spengeman       |
| 11 Andy Dempsey       | 24 June Fleming        |
| 11 Scott Phillips     | 24 Joan Vaughan        |
| 13 Douglas Edwards    | 25 Linda Maya          |
| 13 David Strozier     | 26 Charles Butler, Sr. |
| 14 Hannah Hasty       | 26 Stacy Dempsey       |
| 16 Chris Bidwell      | 26 Tim Stauffer        |
| 16 Katrina Draughn    | 28 Bill Benton         |
| 16 Logan Stauffer     | 28 Joel Hamilton       |
| 17 Brittany Perry     | 28 Carrie Rawlings     |
| 17 Jenna Skakle       | 28 Zhanna Soucek       |
| 18 Jeffrey Draughn    | 29 Denney Collins      |
| 18 Stacey Drake       | 30 Charles Rogers      |
| 19 Ray Thomas         |                        |



### 2023 MISSION GARDEN

For Christians, spring is a time to understand the word resurrection. It's probably the most important holiday of our faith—the resurrection of the Christ. This spring, we are planning on another resurrection—of our MISSION GARDEN!

**Jeff Brown** and **Mike Ponder**, are busy planning to bring back the garden. Some ideas and thoughts on how to do so have been:

- Incorporating the garden into our Bible School.
- Providing flowers in the garden to support local bees.
- Starting out small.
- Discussing with local food resources ways to coordinate our efforts with theirs.
- Providing small plots for members to grow for themselves, and pledging 10% for food insecure people in our community.

We need volunteers, as well as your thoughts and ideas, on how to resurrect the garden. If you are interested in being on our Garden Committee, call the church office at 757.562.3367.

Mike Ponder  
Jeff Brown



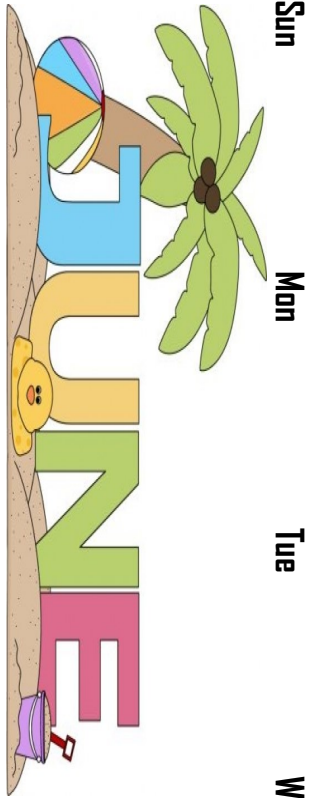
The Vitality Team encourages you to invite guests during the summer to attend church with you.

Historically, summer time is a period of low attendance. Let's go against the norm!

Also, please mark September 10 on your calendar for our Annual Church Picnic at the Bronco Club.

**Kathy Worrell**  
Vitality Chair





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>4-Communion</b> 8:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am Open Door Café 9:45am Sunday School (Adults/ PreK-5/Youth) 11:00am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>5 7pm: Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>6 7pm: Chancel Choir Christmas CD Rehearsal 7pm: Boy Scouts Trip 17 Mtg/Scout Shack</p>	<p><b>7-Bulletin Info Deadline</b> 12pm: Widow's Might/Pino's</p>	<p>8 7am: Men's Prayer B-fast/Fred's Restaurant 1am: The God Talk Bible Study/Daily Dose 1pm: Knit/Crochet Group/Fellowship Hall 7pm: Choir Practice/Choir Room</p>	<p><b>9-Church Office Closed 1pm</b></p>	<p>10 7am: F3 Nation/Outside 10am Girl Scout Mtg/GS Room Upstairs</p>
<p><b>11-Graduation Sunday</b> 8:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am Open Door Café 9:45am Sunday School (Adults/ PreK-5/Youth) 11:00am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>12 7pm: Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>13 8:30am: Prayer Group/Fellowship Hall 7pm: Chancel Choir Christmas CD Rehearsal 7pm: Boy Scouts Trip 17 Mtg/Scout Shack</p>	<p><b>14-Bulletin Info Deadline</b> 12pm: Widow's Might/Seve</p>	<p><b>15-Newsletter Info Deadline</b> 7am: Men's Prayer B-fast/Fred's Restaurant 1am: The God Talk Bible Study/Daily Dose 1pm: Knit/Crochet Group/Fellowship Hall 7pm: Choir Practice/Choir Room</p>	<p><b>16-Church Office Closed 1pm</b></p>	<p>17 7am: F3 Nation/Outside</p>
<p><b>18-Father's Day</b> 8:30am Contemporary Worship <b>9:30am Reception for New Fellowship Hall</b> 11:00am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>19 7pm: Chancel Choir Xmas CD Recording, Pt.1 7pm: Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>20 7pm: Book Club/Library 7pm: Chancel Choir Xmas CD Recording, Pt.2 7pm: Boy Scouts Trip 17 Mtg/Scout Shack</p>	<p><b>21-Bulletin Info Deadline</b> 12pm: Widow's Might/The Vine <i>1st Day of Summer</i></p>	<p>22 7am: Men's Prayer B-fast/Fred's Restaurant 1am: The God Talk Bible Study/Daily Dose 1pm: Knit/Crochet Group/Fellowship Hall 7pm: Choir Practice/Choir Room</p>	<p><b>23-Church Office Closed 1pm</b></p>	<p>24 7am: F3 Nation/Outside</p>
<p><b>Baptism of Lexi Fox (8:30 service)</b></p>	<p>7pm: Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>7pm: Boy Scouts Trip 17 Mtg/Scout Shack</p>	<p><i>1st Day of Summer</i></p>	<p>7pm: Men's Prayer B-fast/Fred's Restaurant 1am: The God Talk Bible Study/Daily Dose 1pm: Knit/Crochet Group/Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>30-Church Office Closed 1pm</b></p>	
<p>25 8:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am Open Door Café 9:45am Sunday School (Adults/ PreK-5/Youth) 11:00am Traditional Worship <b>12-00pm: Mike Pollard Retirement Reception/Fellowship Hall</b></p>	<p>26 7pm: Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>27 7pm: Boy Scouts Trip 17 Mtg/Scout Shack</p>	<p><b>28-Bulletin Info Deadline</b> 12pm: Widow's Might/Joe's</p>	<p>29 7am: Men's Prayer B-fast/Fred's Restaurant 1am: The God Talk Bible Study/Daily Dose 1pm: Knit/Crochet Group/Fellowship Hall</p>		



# SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
<b>Acolytes</b>	Julia Pollard	Zack Duke	Katy Pontious	Tristan Gayle
<b>Chancel</b>	Kristi Cobb Cheryl Hansford	Kristi Cobb Cheryl Hansford	Kristi Cobb Cheryl Hansford	Kristi Cobb Cheryl Hansford
<b>Flowers</b>	Stacy Dempsey	Marie and Penny Smith	Jennifer Stephenson	TBA
<b>Open Door Café</b>	Victoria Gurganus	Jim & Jane Kay and Louise Blythe	Lori Vasser	Lori Vasser
<b>8:30 Greeter/ Usher</b>	Jane Riddick-Fries	Margaret & Harlan Lewis	Jane Riddick-Fries	Jewell Martin
<b>8:30 Lay Reader</b>	Jane Riddick-Fries	Cara Butler	Mike Ponder	Susan Holloway
<b>11:00 Greeter</b>	John & Carolyn Bryant	Linda Jenkins	Penny and Marie Smith	Taylor & Anne Williams
<b>11:00 Lay Reader</b>	Jennifer Stephenson	Jim Yarborough	TBA	Jim Jervey
<b>11:00 Ushers</b>	Taylor Williams Robbie Griffin Evan Ponder	Taylor Williams Robbie Griffin Evan Ponder	Taylor Williams Robbie Griffin Evan Ponder	Taylor Williams Robbie Griffin Evan Ponder



Memorials

**High Street United Methodist Church  
Memorials and Honorariums**

**5/15/2023**

**In Loving Memory of:**



Memorials

**Mr. Charles Edward "Eddie" Burns**

by: The Spengeman Family  
Kent and Jennifer Stephenson  
Dr. and Mrs. Mike Ponder  
Mrs. Sarah Rawlings



*In Loving Memory of  
Charles Edward "Eddie" Burns  
1/23/1948 - 4/29/2023  
Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.*



*In Loving Memory of  
Arnold Alexander "Sandy" Dempsey, Jr.  
7/20/1939 - 5/6/2023  
Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.*



*-Deepest sympathies to June Fleming, and family, on the recent loss of her son, Roscoe Lee Fleming, III.*

*-Deepest sympathies to Hurley Hedgepeth, and family, on the recent loss of his cousin, Danny Edwards.*



If you have prayer requests, please send them to the church office via email [hsumc@beldar.com](mailto:hsumc@beldar.com)) or by calling **757.562.3367**. They will be kept confidential unless otherwise requested.

# Our Mission at High Street United Methodist Church



- ☞ *H*onoring God through worship,
- ☞ *S*erving God with time, talents and gifts,
- ☞ *U*niting in Christian fellowship,
- ☞ *M*aking disciples, and
- ☞ *C*aring for all God's children.