*Urbanna Newsletter for April 2024*

**Church Council News:**

The Church Council met Monday, March 18. Below are items discussed:

1. It was agreed that we do not need an outside bookkeeping service at this time. We should be able to keep track of finances in-house.
2. Jane Rilee volunteered to perform our church’s audit for the VA Conference.
3. We are still in need of a Finance Chair. We ask all to consider this volunteer need. If you feel God touching your heart to take this position or if you are interested but unsure of required responsibilities, you may see Pastor Mark for more information. (You never know – it may not be as difficult as you think and/or you may find yourself growing in your service for God.)
4. We are securing a new landscapist for weekly mowing, trimming and edging. The cost will be a little more than in the past. We wish to thank Emory Daniels for volunteering to help us out while we finalize plans with Matt Johnson Landscape Services.
5. Work to winterize the outside faucet is almost complete. We apologize for any inconvenience during sudden tearing down of the outside wall.
6. Work is being performed to raise the AC units off of the ground.
7. We discussed possible safety and security options for our church building during services and off-hours. We are contacting the sheriff’s office for a possible church-wide discussion.
8. Sid Hayes reported that weekly offerings have been increasing this year.

Any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Myra Wagner (chair) or any Church Council member. Our next meeting will be Monday April 15. If you know of anything that needs to come before the Council, please inform Myra by April 10.

**What Happens After We Die?**

 As believers in the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life, Christians realize that death is not something to be feared. Death is simply a doorway to a new and better life! Join us at 9am in the Church Parlor beginning on April 7 for a 5-week study entitled “The Case for Heaven.” This is a video-based study with discussion led by Pastor Mark. This engaging class will explore such questions as: “Can we really know there is a Heaven?” “What will Heaven be like?” “How do we live with an eye on Eternity?” and much more. We hope to see you each week as we explore the case for heaven.



**New Sermon Series Focuses on the Book of James:**

 Pastor Mark will begin a new sermon series beginning on April 7, focused on the important truths found in the New Testament book of James. This series is called “Testing,” based on the idea that our faith will be tested (See James 1:2). Pastor Mark will help us explore and consider the different tests that come our way in life, and how those tests can help us grow stronger in our faith and in our character. Life is a school, and there will be tests. But these tests are designed to teach us, not torment us. Join us each Sunday for worship at 10:30am, either in person or via Facebook Live.

**RELIEF FUND REPORT – March 2024:**

There has been no request from the Relief Fund since the last report and the balance remains $7,773.50.

Please let Kathy Rodgers, Pastor Mark or Elizabeth Faudree know if you are aware of any needs within Middlesex County.

Thank you for your support of this important mission.

The Relief Fund Committee



**Dinner and Speaker from Bay Aging:**

 All members of the UUMC family and community are invited to attend Dinner and Speaker from Bay Aging, which will be sponsored by the UUMC United Women in Faith, Wednesday, April 24th. at 5:30 in the UUMC Fellowship Hall.

 The Susanna Wesley Circle will provide and serve dinner from 5:30-6:00. Baked potatoes with lots of topping choices/tossed salad/dessert and beverage will be free and donations to the circle's mission projects will be accepted.

 At 6:00, Lisa Walker, VP-Advocacy Resources with Bay Aging, will talk for approximately 30 minutes on

    - the services available through Bay Aging

    -health screenings seniors should have that Medicare

 recommends/covers

    - volunteer opportunities with Bay Aging

 Please email Brenda Wiley at bwinvirginia@yahoo.com or leave Brenda a message at 804-919-1335 if you can attend so plans can be made for dinner and presentation handouts.

 We hope you can attend this delicious dinner and interesting presentation. Please bring your family and neighbors.

**General Conference Update:**

 Every four years, the United Methodist Denomination holds a General Conference to consider resolutions and possible changes to our Book of Discipline (the rule book for the United Methodist Church). The next General Conference will be held April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. For those interested in learning more about this upcoming General Conference, and hearing a preview of the legislative issues being considered by the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference Delegates Warren Harper and Shawn Kiger will be offering a presentation at two different times and locations on April 14. The first presentation will be held at St. Luke’s UMC (300 Ella Taylor Rd, Yorktown) and 5:30pm at Wright’s Chapel UMC (8063 Ladysmith Rd). These presentations are open to any interested individuals, no registration is required.



**Annual Pastoral Evaluation:**

 Each year, the local United Methodist Church conducts a pastoral evaluation and shares potential areas of growth and improvement for the Pastor. The Church Council will be conducting this evaluation as part of its regular meeting on April 15. If you have any items you would like to have considered as part of the Pastor Mark’s evaluation, please contact Becky Pirok (pirokbecky@gmail.com).