



Dear Kernstown UMC Family,

From the pastor

What a beautiful journey we have shared together through our “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” campaign! As we look back over these months, there is much to celebrate. We have prayed in our sanctuary, around tables, at the altar rail, in our fellowship hall prayer space, during our prayer gatherings, through times of fasting, and in the ordinary places where life happens. We have prayed for one another, for our community, for our church, for our nation and world; and for the many needs and joys that have been placed before us.

But perhaps the greatest celebration is this: Kernstown UMC is becoming a church where prayer is vital.

Prayer is not simply another program we have completed or another activity on our church calendar. Prayer is becoming part of who we are. We are learning again that prayer is a means of grace—a way in which we open ourselves to God's presence, listen for God's guidance, give thanks, seek healing, intercede for others, and allow the Holy Spirit to shape our lives. We believe in the power of prayer.

We believe that when we pray, God is at work. Sometimes God changes circumstances; sometimes God changes us; and often God does both. Prayer reminds us that we are not carrying the ministry of this church by ourselves. We are God's people, seeking God's will and trusting God's grace.

So, thank you! Thank you to everyone who prayed, participated, placed a prayer on the wall, gathered with others, fasted, prayed for someone else, came forward to the altar, or simply found a chair and made time to be with God. Our prayer campaign may have a concluding date, but our life of prayer does not. Let us continue to be a congregation that prays.

Bring Your Gifts to Jesus

As we celebrate becoming a church where prayer is vital, we now enter a new season of stewardship called “Bring Your Gifts to Jesus.”

The story of the Magi reminds us that when they encountered Jesus, they did not come empty-handed. They brought gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Their gifts represented something precious that they could offer to Christ.

This stewardship season invites us to ask a similar question: What gift will I bring to Jesus?

Stewardship is about much more than money. It is about offering our whole selves to God. We bring our financial resources, but we also bring our prayers, our time, our talents, our compassion, our service, and our willingness to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

This year, we will reflect on the three gifts of the Magi:

Gold — Our Commitment. Gold reminds us of Christ's kingship. We will consider how we can faithfully offer our financial resources and make a commitment to support the ministry God has entrusted to Kernstown UMC.

Frankincense — Our Prayers. Frankincense reminds us of our relationship with God. As a congregation that has discovered anew the importance of prayer, we will offer our commitment to pray—for ourselves, for one another, for our church, and for our community.

Myrrh — Our Sacrifice and Service. Myrrh reminds us of sacrifice. We will put our faith into action by bringing tangible gifts to help another family experience the blessing of Thanksgiving.

This is holistic stewardship: what we have, what we do, and who we are—all offered to Jesus.

As we move through this stewardship season, I invite you not simply to ask, “How much should I give?” Instead, ask the deeper question: “Jesus, what are you asking me to bring?”

May our answer be generous, prayerful, joyful, and faithful. And may Kernstown UMC continue to be a church where prayer is vital, generosity is joyful, service is abundant, and Jesus is at the center of everything we bring.

In God's Service, Rev. Dr. Victor R. Gómez,
Pastor, Kernstown United Methodist Church



*Matthew 2:11
The Magi opened
their treasures
and offered their
gifts to Jesus.*



Care & Connect, Doris Miller, Chairperson

Care & Connect Meeting - We meet on the first Tuesday of every other month at 10 am in fellowship hall. All church members are welcome to attend. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3, at 10 am.

Prayer and Care - You are welcome to join Pastor Victor Gomez and our group on Wednesdays at 11 am in fellowship hall as we pray for our church family and the needs of our church. Complete the yellow attendance cards in the pew racks each Sunday during worship and list any prayer requests that you may have.

Prayer Chain Knee Mail - Contact Cathy Lichvar via her cell 540-664-7280, email prayer@kernstownumc.org, or from the web kernstownumc.org/prayer-request. Contact her or call the church office with info on any immediate need for prayer, such as admission to hospital, deaths of loved ones, etc.

Fellowship Times Together - following worship service, save these dates:

- Luncheon - Nov. 15 - Bring potluck dishes & desserts to share. Care & Connect will provide fried chicken
- Coffee/Brunch Social - October 18

Coffee/Teatime with Pastor Victor Gomez every Sunday from 10 - 10:20 am.

Name Tags - Continue to wear name tags each Sunday to assist in remembering names. Remove your name tag from Magnetic/ White Board at mission table in narthex and return to board after service.

Hands Of Faith-Healing Ministry - Compassion Fellowship-4th Sunday after worship in nursery. More info on table in narthex.

Health Ministry -Parish Nurse: Doris Miller BSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse, 540-303-3135 Email dorismmiller@yahoo.com

Blood Pressure Checks - 2nd & 4th Sundays after worship service in the mission room.

Walk with a Doc - (Exercise) - 2nd Wednesday at 11 am & 4th Saturday at 9 am. Meet at Valley Health Wellness & Fitness Center for a talk by physician and walk around lake with others for exercise.

Medical Equipment - we have some equipment located at coat rack that can be loaned out for temporary need, contact Doris.

Health Education - Respiratory Virus Season is here

- Do not attend church if you have fever or feel ill. You can view service online.
- Get Influenza / Flu Vaccine - 1 dose every year at physician or pharmacy
- COVID 19 - updated doses recommended based on individual risk
- Tetanus booster every 10 years

Prevention: (reference CDC)

- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
- Teach children the correct way to wash their hands
- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly
- Have clean air by bringing in fresh air and opening windows in sanctuary at top
- Wearing a mask is an additional prevention strategy to further protect yourself and others
- If you have symptoms, get tested
- Stay home and away from others until your symptoms get better and you are fever free for 24 hrs.



Care & Connect Ministry of Kernstown UMC



Educate & Equip - Ric Dunkle, Acting Chair

A new Adult Sunday School/Encounter class began Sept. 20. *Unbreakable Courage: Strong Faith in an Age of Anxiety, Chaos, & Exhaustion*. Does a day without difficult news seem out of reach? Max Lucado offers a fresh look at the story of Elijah the prophet, showing you how you can stand strong day by day in the face of turbulent times. Elijah's story will help calm your fears and guide your steps. Books are available in Classroom #3 for those taking the class. Please sign one out when you take one. Join us at 9 am on Sundays.



Educate & Equip (Lay Servant Ministries)



Financial Information

Received Aug.26	\$ 36,565.17
Needed Aug.26	\$ <u>33,323.40</u>
Difference	\$ 3,241.77

Giving Statements thru Aug 2026 were mailed/emailed the week of Sept. 24. If you did not receive yours or it is missing information, please contact the office or Roy Walker, Finance Chair. Thank You



Reach & Serve, Lisa Dawson & Steve Wells, Co-Chairs

The Reach and Serve Ministry Team is dedicated to assisting in proclaiming the Gospel beyond the congregation into the community and the world.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every other month at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Our next meeting: November 9. All are welcome to attend!

Thank you for donating items, money and your time to help make our recent projects impact hundreds of recipients. Our most recent endeavor, serving and preparing meals at Jubilee Kitchen on September 19, fed 50 patrons. The **Operation Christmas Child** campaign (July, August) will supply fun-filled shoeboxes to over 60 youth as the Good News of Christ is taught to them. The weekly Freedge Ministry and the monthly **Sandwich Ministry** feed over 200 people with food insecurity. In addition, Reach and Serve donated \$200 to help replenish the clothing closet at Frederick Douglass Elementary School. THANK YOU, AGAIN, for making all of these efforts possible!

Upcoming Events:

Drive-Through Prayer: October 14 Anyone may drive into the church parking lot, remain in their vehicle, and receive prayer from members of our prayer team. There will be no sermon, no requirements- just people praying with others in the name of Jesus Christ. Invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc. to stop by.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party: Oct 24, 10 - 11:30 am in fellowship hall. You don't want to miss the fun and fellowship while you fill the boxes with toys, school supplies, stuffed animals, hygiene products, crafts and prayers.

Volunteers Needed

Weekly: Freedge Ministry-Tuesdays at 11 am. Time needed: Less than 45 min; 1-2 volunteers pick up food from CCAP & deliver to the Freedge at Montague Ave UMC. One Tuesday a month, Freedge volunteers will also pick up sandwiches from KUMC & deliver with the CCAP food. Sandwich pick-up will occur on the day following the sandwich making (dates below).

Sign up sheet on ministry table.

Monthly: Freedge Sandwich Ministry- 2nd Monday of every month from 4:00-4:30 at KUMC; 6-8 volunteers. Volunteers make sandwiches which will be delivered to the Freedge on Tuesday by Freedge volunteers. *Dates for sandwich making: Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14.

Winchester Area Thermal Shelter (WATTS) – we will provide dinner for clients at Opequon Presbyterian Church in December. See Doris Miller if you would like to volunteer to assist with this project. More in next December / January Newsletter.

The Upper Room is available in the narthex for your use by Reach and Serve.



UWF – United Women in Faith

Doris Miller, President

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God- not the result of works.

Meetings – Tuesday, Oct 13, at 10 am in f. hall
– Tuesday, Nov 10, at 10 am in f. hall
Program: World Thank Offering

Fall / Winter Fundraiser for local Missions.

“Lighting the Path to the Christ Child”. UWF will sponsor donations to light the shrubbery outside the sanctuary during Advent. People can donate \$5 each to the memory or honor of someone for the lights. An outdoor lighting ceremony will be held on the First Sunday of Advent after the worship service. We will collect the donations from October 18 – November 1. See Doris Miller.

UWF Shenandoah River District Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 1, at 7 PM via Zoom

Conference UWF Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 24 – location to be determined.

UWF Zone Meeting – October 31, 9-12 – KUMC will host the meeting in person in the fellowship hall. It will also be on Zoom. Topic will be by the Conference Treasurer on how our conference money of UWF is used.

Cookbooks – We still have cookbooks at \$3 each in Mission Room outside of the fellowship hall. See Doris Miller to purchase them.

Recycling Plastic Bottles – Only plastic bottles are acceptable for recycling. No other plastics at this time. Please place other plastics with the trash. This project is to meet our Social Justice Program for Climate Justice. Place the plastic bottles in the blue recycling container in the fellowship hall.





Hatching Faith: Let's Try Something New!

What if we could discover new and joyful ways to help children experience worship—not simply as something they watch, but as something they help shape? Hatching Faith is an exciting opportunity from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church designed to help congregations become more intentional about including children and families in worship and prayer. The initiative is supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment and provides churches with training, coaching, and opportunities to experiment with new ideas.

We would like Kernstown UMC to give it a try!

To participate, we need to form a Hatching Faith Team of at least eight people, along with a team leader who will help coordinate our journey. But there is one especially important part of this team: we need at least two children under the age of 12 to be part of the team and their caregivers. Their voices and ideas are not an afterthought—they are an essential part of the process.

And here is where you come in! Grandparents, this may be your opportunity to recruit your grandchildren! If you have grandchildren under 12 who attend KUMC—or who might enjoy being part of this experience—consider inviting them to



NESTING



HATCHING



NURTURING

participate. Parents, children, grandparents, ministry leaders, and other members can all bring something valuable to the team.

This is not about creating another committee or adding another burden to your schedule. It is about experimenting, learning, having fun, and discovering together how we can make worship a place where children truly know they belong. The Hatching Faith process encourages churches to try new ideas, learn from what works, and nurture those practices into the life of the congregation.

Could you be part of our team? We need eight adults/young people and two children under 12, plus a team leader. Maybe God is calling you to help us hatch something new at Kernstown UMC!

Let's give it a try—and let's discover what happens when children help us imagine the church of the future! Please talk with Pastor Victor if you want to be part of this team.

Learn more about Hatching Faith at vaumc.org/hatchingfaith

Worship & Wonder – Lorraine Shelton, Chair

The music ministry has started an amazing new program in partnership with Shenandoah Conservatory. It's called the College Chorale Program. We have two students that are a part of the music ministry and Kernstown provides scholarship funds to help invest in their education. If you would like to donate to this ministry you are more than welcome to do so and just designate the funds for the College Chorale Program. The ministry has been in effect for a little over a month now and it's going really well. We have two amazing recruits and below you can read a little bit about them. David Landrum



Mack Sign is a sophomore Music Education major with a vocal emphasis at SU. She grew up in the Stephenson area, but now lives in Winchester. Mack is very excited to work with the Chancel and Handbell choirs this year!



Lucas Maciel is a sophomore Music Education major with a vocal concentration at SU. He serves as a Resident Assistant and Hornet Ambassador and plays alto saxophone in the Marching Band. He also sings with the tenor/bass choir ShenVoices and the Conservatory Choir. He is excited to join the KUMC Choir as a tenor and looks forward to sharing his love of music, meeting new people, and making many wonderful memories along the way!!



Worship & Wonder Ministry of Kernstown UMC



Charge Conference -- Sunday, November 22nd - 3:00 p.m

Location: Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, 210 E. Main Street, Berryville, VA 22611

Lay Servants, please have your reports to the office for pastor signature by **Monday, Nov. 9.**
Trustee Chair, Finance Chair & SPPRC Chair, have your completed & signed reports in unity by Nov 12.



Trustee's Corner

Here's an update on a few of the Trustees projects during 2026.

Early in the year, the asphalt ramp at the north entrance of the narthex was replaced with a concrete ramp. We had received input from members that the asphalt ramp was a potential safety concern due to its uneven surface and changing grade. The new ramp has a smooth and uniform slope.

This past spring, the Trustees undertook a project in our kitchen facility to change the gas stoves and warmers to electric ranges. This was also based on input from members who had safety and complexity concerns using the large gas appliances. The new conventional electric ranges have no pilot lights, and the controls are simpler to use. There will be no residual gas fumes as sometimes occurred when lighting and using the gas cooking equipment.

Most recently, the Trustees approved repurposing a classroom for use as an office for the Music Director. The room and closet will provide space to store music books and equipment currently in the large storage room adjacent to the fellowship hall. This frees space in the large storage room for Reach and Serve who need space to store supplies for our mission work.

The Trustees are in the process of repurposing the old, unused nursery room upstairs as an

available classroom. The old nursery room, along with the choir room and the new Music Director's room were painted and holes in the walls from many years of hanging items were patched.

The Trustees also approved funding requests from Church Council and the Music Ministry for two programs using the DeMoya Fund. Mr. Pete DeMoya willed these funds to Kernstown UMC for local projects to grow our ministry. The Trustees evaluate and approve the use of the DeMoya funds requested by the different ministry groups within the church. Church Council is heading up a rebranding project to provide an updated and consistent view of KUMC to our members, guests and the community. The Music Ministry is implementing a project to expand our ministry through involving Shenandoah University music students in our music program.

Our goal is to support the ministry, programs and mission of the church with safe, efficient and functional facilities that meet our needs. We welcome your feedback and invite you to attend a trustee meeting on the second Thursday of each month. We have a dedicated time at the beginning of each meeting for guests to present requests and comments.

Let's fully utilize our facilities in support of our mission!

Dave Ford, Trustee Chairperson

Trustees

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

David Ford	01	Carolyn Sibert	12
Margo Strawderman	01	Stacey Park	14
Joan Dodson	05	Vicki Adams	17
Ric Dunkle	05	Rachel Donald	19
Bob Wilson	05	KayeBeth Ambrose	24
Sandra Rhinaman	08	Jimmy Castro	28
Danna Doyle	10	Dwight Miller	28
Daleigh Carper	11		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carole Ay	01	Rick Young	10
Nancy Tisinger	03	Charles Jackman	12
Doug Chapman	05	Alexis Hill	20
Tammy Corey	05	Jerry Puffinburger	21
Sarah Gordon	06	Polly Look	22
Eugene Wise	06	Ruth Folger	30
Shirley Dick	08	Barb Sankovich	30
Mary Walker	10		



ANNIVERSARIES

	Date	Yrs
Bruce & Sarah Gordon	10/08	24
Elizabeth & Harry Reed	10/12	3
Kevin & Barb Mosser	10/25	5
Adam & Krista Baker	10/31	17
Danny & Wendy Aube	11/02	41
Doug & Stephanie Chapman	11/09	22
Brian & Kelly Henshaw	11/13	27
John & Gina Elder	11/13	5
Jimmy & Maria Castro	11/16	41
Tammy & Curt Corey	11/17	9
Margo & Rick Young	11/25	
Barbara & Ed Cooper	11/27	50

SYMPATHIES

to the families of Barbara Funkhouser
(Carolyn Sibert's sister-in-law and
Pam Brannon's aunt)



Calendar at a Glance

Tue Oct 07 Staff Meeting 1:30
 Mon Oct 12 Sandwich Making for Freedge 4 fh
 Tue Oct 13 UWF 10 fh
 Wed Oct 14 Drive Thru Prayer 9-10:30 fh
 Sun Oct 18 Finger Food Brunch Fellowship 11:45 fh
 Wed Oct 21 Nominations & Leadership Dev. Mtg 4 DeMoya Rm
 Thu Oct 22 Church Council 4 fh
 Sat Oct 24 OCC Shoebox Packing Event 10-11:30 fh
 Sun Oct 25 Hands of Faith 11:45 sanctuary
 Sat Oct 31 UWF Zone District Meeting KUMC 9-12 fh
 Sun Nov 01 Daylight Savings & All Saints Sunday
 Tue Nov 03 Care & Connect meeting 10 fh
 Wed Nov 04 Staff Meeting 1:30
Sun Nov 8 Frankincense Sunday-Bring Covenant Prayer Card
 Mon Nov 09 Sandwich 4 fh, Reach & Serve meeting 4:30 fh
 Tue Nov 10 UWF 10 fh
 Thu Nov 12 Trustees 6:30 fh
Sun Nov 15 Gold Sunday-Bring Pledge Commitment Card
 Fellowship Covered Dish Lunch 11:45 fh
 Mon Nov 16 Dec/Jan Newsletter Deadline
Sun Nov 22 Myrrh Sunday - Bring Thanksgiving Meal
 Hands of Faith 11:45 sanctuary
 Charge Conference at Duncan Berryville 3
 Thanksgiving Eve at Opequon Presby 6
 Th-F Nov 26-27 Office Closed **Happy Thanksgiving**
Sun Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent
 Sat Dec 5 District Conference Manor Memorial UMC 10 am

Ongoing Weekly

Sunday - Encounter 9 Rm 3, Coffee 10 fh, Worship 10:30
 Tuesdays - Freedge 10:30, *Bridge* 12-4 fh, 1-4 Music Dir.hours
 Wed's - *BSF* 9-11 fh, Prayer 11 fh, Bells 6, Choir 7, *TOPs* 5 DeM.
 Fridays - *Bridge* 11-3 fh

Click here for updated [CALENDAR](#) & times

Note
 Day Change!
 Sunday,
 Nov 22,
 at 6pm



Lectionaries

OCT 04 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday (Green)
 Exod 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19 (UMH 750); Acts 4:5-12; Matt 21:33-46

OCT 11 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 Exod 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829); Acts 8:14-25; Matt 22:1-4

OCT 18 | 21st Sunday after Pentecost; Laity Sunday (Green)
 Exod 33:12-23; Ps 99 (UMH 819); Acts 10:34-43; Matt 22:15-22

OCT 25 | Reformation Sunday (Green)
 Deut 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 789); Acts 10:44-48; Matt 22:34-46

NOV 01 | All Saints Sunday (White)
 Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 (UMH 830); Acts 11:1-18; Matt 23:1-12
All Saints Lections: Rev 7:9-17; Ps 34:1-10, 22 (UMH 769); 1 John 3:1-3;
 Matt 5:1-12

NOV 08 | 24th Sunday after Pentecost; Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday (Green)
 Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7 (UMH 799); 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

NOV 15 | 25th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
 Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123 or Ps 76 (UMH 797); 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

NOV 22 | Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday; Thanksgiving Sunday
 (White or Gold) Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100 (UMH 821); Eph 1:15-23;
 Matt 25:31-46

NOV 29 | Beginning Lectionary Year B; 1st Sunday of Advent (Purple or Blue)
 Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801); 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Daylight Saving Time Ends
 Sunday, Nov 1



Kernstown United Methodist Church

Worship at 10:30

[Online](#) kernstownumc.org | facebook.com/kernstownumc
 YouTube:@kernstownumc4102 | Instagram: kernstownunitedmethodistchurch
 3239 Valley Pike., Winchester VA 22602, 540-667-7298
 Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez, 540-662-2432, pastor@kernstownumc.org
 David Landrum, Music Dir. 770-714-1197, dlandrum17@gmail.com
 Jennifer Moore, Missionary/ UMC in the Republic of North Macedonia
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