



# CrossTalk

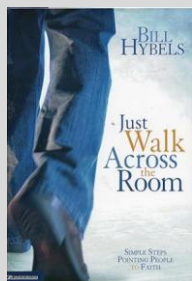
**CONCORD UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
ATHENS, WEST VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER  
2025

## From the Pastor



**The Rev. Richard Moeller**



*Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith* will be our next Zoom Study. It will be four weeks in length and will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm on September 10, 17, 24, and October 1.

Can you imagine simply walking across a room and saying hello could change a person's life forever? Just a few steps to make an eternal difference. It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being.

All you need is a heart that's in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your "Circle of Comfort" and into another person's life.

The highest value in personal evangelism is cooperating with the Spirit. This means playing only the role you're meant to play—walking when the Spirit says to walk, talking when the Spirit says to talk, and falling silent when the Spirit has said you have said enough.

Please see Moeller, page 3



Concord University men's soccer players stop by the church's booth for some bottles of cold water during the annual Athens-Concord Town Social on August 17 at the CU campus. Greg Ball, foreground, and Ken Graybeal were among members of the church family who took turns working the booth.

The opportunity to reach out to the Concord University and Athens communities was again the mission of Concord United Methodist Church during the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Athens-Concord Town Social on August 17 on the front lawn of the university.

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the university treaded the sidewalks on a delightful Sunday afternoon. Members of the Concord UMC congregation were there under a tent to greet them – and to hand out free bottles of cold water. (Thanks to Jack Fredeking for arranging for the tent and the water!)

Unintentionally, the water helped complement the popcorn being given away across the sidewalk by our friends from Mount Jackson Baptist Church.

The social included live

music, food trucks, local and regional artisans, a shiny car show, and lots of fellowship.

Coordinators of all these moving parts were community volunteer Sarah Beasley, a member of Concord UMC, along with Anna Hardy, the university's chief student affairs officer and dean of students.

Front and center was the new university president, Dr. Bethany Meighen.

David and Sheila Mann, faithful members of Concord UMC, received the 2025 Good Neighbor Award.

Meighen said the Manns "exemplify the spirit of neighborliness, generosity, and commitment to the community."

Sheila has called Athens home for over 49 years. For 25 years, she taught elementary school in Mercer County. She leads the Concord UMC children's church program,

Roots & Wings. David, an Athens native, retired after a 32-year career as a UPS driver, and is the secretary/treasurer of the Athens Cemetery Association.

Together, they founded the Athens Community Garden more than a decade ago. They've dedicated "countless hours" to plowing, planting, and harvesting – cultivating not only fresh produce but also connection and care among neighbors.



Sheila and David Mann receive the Athens Good Neighbor Award at the 2025 Town Social.

Photo courtesy of Concord University

## Budget Snapshot

### Total Contributions year-to-date:

Contributions and  
Distributions Received  
\$63,115.03

Apportionment Money  
Received  
\$5,256

Apportionments Paid  
\$9,550

Apportionments Balance Due  
\$12,648

UMCOR - #922 New Vision  
Depot Donations  
\$2,020

## We Meet Again...

The 3Q 2025 Committee and Council meetings will be held on September 21.

Financial discussions regarding replacing part of the roof to comply with our insurance requirements will continue.

## Of interest...

### Membership:

These official membership changes will be reported at the 2025 Church Charge Conference to be held this fall.

Joyce Moeller and Jean Ford transferred their membership to CUMC.

Jean Ford passed away in March 2025.

Sue McKenzie moved to Myrtle Beach.

Doug and Michele Workman transferred their membership to CUMC.

### Other News:

Our Children's Church has a new name - Roots & Wings.

The Men's Group purchased an air conditioning unit for the Roots & Wings room.

# Harmony and Concord

## Marsh dedicated one-ton carillon bell to our church in 1997

Concord United Methodist Church has a distinction like none other in the state — or perhaps within the United States.

A bronze bell weighing over a ton, hanging in the carillon on the Concord University campus, is dedicated to the church.

Thereby hangs a tale.

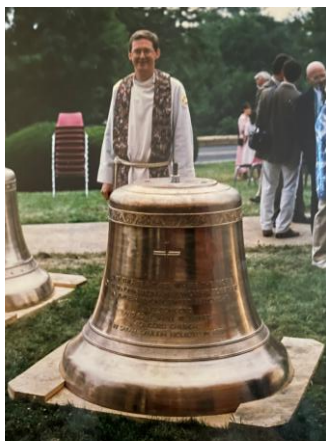
The late Joseph F. Marsh, Jr. had a keen sense of history. A staunch member of Concord UMC, he lived in retirement in Athens after a tenure as president of Concord College from 1959 to 1973.

One day in the mid-1990s, he stopped by the familiar confines of the president's office and told then-President Jerry L. Beasley that he wanted to provide funding for a carillon tower on top of the main academic building.

Marsh even flew to France to meet personally with the head of the foundry that was producing the 48 custom-made bells for the carillon.

As the donor, Marsh got to decide what inscriptions would be cast onto the outside of the bells, and who he wanted to honor.

For Bell No. 3, he wrote: "Dedicated to the Concord United Methodist Church, founded July 25, 1858, [and] originally known as



The Rev. W. Brent Sturm, pastor of Concord UMC in 1997, stands behind the 39-inch-tall carillon bell that is dedicated to the church.

Photo by Tom Bone IV



The Marsh Memorial Carillon and Tower atop Marsh Hall at Concord University

Photo courtesy of the University

The 48 bronze bells were cast at the renowned Paccard Foundry in Annecy-le-Vieux, France, established in 1796.

Concord Church, for worship by all denominations ... Whence came the college's name."

On the other side of the bell, he had the following quote cast, words from 1858 attributed to Sarah Caulkin Holroyd, one of the church's founders: "Let this be a place where the people of all denominations may worship together in peace, harmony, sweet fellowship and concord."

"And so, it shall be named Concord Church."

The school now known as Concord University began classes in the town of Concord (now Athens) in 1875, as Concord State Normal School. When the institution moved to its current campus in 1911, its first building was the one upon which the carillon was eventually constructed.

That three-story academic centerpiece is now known as Marsh Hall in memory of the former president.

The Marsh Memorial Carillon and Tower was dedicated in the fall of 1997, part of the college's 125th anniversary celebration. The ceremony included a "blessing of the bells" by the pastor of Concord United Methodist Church, the Rev. W. Brent Sturm.

Bell No. 3, dedicated to the church, is described as weighing 2,654 pounds, with a diameter of 50-3/16 inches and a stand-alone height of 39-9/16 inches. It produces a D-sharp pitch.

The names of at least two other living members of Concord UMC are inscribed on other bells in the carillon.

The musical instrument automatically rings out each hour from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. during the academic year. Marsh, a stickler for precision, had the hour strike timed exactly by calling upon his former colleague David Klingensmith to synchronize it to a time signal radioed from the U.S. Naval Observatory.

The bells may be played manually by the traditional use of wooden paddles, located in the brick-lined room directly under the carillon tower. An organ-like keyboard was also installed for manual playing.

A computer programmed with dozens of tunes provides an automated option for sending music out across the landscape. This option was sidelined for

Please see Bells, page 3

## Roots & Wings



Children's Church  
2nd & 4th Sundays



# The New Vision Depot Needs You



When disaster strikes in southern West Virginia relief comes from many different areas. There are several avenues of relief from within the United Methodist Church.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), Volunteers in Mission, Disaster Response Ministries, and Volunteers Active in Disaster are all available to assist in the relief efforts. The New Vision Depot partners with these groups to provide materials and support in their efforts.

Rev. Scott Mayberry, director of the New Vision Depot, is responsible for the collection, assembly, and checking of buckets for distribution to various areas of West Virginia.

Rev. Mayberry says they currently have about 500 Flood Buckets assembled, palletized, and ready for distribution to an affected disaster area, but they need about 1000 buckets. There are specific contents included in each bucket. A list of these contents can be found at [umcmmission.org/UMCOR-kit](http://umcmmission.org/UMCOR-kit). It is important to ensure you put the correct size and quantity of items in the bucket before you send it to New Vision Depot. When an assembled bucket arrives, it is disassembled, and the contents are checked against a list of appropriate items. If an item is included which does not meet the requirements, it is removed and replaced with an item that adheres to the UMCOR list.

If an individual, or group, would like to spend a day assembling Flood Buckets, you may contact Rev. Mayberry and arrange for a day to meet at New Vision and assemble the buckets. If you are unable to go to New Vision and participate in a day's project, you can give to your local church. In the lower left section of your check include: "Conference Advanced Special #922." This will ensure the money goes to New Vision Depot and the church is given credit for supporting this effort. The contents of each Flood Bucket cost about \$75.

Contact Rev. Mayberry at 304-253-9038 or at 143 Southern Industrial Drive, Beaver, West Virginia 25813.



## (Moeller, from page 1)

I look forward to facilitating this study and giving Elizabeth a little rest.

If you are interested in joining this study, books will be available at church the end of the month.

There are questions at the end of each chapter that will suffice for a "study guide."

Following is the schedule for the four sessions:

Week One: September 10  
Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 in the book.  
Read and meditate on Philippians 2:5-8.

Week Two: September 17  
Read Chapters 3, 4, and 5 in the book. Read and meditate on Matthew 5:13.

Week Three: September 24  
Read Chapters 6, 7, and 8 in the book.

Week Four: October 1  
Read Chapters 9, 10, and 11 in the book.

I look forward to taking this journey with you...  
Yours In Christ...

Richard

## (Bells, from page 2)

years after a lightning strike fried the electronic components!

The carillon was abuzz with activity in June 2024 when the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America made it their home base for a convention. Local residents spread across campus to listen to these accomplished musicians perform in concert.

Marsh, who was briefly a Concord student before World War II, left a wish for the future on Bell No. 6: "May this carillon reach the soul of the College and remind us that education consists not only of academic achievement but also of those lessons that touch the heart."



Above, the Rev. Brent Sturm conducts a "blessing of the bells" during a celebration of the new carillon construction in October 1997 that drew hundreds to campus. At the podium at left is State Senator Homer K. Ball of Athens. Seated beside him is then-Concord President Jerry Beasley. Below, shiny new bells are displayed across the front lawn of campus prior to the dedication ceremony.

Photos by Tom Bone IV

## Calendar



### Wednesdays, Sept 10, 17, 24

7 PM — Bible Study Group  
Via Zoom

### Saturday, September 6

8 AM — Men's Breakfast  
Anderson Hall

### Sunday, September 7

11 AM — Worship & Holy Communion

### Thursday, September 11

6 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall

### Sunday, September 14

11 AM — Worship, Roots & Wings

### Thursday, September 18

6 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall

### Sunday, September 21

11 AM — Worship

### Thursday, September 25

6 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall

### Sunday, September 28

11 AM — Worship, Roots & Wings

### Wednesday, October 1

7 PM — Bible Study Group  
Via Zoom

### Thursday, October 2

6 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall

### Saturday, October 4

8 AM — Men's Breakfast  
Anderson Hall

### Sunday, October 5

11 AM — Worship & Holy Communion

### Thursday, October 9

6 PM — Yoga, Anderson Hall  
6 PM — CU Homecoming Parade

### Saturday, October 11

2 PM — CU Homecoming Football  
Game v. West Virginia State

### Sunday, October 12

11 AM — Worship, Root & Wings

### Sunday, October 26

1 PM — 2025 Charge Conference for  
CUMC



## Church staff

**Pastor:**

Richard Moeller

**Church Secretary:**

Jayne Ford Jones

**Worship Leader/Vocalist:**

Elizabeth Muldoon

**Musician/Technician:**

Justin Hill

**Technician:**

Matthew Thomas

**Custodian:**

Carol McManaway

**CrossTalk Designers:**

Tom Bone III

Jayne Ford Jones

CrossTalk is produced every other month by Concord United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 746, Athens, West Virginia. We strive to seek God's will, to teach God's love, and to serve God's world.

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### FALL 2025 ZOOM STUDY GROUP

We will start our fall study group on September 10. This is a four-week series, and we will meet online via Zoom at 7 PM. The book we will discuss is *Just Walk Across the Room*. Please contact Elizabeth Muldoon (call or text 304-952-1184) if you would like to participate.

### WUMC SOUTHERN DISTRICT DAY

**Wednesday, October 8**

**Time & Location to be announced**

District Day will feature a time of fellowship to celebrate district achievements, individual leadership and innovation, and learn about resources available to local churches. These events are family friendly!

## Homecoming Week **CONCORD** U

### Parade - October 9 @ 6 PM

The parade ends at Concord UMC/Church Street  
& the on-campus bonfire follows the parade.

### Football Game - October 11 @ 2 PM

vs. West Virginia State

More information available at [concord.edu](http://concord.edu)



### CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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