



APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2026

## From the Pastor



**The Rev. Richard Moeller**

In the United Methodist Church clergy itinerate at the direction of our Bishop. That means, clergy have the option of going to new churches and churches have the option of receiving new pastors.

This process involves clergy deciding whether they would like to stay at their current appointment or move to another appointment. The same option is given to the churches. If they would like to have their current pastor stay for another year or would like to receive a new pastor.

If the church or the clergy decide a move is in order, paperwork is filled out and sent to the Conference. A list of the churches that are asking for new pastoral leadership and clergy that are asking to be reappointed. When all this paperwork is received, the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet (Bishop, District Superintendents, and a few other conference staff people) gather and prayerfully consider each church, and its needs, and each clergy, and their individual gifts and graces. Then a preliminary list of churches and pastors is formulated.

The District Superintendents speak with the churches receiving new pastors and let them know who their new pastor might be. The tentative new pastor and church meet to get acquainted. After consideration, by both parties, a tentative match is made. At a point in time, these new moves are announced publicly and are made official by the Bishop at Annual Conference.

Please see Moeller, page 3



We are about to celebrate one of the greatest days in the church year. We are just days away from Easter. The celebration of the Risen Christ.

The story of this celebration begins seven days before Easter. It begins with Jesus triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. In the church calendar we call this Palm Sunday. The next Sunday is when we celebrate Easter. The Risen Christ.

But what happened between Palm Sunday and Easter? What happened during the six-day period we call Holy Week. Often, we attend church on Palm Sunday and then celebrate Easter the next Sunday. We attend church, wave palm branches, and sing "Hosannah, Loud Hosannah!" The next week we witness the empty tomb and sing, "Christ, the Lord is Risen Today." And we are left to ask: "What

happened? How did Jesus die? Where did they bury him? How was he raised from the dead?"

If you read through the gospel, you will discover Jesus cleared the money changers from the temple. He taught in the temple. There was a plot by the religious leaders to have Jesus arrested. Jesus will celebrate his Last Supper with his disciples and others. Jesus will be arrested, tried, and crucified on the cross.

We are given the opportunity to better understand all this when we celebrate on Holy Thursday/Good Friday. This solemn celebration is known as Tenebrae. (Tenebrae is the Latin word meaning "darkness.") At Concord UMC we will celebrate both Holy Thursday (with a Communion Service commemorating the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples) and Good Friday

(when Jesus was crucified and buried.)

The Tenebrae Service is a series of nine readings from Scripture. These readings are accompanied by the extinguishing of a candle after each reading. There is a Christ Candle that remains lit the entire time signifying the eternal light of Christ in the world.

Extinguishing the nine candles after each reading of the passion of Christ signifies the approaching darkness and hopelessness in the world without God.

Attending the Holy Communion/Tenebrae service Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm will help us better understand the full story of Christ's final days on earth and his resurrection from the grave.



## Financial Update

### Financial Update

The checking account reconciliation for the end of February showed an unencumbered operating balance of \$16,565.

Our 2025 apportionment was \$20,712, and we successfully paid this in full by the end of December 2025. Thank you to everyone whose efforts made that possible.

For 2026, our apportionment is \$22,198. To date, we have paid \$2,200 toward this amount. We have also transitioned to sending payments to the Conference electronically rather than by check, which saves both time and money.

The 2026 District Fund of \$725 has been fully paid.

A \$21,000 deposit was made to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia for our Endowment Fund. This leaves \$39,500 remaining to repay the funds used for the roof replacement.

The church's assets include trust funds and endowments managed by the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. At the end of 2025, these accounts were valued at \$248,620. The Joseph F. Marsh, Jr. TUW FBO account was valued at \$498,892 at year-end, with a gain of \$37,712. Each trust fund has specific designated purposes for how its resources may be used.

### Upcoming Meetings

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for April 19. The Finance Committee and Trustees will also meet that afternoon prior to the Council meeting.

## We are covered... in more ways than one!

Not only have we met all insurance requirements for our roof, but we are also celebrating the completion of a new roof on our beautiful church. We are deeply grateful for Jack Fredeking, who worked diligently to secure the best quote and the right price for this important project.

To fund the roof replacement, the church borrowed from our Endowment Fund with the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. The work was completed and the roofer was paid in full on November 14, with a total project cost of \$56,400.

The Finance Committee has agreed to repay our withdrawal in installments, and the first deposit was made on March 10, 2026.



Photo by Michael Jones

## Souper Bowl Luncheon Annual Fundraiser



Hungry people in Mercer County were blessed once again through our annual Souper Bowl Sunday food drive and luncheon on February 15. The people of Concord UMC donated 95 cans of soup, 8 boxes of crackers and monetary gifts totaled \$244. All donations were forwarded to the Princeton Cooperative Parish Food Pantry, coordinated by Kee Street United Methodist Church, where they will directly support families in need throughout our community.

## Winter Turning to Spring!

We've certainly had another Wild & Wonderful Winter to start off the year.

Because of the heavy snow and ice that built up on our sidewalks, parking lot, and steps, we were unable to hold in-person services for two weeks.

We are grateful that Rev. Moeller was still able to share his message and offer Holy

Communion through Facebook Live during that time allowing us to remain connected in worship despite the weather.

We are all hoping Spring will return soon! The beautiful weather at the beginning of March certainly fooled us, only to surprise us with another late snowfall just days before the official start of Spring.



# Ministry Support and Our Apportionment Dollars

Our apportionment dollars are one of the most important ways Concord UMC participates in the shared ministry of the **West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church**. When we give, we join with United Methodists across the state to support discipleship, mission, leadership development, and the essential work that keeps our connection strong.

## How Our Giving Makes a Difference

**Eighty-six percent** of every apportionment dollar stays right here in the West Virginia Conference, supporting ministries that directly impact our churches and communities. These include:

**Growing Vital Congregations** — strengthening local churches so they can make disciples and represent Christ in their communities.

**Young People's Ministries** — providing mentoring, leadership development, and faith-forming experiences for youth.

**Campus Ministries** — four ministries across the state that help students stay connected to Christian community during college.

**Camps and Outdoor Ministries** — offering Christ-centered experiences that shape faith and character.

**Conference Mission Agencies** — seven mission projects and health/welfare ministries that meet basic needs and transform lives for children, families, and communities.

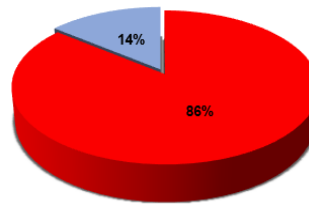
**Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response** — equipping teams to serve when crisis or disaster strikes.

**Clergy Support & Leadership Development** — providing education, credentialing, spiritual care, and lifelong support for those called to ministry.

**Administrative Ministry** — the behind-the-scenes work of district offices, the Conference Center, and financial/administrative staff who help churches thrive.

The **final 14%** of our apportionment dollars supports United Methodist ministries **beyond West Virginia**, including global mission, leadership training, and the work of general agencies. Much of this investment returns to our Conference through resources, scholarships, mission support, and training opportunities.

When we give, we participate in something larger than any one congregation. Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, our shared gifts are multiplied to transform lives, strengthen churches, and extend Christ's love across our state and around the world.



## In the Image of God

Article by Sheila Mann

Roots and Wings has completed their project called In the Image of God. This project reflects a class study in what it means for us to be created in the image of God and how we reflect that image back into the world.

The children of Roots and Wings asked the members of the Concord UMC congregation for a picture and then to reflect on and submit a word that describes how God is reflected in them. The words vary and teach us how many different ways God is present within us. Some of the words chosen were servant, searching, hopeful, joyful, kind, and helpful to name only a few.

The study and subsequent



project had been designed to make us aware of how we present our faith to the world and to help us become more deliberate in striving to be the light.

As always, the congregation gave full support and their blessings, but two people need to be thanked individually. Rev. Richard Moeller designed and made the letters for the display and David Mann took most of the photos. Roots and Wings are very grateful to both of you.

(Moeller, from page 1)

This is a long and prayerful process. It is not easy and those involved need our support and prayers.

Some appointments have already been made and put on the Conference web site (WVUMC.ORG). Continue to pray for the Bishop, District Superintendent, and the clergy and churches involved.

Yours In Christ,



## Calendar



### Recurring Dates APRIL — MAY — JUNE

**Sunday Worship**  
11 AM – Worship

**Roots & Wings Children's Church**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month  
11 AM – Worship

**Thursday Night Yoga**  
6 PM — Anderson Hall

### Special Dates APRIL — MAY — JUNE

**Sunday, March 29**  
**Palm Sunday**  
11 AM – Worship

**Friday, April 3**  
**Good Friday**  
**Holy Communion / Tenebrae Service**  
6:30 PM – Worship

**Saturday, April 5**  
8 AM — Men's Breakfast  
Anderson Hall

**Sunday, April 5**  
**Easter Sunday**  
11 AM – Worship

**Wednesday, April 15**  
**Six Week Bible Study begins**  
**6 Things We Should Know About God**  
7 PM — Zoom  
Dates: April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 27

**Sunday, April 19**  
**Church Council Meetings**  
2 PM — Trustees  
3 PM — Finance Committee  
4 PM — Administrative Council

**Saturday, April 25**  
4:30 PM — Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner

**Saturday, May 2**  
8 AM — Men's Breakfast  
Anderson Hall

**Saturday, June 6**  
8 AM — Men's Breakfast  
Anderson Hall

**Princeton Parish Project Collection**  
April – pancake mix and syrup  
May – canned fruit  
June – canned vegetables

## Church staff

**Pastor:**

Richard Moeller

**Church Secretary:**

Jayne Ford Jones

**Worship Leader:**

Elizabeth Muldoon

**Musician/Technician:**

Justin Hill

**Technician:**

Matthew Thomas

**Custodian:**

Carol McManaway

**CrossTalk Designers:**

Rev. Richard Moeller  
Jayne Ford Jones

*CrossTalk* is produced every three months 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.

*CrossTalk* -- Volume 40, No. 2

# Bible Study

**Our next Zoom Bible Study is entitled:  
"6 Things We Should Know About God"**

The lessons include:

"God Loves You"

"God Understands You"

"God Forgives You"

"God Wants You to Be Free"

"God Wants You to Change"

"God Wants to Be With You Forever"

This study will begin April 15th with lessons on 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, and 5/27. We will skip the 5/20 date and conclude on 5/27. The study will begin at 7:00 PM nightly.

Thank you in advance to Elizabeth Muldoon who has so graciously been our video person during our studies.

Books will be available at church or in the office when Jayne is working.

Looking forward to more great discussions and learning.



## CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 Vermillion Street  
P.O. Box 746  
Athens, WV 24712-0746

### Roots & Wings



Children's Church  
2nd & 4th Sundays