



May 2, 2021



Kernstown
United Methodist Church
Rooted in faith.
Branching out through the Spirit

*At Kernstown, we make Disciples as we:
Know God
Grow in God
Sow God into the World*

3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, Virginia 22602
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Pastor Aaron Fitch 540-532-9493
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bold print = all respond

* = please stand if able

5th Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

IN-PERSON SERVICE – 10:20 a.m.

Ringling of the Bell Sam Henshaw

Greeting /Announcements Pastor Aaron Fitch

Prelude David Landrum

Lighting of Altar Candles Sam Henshaw

Call to Worship Pastor Aaron

Leader: Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

People: We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.

Come to love one another, for love is of God.

We have come to the household of love, for God is love.

Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.

Come! All are welcome here.

*Hymn

Christ Is Alive

UMH 318

Prayer of Confession Lorraine Shelton

Source of love and life, Your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in You as You abide in us, but we can't seem to figure out how. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know You. Show us how to abide in Your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies Your Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance Pastor Aaron
*When we abide in Christ, we abide in the vine of love and grace.
Abide in the vine and receive mercy beyond measure.*

Reception of New Member Peggy Gillich

Special Music David Landrum

Prayer for Illumination Lorraine Shelton

Holy Spirit, when the eunuch was asked by Philip if he really understood the scriptures he was reading, the man replied: "How can I, unless someone guides me?" As we prepare to read today's scriptures, we ask Your Spirit to be our guide. Then, with the Spirit's help, listen for the Word of God. Amen.

Scripture Reading Acts 8:26-40 (*New Testament*)

Sermon *"Get Up and Go"* Pastor Aaron

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer **UMH 895**

Celebration of Holy Communion **(see insert)**

Once everyone has received the Elements and returned to their seats, we will partake of the Body and Blood of Christ together.

*Apostles' Creed **UMH 881**

*Hymn *Because He Lives* **UMH 364**

*The Benediction Pastor Aaron

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

We will be born of love each day of our lives.

Beloved, let us abide in Christ's love, for He is the vine and we are the branches.

We will grow as Christ's disciples and bear fruit for a world in need.

→

Beloved, let us care for one another, for the Spirit helps us abide in God's peace.

We will glorify God in the lives we lead. Amen.

Postlude

David Landrum

CCLI # 11408803



Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV

WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER: Marilyn Stelzl

UPCOMING SURGERIES: Margo Young – knee replacement (5/5)

CARE FACILITIES:

Consulate Health Care: Connie Mitchell (PA)

Spring Arbor: Marietta Lipscomb (#239) & Lloyd Henry (#210)

Mount Vernon Nursing Center: Virginia Ebbs

Search Group Home: Steven Dobbins

Sunrise at Bon Air: Irene Gates (#205)

Orchard Woods: Phyllis Baker

Lynn Care: Rosalie Wehn (Mimi's grandmother)

SYMPATHY: Tisinger/Chapman families; Ruth Bennington & family; Perry/Martin family; Bill Tharpe & family

MILITARY: CPO Tiffany McMahan; MMN3 Seth Anton; LTC Tom Crowley; Jared Castro, ROTC

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Aaron, Cooper, & Elise; Pastor Clay Knick – lymphoma; the Gordons; the Burchards; Marshall Carper; Judy Allen; Jeanne Newlin & Janie Slater; Peggy Gillich; Polly Look & family; Shirley Dick

Missionaries: Gregg & Jayne Yarian; Pastor Michael & Lupe Geiss

Local Missions: VAN (Valley Assistance Network), The Winchester Rescue Mission, Lord Fairfax Food Bank, C-CAP

At Home: Bryan Hartley, Pat Price, Jean Snider, Mary Kathryn Clark, Tina Weagley, Florence Roman

Weekly Prayer Requests



April 25

Betty Lou Langager; Simone Poulin (Danny Aube's aunt); family of Rev. Dr. Dan Garrett; Peggy Gillich; Lawton MacDonald; Lisa Dawson; Marshall Carper; Marilyn Stelzl – fell and broke a hip; Lee Lichvar; Traci Wilson; Brady Hamilton (Greatorex's grandson)

April 18

Russell Parrish – had kidney stone surgery; Judy Smith – had a heart ablation; Marcy Cormier; Katie Teets; Lawrence, who is homeless; Polly Look; Laurel Look; Jo-Ann Larrick; Gene Wise – had surgery on 4/16 and did well; Barbara Baltimore & family on the loss of Barbara's cousin Allison Finley-Harris

April 11

Karrie McCall; Barbara Baltimore; Shirley Dick; Helen Fitch; Todd Tatum; Marci (friend of Barbara Hoover)

April 4

Phyllis Baker; Frank Moore; Hayley Moore; Evelyn Jennings; Debbie & Russell Parrish; Marietta Lipscomb; Mark & Pam Lipscomb

***If you would like for us to lift up a prayer request, please call the office at 540-667-7298 or email us at, csteele@kernstownumc.org. We also have prayer request slips in the pews you can fill out and place in the offering plate. These names will remain on this list for four weeks.*



Announcements



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Thursday, May 6, 2021



IN-PERSON WORSHIP – Reminder: in-person worship is back to starting at 10:20 a.m. Bring your mask and plan to social distance, along with following our other guidelines from the VA Conference. **GOOD NEWS! We are now permitted to softly SING!** If you are not able to attend or are not comfortable, watch the live stream online at 10:20 a.m. See you in church!

WOMEN'S CORE GROUP – The Women's Disciple Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

UMW MEETING – UMW will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

MEN'S CORE GROUP MEETING – The Men's Core Group will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

SPPRC MEETING – SPPRC will meet on Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE PRESENTATIONS – Each year, KUMC presents Bibles to rising 3rd graders. With the pandemic and other factors, we have gotten off schedule, but would like to do this before Pastor Aaron moves at the end of June. We are planning a special presentation at the in-person worship services on Sunday, May 16, and Sunday, June 13. **If your child is a rising 3rd grader or has completed the 3rd grade but not yet received their Bible, please call or email the church office** so we can be sure to include them, and let us know which of the two Sundays you can attend for the presentation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – The Finance Committee will meet on Sunday, May 16, after the in-person worship service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Submissions for our June newsletter are due on Monday, May 17, at 12 noon.

DAVID OFF – Director of Music and pianist/organist, David Landrum, will be off May 17 – June 1. We will have pre-recorded

music at the in-person worship services during this time.

PASTOR AARON OFF – The Bishop has called for all clergy to have a "time apart for renewal" on Sunday, May 23, and Monday, May 24, which is Aldersgate Day. *"Aldersgate commemorates the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London. As he heard a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his 'heart strangely warmed' "* (from umc.org). We will have a guest speaker on May 23 for worship.

DISTRICT UMW UMCOR PROJECT – May is the last month to do an UMCOR **School Kit** and/or **Hygiene Kit**. The list of items required for each type of kit was included in the May newsletter. Bring your items and/or completed kits to the church – there is a box in the mission room. Thanks to our UMW for sponsoring these kits!

WANTED: KUMC OCC PROJECT LEADER -

We are still looking for someone to be the OCC Project Leader for Kernstown UMC congregation. Check out our OCC page on our website to learn more – there is a short video at the bottom of that page about the Project Leader position. If you feel a calling to spearhead this project for our church, please contact **Bob Greatorex (540-662-3137 or greatorex@yahoo.com)**.



KUMC NEWTON SCHOLARSHIP – Letters of interest for the KUMC Newton Scholarship for graduating high school seniors who will be attending college/university/trade school this fall, are now being accepted! **Eligibility requirements for applicants include: a minimum of two years' membership at KUMC with regular church attendance. Involvement with KUMC ministries and Youth is also beneficial.** The letter must detail applicant's high school/college subjects taken, grade point average, and extra-curricular activities, along with the school in which matriculated for Fall 2021, college/trade program to be pursued, expected degree/certification, and any other information deemed important by the applicant. Two letters of personal reference should also be included. Please send all application materials to the church (mail, email, or deliver) **no later than June 1.**

ABBA CARE LIFE WALK & 4K FUN RUN – AbbaCare Pregnancy Resource Center here in Winchester is hosting the Shine for LIFE Walk & 4K Fun Run on Sunday, May 23, at 2:00 p.m. at Open Door Baptist Church in Clear Brook. Walk or run with a team or on your own. Can't make it or not comfortable attending a large gathering? Participate virtually instead to support AbbaCare in this vital fundraiser! Visit abbacare.org/walk for more info or to register for the event and start getting pledges. You can also call them at 540-665-9660.

OCC YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION ITEMS – The collection item for May is "hygiene items." Bring your donations to the church – there is a collection box by the choir loft in the sanctuary.

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

↓ **May 2 - May 9** ↓



Sunday, May 2

10:20 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary / Live Stream)

Tuesday, May 4

2:00 p.m. Women's Disciple Study Group (FH)

Wednesday, May 5

1:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer with Pastor (Live Stream)

Thursday, May 6 – **National Day of Prayer**

9:00 a.m. Staff meeting (ZOOM)

12 noon National Day of Prayer Live Stream

Sunday, May 9 – **MOTHER'S DAY**

10:20 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary / Live Stream)



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF May 2nd:

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; and John 15:1-8

Celebration of Holy Communion

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (all pray in silence)

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise Your Name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed Him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when You would save Your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

*By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your Holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.***

KERNSTOWN UMC
Sermon Manuscript
May 2, 2021
Text: Acts 8:26-40
Title: “Get Up and Go”

Introduction

[RAMP] I did not realize that the phrase, “get up and go,” has a definition in the Meriam-Webster Dictionary. It defines the phrase as, “energy, drive.”ⁱ “Get Up and Go,” is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary in this way, “the quality of being energetic, determined, and enthusiastic.”ⁱⁱ If you were going to put a picture of a person with, “get up and go,” I don’t think you could find anyone better than Earl Zook. He epitomized, “get up and go.” Earl told me he determined it took three visits for him to make one sale, and so he determined how many sales he wanted to make and then it was easy to determine how many houses he had to visit. Earl also told me that when he would have meetings with the salespeople, he would play marching music. “Get up and go!”

[RELEVANCE] From today’s Scripture text we read that the angel of the Lord told Philip to, “get up and go...” So, Philip got up and went. Verse 30 says Philip ran up to the chariot. Philip didn’t walk slowly towards the chariot. Philip didn’t jog behind the chariot. Philip ran. After Philip ran up to the chariot, he explained the text from Isaiah the eunuch was reading, and then the Holy Spirit snatched him up and put him down in the city of Azotus. The Greek word, “Harpadzo,” means, “properly, seize by force; snatch up, suddenly and decisively – like someone seizing bounty.”ⁱⁱⁱ God told Philip how to share the Good News of Jesus, “get up and go,” and then after Philip had obeyed the Holy Spirit snatched Philip up to share the Good News somewhere else.

[OUTCOME] How do we share the Gospel? Do we share it like Earl Zook sold vacuum cleaners? Our text teaches the way in which we are to go out and share the Good News – like Earl Zook sold vacuum cleaners. What else can we learn from our text?

Body

[CONTEXT] “This court official did not come from what we know today as Ethiopia; his home was in ancient Nubia, located south of Egypt. Since he was a eunuch, he could not become a full Jewish proselyte (Deut. 23:1), but he was permitted to become a “God fearer” or “a proselyte of the gate.” He

was concerned enough about his spiritual life to travel over two hundred miles to Jerusalem to worship God, but his heart was still not satisfied. This Ethiopian represents many people today who are religious, read the Scriptures, and seek the truth, yet do not have saving faith in Jesus Christ. They are sincere, but they are lost! They need someone to show them the way. As Philip drew near to the chariot, he heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. (It was customary in those days for students to read out loud.) God had already prepared the man's heart to receive Philip's witness! If we obey the Lord's leading, we can be sure that God will go before us and open the way for our witness. Isaiah 53 was the passage he was reading, the prophecy of God's Suffering Servant. Isaiah 53 describes our Lord Jesus Christ in His birth (vv. 1–2), life and ministry (v. 3), substitutionary death (vv. 4–9), and victorious resurrection (vv. 10–12). Isaiah 53:4 should be connected with 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:7 with Matthew 26:62–63; Isaiah 53:9 with Matthew 27:57–60; and Isaiah 53:12 with Luke 23:34, 37. The Ethiopian focused on Isaiah 53:7–8, which describes our Lord as the willing Sacrifice for sinners, even to the point of losing His human rights.

As Philip explained the verses to him, the Ethiopian began to understand the gospel because the Spirit of God was opening his mind to God's truth. It is not enough for the lost sinner to desire salvation; he must also understand God's plan of salvation. It is the heart that understands the Word that eventually bears fruit (Matt. 13:23).^{iv}

[P.O.D. #1] God's people can get up and go because Jesus is their "substitutionary sacrifice."

"The idea of substitutionary sacrifice is one that is found from the beginning of the Bible to the end.

1. God killed animals so that He might clothe Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21).
2. He provided a ram to die in the place of Isaac (Gen. 22:13).
3. At Passover, innocent lambs died for the people of Israel (Ex. 12), and the entire Jewish religious system was based on the shedding of blood (Lev. 17, especially v. 11).
4. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of both the Old Testament types and the prophecies (John 1:29; Rev. 5).^v God's people can get up and go because Jesus is their "substitutionary sacrifice."

[P.O.D. #2] God's people can get up and go because faith in Jesus is the result of hearing the message of Jesus.

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). The Ethiopian believed in Jesus Christ and was born again! So real was his experience that he insisted on stopping the caravan and being baptized immediately! He was no “closet Christian”; he wanted everybody to know what the Lord had done for him.

How did he know that believers were supposed to be baptized? Perhaps Philip had included this in his witness to him, or perhaps he had even seen people baptized while he was in Jerusalem. We know that Gentiles were baptized when they became Jewish proselytes. Throughout the book of Acts, baptism is an important part of the believer’s commitment to Christ and witness for Christ.

In the days of the early church, converts were not baptized unless they first gave a clear testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ. And keep in mind that the Ethiopian was speaking not only to Philip but also to those in the caravan who were near his chariot. He was an important man, and you can be sure that his attendants were paying close attention.

Philip was caught away to minister elsewhere (compare 1 Kings 18:12), but the treasurer “went on his way rejoicing” (see Acts 8:39). God did not permit Philip to do the necessary discipling of this new believer, but surely He provided for it when the man arrived home. Even though he was a eunuch, the Ethiopian was accepted by God (see Isa. 56:3–5)!

Philip ended up at Azotus, about twenty miles from Gaza, and then made his way to Caesarea, a journey of about sixty miles. Like Peter and John, Philip preached his way home (Acts 8:25) as he told others about the Savior. Twenty years later, we find Philip living in Caesarea and still serving God as an evangelist (Acts 21:8ff.).”^{vi} **God’s people can get up and go because faith in Jesus is the result of hearing the message of Jesus.**

[P.O.D. #3] **God’s people can get up and go because God desires the whole world hear about Jesus Christ.**

“As you trace the expansion of the gospel during this transition period (Acts 2 – 10), you see how the Holy Spirit reaches out to the whole world. **In Acts 8, the Ethiopian who was converted was a descendant of Ham (Gen. 10:6, where “Cush” refers to Ethiopia). In Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus will be saved, a Jew and therefore a descendant of Shem (Gen. 10:21ff.). In Acts 10, the Gentiles find Christ, and they are the descendants of Japheth (Gen. 10:2–5). The whole world was peopled by Shem, Ham, and Japheth (v. 1), and God wants the whole world—all of their descendants—to hear**

the message of the gospel (Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15).^{vii} God’s people can get up and go because God desires the whole world to hear about Jesus Christ.

[APPLICATION] Everyone please think about this question; “How was the gospel sown in your life before you became a believer?” Whom did the Holy Spirit use conveniently to bring you to faith in Jesus Christ? What might your life look like if those people were not a part of your life?

Conclusion

[DESSERT] “In October 1857, J. Hudson Taylor began to minister in Ningpo, China, and he led a Mr. Nyi to Christ. The man was overjoyed and wanted to share his faith with others. “How long have you had the good tidings in England?” Mr. Nyi asked Hudson Taylor one day. Taylor acknowledged that England had known the gospel for many centuries. “My father died seeking the truth,” said Mr. Nyi. “Why didn’t you come sooner?” Taylor had no answer to that penetrating question. How long have you known the gospel? How far have you shared it personally?”^{viii}

[GOOD NEWS] God loved you so much that God sent Jesus to die for your sin in place of you, so that you may have Eternal Life. Theologians call this, “substitutionary sacrifice.” We, God’s people call it, GRACE, MERCY, and LOVE! Praise be to God! Jesus is alive and we are forgiven! Amen.

ⁱ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/get-up-and-go>

ⁱⁱ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/get-up-and-go>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://biblehub.com/greek/726.htm>

^{iv} Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 124-128). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

^v Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People: NT Commentary Acts 1-12 (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 124-128). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

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