

135 W. Simpson Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
17055

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 717-766-4611  
E-mail: office@fumchurch.com  
Web Site: www.fumchurch.com

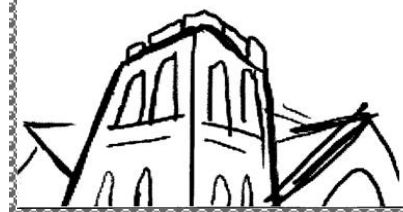
NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 89  
MECHANICSBURG, PA


Dated Material

GIVING WINGS TO THE GOSPEL  
WELCOME ~ INVITE ~ NURTURE ~ GROW ~ SEND


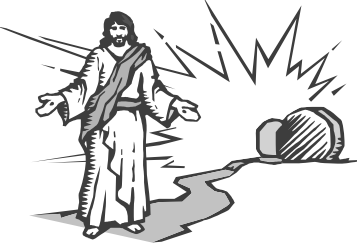
**Heritage Sunday**  
**April 26, 2009**

*Celebrate our heritage and consider our future on this important day.*





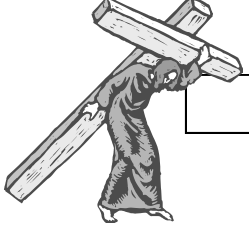
# The Passion Play

the Gospel enacted

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 7 PM**

a portrayal of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, featuring the children of the Wonderful Wednesday program





APRIL 2009



Volume 9, Issue 4

**From the Pastor**

**E**ASTER IS APPROACHING. As always, we are glad for Springtime and the Festival of the Resurrection is, for us, the centerpiece of this time of year. It's always a bit unsettling for me, I must confess. The Christmas celebration is more favored by our culture. That is understandable because we all know what to do with a baby! But Easter is something else ... what are we to do, after all, with a risen savior?

Resurrection is great good news, of course ... the best evidence we have of God's unflagging love for us and our world. It's a great cause for celebration. But when the celebration's over, what do we do with a risen savior? There are lots of good answers to that question—we follow him, we emulate him, we listen to him, we respect and worship him, etc.—but sooner or later we have to acknowledge that none of those things are easy to do. They are not easy because it's a tall order to follow, emulate, and worship Jesus. He has high expectations of us and calls us to be different, to do different, to live different—different than we have done before and different than those around us are doing. It's a challenge to be a disciple of Jesus and something that we can't endure if we try to do it alone.

In his book, **FACES OF JESUS**, Frederick Buechner reflects Jesus this way:

*If the world is sane, then Jesus is mad as a hatter and the Last Supper is the Mad Tea Party. The world says, Mind your own business, and Jesus says, There is no such thing as your own business. The world says, Follow the wisest course and be a*

*success, and Jesus says, Follow me and be crucified. The world says, Drive carefully—the life you save may be your own—and Jesus says, Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. The world says, Law and order, and Jesus says, Love. The world says, Get, and Jesus says, Give. In terms of the world's sanity, Jesus is crazy as a coot, and anybody who thinks he can follow him without being a little crazy too is laboring less under the cross than under a delusion. "We are fools for Christ's sake," Paul says, ...that ultimately the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of men, the lunacy of Jesus saner than the grim sanity of the world.*

Easter is not an event that we celebrate so much as it is the beginning of a new adventure. What do we do with a risen Savior? I'm still figuring it out myself, but this I am sure of: the adventure of Easter is one we are called to live together. That's the only way it makes sense, the only way it leads anywhere, the only way it succeeds — if it forges us into a strong, solid, unassailable community of faith where the strong take care of the weak and the wise look after the foolish and the loving ones embrace those who are hurt and indifferent ... because sooner or later, at some time or another, we are all afflicted with weakness, foolishness and pain.

What a privilege and joy it is to live the Easter adventure with the disciples who call themselves First United Methodist Church!!

Pastor Mike

**"But when the celebration's over, what do we do with a Risen Savior?"**

**Dates to Remember**

PASSION PLAY	APRIL 8
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	APRIL 9
COMMUNION (PEW SERVICE)	
EASTER SUNDAY	APRIL 12
COMMUNION (PEW SERVICE)	
SUNRISE SERVICE	
PANCAKE BREAKFAST	APRIL 18
CONFIRMATION TRIP	
PSALM 150	APRIL 19
HERITAGE SUNDAY	APRIL 26

*Inside this issue:*

Staff / Juniper Tree / Finance Report	2
Legacy Campaign / Church History	3
History / Strategic Plan	4
Missions	5
UMW	6
Servant Spotlight	7
Adult Education	8
Youth	9
Sunday School	10
Twins	11
Club Can-Do / Created by God	12
Girls' Sleepover / VBS	13
Choir / Global Crisis	14
Library / Widows / Softball	15
Prayer / Calvary Love	16-17
Church News & Notes / Communion	18
Worship Schedule / Easter Flowers	19

Church Staff

PASTOR: Michael Minnix
ASSISTANT PASTOR: Lucretia Browning
PARISH VISITOR: Don Ciampa
LAY LEADER: Tom Helm
CONGREGATIONAL CARE
COORDINATOR: Tina Eaton
DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION:
Juanita Guise
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Kim Vensel
YOUTH DIRECTOR: Samantha Mariano
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ORGANIST
& SANCTUARY CHOIR: vacant
ORGANIST: Bill Ingraham,
INTERIM SENIOR MUSIC DIRECTOR
& ORGANIST: Tom Mullikin
INTERIM SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR
& ORGANIST ASSISTANT: Gail Leinhos
BELL CHOIRS: Kathie Bittenbender
SOUNDS OF WORSHIP &
CHILDREN'S CHOIRS: Flossie Ryder
YOUTH CHOIR: Nadine Ogden
JUNIOR CHOIR & INVOCATION: Allison Ometz
FACILITIES COORDINATOR: Charlie Ryder
OFFICE MANAGER: Michelle Strawser
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: April Prather
FINANCE DIRECTOR: Nancy Robinson
CUSTODIAL TEAM: Don Karns, Matt Lyons

Lessons from Living: Juniper Tree Counseling Center

I AM STRUCK BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HOLD ON TO OLD HURTS. Sometimes those painful memories are the result of a devastating experience that caused great personal and longtime damage. At other times, the incident was a minor slight that took on major significance. Sometimes those who caused the pain did so with intentional malice. At other times, the offender was not even aware of the offense caused, and did not set out to hurt.

In all these incidents, however, one consistent ingredient is that the aggrieved refuses to let the hurt go. Sometimes years pass and the hurt remains fresh, as though it occurred yesterday.

Interestingly, institutions can cause pain, too. Impersonal and corporate systems often cause great harm. Even policies that do not set out to create pain can injure. The result can be a wounded spirit, a bruised ego, and a life broken. Thus, the holding on of an old hurt is not always directed towards a person. Sometimes it is directed at an organization or institution.

In any case, it is an unnecessary burden to carry an old hurt day in and day out, year in and year out. When that is done, words and acts are nurtured and become larger in the memory than they may have been in actuality.

In this season of Lent, a time of acknowledging misdeeds, a time of seeking and offering forgiveness, you may be holding on to a hurt that needs to be let go.

Your act of forgiveness is waiting. In NO FUTURE WITHOUT FORGIVENESS, by Bishop Desmond Tutu, he writes, "Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done. It means taking what happened seriously and not minimizing it; drawing out the sting in the memory that threatens to poison our entire existence."

In the end, letting go is not what you do for someone or something else; it is what you do for yourself. It is what you do because you are God's child, and He will hold on as you let go.

Lucretia

HE WILL HOLD ON AS YOU LET GO.

Financial Report

Through February 28, 2009 (17 % of year)

Table with 2 columns: Category, Amount. Rows include Unified Budget (Income \$138,497, Expenses \$130,762, Current Excess \$7,735), Building Fund \$1,625, Holy Grounds \$54.

Income through the end of February is below last year's level; and if this trend continues, the shortfall could be significant. While spending is less than income, several accounts have spent more than expected and will have to be monitored closely.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

How many of you have your mortgage, credit card, or utility bills automatically deducted from your bank account? It's convenient, isn't it? Electronic giving is the same principle applied to the church. After you sign up, there's no more worry about forgetting or mislaying your envelope or checkbook on Sunday morning. You have the assurance that your gift to God will be made. By arranging your automatic payments in advance, you will be paying God first.

Authorization forms are available at the welcome desk in the narthex or in the church office. Please consider signing up today.

April 5

USHERS: (8:15) Eric King, James Alderman, Thomas Helm, Ralph Harkins, Roy Miller, Harry Woods, Winslow Brown; (10:45) Rick Kauffman, Brian Vogl, Rodney Cook, Ed Johnson, Chuck Kershner, Wayde Leister, Mike Ogden, Cephas Zimmerman
MEDIA: Bob Bittenbender & Ron Nichols
ACOLYTE: Matthew Canonizado (8:15) Philip Noss (10:45)
CHILDCARE GREETER: Mary Wagner (8:15) Tracy Holliday (10:45)
CRIB/TODDLERS Kathleen & Rodney Clark, Hayley Holloway (8:15), Sandy Downey, Patti Herring, Janet & Janelle Almond (10:45)
WEE WORSHIP: Rob & Gerri Nuss, Elisabeth Herring
KIDS WORSHIP: Bob & Tracy Wertz, Deb & Phoebe Noss

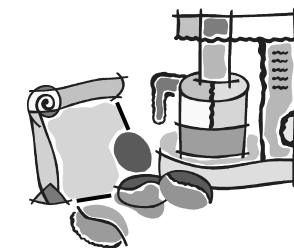
April 19

USHERS: (8:15) Gerry Sheely, Elvin Hess, Bill Seig, Bob Shannon, Roger Miller; (10:45) Larry Buddenbaum, Rick Kauffman, Bob Bittenbender, Barry Eaton, Mark Rutch, Rose Rohlmeier, Jake Sunday, Cephas Zimmerman
MEDIA: Chris Grant & Ken Rapp
ACOLYTE: Lindsey Alderman (8:15), Kyle Eaton (10:45)
CHILDCARE GREETER: Sharon Hayes (8:15), Angie Britcher (10:45)
CRIB/TODDLERS: Marilyn Knott, Becca & Emma Geiger, Colin Hayes (8:15), Jill Rahal, Deb & Julie Lehmer, Dawn Merris (10:45)
WEE WORSHIP: Lynn Grant, Tracy McHale
KIDS WORSHIP: Bob & Tracy Wertz, Scott & Helene Briggs

Volunteers for Coffee

SUNDAY COFFEE SET-UP SCHEDULE — contact Don Karns or Charlie Ryder for scheduling or supplies. Swap with another volunteer if you have a conflict.

- Dale Glatfelter April 5
Dick Snyder April 12
Matt Holliday April 19
Don Karns April 26



April 12

USHERS: Youth
MEDIA: Fred Espenshade & Roger Walton
ACOLYTE: Seth Wickenheiser (8:15) Alexia Ometz (10:45)
CHILDCARE GREETER: Sandy Walton (8:15) Susanna Brill (10:45)
CRIB/TODDLERS: : Patti Yeager, Shannon O'Leary, Matt Ober (8:15), Amy Dively, Amy Erno, Lauren Kenes (10:45)
WEE WORSHIP: Katie Hammaker, Rose Rohlmeier, Paige Snyder
KIDS WORSHIP: Bob & Tracy Wertz, Christy Linkhauer

April 26

USHERS: (8:15) Tom Helm, Charles Glessner, Ben Miller, Ron Nichols, Jim Van Kirk; (10:45) Brian Vogl, Larry Buddenbaum, John Clendenien, Stuart Diehl, Ken Guise, Mike Lehmer, Mike McHale, Rose Rohlmeier
MEDIA: Eric DeWalt & Steve Morgan
ACOLYTE: TBD (8:15), Alexandra Rebman (10:45)
CHILDCARE GREETER: Rhonda Heiges (8:15), Sandy Leister (10:45)
CRIB/TODDLERS: Sue Brady, Margaret Eckrote, Kallie Heiges, Candace Everhart (8:15), Jill Yother, Mary Alice Rebman, Shelli Spencer, Jen & Amanda Hilbish (10:45)
WEE WORSHIP: Brandi Zimmerman, Vicky Shambaugh, Megan Leister
KIDS WORSHIP: Bob & Tracy Wertz, Janet & Greg Fennell

Easter Flowers

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the Sanctuary, you may do so by purchasing your own flowers and placing them in the Sanctuary by NOON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by NOON ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8.

Please circle whichever is appropriate:

In Memory of

OR

In Honor of



Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Placed by \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be picking up the flowers?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers may be picked up after the 10:45 am Easter Sunday worship service.

FIRST NEWS FIRST

EDITORS:

April Prather
Michelle Strawser

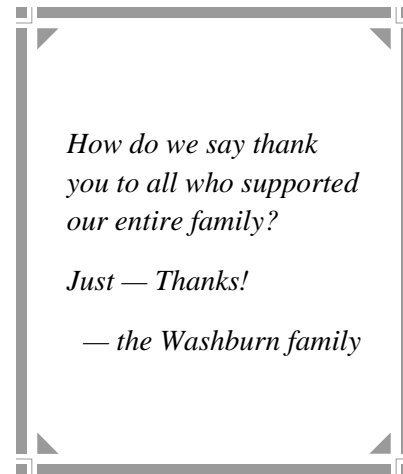
The deadline for the May 2009 newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

All submissions should be received in the church office on or before this date.

office@fumchurch.com.

Thank You



Holy Communion Schedule 2009



- MAUNDY THURSDAY-----April 9  
Pew Service with  
Motzo and Grape Juice
- EASTER, 8:15 am-----April 12  
Pew Service
- TRINITY SUNDAY ----- June 7  
Loaves and Chalice
- BIMONTHLY COMMUNION ----- August 2  
Pew Service
- WORLD COMMUNION ----- October 4  
Loaves and Chalice
- FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT--- November 29  
Pew Service
- CHRISTMAS EVE ----- December 24  
8 and 11 pm  
Loaves and Chalice

Special Birthdays

Marjorie Strasbaugh	April 2
E. Thomas Bauer	April 5
Ellen Robinson	April 15
Richard Knause	April 21
Charles Cramer	April 22
Ruth Grosz	April 22
Janet Casey	April 24
Anna Marie Eberly	April 29

*Addresses of these members, who are 80-plus years of age, can be found in the Church Directory.*

A Message to the People of the United Methodist Church

*(Continued from page 14)*

and the brokenness of the world to resurrection, hope, and new life. We are reminded that our faith does not rise and fall with the financial markets but resides in the enduring love of God who is present with us as we struggle and strive to love God and our neighbors. This Lent can be a time when we recommit to practice every day the Wesleyan values to do no harm, do good and stay in love with God.

A church-wide conversation is asking that we envision ways to reinvigorate our outreach to a hurting world and offer hospitality to those seeking deeper spiritual understanding. Local congregations are engaging in self-examination to “Rethink Church” and strengthen their outreach beyond the doors of the church buildings. Annual Conferences are working to ensure the human rights of the poor, to address the diseases of poverty, and to offer direct intervention to relieved human needs arising from poverty, including those of women and children in local communities and of persons who lack opportunity for artistic expression.

The general agencies of the church are finding ways together to achieve economies and assure greater effectiveness in support

Love & Sympathy...

to the Losh family upon the death of Tim’s grandfather on February 23, 2009.

to the Minnix family upon the death of Mike’s aunt on March 6, 2009.

to the Washburn family upon the death of Jaime Washburn on March 6, 2009.



of annual conferences and local churches. Information on the Four Areas of Focus can be found by contacting the general agencies of the church directly and at [www.umc.org/focusareas](http://www.umc.org/focusareas).

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18) calls for individual and corporate responsibility. John Wesley wrote, “The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social. No holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection” (*Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, ¶ 5).

As we pray and reflect this Lenten season, may we embrace life with hope, expectancy, and the assurance that God through Christ Jesus is calling us to prepare our hearts, minds, and hands to work for the New Creation. And may we nurture and care for one another and for those to whom we are inextricably connected by God’s grace around the world.

With expectancy and hope,

Bishop Gregory Palmer  
President, Council of Bishops

Neil M. Alexander  
Chair, The Table of General Secretaries

Bishop John Hopkins  
Chair, The Connectional Table

Legacy — Live a Legacy, Leave a Legacy

**BY NOW YOU’VE HEARD** about First United Church’s fundraising effort which we’ve called our Legacy Campaign. The goal of the Campaign is to address our current debt of approximately \$1,100,000 as well as structural improvements and maintenance needs to our wonderful facility that will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011.

Recently, our sermons have focused on the topic of *Legacy*, and we’ve recently shared information about our history at First Church. In fact, Rick Herring authored an article in this newsletter titled “A Brief History of First Church” that chronicles our rich and wonderful history over the past 100 years.

I hope you experienced the *Find Us Faithful* Service and Sunday School Program on March 29, where we prayed

A Brief History of First Church

*“...this Temple will stand in the future decades as a strong testimony to the unceasing energy and restless desire of this people to advance the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on earth.” (excerpt from the 1911 dedication of First Church)*

The profound statement above is from our church family of 100 years ago. This is a one sentence summary of the *Legacy* they dedicated themselves to leaving for us and those who come after us. Our church has been blessed by the many people, like you, who worship here and give time, money and talents to make this a wonderful home to worship God. Our church is made whole as each of us do our best to *Live a Legacy and Leave a Legacy*.

ROOTS OF THE UNITED METHODISTS

John Wesley, in 1783, authorized the ordination of Bishop Asbury at Lovely Lane Church in Baltimore and the “Methodist Church grew throughout the region. William Otterbein, in 1800, organ-

and celebrated our blessed history and gave thought to our future generations. Also, you received the *Legacy Campaign* brochure that provided additional information regarding this campaign and addressed some of your questions. The campaign pledge card contained within the campaign brochure as well as this newsletter can be submitted at any time, but we will formally accept them on Heritage Sunday, April 26.

Raising money during these economic times is certainly a formidable undertaking. We ask for your prayers, your ongoing support, and your participation.

“Success is not measured by the size of your harvest, but by the number of seeds you plant.”

*Tom Hayes, Jim Van Kirk  
Legacy Campaign Committee*



*Legacy*  
**Live a Legacy  
Leave a Legacy**

The Passion Play Legacy

ON APRIL 8 AT 7 PM WILL BE THE 19TH PASSION PLAY performed by the children, youth, and adults of First Church. Over the years many people have shared in this *legacy*. It is now being extended to you to help continue this wonderful time in First Church’s history.

Adults are needed to take on the leadership role of the Passion Play for future years. Please look into your hearts and prayerfully consider this request. Contact Samantha Mariano or Juanita Guise for more information.



*Heritage Sunday*  
**April 26, 2009**

With a membership of 30, our church family moved its location to the corner of

*(Continued on page 4)*

“...this beautiful building as it now stands is not merely a great monument to the glory of God and the faith of devout people; it is also a place where the soul finds God....”



**Strategic Plan**

When you need to go on a trip or to get from one place to another, you need a road map to help you navigate to your destination. Just try to go on a trip without a map...without any directions...without a destination. It's a mess!!!

Essentially, the Strategic Plan which our Ministry Forum Team has developed is such a road map. You will be hearing more about the Strategic Plan, how we as a congregation will continue to use it and develop it, as we try to be focused in our ministry. As a congregation and staff, we are well aware that we are part of a world that desperately needs the love of God and the presence of people who live as the hands and feet of Christ. Our Strategic Plan is a living document that will help us direct our ministry at First Church.

You will find copies located in the Narthex and also on the church website. Our Ministry Teams and Committee will be receiving copies which they will continue to use as we move forward in ministry. Like any road map, it will continue to change... for we will find new places in ministry with which we need to engage. We are grateful for the leadership of Ministry Forum as we continue to connect in this important process of intentional ministry.

**A Brief History of First Church (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Arch and Locust Streets in 1857 (our second church home). A two-story frame church was erected and a formal Sunday Church School was founded drawing in as many as 40 additional members. In 1863, the annual conference of the United Brethren in Christ recognized the First United Brethren in Christ Church as a regular pastoral appointment.

**OUR CURRENT CHURCH BUILDING**

In 1905, a lot was purchased at the corner of Fredrick and Simpson Streets, and it was followed by a great revival of our congregation, growing its membership and requiring the need for a new building. On October 8, 1911, the corner stone of our existing church was laid and the church was completed and dedicated on February 2, 1913.

In 1946, the general conferences of the Evangelical church and the United Brethren church were held in Johnstown, it was decided to merge the two into the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1950, our church held a special series of services commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding.

In August 1962, a special groundbreaking service was conducted to begin the addition of classrooms, a church office, a nursery and a small chapel. In 1968, the United Methodist Church was created when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the United Methodist Church joined together with the words, “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church.”

God continued to bless our church with growing membership, and in 1997, we broke ground on an addition to accommodate that growth. This expansion included the multipurpose room, classrooms and offices that we see today. It also included the renovation of the sanctuary and refurbishing of existing classrooms.

**THE PEOPLE OF FIRST CHURCH**

Did you know that Mike Minnix is our 25th pastor since 1850....we have had more presidents of the US than that. Did you know that Don Ciampa served 17 years as our pastor...the longest tenor of any pastor in our 160 year history.

Our church did not start as a building ... it started as a gathering of God-loving people. We have been blessed by the many people of God who have left a Legacy here to honor God. You may recognize some of the names from this list of selected past members ....

Jacob Coover	Church Founder —1847
Rev. Jacob Kissler	First Pastor — 1847

**First class of our church —1850**

Susan Yeager	Sarah Frankenberger
--------------	---------------------

**At time of Locust St Church — 1857**

John Dickson	Pastor
L.F. Eberly, C. Keim,	Board of Trustees
H. Snavelly	First Sunday School
Solomon Markley	Superintendent
Elizabeth Rupp	Committee to organize
	First Church School

**Board of Trustees approved 1911 church**

George G. King	Edward L. Stansfield
G. Lawrence Strock	Joseph H. Eckerd
John Mishler	

**Committee to celebrate 100th anniversary**

Merle E. Keller	John B. Bowman
George C. Dietz	Barnard E. Stansfield
G. Weir Strock	

**Committee for 1960 addition**

Wayne Smith	Paul S. Brandt
David D. Coover	S. Eberly
George M. Houck	

**Pastors**

Rev. E.C. Castle (time of new building)	1906-18
Rev. C. Guy Stambach (during WWII)	1934-44
Rev. Ken Bower	1968-82
Rev. Don Shover	1982-87
Rev. Don Ciampa	1987-04

—all information is excerpted from information originally compiled by Thomas O. Mullikin, Ed. D. (leaving a legacy)

**Prayer Team — What Do We Pray For?**

**THE PRAYER TEAM** would like to share some of the things we pray for when we gather. It is an always changing list. Each month, each day presents different requests and requirements. Help us make First Church known as a Praying Church. Join with us ...

- Spring is here — time for the earth to continue its age old cycle of revival. Just as we look for signs of new life, color and rebirth, God looks to us for a re-commitment. We can constantly be renewed by our faith and love. Pray for a refreshment of spirit.
- No matter what your political persuasion, it is our job to pray for the leaders of our country. Pray that these leaders turn to the great **I AM** and ask for His guidance, His wisdom, His character — as they lead us.
- Many in our country and our world are doing without basic necessities. Pray that they may be given what they need — especially spiritual hope.
- Long term illness is not only physically demanding but mentally challenging. Pray for those that are battling such illnesses. May they and their families be blessed with peace, strength, and hope in a physical and mental recovery.
- The children and youth of our church and beyond are facing so many enticements in our current society. Pray for a strong family center that



will help them avoid the pitfalls of materialism and having a “me, me, me” attitude. Pray for parents to be strong examples for doing what is right.

- Losing someone dear to you is always heartbreaking — especially if there is suffering involved. Pray for comfort and peace and a knowledge that love never dies for those who mourn.
- Nature is a gift from God to be enjoyed and wondered at. Pray that we be in constant awe of the intricacies of the world we live in and that we will be good stewards of that gift.
- Our pastors are people just like us. They have strengths and weaknesses. Pray that God will use their strengths to lead us. Pray that they be surrounded and upheld by this congregation when they need help with their weaknesses.
- Pray with all your strength.

The Prayer Team meets the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Prayer Room above the narthex. If you have joys or concerns that you would like us to pray about at any time, contact either Sue Chapman or Deb Kenes.



*Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Calvary Love**

*(Continued from page 16)*

**If I feel injured** when another lays to my charge things that I know not, forgetting that my sinless Savior trod this path to the end, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If I feel bitter** toward those who condemn me, as it seems to me, unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If souls can suffer** alongside, and I hardly know it, because the spirit of discernment is not in me, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If I slip into** the place that can be filled by Christ alone, making myself the first necessity to a soul instead of leading it to fasten upon Him, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If my interest** in the work of others is cool; if I think in terms of my own special work; if the burdens of others are not my burdens too, and their joys mine, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If I wonder** why something trying is allowed, and press for prayer that it may be removed; if I cannot be trusted with any disappointment, and cannot go on in peace under any mystery, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If the ultimate,** the hardest, cannot be asked of me; if my fellows hesitate to ask it and turn to someone else, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

**If I covet** any place on earth but the dust at the foot of the Cross, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

That which I know not, teach Thou me, O Lord, my God.

*Amy Carmichael, excerpt from "Calvary Love," from If, by Dohnavur Fellowship. Fort Washington, PA: CLC Ministries, n.d.*

## Calvary Love

If I belittle those whom I am called to serve, talk of their weak points in contrast perhaps with what I think of as my strong points; if I adopt a superior attitude, forgetting "Who made thee to differ? And what hast thou that thou hast not received?" then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I can enjoy a joke at the expense of another; if I can in any way slight another in conversation, or even in thought, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I can write an unkind letter, speak an unkind word, think an unkind thought without grief and shame, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I do not feel far more for the grieved Savior than for my worried self when troublesome things occur, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I can rebuke without a pang, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If my attitude be one of fear, not faith, about one who has disappointed me; if I say, "Just what I expected" if a fall occurs, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I am afraid to speak the truth, lest I lose affection, ... then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I hold on to choices of any kind, just because they are my choice, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If, the moment I am conscious of the shadow of self crossing my threshold, I do not shut the door, and keep that door shut, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

If I take offense easily, if I am content to continue in a cool unfriendliness, though friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

(Continued on page 17)

## Don't Worry, Be Fearless!

THE BIBLE HAS MANY REFERENCES REGARDING FEAR. Often it is referring to fear as a form of awe toward God, but at other times the Bible refers to fear as in being afraid. God does not want His people to be afraid or to worry unnecessarily. He tells us not to be afraid because He is with us even to the end of the earth. He tells us to be strong and courageous and to trust in Him for all our needs. He tells us that He will gather us under His wings as a mother hen gathers her chicks. He tells us that He is a strong tower that the righteous can run to and be safe.

"Righteous," that is all we need to come under the power and protection of the almighty God. All we have to do is believe in Him, turn from our sins and follow Him. The effort to be righteous, though sometimes difficult, is really very simple, if we follow the guidelines that God sets forth for us in His Word.

We read those words and talk about them a lot, but sometimes, in the heat of everyday life, we can be distracted from those truths. Recently, my husband was in the hospital suffering from a staph infection in his knee that had been replaced thirteen months before. It shouldn't have happened, but the reality of the situation was not good. The possible things that could happen as a result of the infection were really scary. He was to have surgery which might entail a complete knee replacement. Even with surgery, the odds were 50/50 that the infection could be cured. We later learned that the odds are now one in four regarding the particular bacteria that he has. Many weeks of antibiotic infusion would be required with no guarantee that the problem would be cured.

Fortunately, Pastor Don Ciampa and his wife, Joanne, stopped at the hospital for a visit. After hearing the news, Pastor Don, began to pray. As he prayed the words of

comfort and assurance of God's love and care for us, a very heavy weight was lifted from my shoulders. I still was concerned, but I felt better. That night as I drove home, I began to talk to God, and He began to speak to my spirit. I began to remember all the times that I have consoled friends and taught classes on prayer. Many times I have told others to trust God and He will take care of them. Suddenly I realized that if I could tell others that and believe it for them; why wouldn't the God that I love and try so hard to serve do the same for me. I began to think about the possibilities that we were facing and there were many different scenarios that came to my mind. Each thought was followed with the words: "I will be with you through that," "I will be with you through that, too." "Remember when I was with you all the other times that you needed me." "Do you think that I would leave you powerless now?" Of course, God loves me and He loves my husband. Even if the worst possible things happened to us, He will not leave us. No matter what happens, if we want Him then we will have Him. How simple is that? Love and trust, those are better words than fear and worry.

As we completed the first surgery and began the treatment, the doctor said, "Now we just have to pray that his immune system will be able to do its job." No, we have to pray that whatever the outcome of this situation may be, our God will remain close to us, helping us. I know for sure that He will not leave us powerless and alone! We can do whatever we have to do with the help of Almighty God. "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything... don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace." Philippians 4:6,7

Sue Chapman

## Important News On Mission Central Accepting Donations Of Children's Articles

Due to the enactment of H.R. 4040 (also known as CPSIA 101) Mission Central can neither accept nor distribute clothing, toys, cribs, or any other articles designed for use by children under the age of 12 due to possible lead contamination.\*

I have had lengthy conversations with Congressman Platt's Chief of Staff in his Washington D.C. office and we are, indeed, subject to the ruling of this law. The good news is that, until my call, no one was even thinking about how this law would impact charitable organizations. We are now, at least, on their radar for new legislation. Please call Mission Central at 766-1533 with any questions.

Eric R. DeWalt  
Mission Central

\*Note: First Church is also impacted by this law. As a result, we can neither accept or distribute used articles designed for children under age 12.

## Mission Opportunity

FUMC GROCERY BAGGING for Bethesda Mission at Mission Central on Wednesday, April 15, at 6 pm. Contact Eric King for information at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net .



## Penny Report

THERE WERE 1,000 PENNIES contributed this past month for a total to date of \$7,488.07. The church would like to thank all those who continue to support the African Well Project.

## New Hope Ministries Info

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES has been invited to participate in the annual "\$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger" offered through the Feinstein Foundation. During the period March 1 – April 30 donations are "matched" on a proportionate share basis. The more of a donation you make to New Hope during this period, the more of the Feinstein money they receive. Donations may be cash or food. (Don't forget about the Walk for Hope on April 19...this counts too!) Help New Hope multiply your blessing and donate before April 30.

If you like basketball, you'll want to help with the Hoops for Hope Basketball Tournament on Saturday, May 2. For more information contact Becky Bubb or go to the New Hope Link under Missions on our church website.

## New Hope Grocery List

- Pears
- Mayonnaise
- Juice
- Jelly
- Coffee
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Kidney & Pinto Beans
- Salt and Pepper
- Scalloped/ Au Gratin Potatoes
- Beef Stew
- Canned Ravioli
- Bisquick
- Canned Potatoes
- Cleaning Products
- Tampons/Pads

## Mission Central Job Search Center

Recently, Mission Central opened a Job Search center to assist individuals looking for work. The center has free internet computers for use as well as a library of reference materials. As the word has spread, they are being contacted by employers with positions available. If you know of someone looking for work, this is another resource for possible employment.

## "I Took Your Place"

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near him. The driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday school, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

## Thank You

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous donation. There is not a day that goes by when I do not count my blessing for everyone that is supporting the mission of this institution.

Thank you for the art supplies and easels (collected at January UMW meeting).

Sincerely,  
Deaconess Joanne Finley,  
North Rampart Community Center  
(New Orleans)

P. S. As you continue giving with a grateful heart, God is watching and smiling down at you because you are truly one of his angels.

## UMW Circle Co-Presidents:

Lori Hoffnagle 732-6430  
Pat Sheely 766-3151

## UMW 2009 Calendar

April 19	Spiritual Enrichment Day Young's UM Church 2 pm
May 9	Mother-Daughter Banquet 5-7 pm
July 16-19	Schools of Christian Mission Bucknell University
August 21-22	Secondhand Clothing Sale
October 4	Annual Day Shepherdstown UM 2-6 pm
November 15	World Thank Offering & Mission Meal
December 5	Advent Fellowship

## Circle Meeting Dates & Times

Introducing: **MARY CIRCLE**

**April 24** (4th Friday)  
9:30 to 10:30 am  
Church Library  
Janice Bowen\*  
796-0809  
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

The new day circle has a name! Come check it out. New members are welcome! Child care is available. Child care workers are needed! Contact Janice Bowen if you can help.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

**April 3** (1st Friday)  
9-10:30am  
Church Library  
Patti Herring\*  
795-9721  
familyzeke@verizon.net

**DEBORAH CIRCLE**

**April 14** (3rd Tuesday)  
Your Daily Grind, Carlisle Pike  
5:30pm  
Becky Bubb\*  
691-7680  
becky.bubb@dataquestinc.com

**RUTH CIRCLE**

**April 1** (1st Wednesday)  
11:15 am — Hoss's, Mechanicsburg  
Doris Nesbit\* 766-8266  
& Beryl Morgan\*  
Everyone Welcome!

**MARTHA CIRCLE**

**April 7** (1st Tuesday)  
7pm — Debbie Hamsher's house  
167 Brindle Rd.  
Marley Ann Schmick\*  
697-2233

**NEW EVENING CIRCLE**

Mandy McMillin\*  
**Friday, April 24**, 7 pm  
Room B-002

\*Circle Leaders

## Annual Mother – Daughter Banquet

Saturday, May 9

5-7pm

Fellowship Hall

Tickets:  
\$7 (adults)  
\$3 (children)  
under 3 (free)



Susan DuVall from the Dollhouse Museum in Harrisburg will be speaking about antique dolls. Please bring along your favorite doll so that you can share your favorite memories at your table and possibly have Susan give you more information about your doll.

Ticket sales: 4/19, 4/26, and 5/3 or by calling Patti Herring at 795-9721

A UMW member will be available at the information desk in the Narthex following Sunday morning services on these dates for ticket purchases.

## Secondhand Clothing Sale

**NEW AND IMPROVED!** To better serve our clientele we will be accepting adult clothing only for the sale. These items will be displayed by size and season. (No children's clothing due to the enactment of H.R. 4040 as briefly explained on page 5).

**Collection Dates:**

- May 14 & 28
- June 11 & 25
- July 9 & 23
- 5 to 7 pm at Mission Central

Household items and toys will no longer be collected. (The "New Digs" ministry does collect household items and furniture and can be contacted through Mission Central)

Contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430 or l\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com with any questions.

## April Library News

**APRIL IS THE MONTH I LIKE** to celebrate Easter. It is beginning to feel like spring and a time of new beginnings and new birth. When Easter is in March, it feels like it is still winter and not the right time to be celebrating Easter. But just like Christmas, Christians should make every day just like Easter in their hearts. Remembering Christ's sacrifice for us should change the way we live every day. Do you ever wonder how the founders of the church lived every day? Many expected the second coming of Christ to be in their lifetime. Many were persecuted for their faith.

With this theme in mind, the library has several books of historical fiction set in the times of Christ. The newest is a new series by Jannette Oke and Davis Bunn. In the **CENTURION'S WIFE** they take us back to the time right after Jesus' death. Leah, a Jewess, is forced by her family's economic misfortune to take a position in Pilate's household as a maid to his wife. She is also facing an arranged marriage to a Roman soldier, Alban. Alban is consumed with furthering his career and Pilate commands he find out what has happened to the body of the Jewish Rabbi who was sentenced to death by Pilate. Leah's mistress also wants to know the fate of Jesus' body, the man she told her husband to spare. There is much at stake as Jesus' death has caused much furor, and Pilate does not want it to tarnish his career. The story is threaded with unlikely romance, danger and betrayal. Don't miss the start of this new series *Acts of Faith*.

## Widows/Widowers Group

The Widows/Widowers Group will dine at DaVinci's in Hogestown on Tuesday evening, April 14, at 6 pm. Please contact Bonnie Guyer at 766-0145, if you plan on attending. Transportation will provided from the church parking lot.

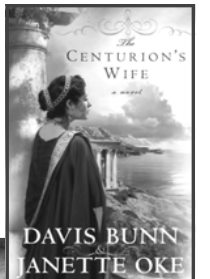
Many of you tell us you like to wait to read a series until there are several books out so you don't have to wait for the next book. If that is your criteria, we have the perfect series for you. Bodie and Brock Thoene have written the *A.D. Chronicles Series* set in the time just prior to Christ's birth and through the time of his death. The library has the first eight books and the ninth will be out soon. If you have not read any of the Thoenes' work, you are in for a treat. The Thoenes are a husband and wife team who has been writing historical fiction for over twenty years. Their attention to accuracy and detail only add to their powerful writing style. In the *A. D. Chronicles* they bring the people Jesus encountered to the forefront and make them three-dimensional characters. In the book **EIGHTH SHEPHERD**, they bring to light the lives of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, Shimona, the former leper, and Salmon, the slave with the daughter who is dying. Though these books are fictional, they bring the Bible to life, and you will experience the life of Jesus as never before.

Stop in the library so we can show you these books as well as other historical fiction books. Reading historical fiction can both entertain and educate you. You may just discover that you like them!

See you in the library!

*Fran, Pam & Donna*

"...the library has several books of historical fiction set in the times of Christ."



## Softball

First Church's softball team will be practicing during the month of April in preparation for the start of the 2009 West Shore Churches Slowpitch Softball League season the week of May 4.

Practice details aren't finalized yet, so watch the weekly church bulletin for more information. Points of contact are Roger Walton (rogerw53@comcast.net) and Eric Dewalt (ericdewalt65@msn.com)



## A Choir Reunion

**THERE'S STILL TIME** to be a part of a special choir event planned for Easter. The Music Department is inviting all former choir members, and anyone else who likes to sing to join with the Sounds of Worship and Sanctuary Choirs to form one large voice of praise. See the times below for rehearsal and performance dates.

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

April 9, 7 pm — Maundy Thursday service, 2 anthems

April 12, 10:45 am — Easter worship service, an Easter anthem, an Introit, and Handel's Hallelujah Chorus

### REHEARSAL TIMES:

April 9 — following the Maundy Thursday service

April 12, 10:15 am — Easter Sunday morning, rehearsal in the basement

For non-choir members, feel free to attend any of these rehearsal times that are convenient for you. The important thing is to plan to be a part of this event and rehearse with us at least once. Easter is a time of celebration and an enhanced choir certainly will add to that celebration.

Tom Mullikin



## A Message to the People of the United Methodist Church

*from the President of the Council of Bishops,  
Chair of the Table of General Secretaries,  
and the Chair of the Connectional Table*

The global financial crisis is bringing hardship and suffering to people in every part of the world. For those in wealthy nations, it causes anxiety and uncertainty about declining pension accounts and the threat of lost jobs. Others are coping with unemployment and foreclosed mortgages. And for still others who live in places with scarce resources or exist in conditions of poverty, it means empty stomachs, lack of care for urgent health needs, and no prospects to earn a day's bread.

The International Labor Organization projects a lost of 50 million jobs globally by the end of 2009. The World Bank warns that an additional 53 million people will fall into poverty (living on less than \$2 per day) and that 200,000 to 400,000 more children will die by 2015 if the crisis persists.

Local congregations, annual conferences, and the general agencies likewise face economic constraints, requiring them to reassess how they carry out ministry and to seek greater effectiveness and economies while keeping focused on loving God and neighbor.

In addition, the crisis is generating increasing global unrest and violence, creating even more misery and an insecure world. It is a prophetic reminder that our destiny as a worldwide community and a global church is interwoven with complex bonds of prosperity, security, dignity, and justice. We are no more secure than the most vulnerable among us; no more prosperous than the poorest; and no more assured of justice and dignity than those who live in the shadows of power, void of fairness and equity. We reclaim anew Jesus' teaching, "as you [cared for] the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40), as an urgent appeal for how we can live today.

At all times, but especially in fearful and dangerous days, we followers of Jesus are called to live in hope and in the assur-

ance that God is present with us. Facing hard times, the Apostle Paul asked: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35, 37, 39).

To the Israelites, having lost everything and living in exile, God offered assurance: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10). The psalmists are similarly convinced: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear" (Psalm 46:1-2).

With this firm assurance that the whole of creation lives within the embrace of a loving God, we are confident that the Four Areas of Focus for the mission and ministry of the People of the United Methodist Church affirmed by General Conference 2008 are among the most important ways we faithfully bear witness to the Gospel. We urgently need principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. People searching for meaning are seeking new places of welcome and hospitality for worship, prayer, and spiritual growth. It is abundantly evident that United Methodists must engage in ministry with the poor and tackle the diseases of poverty that rob people of the fullness of life, health, and wholeness.

As we enter into the season of Lent we are called to reflection, repentance, and sacrificial living. Lent is a time of preparation when we look beyond human frailty

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Servant Spotlight: College/Military Ministry

**SOME MEMBERS** of First United Methodist Church may live far from home, but they can still remain close to our congregation through the College/Military Ministry.

This ministry group, an outreach of the Adult Education Department, ensures that First Church keeps in frequent touch with members who are attending college or serving in the military.

First Church member Sandy Leister leads the College/Military Ministry.

"We want to stay in touch," said Sandy. "And, when they come home for breaks, we want them to remember First Church and come back to us."

All First Church members who currently attend college or are serving in the military are invited to sign up for our mailing list. Names and addresses are collected each summer.

Currently, the College/Military Ministry keeps in touch with 45 college students and three members of the military.

The ministry group sends mailings five or six times during the school year. The mailings are typically sent in the fall, at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and just before year-end final exams.

"Sometimes a simple note is sent, just to let them know that we are thinking about them," said Sandy.

Other times, the group sends snack items or a small gift.

In late April, just before year-end final exams, the ministry group sends a care package with several snack items such as candy, gum, pretzels or microwave popcorn.

"The students love it!" said Sandy.

The ministry group has a budget to finance the cost of the mailings and care package supplies, but donations are accepted from the congregation.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Donate individually-wrapped snack items for the care packages to be sent this spring.
- Volunteers to help prepare mailings and assemble the packages are always welcome.
- Be a prayer partner to one of the students or military members.

*"Servant Spotlight," a monthly column in First News First, highlights a committee or ministry group within First Church. Our goal is to recognize them, and help our congregation better understand how each committee or group enhances First Church. If you are interested in featuring your committee or ministry group in "Servant Spotlight," please call or email Tina Eaton, Congregational Care Coordinator, at (717) 766-4611, extension 104, or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).*

## Care Packages & Prayer Partners:

*Ministering to our  
Students & Military*



The College/Military Ministry Committee will be assembling "care packages" to send to FUM College students and military members on April 19 at 12 noon in the Youth Department. Donations of items to be in packages will be collected.

Items include:

- granola bars,
- small bags of snacks,
- crackers,
- candy and gum,
- hot cocoa/coffee packets,
- tea bags,
- ramen noodles,
- small boxes of cereal,
- fruit snacks,
- and microwave popcorn.

Please — no items containing liquids or anything that could easily break!

Please place donated items in the labeled bin in the Narthex by April 12.

There will also be a display in the Narthex to be a prayer partner to one of the college/military members during their finals/service time. Please consider being a prayer partner.

If you would like to help or have any questions, call Sandy Leister at 795-7052.

Thank you for your support.

Matthew 13:45&46



Matthew 13:44-46

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."*

# Adult Education

"...to know Christ..." *Philippians 3:10*

## Psalm 150

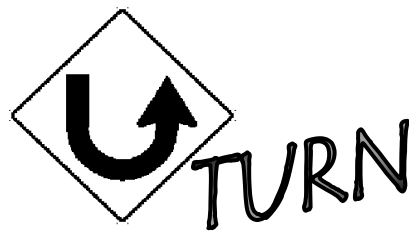
APRIL 19  
7 PM



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" *Luke 24:32*

Join us in a celebration of Christ's resurrection, as we share together in music and testimony.

Team Rehearsal 5:30-6:30 pm  
Child care 5:30- 8 pm



### U-Turn Contemporary Worship Service

April 26 —  
Featuring Sierre Leone presentation

Please Join Us!

### Baptism Class for 3 Weeks

May 3, 10, and 17

Room 118 in the Children's Wing

This 3-week class is being offered for parents who are preparing to have, or who have recently had, a child baptized. The class will discuss the meaning of the sacrament of baptism and the importance of the parent's role in a child's faith development. Families will be able to connect with others with young children in our church. The class will be held during the Sunday School hour from 9:30 – 10:30 in the Children's Education Wing.

Class Facilitators:

Pastors Mike Minnix and  
Lucretia Browning

### Special Six-Week Legacy Study

THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED  
by John Ortberg

April 19-May 24

If you're tired of the status quo — if you suspect there is more to Christianity than what you've experienced — this study invites you to walk the road to transformation and spiritual vigor that anyone can take. Join any of the following ongoing Sunday School classes who will be participating in this study in recognition of our focus this spring on Legacy.

- Faithful Families - Room B-006
- A Look at the Book - Fellowship Hall
- Growing as a Christian - Room 203

**All members of First Church are invited!**

**All members of First Church are welcome to participate!**

**1st Annual Variety & Dessert Show**

**May 30 from 7-9 PM**

*hosted by the Red Lake Minnesota mission-bound youth.*

It will be a family-oriented evening of fellowship and fun and all for God's Glory.

All of First Church is encouraged to participate in an act or to just come and enjoy.

**Tickets go on sale April 18 (at the Pancake Breakfast).**

\$5 adults and students, \$3 ages 4-10, children under 3 free.

Applications for anyone wanting to perform can be found at the Information Desk.  
Please get it in ASAP!!!  
Remember — think outside the box.  
It is going to be a great night!!!

### Girls' Sleepover

FRIDAY APRIL 24, 7 PM TO SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 9 AM.

Celebrate God and a night with the girls. All girls in 1st through 6th grades are welcome! Fun for moms too!

- [1] Plan to attend the girls' sleepover
- [2] Invite a friend to come too.
- [3] RSVP by turning in your permission form.

Bring your friends, your sleeping bag, a pillow, and a snack to share. Throughout the evening we will be playing games, making crafts, and watching a special movie. Plan on coming and invite your friends today! Extra permission forms are located at the end of the children's Sunday school hallway or on the community section of the church web page [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com). For more information, contact Kim at 766-4611 or [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).



### Camp E.D.G.E. VBS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

JUNE 22 – 26 FROM 9 AM – NOON

Vacation Bible School 2009 takes your children to an extreme adventure camp where they Experience and Discover God Everywhere! Camp E.D.G.E. VBS is not your typical stroll through the woods. It's an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids their strength and might come from God. Through rockin' contemporary music, larger-than-life recreation games, mind-boggling science activities, extreme sports videos, and cool, challenging crafts, you'll show your kids how to live on the E.D.G.E. in their faith.

#### VOLUNTEER!

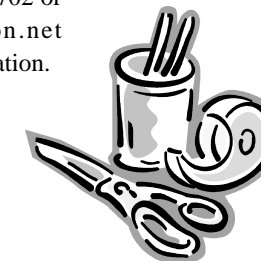
Vacation Bible School is a huge outreach event to children and their families in our community. Adult and youth volunteers are needed in all areas. Consider how you can use your gifts and talents to make VBS 2009 a success. Teachers and helpers are needed for all ages and in Recreation, Craft, Music, and Snack. Contact Kim Vensel at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com) to join the Camp E.D.G.E. adventure.



### Help Wanted

There will be a "prep day" for Vacation Bible School crafts on Saturday, April 4, from 9 to 11 am in room 216. We are planning for 300 kids, so your hands are needed to help get crafts ready. No creativity or craftiness are required!

Tasks to complete are: tying ribbons, cutting sheets of Bible verses, and printing "VBS '09" on backpacks. Babysitting will be provided. Please contact Michelle Coover at 574-8702 or [coov8@verizon.net](mailto:coov8@verizon.net) for more information.



### Friday, April 24 — Saturday, April 25

### Girls' Sleepover Permission Form

My daughter \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to attend the First United Methodist Church Girls' Sleepover sponsored by the children's department, beginning at 7 pm on Friday, April 24, and ending at 9 am on Saturday, April 25.

Please be aware that she/he has \_\_\_\_\_ as a special concern. In case of an emergency I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ My child will be picked up by \_\_\_\_\_ at First Church at 7 pm.

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

### One of the Best Things First Church Offers

*Created by God: Parents and Church Partnering to Prepare Preteens with a Healthy, Faithful Understanding of Human Sexuality*

Dates: August 10-14, 2009  
led by Dr. Jim Ritchie

“Created by God” brings together preteens (ages 10-13), their parents, and adult leaders for a faith-filled, comprehensive study of human sexuality—atomy, growth and development, reproduction, and God’s call to intimacy and responsibility. Jim Ritchie developed this study for Abingdon Press and is an advocate for the appropriateness of helping preteens deal with their rapidly emerging sexuality in a Godly setting.

Jim Ritchie has led this program at First Church for the last three years. It has been extremely well received. Here are some of the comments from First Church participants:

- “Created by God was a blessing for our family. It created and fostered an increased comfort level in communication between us and our daughter about ANY subject. She feels safe in asking US (mom and dad) any and all questions and /or concerns she may be having regarding human sexuality and relationships.” — parent
- “It was pretty good. There is a high level of detail but you have to know it sooner or later, and this is a fun way!” — 10 year old male participant
- “I would say I had a good experience and became more relaxed about what we were talking about by the end” — 11 year old female participant

More information will be available in upcoming newsletters, or contact Kim Vensel.

### Club Can-Do: Kids Called to Care — Summer 2009

“Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.” 1 John 3:18, CEV

We are trying a new approach for summer Sunday school. This summer, during the Sunday School hour the children (Kindergarten – 6th grade) are invited with their family to join us each week in the multipurpose room for Club Can-Do; Kids Called to Care.

Experience different kid-focused inter-generational interactive programs each week at Club Can-Do. All will help us grow in our understanding of how we can use who we are and what we have to impact others for God. This summer join Club Can-Do and use your gifts and talents to serve God.

DATE	PROGRAM
May 31	Pentecost: One Service 9:30 No Sunday School
June 7	VBS Preview: Come and Preview the fun we will have at Camp EDGE
June 14	CURE Day: Learn more and be a part of the CURE Mission.
June 21	Can-Do's Birthday Party: Celebrate the legacy of the Can-Do Spirit
June 28	Boomwackers: The Crull family returns to share their love for God
July 5	"I'm in the Lord's Army" Day
July 12	Magic of God's Love: Bob Bracilano Magician/Ventriloquist
July 19	Sierra Leone: JeNeal Guise and Steve Trace share about our sister church
July 26	ACCESS Ministries
August 2	Make a Joyful Noise: Hymn sing in the Adult Sunday School Room
August 9	Youth Mission Trip: Be inspired by our youth and their experiences in Mission
August 16	Mission Kits: Complete Mission Kits for Mission Central
August 23	Movie Morning
August 30	"What's Wonderful Wednesday?" Learn about bells and choir too.
September 6	Seed Time and Harvest: Elva Hurst, Chalk artist
September 13	Fall Sunday School Begins



**CLUB CAN-DO FOR PRESCHOOLERS:** Our youngest members of Club Can-Do are just beginning to learn about the world around them. What better time than now to instill in their minds the spiritual truths of the positive attributes of God. Each lesson this summer is a stepping stone to help build a child’s belief in God and understanding of God. Included each week are crafts, games, songs, a story, and prayer.

The Stepping Stones of Faith the children will experience are:

- God loves me
- God cares about all of me
- God understands my feelings
- God is always with me
- God will help me when I am afraid
- God will listen when I pray
- God likes to be praised
- God wants me to help other people
- God keeps his promises
- God made the world and God made me
- God is good
- God will never stop loving me

Preschoolers ages three to four will meet in room 122. Teachers and helpers will be needed throughout the summer. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kim at 766-4611, ext. 102, or kidscount@fumchurch.com.

### Sunday Youth Activities

- APRIL 5**  
Passion Play Practice 1:30-5:30
- APRIL 12**  
Sabbath Sunday  
**No Youth Fellowship or Groups**
- APRIL 19**  
No Junior High Youth Fellowship  
Senior High Youth Fellowship 5-6:30
- APRIL 26**  
Junior High Small Groups 5-6:30  
Senior High Bible Study 5-6:30



**Youth Choir**  
Sunday Evenings 6:30—7:30

### Confirmation Trip

**THE CONFIRMATION CLASSES** of First Church will go on a trip to Washington DC on Saturday, April 18. This is a very exciting opportunity for our confirmands as we will visit the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) of the UMC. We are grateful that staff members are willing to take some of their Saturday time to talk with us about this important arm of our church.

So, just what is the GBCS?

The GBCS is one of four program general boards of our denomination. The purpose of the Board is to seek implementation of the Social Principles of our church. It is the public policy and social action agency of our denomination.

GBCS represents and interprets the public policy positions of The United

### Upcoming Events

- MAY 1-3**  
Combined Retreat lead by Salt 'n Light
- MAY 17**  
Senior Psalm 150 testimonies
- MAY 30**  
1st Annual Variety & Dessert Show

### Spotlight on Youth

**OUR YOUTH ARE INCREDIBLE!!!**

Congrats to all the AMAZING YOUTH that performed or technically assisted with high school musicals.

*You are a blessing to God's Kingdom on earth!*

Methodist Church on current issues such as: environmental protection, world peace, economic justice, human rights, civil rights, women’s rights, alcohol and other addictions, medical ethics, healthcare, mental healthcare. In addition they provide a voice for the United Methodist Church through advocacy at The United Nations.

The Board has offices in NYC in the Church Center of the UN as well as the one we will visit in Washington. It is the only religious office building on Capitol Hill, which provides a significant religious presence in our nation’s capitol.

If you are interested in traveling with our confirmation group for this experience, please contact Lucretia Browning.



### What's Happenin' This Month?

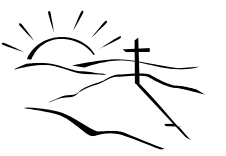
**APRIL 2-5**  
Mechanicsburg Musical

**APRIL 3-5**  
Cumberland Valley Musical

**APRIL 8**  
Passion Play  
(Youth come at 4 pm)

**APRIL 12 6:27am**  
Sunrise Service at Mechanicsburg Cemetery  
Breakfast immediately following service for all that attend.

**APRIL 18 7 am**  
Pancake Breakfast  
(youth sign up in the lounge)  
**7:30 am**  
Departure time for Confirmation Trip to Washington, DC



Sunday School



Raising Children to Love their Neighbors

Teach children the vocabulary of compassion by using it every day in conversations with them.

To raise compassionate children, catch them in the act of being compassionate.

Children's Sunday School

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT is eager to welcome you and your children to Sunday School.

Classes for Newborns and children through Pre-Kindergarten are located on the first floor of the children's department.

Guess what I learned in Sunday School!

APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY

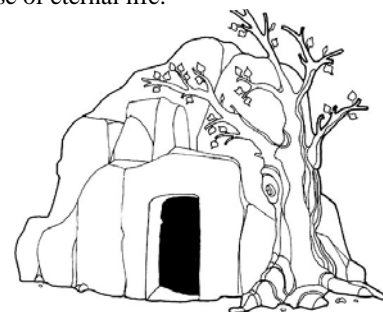
THREE-YEAR-OLDS - KINDERGARTEN: Hosanna! Luke 19:28-40, Mark 11:1-11

FIRST-FIFTH GRADE: Not Really the End, John 18:28-19:30, Jesus died for us

6TH GRADE: Crucifixion and Burial, Matthew 27:27-66 Jesus suffered and died for all people for all time and that includes us.

APRIL 12 EASTER SUNDAY

THREE-YEAR-OLDS - GRADE 6: The Resurrection - Jesus Lives, Matthew 28:1-10, On Easter, we celebrate because Jesus is alive!



Sunday School or Worship childcare staff to contact you if your child needs you.

It is appreciated if you would complete an "All About..." form for your family.



APRIL 19

THREE-YEAR-OLDS - GRADE 6: The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35, Two friends met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and they knew that Jesus was alive.

APRIL 26

THREE-YEAR-OLDS - GRADE 5: The Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus told his helpers to tell the whole world about him.

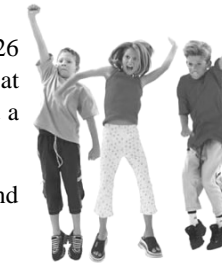
GRADE 6: The Ascension, Luke 24:44-53, We respond to Jesus in worship and preparation.

Tween Fellowship (4th-6th grades): April 26 - 4-7 pm

Each Sunday Tween Fellowship combines fellowship with friends through sharing food, play, a brief Bible message, prayer, and a service project.

If you are in 4th - 6th grade you are invited to join us on April 26 for Tween Fellowship.

Please come and join the fun! Bring your friends too! Mom and Dad can plan to pick you up at 7 pm.



Nurture Your Children's Gifts

One joy of parenthood is watching for signs of children's developing talents.

Children are blessed with other "talents" that need nurturing as well.

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

There are different opinions about the number and categorization of spiritual gifts.

- Prophecy—Boldly speaking out about your faith.
Serving—Working to meet the needs of other people.
Teaching—Helping other people understand Scripture.
Encouraging—Building up and motivating others.
Giving—Being generous to others in need.
Leading—Showing organizational and directing skills.
Mercy—Showing kindness and compassion to others.

As a parent, you have a unique vantage point to observe your children's growth and gifts.

- Why does God give people different talents? How can you tell if something is merely an interest or a special gift?
What spiritual gifts do you think you might have, and why?
What are some ways you can use your gifts to serve God and other people? How does it feel when you do that?
How can knowing about your gifts help you figure out God's special plan for your life?

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.... Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10-11

God doesn't want us to bury or waste our spiritual gifts. Instead, he tells us to "give" them away to other people through service.

Seek out ways that your children can serve at church or in the children's ministry.

Sunday April 26, 2009

Tween Fellowship Prayer Labyrinth Permission Form
My daughter/son has permission to attend the First United Methodist Church trip to a prayer labyrinth at the Unity Church in Enola with Tween Fellowship.

Please be aware that she/he has as a special concern. In case of an emergency I can be reached at My child will be picked up by at First Church at 7 pm.

Signature of parent/guardian Date Relationship to child