



First News First

March 2018

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

*Opening Doors with Christ,
One Another and Our Neighbors*

"The Quiet Center "

Recently I attended our annual First UMC Men's Retreat at Wesley Forest, one of our conference camps located about 80 miles north of Mechanicsburg. Every time I visit the camp, tucked quietly in the mountains of central Pennsylvania, my mind is flooded with memories of retreats and meetings I've attended there over the past 35 years. One experience in particular comes to mind whenever I visit Wesley Forest.

It was mid-February, 1987. I had been asked by a conference committee to lead a silent retreat. My mom and two women from the churches I served in York accompanied me. We joined about 20 others. The plan was to observe silence from after our evening meal on Sunday until lunchtime on Tuesday. Every three hours around the clock we would come together for brief worship. We would eat meals in silence, too, with someone reading to us while we enjoyed the food.

For the first several hours, keeping silent was difficult. It was a busy time in the churches I served and I was distracted by all the other things I might be doing back home. In the silence, I also realized how noisy my day to day life was. We didn't have computers and smart phones back then, but there was plenty to fill up our quiet spaces. Frankly, a few hours in, I wondered if I could make it to Tuesday without talking. Then, a remarkable thing happened. Our little community entered into the rhythm of worship, followed by silence, at 9:00 p.m., and midnight, and 3:00 a.m., and 6:00 a.m., and every three hours thereafter, and I found that I was drawn into the silence.

24 hours into our retreat, on Monday evening, it started to snow. By breakfast Tuesday morning, all of Wesley Forest glistened with a thick blanket of white. That morning, I trudged through a foot of new fallen snow into the woods. Far from the lodge, I stopped to soak in my surroundings. The breeze was cool and fresh brushing against my face. The contours of the evergreens covered in snow were amazing. The silence was deep and rich. Overcome with a sense of awe, my eyes welled up with tears. I had a sense that God was there with me and that I was totally and unconditionally loved.

Before long, I was driving home on a busy highway with three dear women happily chatting away in the car. Then, I was home, surrounded by the wonderful noise of a house with little ones and back in the busy routine of ministry. But in the days that followed I was more rested, more attentive to those around me, more centered in my devotions, more energized for ministry.

Being back at Wesley Forest with our men, I recalled again the blessing of what I experience there so long ago. While I would encourage everyone to take silent retreats, I know that such experiences are not for everyone. Retreats like our men have each year at Wesley Forest are great, but rare. Still, it's important for all of us to create margins in our lives where we can be still and quiet in God's presence.

This year we're involved in the **"Be One, Make One, Discipleship Challenge"**. We're all invited to set apart time each day to read and meditate on God's Word, to keep a journal, and to pray. I trust that you are finding, as I am, that keeping this daily discipline is creating a quiet center from which you can live your life. My prayer is that you discover joy and peace as you receive the gracious invitation of our Lord Jesus and, **"Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while."** (Mark 6:31).

Seeking the quiet center with you,
Pastor Denny



**BE ONE. DISCIPLE
MAKE ONE.**



Week 9: Theme ~ *Testing*

- February 26** *This Is a Test*
Job 23:1-12; 1 Peter 1:3-12
- February 27** *The Ultimate Test*
Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:8-19
- February 28** *Bread from Heaven*
Exodus 15:22-16:35
- March 1** *The Money Test*
Luke 18:18-30
- March 2** *The Other Side*
Psalm 66
- March 3** Relax & Reflect
- March 4** Worship

Week 10: Theme ~ *Character*

- March 5** *Getting Ahead*
Genesis 27:1-28:9
- March 6** *Character Transformation*
Genesis 28:10-29:30
- March 7** *Jealousy*
Genesis 29:31-30:43
- March 8** *Break Away*
Genesis 31:1-55
- March 9** *Healing*
Genesis 32:1-33:20
- March 10** Relax & Reflect
- March 11** Worship

Week 11: Theme ~ *Perseverance*

- March 12** *Count It Joy*
James 1:2-12; John 15:1-11
- March 13** *Faith in the Face of Fear*
Exodus 14:5-31
- March 14** *Community Support*
Exodus 17:8-16; Psalm 20
- March 15** *Jesus Calls His Disciples to Persevere*
Matthew 24:1-14, 36-51, 25:1-13

- March 16** *Nothing Can Separate Us*
Romans 8:28-39; Isaiah 40:25-31
- March 17** Relax & Reflect
- March 18** Worship

Week 12: Theme ~ *Obedience*

- March 19** *Choosing Obedience*
Jonah 1:1-2:10
- March 20** *God's Promise*
Jonah 3:1-10; James 1:22-25
- March 21** *Not Knowing*
Genesis 6:13-22; Luke 5:1-11
- March 22** *Hearing God's Call*
Psalm 119:9-16, 33-40, 57-64, 97-104
- March 23** *Obedience that Leads Others to Christ*
Acts 3:1-16, 4:1-22
- March 24** Relax & Reflect
- March 25** Worship

Week 13: Theme ~ *Second Chances*

- March 26** *The Ultimate Second Chance*
Matthew 16:13-28
- March 27** *Denial*
John 18:15-27, 21:1-19
- March 28** *Grace upon Grace*
John 8:2-11; Hebrews 4:14-16
- March 29** *Good and Bad Attitudes*
Luke 15:11-32
- March 30** *Never Too Late*
John 5:1-15; Psalm 130
- March 31** Relax & Reflect
- April 1** Worship

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a First Church member? If so, you are invited to a new member introductory class on Sunday, March 4 from 9:30 – 10:30 am in Pastor Denny's office (room 201). On that day you will get to know the pastors and each other better, plus receive materials for the 6-week new member study, A Disciple's Path. Please sign-up at the display in the main lobby or contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Bible Studies

There are many ways to be engaged in Bible study at First Church. Some are ongoing and some are short-term. Here is a list of what is currently happening:

- **Wednesday Evening Study** – You are welcome to drop in to Pastor Denny's class any Wednesday through March 21. It meets from 6:45 - 8:00 pm in room B004. This study is based on our 2018 daily Bible reading plan, so simply complete the readings, then come to class to discuss in greater depth. No registration required.
- **Thursday Study and Lunch** – Pastor John is leading a study on Thursdays through March 29. This 1-hour study begins at 11:00 am and meets in the sanctuary gathering space (under the balcony). Immediately following the study, participants are invited to a dutch-treat lunch at a local luncheon spot. This study is based on our 2018 daily Bible reading plan, so simply complete the reading for that day, then come to class to discuss in greater depth. No registration required.
- **Thursday Morning/Evening Bible Study** – An inductive study on Chapters 6, 7 and 8 in the book of Romans begins on March 1 and is being led by Juanita Guise. Class meets in Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. or Thursday evenings from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. The cost of the workbook is \$25.00. To register and receive materials please contact Juanita Guise at kguise@comcast.net

Library

No, it is not an April Fool's joke that Easter is on April 1st. So instead of highlighting the Saint Patrick's Day books in this March newsletter (that is a joke—the library doesn't have any), I am skipping right to Easter. First, let me mention that we have many of the church's passion plays on DVD from 2000 on. If you would like to view your child's performance from years past, or if you don't know what the children's passion play is like, you can check out one of them.

The library has all levels of Easter books. Board books for toddlers include Rufus and Ryan Celebrate Easter and The Story of Easter. Each of these books gives toddlers very simple explanations of the Easter story. Moving on to older children, God Gave Us Easter is an excellent choice for a little more in-depth explanation of Easter. The library has books for older children and adults who want to enrich their spiritual life during this period of Lent.

On the fiction side of the library, the third book in Wanda Brunstetter's Amish Cooking Class books has arrived. Lyle and Heidi Troyer have adopted an orphaned brother and sister and, as a way to ease them into the community, Heidi decides to offer cooking classes for children. Each child who attends comes with an adult. The group is composed of single parent families, two working-outside-the-home families, and families that are having problems—in other words, a slice of every community. While they are cooking, the children and parents have the opportunity to talk about their problems and help each other. The Celebration is the last in the series, but it can be read as a standalone—or you could go back to the shelf and read the first two books, The Seekers and The Blessing, in order for maximum enjoyment.

Every day God reminds me I need all the help I can get and, recently, my daughter Kris, an avid reader, pointed out that I had two Lisa Harris' series mixed together. I immediately ordered the whole Nikki Boyd four book series so I could get that straightened out. The best part of my error, is that if you liked the Southern Crimes three book series, you will now have another series to dig into—all of it. I do most of the ordering for the library, so if you have a series or an author you would like to suggest, I would be glad to hear from you.

If none of these books interest you, stop by the library and let us help you find just the right book for you. Have a blessed Easter! See you in the library!

Pam and Donna

Praying Follower



Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the death of Ida Bardell on January 28.
- to the family upon the death of Melody Small's mother, Dottie Davis, on February 9.
- to the family upon the death of Kelly Mullen on February 14.

Prayer Walk

The Good Friday Prayer Walk returns on Friday, March 30! First Church, along with several other churches in Mechanicsburg, will start at their respective churches at noon, follow a map to pray for the entire borough of Mechanicsburg and then gather near the Square at 1:15 p.m. for closing prayer and light refreshments. Participating churches include: First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Turning Point Church. All are welcome to come and pray for our community!

The "Be One, Make One" Challenge Continues!

On January 1st we began our "Be One, Make One" challenge by focusing on being *Lifelong Learners* who continually grow by studying God's word. During that time we started our daily Bible reading plan together.

During the season of Lent we will add to that by focusing on being *Praying Followers* who faithfully listen in order to discern God's will and respond to God in prayer every day. During this season everyone is encouraged to try journaling their Bible study reflections and their prayers.

Here are three reasons that will inspire you to grab a *Bible Study & Prayer Journal* from the display in the main lobby and get started!

1. LEARNING TO DO SOMETHING NEW IS EXCITING!

God created us to learn new things. Each time we learn to do something new, our brain makes new connections. These new connections energize us!

2. SLOWING DOWN TO WRITE WHILE MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD AND PRAYING IS ENJOYABLE!

In this fast-paced world, pausing to listen to what God is speaking to us can be tough. Writing helps us to slow down, focus and enjoy the moment.

3. CREATING A RECORD OF WHAT GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOUR HEART HELPS YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU STUDIED AND PRAYED!

It's wonderful to have a record to reflect back on to recall what you have learned and who you have been praying for. It's also a beautiful way to glorify God with your writing!

So try it out and give a journal to a friend to try too! If you fill up one journal simply pick up another one and keep going! You may find that, after making this a habit, you'll want to continue this rewarding discipline past Lent!

Passionate Worshipper

Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services
8:15 am Foundation Service
10:45 am Convergent Service

Sunday School
9:30 am



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and care givers.

Holy Communion

Palm Sunday	March 25	Loaves and Chalice
Maundy Thursday	March 29	At Tables
Easter Sunrise	April 1	Mechanicsburg Cemetery
	May 6	Pew Service
	June 3	Loaves and Chalice
	July 1	Pew Service
	August 5	Loaves and Chalice
	September 2	Pew Service
World Communion	October 7	Loaves and Chalice
	November 4	Pew Service
First Sunday of Advent	December 2	Loaves and Chalice
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

Note: Gluten-free bread available in the center of the bread plates.

Holy Week & Easter

March 25	Palm Sunday - Worship services at 8:15 & 10:45 am
March 28	Passion Play (Family Friendly) at 6:30 pm
March 29	Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm
March 30	Good Friday Prayer Walk at Noon (see page 5 for more information)
April 1	Sunrise Service at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 6:45 am Easter Sunday Worship at 8:15 & 10:45 am

Looking Forward

Don't forget to mark your calendar now for Sunday, April 22nd. We will mark DisAbility Awareness Sunday that day during the morning services and our monthly Rejoicing Spirits service that afternoon. During the Sunday School hour come to the multi-purpose room to hear a speaker from Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA) and learn about Equine Therapy. (Here's a hint – it involves horseback riding.) Who knew horseback riding could be more than a hobby?

Dedicated Missionary

Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on **March 21 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Change for Water ~ Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway

Help support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project! Drop your loose change, into the *Change for Water* Bucket. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. ***You can even throw in "paper" change!***

There were **2,140** (\$21.40) pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of **\$12,992.64**. Thanks to all who are contributing for another great month! **Please keep the donations flowing and don't let the well run dry.**



Isaiah 61

Isaiah 61 is a mission out of Halifax PA that makes, delivers, and serves hot meals in Harrisburg every Tuesday and Wednesday. They also have a soup kitchen and a clothing bank at Uplift Community Church in Halifax. Isaiah 61 Ministries' mission is to be God's hands and feet in this world by showing His love through our actions. They want everyone that they serve to know God loves them and cares for all of their needs.

For several years now we have had a group from FUMC helping to support this wonderful mission. They are truly the hands & feet of the Lord, showing up on the coldest days of winter and hottest days of summer to serve the homeless in downtown Harrisburg. Not only do we serve a hot meal to approximately 100 people, there are so many opportunities to share the word of the Lord. The ability to share our blessings with those in need can be a life changing experience.

FUMC's day to serve downtown is on the third Wednesday of every month. We would love for you to join us. For more information, please contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com

Relationship Builder



First Connections Gatherings are planned for Thursday, March 8th and Thursday, April 12th in the Tower Meeting Room (2nd floor Children's Sunday School wing). Please join us anytime between 1-3 pm if you are looking for an opportunity to simply relax and fellowship with some First Church friends! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at WeCare@fumchurch.com or call 766-4611 x 112.

The Food Trucks are Returning!

The dates have been confirmed for the Third Friday Food Truck Feast. Mark your calendars for the following: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21 and October 19, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. in our parking lot. Looking forward to another year of great food and fellowship!

Camping is for Everyone!

Mark your calendars for two very special events in March! On **March 11**, during the Sunday School hour, children will experience a 'day at camp' in the multipurpose room with fun activities, songs and snacks. On Sunday, **March 18**, all adults are invited to the 'Be a Star Under the Stars' event during the Sunday School hour in the multipurpose room to learn how everyone can connect to camp. This event will include a panel of camp experts, a chance to ask questions during roundtable discussions and an opportunity to enjoy camp snacks! Be a Star and learn how to encourage, invite, send and pray for our children, youth and adults to attend church camp. For more information, contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com or Amy Ogden at amy.ogden7@gmail.com. Don't miss your opportunity to connect to camp!

Generous Giver



Financial Report—through January 31, 2018

8% of year

General Fund		
2018 budget	\$ 945,000	
Expected income	\$ 75,600	
Actual income	\$ 65,968	(7% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 9,632	
Actual expenses	\$ 66,914	

UMW Mission Meal

The United Methodist Women's Deborah Circle will hold a Mission Meal on Sunday, March 4. Join us in Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 worship service for a wonderful meal of chili, cornbread and brownies. Takeout available after Sunday School. Proceeds from the Mission Meal support local ministries that help women, children and youth. If you have questions, contact Sandy Walton at swalton54@comcast.net.

The tradition continues!

The Annual Ham Loaf Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 10 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4 to 12, under 3 are free! Dinner includes ham loaf, green beans, potatoes, roll, applesauce, beverage and assorted homemade desserts. Chicken nuggets will be available for children. Contact Deb Hamsher at rhamsher47@aol.com or Kathie Bittenbender at rbittenben@verizon.net for tickets or sign up at the Welcome Desk binder. Takeout will be available. Proceeds benefit church missions and ministries.

Little Friends

The Little Friends Nursery School will be holding their annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, March 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Over 25 vendors will be present along with food and door prizes. All proceeds benefit the nursery school, which is a ministry of First Church. Come out and support our Little Friends! If you have questions or would like to be a vendor at the fair, contact Chris Sims, Director of Little Friends, at lfns@fumchurch.com.

Christian Fellowship Sunday School Class Peanut Butter Easter Egg Fundraiser

Orders are being taken for peanut butter Easter eggs. The cost is \$6.00 for a bag of 6 eggs. Order your eggs by signing up on the sheet at the information desk, by emailing Nancy at mwrner@aol.com. Eggs will be ready for pick up in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 17, after 2:00 pm, and on Sunday, March 18, after Sunday school and each of the morning worship services. Please place your orders by Sunday, March 11th. Thank you in advance for your support.

March Blood Drives

- March 2 Fox Center – 8am to 7pm - 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg
- March 4 Vibrant Church – 10am to 1pm – 1775 Lambs Gap Rd., Mechanicsburg
- March 4 St. John's Episcopal Church – 8:30am to 12pm – 44 W. Main St. Shiremanstown
- March 5 Eureka/West Shore Lodge – 3pm to 7pm – Cedar Ave, Mechanicsburg
- March 15 Buffalo Wild Wings – 3pm to 7pm – Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
- March 17 Appalachian Harley Davidson – 12pm to 5pm – 6695 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg
- March 18 Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren – 8:30am to 11:30am – 301 Gale St., Mechanicsburg
- March 18 Aldersgate UMC – 8:30am to 11:30am – 1480 Jerusalem Rd., Mechanicsburg
- March 18 Silver Spring Presbyterian – 8am to 12:30pm – 444 Silver Spring Rd., Mechanicsburg 1
- March 21 PinnacleHealth Fredricksen – 12pm to 4pm – attached to West Shore Hospital
- March 22 Hartman Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery – 12pm to 4pm - 2 Market Plaza Way, Mechanicsburg
- March 24 Trinity UMC – 8am to 12pm – 405 Bridge St., New Cumberland
- March 25 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton – 7:30am to 12:30pm – 310 Hertzler Rd., Mechanicsburg
- March 25 West Shore Evangelical Free Church – 8:30am to 1pm – 1345 Williams Grove Rd., Mechanicsburg

Please feel free to give out our website as well for people who would like to find a drive outside of the Mechanicsburg area. www.717giveblood.org

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Have you tried out the new coffee shop on Main Street? Swing by Capital Joes during the month of March and tell the cashier our code word "Brooklyn." A portion of those sales will benefit the summer youth

Lois Coover Memorial Gift Recognized

If you have ever taken Communion at First Church, you have most likely been the recipient of the loving and serving hands of the late Lois Coover.

For years, Lois served as a Communion Steward, and led a small but dedicated team of church members who faithfully prepared the Communion elements for worship services.

“She was very meticulous about everything, and wanted everything to be perfect,” said Jean Adams, who served with Lois. “Lois made sure we had everything we needed.”

Lois continues to make sure First Church has what it needs. The church recently received an estate gift from Lois. The gift was designated to the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund was started a decade ago. Contributions to it remain with the fund in perpetuity, with the goal of generating future income to support First Church’s missions and ministries. Lois’ gift will support First Church for many years to come.

Lois, a lifelong Christian, grew up attending the United Brethren Church (now a United Methodist Church) in Wormleysburg. After marrying the late William Coover of Mechanicsburg, Lois joined him in attending First Church. She remained a faithful and active member for the rest of her life.

“Lois did a lot to help others,” said Beverly Hertzler, Lois’ sister. “She would do anything for anybody, if she was able to.”

Lois routinely visited and prayed for church members who were hospitalized, homebound, or residing in nursing homes.

Steve Zimmerman welcomed Lois’ help on the church’s Christmas Decorating Committee. He also taught the kindergarten Sunday school class with her for many years. “You could joke with her,” Steve said. “She was a lot of fun, and an all-around good person.”

One day, Jeff Hoffnagle mentioned to Lois a possible outing to Sight and Sound Theatre for our congregation’s senior members.

“She stopped what she doing immediately and impressed upon me how wonderful that would be,” Jeff said. “From that moment on, she asked me every week if I had made arrangements yet.”

The trip was planned, and went very well. However, that wasn't enough for Lois. “The week after our first trip, she presented me with all kinds of brochures to assist me with ideas for future trips. What a riot!” Jeff said.

Lois also attended the Guyer Sunday School Class for many years.

Outside of church, Lois worked for the former First Federal Savings and Loan until her retirement.

Lois passed away in November 2016, after a valiant battle with cancer. But, she remained faithful to the end. According to Beverly, even during her illness, Lois worried about preparing Communion, and was giving instructions to her committee.

“Church was very important to Lois,” Beverly said. “Her faith was strong, and it helped her come through a lot of difficulty.”

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about the Endowment Fund or discuss future support of it, please see Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee chair, or either of First Church’s pastors.



Women's Ministry

We are excited to share about new growth and change happening within women's ministry at First Church! To communicate this effectively, a new Women's Ministry page has been designed to highlight all of our existing programs, along with new events and groups that will support and inspire women of all ages! Please take a moment to review these wonderful offerings and feel free to share this information with other women you would like to bless!

United Methodist Women

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton ~ swalton54@comcast.net
meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick ~ marleyannrichard@gmail.com
meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com

RUTH CIRCLE

Joan Mains ~ mains.joan@yahoo.com
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Hoss's in
Mechanicsburg

COVERED IN LOVE

Sandy Bennetch ~ dsebennetch@comcast.net
meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 in
Fellowship Hall

SQUARES AND PRAYERS

Tammy Snyder ~ tamsnyde@gmail.com
meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall starting
again on March 5th

KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

Mary Helm ~ mthelm4@yahoo.com
meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Tower
Meeting Room

Other Opportunities to Connect

BOOK CLUB

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com

DAY OF PAMPERING

Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net
February 23, 2019

LADIES' OVER 80 TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com
Held in September

MOMS IN PRAYER

Deb Noss ~ sdppp@msn.com
Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com
Next meeting March 16 at 9:15 am

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net
February 2019, Mt. Asbury Retreat Center

ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)

Margaret Paredes ~ 4paredesfam@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room
Lisa Lynch ~ lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com
Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room

Spotlight: Book Club

The next Book Club book is *Hallelujah Anyway* –
Rediscovering Mercy by Anne Lamott.
We will meet in the Tower Meeting Room on
Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book.
All are welcome!

Upcoming Events:

UMW Mission Meal - March 4
MOPS - March 16
Book Club - April 10

More information can be found on our website at
fumchurch.com.



God calls us to be in fellowship with one another and there is no better way to do that than in small groups. Here are just a few opportunities for all men to join. We will be offering more in the future, but we need to know what suits you best. Please complete a survey, located at the Ministry Table outside of the multi purpose room, to help guide us as we grow our Men's Ministry at FUMC.

Men's Retreat Recap

In February, 23 men from FUM enjoyed a relaxing and refueling weekend at Wesley Forest. Stephen Gallaher led the weekend with a series of helpful and meaningful messages on mentorship and building relationships. It was a great opportunity for the men of First UMC to connect with one another on a deeper level, and to spend some time in worship and reflection, strengthening their relationship with God. The food was great, they enjoyed the new, more comfortable mattresses, and the smiles and laughter from game-time and fellowship activities will give them memories to last until the next retreat! Thank you to those who played an important role in planning this weekend, leading us in worship, and providing the fun activities. If you were able to make it this year, we hope and expect that you will be back again next year. And if you weren't able to make it this year, watch for details on next year's retreat – we hope you will be able to join us next year!



Men of First Church

Meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (next meeting March 21) from 8-9:30pm. Locations will vary - keep your eye out for more details in the bulletins. Contact John Bowen (bowenhome720@gmail.com) or Barry Eaton (theeaton5@verizon.net) if you have questions or would like more information about this group.

Men's Breakfast

An open invitation is extended to any and all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month. Please come join us at Brother's Restaurant, located at 705 Gettysburg Pike in Mechanicsburg. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Men's Bible Study

Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, led by Ken Guise and David Mengle

Contact: David Mengle at mengledm@verizon.net or Ken Guise at kguise@knouse.com

Tool Pool

A directory for any hand or power tools that you may need to borrow for one-time use.

Contact: Don Karns at dekarns@comcast.net

Church News and Notes

Special Birthdays

Janet Fertenbaugh..... March 6
 Ben Miller..... March 12
 Sara Meck..... March 15
 Marge Robinson March 15
 Art Murray..... March 16
 Roy Kohr March 21
 Mabel Strock March 28
 Dave Scholl March 31

Robert Meck April 2
 Marilyn Seig April 2
 Dolores Farr..... April 3
 Alberta Knause April 15
 Darlene Wilkinson..... April 17
 Ron Handwerk..... April 18
 Richard Knause..... April 21
 Charles Cramer April 22
 Janet Baker April 25
 Grace Brandt..... April 25

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 54 years on March 21
- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 52 years on April 2
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 58 years on April 10
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 55 years on April 21
- ♥ Donald & Kay Heiges married 60 years on April 26

Thank you...

Kay and Marlin Simmons would like to thank Pastor Denny and everyone who sent cards and for their condolences and prayers upon the death of Kay's mother, Ida Bardell.

THANK YOU! Day of Pampering was another success. Without the support of First Church, this event could never happen. Access Ministries wants to thank everyone for your prayers, support and participation.

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, MARCH 31. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the church office by NOON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 27.

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.

Church Staff

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
766-4611 ext. 103
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. John Shellenberger
766-4611 ext. 117
pastorjohn@fumchurch.com

YOUTH PASTOR

Lisa Aronson
766-4611 ext. 113
uthrock@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Tina Eaton
766-4611 ext. 104
adultministry@fumchurch.com

DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Dawn Fisher
George Canonizado
766-4611 ext. 102
kidscount@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Janice Bowen
766-4611 ext. 112
wecare@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Lori Hoffnagle
766-4611 ext. 115
outreach@fumchurch.com

OFFICE MANAGER/FINANCE SECRETARY

Kristin Brown
766-4611 ext. 101
office@fumchurch.com

FACILITIES COORDINATOR

Tom Ziegler
766-4611 ext. 105
facilities@fumchurch.com

CUSTODIANS

George Canonizado
Matthew Miller
766-4611 ext. 109
maintenance@fumchurch.com

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Nancy Robinson
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jody Brinley
Brynleawesties@comcast.net

SOUNDS OF WORSHIP DIRECTOR

Flossie Ryder
florencewryder@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF BELL & CHIME CHOIRS

Kathie Bittenbender
rbittenben@verizon.net

PRAISE TEAM CO-DIRECTORS

Allison Ometz Trace Morgan
ometz@msn.com traceintune80@gmail.com

JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR*

GERI NUSS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

Lorette Cale
lorettecale@gmail.com

ORGANISTS/ACCOMPANISTS

Michal Foursevitch
Frank Heberlig
Tom Mullikin
Karen Philp
Seth Wickenheiser

DIRECTOR OF LITTLE FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL

Chris Sims
lfns@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF JUNIPER TREE COUNSELING CENTER

Glenn Covert

FIRST NEWS FIRST
Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting
articles for the **April** issue is

March 15

Early submissions always
appreciated!