



First News First

February 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

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

“Come and See”

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29)

Did you ever wear a "WWJD" bracelet? The plastic bracelets arrived in a myriad of colors to match every young person's preferences. Distributed at youth group meetings, wearers of the bracelet were invited to see the letters and then act like Jesus in whatever situation they found themselves. But Rodger Nishioka invites his students to instead ask "WWJBD?" What would John the Baptist do?

He notes how John the Baptist was always pointing people to Jesus, inviting them to behold the Lamb of God. John the Baptist recognizes Jesus and consistently invites others to see the Savior in their midst. John the Baptist testifies to the truth. He draws people to the light.

As I write this I am celebrating another birthday. I've been thinking today about the many people in my life who have invited me to *"come and see."* I have been cared for by so many people with such gentleness. I have been instructed with much wisdom and patience. I have been encouraged to keep going when I had failed and was ready to give up. I have been rewarded and praised for success. So many people in my life could well have worn the WWJBD bracelet. Every one of them, each in her or his own way, has pointed me to Jesus. ***Who has helped you to come and see?***

I've been thinking, too, about you. One of our core values at First Church is "Creating Christian Community." ***We believe Christ invites everyone to experience his presence, cultivate relationships and grow in love, care, and compassion for each other.***

From my vantage point, I am privileged to experience your love, care and compassion. In and through the life of First Church, you open doors with hundreds of children, youth, and adults, pointing them to Jesus. What a joy it is to join with you as we welcome everyone, from our youngest children to our oldest members, into this loving community. ***How has your life - your words and your actions - invited people to "come and see?"***

Of course, you and I have not yet reached everyone we could reach. The invitation to wear WWJBD bracelets calls us to be aware of the people around us yearning for someone like you to help them see the Savior. ***How does your life provide light and well-being to people around you?***

"What Would John the Baptist Do?" What a thoughtful question for us to ask in whatever situation we find ourselves.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Denny**

Worship

Sunday Morning
 Worship Services
 8:15 am & 10:45 am

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

Ash Wednesday*	February 5	Pew Service
First Sunday in Lent	March 1	Loaves and Chalice
Maundy Thursday	March 5	Pew Service
	April 13	At Tables w/ Motzo and Grape Juice
	May 7	Loaves and Chalice
	June 4	Loaves and Chalice
	July 2	Pew Service
	August 6	Loaves and Chalice
World Communion	September 3	Pew Service
First Sunday in Advent	October 1	Loaves and Chalice
	November 26	Pew Service

Music

February Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

- February 5—Sanctuary Choir (8:15); Invocation (10:45)
- February 12—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir & Junior Choir (10:45)
- February 19—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Invocation, Youth Choir, Joy Ringers & Handchimes (10:45)
- February 26—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir & Children’s Choir (10:45)

Ring in the News



There is no better way to get through the winter than with pie and handbell music! First, the winter pie sale is February 11. Make sure you’ve ordered from a bell choir member or in the book at the information desk. Apple and Cherry with either crumb topping or double crust are available! Remember, you can order them baked, or frozen for you to bake at your leisure!

After eating your pie, make your way to the annual concert on February 19 at 7:00 pm! Jon has pushed us all hard this year and the outcome is bound to be spectacular. The bells will be joined by the FUMC vocal choirs along with Sara Benson, percussionist, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Folkemer of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. This concert will be full of music reflective of Jon’s master’s thesis all about handbell music in colleges. All of the pieces were selected by recommendation of collegiate directors across the US. It will be a non-stop exciting and moving hour of music; a concert not to be missed. Refreshments to follow!



Fellowship

Don't Miss a "Great Date Night"!

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a "Great Date Night" on February 10 from 7 - 9 pm in our Fellowship Hall. This special event requires a reservation, and the cost is \$25.00 per couple. Childcare is being provided at the church by our youth (and donations for this service will be gratefully accepted to help raise funds for the youth mission trip to Alaska).

What is "Great Date Night"? It's a fun and effective relationship-building event which gives couples a fun night out to enjoy comedy and music provided by Mark Cable. Mark has been performing these kinds of events for 15 years. His insightful, everyday-life songs, along with his off the wall sense of humor make him an instant hit. There will be two sets of music and comedy with a relaxed 30-minute break in between for fellowship and refreshments.

Come to laugh, unwind and be encouraged to keep your relationship a top priority. To reserve your spot and to RSVP for childcare, please contact Tina Eaton by email at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611 extension 104.

Senior Fellowship – February 21st, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship, BINGO, and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library.

Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

Ham Loaf Dinner

Saturday, March 18, 4:00-6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Adults - \$10, Age 4-12 - \$4, 3 and under free.

Take-out dinners will be available. Tickets can be purchased from any Helping Hands class member or by contacting Marley Ann Schmick @ 697-2233.

A sign-up sheet is at the information desk to request tickets to be held at the door.

Let's Go Bears!

The Fellowship Committee invites you to join them at a Hershey Bears hockey game on Sunday, April 2 for Faith and Family Night. Game time is 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (this is an \$8 savings). They will be playing the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (Flyers farm team). Seats are in Section 115, Rows F, G, and H (6 to 8 rows off the ice). Deadline to sign up is February 28. Seats will be all together, but only 25 tickets available. Contact Jeff Hoffnagle at 717-732-6430 or jeffrey.hoffnagle@yahoo.com to reserve your seat or with any questions.

Finance

Financial Report—through December 31, 2016

General Fund		
2016 budget	\$ 890,000	
Expected income	\$ 890,000	
Actual income	\$	(91% of budget)
Deficit	\$	
Actual expenses	\$	
Building Fund	\$ 15,012	
Legacy Campaign	\$ 4,355	

First Church had a very successful financial year. In accordance with Administrative Board action, \$25,000 of unspent income was reserved for an upgrade of our Audio/Video system. Other unspent funds were applied to the principal.

The December 31, 2016, financial report and the 2017 approved budget are included on the following pages.

**General Fund
Year End/Budget 2017**

Account Number	Account Name	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
100	Income			
101	Envelope Giving		756,485.44	
102	W/O Envelopes		136,797.48	
103	Loose Offering		11,035.14	
104	Building Use Rent		565.00	
105	Interest Income		512.63	
106	Other Receipts			
	Total Income	890,000.00	905,395.69	935,000.00
200	Salaries and Benefits			
201	Pastor's Salary	77,673.00	77,673.00	79,226.00
202	Soc. Sec. Offset - Pastor	5,942.00	5,942.00	6,061.00
203	Pension- Pastor	8,886.00	8,885.52	8,949.00
204	Health Care - Pastor	13,123.00	13,774.38	14,000.00
205	Housing- Pastor	0.00		0.00
206	Travel _ Pastor	4,000.00	1,905.38	4,000.00
207	Continuing Ed - Pastor	750.00	750.00	750.00
210	Assistant Pastor	33,523.00	33,523.00	35,374.00
211	Continuing Ed - Asst. Past	600.00	600.00	600.00
212	Soc. Sec. Offset - Asst Past	2,565.00	2,565.00	2,706.00
213	Health Care - Assist Past	1,157.00	1,156.80	0.00
214	Travel - Assist Past	2,000.00	1,762.56	2,000.00
220	Assoc Pastor Visitation	0.00		0.00
221	Travel - Assoc Past Visit	0.00		0.00
230	Office Manager	32,686.00	32,686.00	33,340.00
231	Admin Assistant	0.00		18,750.00
232	Director of Child Ministries	35,006.00	35,006.00	35,706.00
233	Youth Pastor	37,161.00	39,661.02	37,904.00
234	Youth Pastor Benefits	5,384.00	5,384.00	5,492.00
235	Director of Adult Ministries	19,688.00	19,688.00	20,082.00
236	Facilities Coordinator	10,231.00	10,459.84	11,934.00
237	Custodians	40,198.00	27,404.57	36,000.00
238	Finance Director	8,412.00	8,412.00	8,580.00
239	Congregational Care Coord	12,860.00	14,358.00	19,238.00
240	Music Director	6,442.00	6,442.00	6,571.00
241	Organist/Assistants	15,177.00	15,177.00	15,480.00
242	Sounds of Worship Choir Dir	3,216.00	3,216.00	3,280.00
243	Sanctuary Choir Director	4,979.00	4,979.00	5,079.00
244	Youth Choir Director	2,656.00	2,656.00	2,709.00
245	Junior Choir Director	2,319.00	1,545.96	2,319.00
246	Children's Choir Director	2,656.00	2,656.00	2,709.00
247	Adult Bell Choir Director	4,893.00	4,671.48	2,661.00
248	Children's Bell Choir Director	1,631.00	1,957.04	3,992.00
249	Invocation Director	3,015.00	3,015.00	3,075.00
250	Additional Musicians (Wshp)	900.00	550.00	900.00
251	Travel - Lay Staff	500.00		500.00
252	Continuing Ed - Lay Staff	600.00	50.00	600.00
253	Soc. Sec. - Lay Staff	18,694.00	19,544.11	20,761.00
254	Office Manager Benefits	5,384.00	5,384.00	5,492.00
	Total Salaries & Benefits	424,907.00	413,440.66	456,820.00

300 Conference Shares of Ministry

301	Connectional Support	37,199.00	37,199.00	36,600.00
302	Clergy Support	44,997.00	44,997.00	45,471.00
	Total Shares of Ministry	82,196.00	82,196.00	82,071.00

400 Missions

401	Africa University	0.00		0.00
402	Benevolences	27014.00	27,014.00	26,638.00
403	Benevolent Homes	0.00		0.00
404	Bethany Village	0.00		0.00
405	Bethany Village Aux.	260.00	260.00	0.00
406	Bethesda Mission	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
407	Daron Shelter	0.00		0.00
408	Daystar	0.00	6,000.00	0.00
409	District Advance	0.00		0.00
410	FUMC Backyard Ministries	0.00		0.00
411	Habitat for Humanity	0.00		0.00
412	Mech Council of Churches	200.00	200.00	0.00
413	Mech Meals on Wheels	0.00	500.00	0.00
414	Mission Central	0.00	6,000.00	0.00
415	Mission Ed & Awareness	0.00		0.00
416	Mission Scholarships	0.00	500.00	0.00
417	Missionaries - Denominational	0.00		0.00
418	Neighborhood Center	0.00	3,500.00	0.00
419	New Hope Ministries	0.00	6,000.00	0.00
420	S. Central Food Bank	0.00		0.00
421	Salt & Light Ministry	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
422	Sierra Leone	1200.00		1,200.00
423	UM Children's Home	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
424	UM Women	2000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
425	UMCOR	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
426	Undesignated Missions	61695.00	800.00	50,000.00
427	Uptown Ministries	0.00		0.00
428	World Communion	0.00		0.00
429	Youth Mission Trip	0.00		0.00
430	Youth Service Fund	0.00		0.00
431	Human Relations Day	0.00	500.00	0.00
432	Youth/Children Offering	0.00	500.00	0.00
433	One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	500.00	0.00
434	Native American Awareness	0.00	500.00	0.00
435	Mental Health Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
436	Peace With Justice Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
437	Rural Life Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
438	Volunteer in Mission Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
439	Christian Education Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
440	World Communion Offering	0.00	500.00	0.00
441	World Hunger/Harvest Home	0.00	500.00	0.00
442	United Methodist Student Day	0.00	500.00	0.00
443	CRU - Jenna Mengle		5,600.00	7,200.00
444	CRU - Bethany Robinson		5,600.00	7,200.00
445	CRU - Matt & Leann Herring		7,400.00	10,800.00
446	Volunteers in Mission		1,000.00	0.00
447	Calvary Church, Sierra Leone		8,495.00	10,000.00
	Missionaries - Congregational	0.00		
	Total Missions and Projects	92,369.00	92,369.00	115,038.00

500 Program			
501 Access Ministry	1,500.00	1,565.74	2,750.00
502 Adult Department	3,000.00	3,870.79	4,000.00
503 Bank Fees	1,300.00	1,304.77	1,300.00
504 Camping	8,000.00	10,181.50	8,000.00
505 Children's Department	11,000.00	10,045.94	12,000.00
506 Choir Music	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
507 Communications	2,400.00	1,393.10	2,700.00
508 Confirmation	0.00		0.00
509 Devotional Literature	1,130.00	969.85	1,250.00
510 Endowment Fund Comm	0.00		0.00
511 Evangelism	600.00	341.49	600.00
512 Fellowship Committee	1,500.00	1,532.49	1,800.00
513 FUMC Website	0.00		0.00
514 Hospitality Task Force	400.00	438.10	500.00
515 Health & Wellness	250.00	162.31	250.00
516 Library	900.00	801.44	200.00
517 Mom Connection	0.00		0.00
518 Offering Envelopes	1,500.00	1,131.47	1,500.00
519 Office Supplies	4,000.00	4,689.21	4,000.00
520 Paper & Printing	3,925.00	3,771.74	2,500.00
521 Postage	4,500.00	1,877.99	4,500.00
522 Small Group Babysitting	0.00		0.00
523 Staff Parish Rel Comm.	500.00	490.34	500.00
524 Stewardship Committee	500.00		0.00
525 Sunday School Curriculum	0.00		0.00
526 Vacation Bible School	0.00		0.00
527 Women's Retreat	500.00		500.00
528 Wonderful Wednesday	0.00		0.00
529 Worship Committee	1,000.00	1,206.71	1,000.00
530 Youth Department	20,240.00	18,025.58	20,240.00
532 Computer Support	6,861.00	4,574.40	5,837.00
531 Safe Sanctuary	450.00		450.00
534 Pastor Discretionary Account	0.00		0.00
533 History/Anniversary Congregational Care Minis-	0.00		0.00
535 tries	350.00	298.07	350.00
536 Coffee Supplies	500.00	222.36	450.00
Total Program	79,806.00	71,895.39	80,177.00

600	Facilities			
601	Building Use			0.00
602	Van Ministry	2,750.00	3,169.67	2,750.00
603	Facility Reserve	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
604	Fuel	22,000.00	15,015.65	22,000.00
605	Janitorial Supplies	4,400.00	3,827.05	4,400.00
607	Maintenance	15,000.00	16,188.79	14,000.00
608	Property Insurance	17,050.00	17,359.00	16,850.00
609	Property Tax	2,900.00	2,835.97	2,900.00
610	Service Contracts	17,450.00	16,077.63	17,450.00
615	Service Contracts - Office	12,822.00	4,432.54	5,194.00
611	Snow Removal	3,300.00	3,030.00	3,300.00
612	Telephone- Church	3,900.00	3,379.83	3,900.00
613	Utilities Church	31,000.00	30,703.00	31,000.00
614	Wireless Project	0.00		0.00
616	Utilities - Parsonage	6,150.00	4,061.76	6,150.00
617	Sound System Reserve		25,000.00	
	Maintenance - Parsonage			1,000.00
	Total Facilities	178,722.00	185,080.89	170,894.00
700	Capital Expenses			
701	Debt Reduction - Interest	12,000.00	9,839.72	10,000.00
702	Debt Reduction - Principal	20,000.00	50,000.00	20,000.00
	Total Capital Expenses	32,000.00	59,839.72	30,000.00
	Total Expense	890,000.00	904,821.66	935,000.00
	Income Over Spending	0.00	574.03	0.00

Missions



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 February 15 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report ~ Now Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway

Help support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any 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. There were 210 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,727.86. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!



Sierra Leone Documentary

A free showing of the documentary, “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars,” will be held at HAAC’s Rose Lehrman Arts Center on the Harrisburg Campus of HACC, Monday, February 13th at 7 pm.

The film features the story of the Sierra Leone band which formed while the musicians were living in a refugee camp. The band strives to share the following message: “Music can heal the trauma of man. Don’t lose hope. Music can cure you.” A carpool will leave from the FUMC parking lot. If interested in going, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 766-4611 x112.

Note: The band will perform on Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 pm. For more information and tickets, visit the web site - LiveatRoseLehrman.org or call 717-231-ROSE

New Hope Ministries

We wish to thank you for your generous donations to New Hope Ministries over the year of 2016. Your donations are so appreciated, thank you. As a church we collected:

- ~685 pounds of all purpose food
- ~485 pounds of Sweet potatoes during Thanksgiving season
- ~211 Christmas Blessings Express gifts

Your wonderful donations make such a difference in in the lives of our community.

Blessings to you, Debbie and Don Karns

VIM Annual Trip to Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Initiative, as part of Volunteers In Missions, conducts an annual mission trip to Sierra Leone. The trip serves not only for those who have gone to Sierra Leone to return but also for first timers to travel to Sierra Leone and visit their sister church. Recently, Rev. Jeff Fisher, who had led this trip for many years, stepped down for the Initiative Committee and First Church member Kristin Brown has stepped up to serve as one of the team leaders. The other team leaders this year are Pam Perna, chair of the Initiative Committee and member of Paxtonville UMC, and Rev. George Reynolds, pastor at Linglestown Life. Other team members include Christine Wagner (Linglestown Life), Randy Ball and Brian Warner (New Creation), Laurie Hover and Sara Crowther (First UMC, Hershey). Please keep the team in your prayers. Trip dates are February 18—March 1.

CRU News

Please continue to keep our 4 CRU Missionaries, Matt & LeeAnn Herring, Jenna Mengle and Bethany Robinson, in your prayers. Copies of their current newsletters will be shared, as they are available, in the



Jenna Mengle | Miami University Cru



January is off to a great start as we anticipate the start of a new semester and celebrate what God did over our 5 day winter conference (called IndyCC).

Early in the semester I challenged a disciple of mine, Lydia, to pray for 5 people she would like to see come to the faith, or grow in their faith. To end our appointments, we would pray for her 5 friends.

Claire is a junior at Miami, who attended the IndyCC conference. After the conference, Claire, Jane and I went out to breakfast. At

breakfast, we asked each other, "What was the most memorable part of Indy CC?" After little thought, Claire excitedly pronounced: "Probably when I became a Christian!!" She went on to tell us that she loved every minute of the conference, felt like a weight was lifted off her chest, and proclaimed how loved and cared for she felt by the community of our students at the conference. Later, she told me a friend invited her to the conference and had been praying for her all semester. Later, I came to know that Claire was someone I prayed for all semester with Lydia. God is so neat to show me this fruit of the labor here on campus, and so gracious to let us be a part of this. Claire called all of her family to tell them that she decided for herself to follow Jesus to which her mom said, "I've been praying for this since you were born!" It's so incredibly fun to join with you in partnership to see things like this happen! Without you, it wouldn't be possible!

Praise the Lord:

- over 2,000 students and 500 staff gathered in Indianapolis for winter conference! The Lord kept us safe, and we were able to interact with over 2,000 Indy residence and over 100 inmates at a local prison as outreach opportunities.
- Miami saw an astounding 19 students make a commitment to give 1 year of their lives to full time ministry after graduating!
- For all the trips He makes happen every summer (over 100 just with Cru). I was able to attend a training about my leadership role to Montenegro, which was both helpful and inspiring- Miami has 5 students coming so far!

Prayer Requests:

- Freshman adjusting back after a long winter break (5 weeks!)
- Greek recruitment on campus starts at the end of the month- over 1/3 of the freshman class will participate. Pray for safety and for believers to enter the greek system as lights in their chapters
- Semester scheduling, bible study planning and discipleship to be figured out quickly for a transition to a new semester/new schedules

Thank you for your partnership with me and your willingness to join me in what God is doing through Miami Cru. I am so thankful!

gratefully, Jenna

Adult Ministries

New Member Class

Interested in becoming a First Church member? A new member class will be held for 7 weeks beginning Sunday, February 12 from 9:30 – 10:30 am in Pastor Denny's office (room 201). Please contact Tina Eaton by February 1 if you would like to join this class so that materials can be ordered for you. Email Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611, extension 104.

Reflections for Lent – 2017

It's that time of the year again! That's right... time to start writing your personal devotion for our "Reflections for Lent" booklet. We welcome your participation with gratitude! Sharing your story will strengthen both your faith and the faith of others, plus it will bring glory to God! Please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611 to sign up today. You can also write your name on the sign-up sheet located in the main lobby on the Adult Ministries table.

The format of your personal devotion should be:

- Brief title
- Scripture – just a short passage
- 2 or 3 sentences about what the scripture means to you
- About 5 or so sentences that apply that scripture to your life
- A brief prayer
- Your name

If you think you cannot do it, you can! If you would like assistance, please contact Tina for ideas or help with editing. *Your devotion is due by Sunday, February 5, 2017.* Please email your document to adultministry@fumchurch.com. If you do not have access to email, please place a hard copy in an envelope marked "Reflection for Lent" and place it in Tina's mailbox.

Access Ministry

DisAbility Awareness Sunday

DisAbility Awareness Sunday on January 22 was such a joy! Thank you to everyone who attended during the Sunday School hour to hear guest speaker Sib Charles from the organization Joni & Friends. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the faith community and the special needs community working together as co-laborers for the Kingdom of God. If you want to learn more about being co-laborers, go to <https://vimeo.com/152208215>. This is a short video about the 5 Stages of Disability Awareness.

Day of Pampering - February 25

February brings with it the excitement of Day of Pampering. This is one example of the church and community at our best. Some years, local organizations provide grant money in support of our outreach; other local groups and businesses often donate necessary items or funds; local beauty and healthcare professionals donate their time, supplies and skills; First Church family and friends volunteer and work together for a larger cause as, together, we honor and serve nearly 100 very special women from the surrounding communities. These women are primary care providers.....typically mothers of children with disAbilities & wives of husbands with disAbilities. Too often they neglect their own physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health due to their unique responsibilities. Day of Pampering is one day that they can step away from caregiving and focus on themselves. Here they soak in a bit of relaxation and renewal. Here they are met with the love of Christ as we warmly welcome and tenderly serve them. And, as we pour out His love to them, He seems to fill each one of us anew. Yes, February brings with it the excitement (and the treasure) of God's abiding presence and His tangible love experienced at the Day of Pampering.

Be a part of this wonderful outreach. **Help is needed:** small jobs; big jobs; on the front line jobs; behind the scenes jobs; the week before the event; the day of the event. Contact Lisa Wickenheiser at the7wicks@verizon.net or 717-649-0993 for more information.

Library

If every day was like Valentine’s Day. . . yes, I know that is usually Christmas, but just imagine if everyone was in love like on Valentine’s Day. What would the world, our town, or our family look like? Remember the euphoric feeling of falling in love? How happy every day was and how you saw the world and felt about others? Yes, I have the rose-colored glasses on now and I realize that Valentine’s Day is filled with illusions and not a happy day for everyone. Plus, love can grow deeper and more meaningful with time. But for a moment imagine! Fortunately for all of us, we can grab a romance book and imagine love through a world of fiction. And the library has some great romantic reads.

Susan May Warren has started a new series called *Montana Rescue*, with the first book titled **Wild Montana Skies**. I think what hooked me into buying this series is the quote on the front of the book, “this new series delivers adventure and romance while the Montana Search and Rescue teams search for others yet find themselves.” Yes, adventure and romance is a powerful punch and Ms. Warren delivers both with her in-depth character development. For me to read a romance book there either has to be comedy or an interesting subplot and Ms. Warren has packed this novel with subplots of military service, country music stars and SAR work. I won’t give away any more, but I will tell you the sequel, **Rescue Me**, should be on the shelf early in February.

In a little different vein, we recently had a donation of eighteen Guidepost books. The first fifteen are the **Sugarcreek Amish Mysteries**. The main character is Cheryl Cooper who leaves her banking job in Columbus, Ohio to run a gift shop in Sugarcreek, while the owner fulfills an overseas missionary call. All of the books feature Cheryl who solves all the mysteries in Sugarcreek. These books are light mysteries without violence and are perfect for a cold winter night combined with a cup of cocoa. We have three of the next series called the **Tearoom mysteries** where cousins Elaine Cook and Jan Blake open a tearoom and expect to lead a quiet life in Maine. But soon both are embroiled in solving the town’s mysteries. Check out both series for some light reading.

If none of these series interest, you please stop in the library and let us find just the right book for you. New books are added weekly and placed on the new book cart.

See you in the library!

Pam & Donna

Men’s Winter Retreat - February 17-19, 2017

Complete the bottom portion of this form and put in the Bowen church mailbox. Registration will require check for **\$90** made payable to FUMC, with "Men's Retreat" on memo line.* More information regarding directions, carpooling, and what to bring will be sent to you in due course. Contact John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com with any questions.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

*Deadline for registration is February 10th





FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton ~ 790-9131 or swalton54@comcast.net
meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick ~ 697-2233
meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen ~ 796-0809 or jjgbowen@yahoo.com
meets the 4th Monday of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan ~ 697-3554
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month

COVERED IN LOVE

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

SQUARES AND PRAYERS

Tammy Snyder ~ 439-0355 or tamsnyde@gmail.com
meets 1st & 3rd Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

KNIT AT NIGHT ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

Mary Helm ~ mthelm4@yahoo.com
meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in Room B002

2017 Events:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| February 3-5 | Women's Retreat |
| February 12 | "Chosen" Human Trafficking presentation by Women at Risk during Sunday School |
| February 26 | Mission Meal sponsored by the Deborah Circle |
| March 24-25 | Susquehanna Conference Women's Retreat in Lewisburg, "If Our Closets Could Talk" |
| April 29 | UMW Baby Shower to support a local mission |
| July 6-8 | Mission U - Three day mission education conference at Bucknell University (scholarships available) |
| August 19 | UMW Yard, Book and Bake Sale to benefit local missions |
| October 7 | First Church hosts the Harrisburg District UMW Annual Day |
| November 19 | World Thank Offering and Mission Meal |

Contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430 with questions about any of these above UMW events

Chosen – the True Story of America's Trafficked Teens

Learn the shocking true story of two teen girls tricked by traffickers. Brianna, 18, was a star student; Lacy, 13, enjoyed church and school but struggled to help care for her siblings. Brianna and Lacy share how traffickers used manipulation to lure them into the world of sex trafficking.

The United Methodist Women is sponsoring this presentation on **Sunday, February 12** in the multi purpose room during the Sunday School hour. Join us as we welcome local Women at Risk representative, DeFord Davis, as she explains the difference between trafficking and smuggling and how we can be aware of hidden captives in our community. All are encouraged to attend, especially youth and parents of youth. Don't miss this important presentation!

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012, Resolution 161 states that, "United Methodists deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sex, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible."



Mission Meal

The Deborah Circle invites you to a Mission Meal in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 26 after the 10:30 worship service. Join us for homemade chili, cornbread and brownies (PB&J will be available also). The meal is free, but we ask that you make a donation, which will support a local ministry. Takeout available after Sunday School. Please help us support those in need in our community!

Health & Wellness

February Blood Drives

Below is the listing of February blood drives in the Mechanicsburg area that are open to the public. Please refer to their website for a listing of blood drives by county www.cpbb.org.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | 2pm to 5:30pm – Pinnacle Health 1 Trinity Dr. East, Dillsburg |
| February 1 | 3pm to 7:30pm – Carlisle Church of Christ 971 Walnut Bottom Rd Carlisle |
| February 2 | 10am to 4pm – Technology Park 2020 Technology Parkway Mechanicsburg |
| February 4 | 9am to 12pm – Grace UMC 216 South Market St. Mechanicsburg |
| February 7 | 3pm to 7pm – Denny’s on the Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg |
| February 10 | 8am to 7pm – Fox Center 120 S. Filbert St. Mechanicsburg |
| February 10 | 11am to 3pm – Silver Spring Township Building 8 Flowers Dr Mechanicsburg |
| February 15 | 3pm to 7pm – Range End 303 Golf Club Ave Dillsburg |
| February 16 | 3pm to 7pm – Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike |
| February 17 | 11am to 7pm – Dickinson College Carlisle (in the HUB) |
| February 18 | 9am to 1pm – Carlisle Family YMCA |
| February 19 | 8:30am to 1pm – Saint Joseph Catholic Church 410 East Simpson St. Mechanicsburg |
| February 22 | 4pm to 7pm – Arooga’s on the Carlisle Pike |
| February 25 | 12pm to 4pm – Appalachian Harley Davidson 6695 Carlisle Pike Mechanicsburg |
-

Embracing Winter: Norwegian-style!

We awoke to ice-covered cars and roads here in central PA this past week. How many of you found yourself feeling resentful of winter and all things frozen as you were canceling plans, rearranging your day, or scraping off your windshield? Great material for small talk with our friends and neighbors, right? Grrr, can't stand this winter weather.....this snow and ice is dreadful.....did you hear the wind chill in the forecast? Even the dog doesn't want to go out in this brutal weather. Sound familiar?

Winter can no doubt be challenging to our physical and mental health with the weather challenges and extra hours of darkness we inevitably experience. Around here we seem to bond through adversity, wishing away the winter months and counting down the days until spring. So how do people cope in the regions of the world, such as Norway, where they have even harsher winters and significantly more hours of darkness? Isn't everyone miserable and depressed? Strangely enough, research shows that rates of seasonal depression in Norway are surprisingly low. How can this be? If you asked a Norwegian, they may respond by sharing with you their concept of "koselig" – pronounced "koos-uh-lee."



Norwegian blogger, Lorelou Desjardins, better known as 'A Frog in the Fjord' states: "This concept is difficult to translate to those who do not live here, but basically anything can (and should) be koselig: a house, a conversation, a dinner, a person. It defines something /someone/an atmosphere that makes you feel a sense of warmth very deep inside in a way that all things should be: simple and comforting." In a single word, koselig captures and describes elements of living that express love, friendship, comfort, trust, contentedness, and happiness.

Is there something about winter that you can admit to enjoying? A cozy pot-luck dinner with friends? Curling up under your favorite blanket with a cup of cocoa and a wonderful book? Skiing or skating to the point of happy exhaustion? If you want to be more koselig, then focus on what brings you joy and contentment on cold winter days. For my kids, it's 2-hour delays and baking. For me it's the cozy glow of candle light every night at dinner, steaming cups of coffee, and enjoying the warmth and shine of our Christmas tree throughout January.

So here's the challenge I want to give you. Instead of indulging in misery, gloom, and ranting about winter aggravations, embrace this cold and dark season by finding your personal koselig. Step outside and witness the incredible beauty of ice crystals and snow. Invite friends to join you for a cozy candle-lit dinner. After stocking up at the food store before the next predicted snow storm, stop at the library for some good books and movies! Please let me know what brings you joy and delight this winter. I would love if you would send a note or photo of how you choose to be "koselig"!

Winter blessings to each of you!

Janice Bowen, Congregational Care

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.*
John 1:5 Common English Bible (CEB)

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the loss of Janet Fertenbaugh’s husband, Paul, on January 12.

Thank you

Cookie Walk Thank You

Thank you to all the bakers who made this years cookie walk possible. While we did experience difficulty due to weather we were still able to have our cookie walk as planned and even had enough left to sell on Sunday morning. Because of your time, effort, and baking skill we were able to raise over \$1500.00 for our youth mission trip. None of this would have been possible without you and so thank you!!



This year the youth are partnering with Praying Pelican and venturing to Alaska. We will be making connections to the local churches in and around the Anchorage area and helping Praying Pelican lay the ground work for the future of their mission and service work in that area. Check out next month’s newsletter for more information about are trip and the ways that you can help support the youth in this tremendous opportunity.

Hi,

This is a note from Glenn & Jane Heller, We want to say thank you for taking the time to think of us, to say prayers for us, and for the concerns you have for us. Glenn came home on December 23. He is weak and that is why there have been no church services for us to hear, but one of the days, when he gets stronger, we will be back. We do miss being in church. We talk about the strength we get from the services and the people. Thanks to all of you.

Thank you much!

I wish to thank everyone for sympathy, prayers, cards and visits on the recent passing of my husband, Paul.

Janet Fertenbaugh

Special Birthdays

- Joanne Ciampa..... February 6
- Dottie Zimmerman .. February 26
- Gerry Aumiller February 27
- 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

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Larry & Linda Hall married 56 years on February 4
- ♥ Denny & Sally Kauffman married 57 years on February 14
- ♥ Winslow & Caroline Brown married 62 years on February 19
- ♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 53 years on March 21

Church Staff

SENIOR PASTOR

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

ASSISTANT PASTOR*

Rev. Dr. David Reed
766-4611 ext. 117
pastordave@fumchurch.com

YOUTH PASTOR

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

DIRECTOR OF ADULT MINISTRIES*

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

OFFICE MANAGER/FINANCE SECRETARY

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

FACILITIES COORDINATOR*

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

CUSTODIANS*

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR*

Nancy Robinson
766-4611 ext. 115
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/SANCTUARY CHOIR*

Jody Brinley
Brynleawesties@comcast.net

ORGANIST*

Nicholas Werner
nickthoven@yahoo.com

ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR*

Gail Leinhos
leinhosdav@verizon.net

BELL CHOIRS*

Kathie Bittenbender
rbittenben@verizon.net
Jon Snyder
jonsnyde@aol.com

INVOCATION*

Allison Ometz
ometz@msn.com

JUNIOR CHOIR*

Melissa Felty
melissafelty@hotmail.com

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS*

Lorette Cale
lorettecale@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF LITTLE FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL*

Chris Sims
lfns@fumchurch.com

**PART-TIME*

FIRST NEWS FIRST
Editor: Kristin Brown

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

February 10 by NOON

Due to the Editor leaving for Sierra
Leone on February 18 ALL items
for the March newsletter MUST be
received by noon on February 10.

Early submissions always
appreciated