



First News First

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

Dates to Remember

- Sept 7..... Labor Day
- Sept 8..... SPRC Open Meeting
- Sept 13..... Fall Kick-Off Sunday Church Picnic
- Sept 16..... Bagging for Bethesda Mission
- Sept 20..... Bless our Schools Sunday
- Sept 23..... See You at the Pole
- Sept 27..... Health Lecture Rejoicing Spirits

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From the Pastor

"Prayer in School"

Some of you may be old enough to remember when each public school day began with a brief devotional and prayer. This practice ended nationwide in 1962, when the U.S. Supreme Court removed school-sponsored prayer, declaring it unconstitutional.

Over the years, many thoughtful Christians have advocated for the return of Bible reading and prayer in public schools. Some have said that this morning devotional time was the only time many children ever got to read the Bible and pray. Others have argued that if we had kept prayer in our schools, we would not have many of the social ills we now have. Truly, our society has become more secular in the years since the Supreme Court ruling. Generations of Americans have grown up with little or no foundation of faith.

Those who have lobbied for prayer in school have had the same concern we all have. As followers of Jesus, we want all children to grow up with a strong foundation in faith. However, by eliminating school sponsored prayer, the Supreme Court took an important step to protect our rights as Christians. In order to protect the freedom we have to practice *our* faith, we have to protect the freedom of every person to practice *their* faith.

Schools are no longer permitted to lead morning devotions, but as Christians we can still let the light of Christ shine in public schools. Students can pray anytime and anywhere in school. They can wear clothing with religious messages, and share their faith with their friends. They can meet for Bible study before and after school, too. Teachers can be a caring, listening presence, reflecting the love of Christ to students, fellow teachers, and staff.

Much has changed in our world since the days when there was prayer and Bible reading in our schools, but there is one thing that has not changed. Children today, like children back then, need a personal and genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. Where will they find this relationships? They will find it first and foremost in their homes. Parents, grandparents, are you teaching your children to pray? Are you introducing them to the Scriptures? Are you living before them a life that introduces them to our Savior?

The church has a vital role to play, too. Our Sunday school classes and worship services, and our youth and children's ministries, are vitally important. We need adults who are willing to serve as teachers and leaders. And, more children from our community need to be invited to church. If our children are to learn to pray, if they are to learn the great stories of our faith, if they are to learn to know Jesus, it will be because we are committed to love them into the kingdom

(Continued on page 2)

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of God!

On August 30, as another school year begins, we will present Bibles to children and youth that are stepping up to a new level in our Sunday school. We will also bless students' backpacks. In worship on September 20, the "Moms in Prayer" Group will gather names of students, and they will bring them before the Lord in daily prayer. Thank you for your commitment to love the children of this community into the kingdom of God! I pray that in and through First Church Christ our Savior will be lifted up so that every child will find life in him.

Pastor Denny

Sermon Series

"Training for Christian Living"

A Series of Messages on "The Letter of James"

August 30 to September 27

As another school year approaches, the athletic fields and parking lots of our schools are abuzz with activity. Football and field hockey, soccer and cross country, and girls tennis, all are in training for fall sports. Marching bands, drill teams, and cheerleaders are rehearsing, too. From early morning until late evening, students run drills, learn plays, develop skills, build strength and speed, and practice, practice, practice. The training is intensive. The coaches and instructors demanding. Everyone is focused on the goal of performing at their very best, knowing they will represent their school in the upcoming season.

Beginning August 30, at our Sunday morning services, Pastor Denny and Pastor Dave will kick-off this school year with a five-week series of sermons on the New Testament Letter of James. Like a coach preparing his team for competition, James, the brother of Jesus, instructs us, ***"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."*** (James 1:22). He provides clear, compelling direction to challenge us toward greater faithfulness as followers of Jesus. Coach James gets us focused on good deeds and holy habits that equip us to transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

August 30	"Just Do It"	James 1:17-27
September 6	"Honor the Poor"	James 2:1-10
September 13	"Discipline Your Tongue"	James 3:1-12
September 20	"Live the Good Life"	James 3:13-4:3
September 27	"Pray in Faith"	James 5:13-20

Your Personal Training Goal: Worship every Sunday!

Staff Parish

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites all interested members of the congregation to attend its annual open meeting on Tuesday evening, September 8 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Attendees will be able to observe the non-confidential portion of the meeting and participate in an interactive session during which questions can be posed, concerns raised, suggestions offered and comments made.

Stewardship

Our Stewardship program is now in its 6th month in September. I hope you are enjoying the Stewardship Seconds each week, as presented by various church leaders/members. Take the time to look at the budget tree and notice all the flowers (budget areas) where our offerings are put to use. As the weeks go by, the tree becomes much more colorful, and begins to show the life of our varied ministries. Each week, the Stewardship Seconds provide an opportunity to hear about some aspect of the life and ministry of First Church using the resources that we provide in our regular offerings to the unified budget. As you will continue to hear each Sunday, FUMC has great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond your “regular” giving levels. Our total year estimated unified budget shortfall for 2015 continues to be about \$50-60,000 (about 5-6%). If we can make-up this deficit during 2015, we can continue to provide (or expand) these important church ministries and missions. If we cannot make up this deficit, we may be forced to eliminate or reduce some of these important programs, ministries, missions, and/or staffing that we have heard about each week in the Stewardship Seconds.



Have you ever had to sacrifice and/or give up something that you really treasured? Some of us “give up something” for Lent to represent in a small way the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for us. I remember the day that I had to give up playing competitive basketball and softball. Ever since I was young, I was athletic and when I played sports, I played hard and to the maximum of my ability. Then one day I realized that my back and an older body just couldn’t do it anymore. I had responsibilities that I could no longer risk, to keep playing competitive sports. So I hung up my glove and my sneakers. That was a BIG sacrifice for me, and it hurt. That’s when I learned that something is not really a sacrifice unless you feel it.

In the 8th Chapter of 2nd Corinthians, Paul discusses the rich generosity of the Macedonian churches. Even in the midst of very severe trials and extreme poverty, the people gave sacrificially. In verse 3 he states “For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability – entirely on their own....” And then in the 21st chapter of Luke’s gospel, is the story of the Widow’s offering. “As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. Truly I tell you...this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put all she had to live on.” Both the Macedonian churches and the poor widow gave sacrificially, and I’m sure they felt it. SACRIFICE FILLS OUR LIVES WITH FAITH – AND MOVES THE HEART OF GOD.

During September’s “Stewardship Seconds”, our emphasis will be on the Children’s Department budget. Our children are involved in many wonderful ministries. From Wonderful Wednesday and the Passion Play to Vacation Bible school and our Sunday School program. The Little Friends Nursery School is also a wonderful ministry and Christian based educational program that the church supports. During the church services in September, you will hear about these and many other Children’s department activities. During September, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Children’s Department Root”. If we have roots “Grounded in Faith”, we will be able to “Grow to Serve”.

Finance

Through July 30, 2015
58% of year

General Fund

2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 507,500	
Actual income	\$ 486,696	(55.6% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 20,804	
Actual expenses	\$ 489,439	

Building Fund	\$ 4,785
Legacy Campaign	\$ 2,310

Despite our “Grounded in Faith... Growing to Serve” stewardship campaign, our deficit is growing.

Worship

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

Sunday School
9:30 am

Anchor Worship
Sunday Evenings @ 7:00 pm



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

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

Holy Communion

World Communion	10/4/15	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	11/29/15	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	12/24/15	Loaves and Chalice

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

Acolytes Needed

Hey Kids in grades 3-6! Have you ever wanted to light the altar candles; help with communion, baptisms and the offering; or sit in one of those big, comfy chairs with the Pastors during worship? If so, now is the time to sign-up to be an acolyte! A short training will be scheduled at your convenience during October. Please contact Colin Knott at 691-1183 or wereknotthome@verizon.net to sign up and light your fire for the Lord!

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 September 16 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket in the narthex. 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 427 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,538.13.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

Missions

Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Opportunities

VIM has opportunities right here in PA that you or a group could be a part of:

Sweden Valley New Build

When: September 13-18
Where: Sweden Valley, PA
Housing/Meals: Provided by local church
Work: Construction and finishing new building
Contact: Pastor Steve Small- ssmall@susumc.org or [814-414-7505](tel:814-414-7505)

UM Childrens Home Remodel

When: September 14-19
Where: United Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA
What: Remodeling dormitory - anything from demolition to finish painting
Cost: \$100 (Includes housing and meals); air mattress or cot needed
Contact: Ron Lucas - ronkar1976@comcast.net or 570-406-8409 as soon as you can

UM Childrens Home Remodel

When: Sunday, September 27 through Friday, October 2, 2015.
Where: United Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA
What: Major renovation of a Boys' Dormitory.
Cost: \$100 (Includes housing at UM Church, meals Sunday night thru Friday lunch)
 Accepting volunteers on a "first committed" basis—maximum 30 volunteers. Please contact John Best for more information or an application packet - jmbest2@gmail.com / (570) 326-1943

Music

Ringin' in the News

A busy Fall is ahead for our FUM Bell Choirs. Besides starting to play in church again in September, and trying to have an outreach ministry around our area, this is the year we are again looking forward to attending an International Handbell Symposium to be held next summer in Vancouver, Canada. Please watch for our fundraisers and try to help us out if you can. We hope to have "eat outs" at different restaurants once a month in addition to our regular events.

On Tuesday, September 22, we will eat out at Hoss's in Mechanicsburg, all day. Our second "eat out" event will be Thursday, October 22, at Issac's in Rossmoyne from 5 to 9 p.m. Make sure you pick up a voucher for each restaurant before going so that the choir receives proceeds for these events. These are great ways to join your church family for food and fellowship.

Another date you won't want to miss, October 10, will be our 14th annual Chicken Barbeque here at the church. See any bell choir member for a ticket. Price is still only \$8.50.

As an outreach in the month of October, we are looking forward to making a trip to Philadelphia to play for a Service of Remembrance and Celebration at the Cancer Center where Pastor Lucretia is serving. We are honored to have been asked to do this.

Little Friends Nursery School

Little Friends Nursery School's annual Fall Festival/Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 10-2. Anyone interested in donating an item or service to the auction, please contact Chris Sims at lfns@fumchurch.com

Fundraising

FUM *Scrip*

What is it?

The FUM *Scrip* program is a church-wide fundraising program. Scrip is simply a word that means “substitute money” – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They’re the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. So why not get them from us? Originally initiated by the handbell choirs, proceeds have also been used for the Women’s Retreat and have been given to the church general fund. It could be helping with many things, but it seems most of our church members don’t know about it! Do you?

How does it work?

The *Scrip* program gives you gift cards at face value. How do these stores help us raise money? It’s simple –participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Families like yours buy the certificates for full face value and redeem them for full face value, and our church keeps the difference as revenue. On our scrip order sheet the percentage that the retailers give to us is noted. You will notice some retailers give us a much bigger percentage than others! Scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business....

We get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling!

Our church gets a regular source of revenue.

Why use *Scrip*?

Why not?! We all grocery shop, buy gas, shop for clothes and go out to eat. Why not have a gift card to those favorite places of yours on hand? Use the card instead of money and get a new card in the next ordering cycle!

How to Order *Scrip*

Just fill in the Order Sheet and put it and your check or money in the envelope provided and insert it in the Scrip mailbox! Our mailbox is on the wall right around the corner from the main church hallway, to the left before you go down the stairs. You will have your cards on the delivery date posted. If you know you won’t be in church that day, just make a note – we’ll find you!

Are other *Scrip* cards not on the list available?

Maybe! We’ve tried to list our local retailers, but there are many more retailers available! We often put in orders for Walgreens, CVS, Acme and Crate and Barrel. If you put something in the “other” spot on the order sheet, we’ll let you know if it’s available or not. Or, just check with Kathie Bittenbender (697-6257 or email RBittenben@verizon.net) ahead of time!

Let’s make the FUM *Scrip* program really do some fundraising for First Church! We’ve enclosed an order sheet in this newsletter to get you started. Give it a try! Order dates for September are the 6th and 20th, with delivery of Scrip cards the week after.

Access Ministry

Day of Pampering 2016 will be held on Saturday, February 27.

This is a day to honor and serve primary care providers.....mothers of children with disAbilities and wives of husbands with disAbilities and we need *you* in order to make this outreach a success!

Please pick up a "Save the Date" card in the narthex. Share it with an area service provider (hair stylists, nail techs, massage therapists, makeup specialists.....even specialty bakers) and encourage them to reserve February 27, 2016 for Day of Pampering. They can use the contact information on the card to obtain more details.

Pray about the way(s) in which you might be a part of this outreach. If you've never participated, you are invited to join in the blessing! We could use your hands....and your heart! We are especially in need of adults who are willing to paint nails. If you are able to commit to doing this, please contact Lisa Wickenheiser now. If you've participated in the past, consider what your role might be in 2016. In particular, please contact Lisa if you are planning to serve in the same way as DOP 2015.....or if you'd prefer to serve in an alternate way. Lisa can be contact at the7wicks@verizon.net or 717-649-0993.

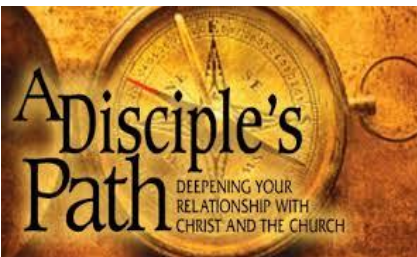
Adult Ministry



Our annual "Fall Kick-Off Sunday" is coming up on September 13! Regular Sunday School classes will begin meeting that morning at 9:30 am. Look in the September 13 bulletin for more detailed information.

Our annual **all-church picnic** will also be held on "Fall Kick-Off Sunday", September 13. It will be held at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion at 3:30 pm. A pot-luck supper will be held at 5 pm and outdoor worship will be held at 6 pm.

Bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. Also bring your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company! All are welcome!



"A Disciple's Path", a new sermon series and small group study is set to begin on October 11. You won't want to miss this opportunity, along with you First Church family, to take the next step in your personal discipleship to become a more dynamic, engaged follower of Jesus Christ!

See the display in the main lobby for more details and sign up for a small group today! Don't see a small group that suits your schedule? Please create your own with some friends and enjoy growing in your faith together!

Questions? Contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Children's Department

Children's Department Newsletter- Are you receiving the Children's Department Newsletter by email? If not, contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado to provide your email address so you can receive this information packed Newsletter!

Youth

Looking for information about the happenings of the youth department? Don't miss out on all that is going on. Make sure to send an email to uthrock@fumchurch.com to be included on our email distribution list. Also, check the weekly bulletin announcements for the most up-to-date information.

Health & Wellness

StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Strength Training Program Offered!

First United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg and Penn State Extension will be teaming up again to offer the **StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Program** this fall. This is a 12-week program geared for middle-aged to older women and men and is based upon years of research on how strength training and proper nutrition improve the health of women and men of all ages. The program was developed to help individuals increase their strength, bone density, balance and energy and help them look and feel better. Participants will meet two times a week for one hour sessions. There is a \$90 fee and participants may want to provide their own hand weights and ankle weights.

The evening classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, September 14 – December 7, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the church which is located at 135 W. Simpson Street in Mechanicsburg. Mandatory paperwork must be completed in order to participate in the program and individuals over age 70 must get a doctor's permission. Past participants must pre-register.

For more information or to register for the program, go to: <http://extension.psu.edu/strongwomen/events> and click on "upcoming events" or contact the Penn State Extension office at 240-6500.

Health & Wellness Committee invites you....

... to an important and informative lecture!

When: September 27 @ 9:30 am

Where: FUMC's multi-purpose room

Topic: **Safeguards Against Scamming**

Speaker: Detective Sgt. Brian Curtis of the Mechanicsburg Police Department

Do you know someone who has been scammed? We read and hear reports all the time of phone, email and even a "knock on your door" type of scam. This type of activity is frightening and presented in such a way that many people affected truly believe what was presented to them and feel safe in doing so.

Sgt. Curtis will share the current types of scams and update us on how to be more safe and aware. We hope you will plan to attend this presentation. Let's learn together!!

Library

As many of you know, each newsletter is written almost a month in advance. So as I type “September” my mind is rebelling—I am not ready to even think about September on this beautiful summer morning. But as I always told my children, the sooner you start, the sooner you finish. September is the month of back to school, even if you are well past school age. In September fall begins to creep into lives with colored leaves and crisp nights. While reading I will be replacing my iced tea with a latte. What to read? Mysteries are always good, but I think this time I will venture back to Mitford. Jan Karon’s newest volume in the Mitford series is **Come Rain or Come Shine**. In this tenth installment, Ms. Karon is delivering the wedding that fans have been waiting for since Dooley Kavanagh and Lace Harper were brought into the family. Dooley has graduated from vet school and is setting up his own practice. Money is tight and maybe a potluck reception in a cleaned out barn would be perfect for the young couple. But if you are a Mitford fan, you know there will be hilarious glitches. You better bring tissues too, because there will be tears of joy. Coming near the end of September, it will be on the shelf for check out as soon as the library receives it. If you have not read this series, there is time to catch up as all the previous Mitford books are available.

I don’t regularly read Amish books, but I am well aware that many of you do. One of my favorite historical fiction writers, Tricia Goyer has been writing more Amish books. She has combined her talents with Sherry Gore to write **Made with Love**. Main character Lovina Miller has always had a dream to own a pie shop. While scouting locations for her shop, she runs into Noah Yoder who offers to help make her dream a reality. As they work together, the two become attracted to each other, but they realize to have a healthy marriage they each must deal with some of their past baggage. I won’t spoil the plot of this sweet romance, but I will tell you several yummy pie recipes are included in this book. Considering Sherry Gore is also a cookbook author and pie expert might make this book even sweeter.

If neither of these books interests you, stop in and see our many other genres. Let us help you choose just the right book.

All of us in the library would like to thank everyone who donated or bought books at the library sale. It keeps the all the best books at your fingertips.

See you in the library!

Pam and Donna



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554

UMW 2015 Calendar

All women are invited to join any of these events!

October 3	Harrisburg District Annual Day, Tower City
October 17	Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Kingston
November 22	World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

Please contact Lori Hoffnagle with any questions about the above events.

Facilities

As the calendar changes to September, First Church will once again become a beehive of activity. Little Friends Nursery School will be resuming classes at the church on weekday mornings, New Hope Ministries after school program will be back in operation, our church choirs will be holding their weekly rehearsals, 3G will resume for our youth on Sunday evenings, and various church committees/outside organizations will be meeting regularly after a summer hiatus. These activities place a wonderful strain on our facility as we sense the presence of God all around us. Hopefully our ongoing cleaning and maintenance efforts have us well prepared to meet this increased tempo.

I am pleased to report that the restoration work in the lower level of the church building is almost finished. New floor tiles were installed in the pump room and the storage room off of the kitchen where the large reach-in freezer is located. Wall repairs and installation of new cove molding in areas affected by last fall's sewage pump malfunction are complete, and fresh paint covers the walls. We changed out one set of kitchen cabinets and countertop while this work was going on in order to make room for a new "yet to be bought" reach-in refrigerator for the church kitchen, and the new cabinets were painted to match the other 70 that Judi Buddenbaum and Marcia Espenshade refreshed. Judi and Marcia also led an effort to reorganize the contents of all those cabinets and installed new shelf liner in the process.

Two of our youth chose initiatives here at First Church for their Eagle Scout projects. Matthew Canonizado led the efforts on a prayer garden he envisioned for the east side of the church near King Alley. Matthew's design included replacement of the Brian James memorial weeping cherry tree that we removed earlier this spring, as well as a cross, benches, and other plantings. The project should wrap up shortly, hopefully by the time you read this. Nick LaPointe led a project to redo the Youth Lounge, including painting, furniture realignment, and construction of a portable wall to hide the building's main water pipes and sprinkler system controls. Nick's project was completed in early August. We are proud to support these young men as they strive for Scouting's highest honor.

The areas above and below the balcony on the Frederick Street side of the Sunday School Auditorium have been closed off in recent weeks. Eric King has been hard at work this summer repairing these walls that were damaged by water infiltration over a period of time. Matt Miller assisted with some needed wall patching, and we are about ready to reinstall covers over the heating pipes so that painting can be accomplished and these areas can be reopened for use. Thank you for your patience during this process.

Floor maintenance has been another priority in recent weeks. Whether it be stripping and waxing of tile floors or shampooing classroom carpets, summer provided an opportunity to focus on these efforts throughout the facility. There are still some areas to be completed, so bear with us if your normal pathway is temporarily blocked off while here at the church during the week.

We also recently survived what we thought was a sinkhole developing in the south parking lot. There was a hole about 18" wide and 3' deep. Mike Neidig inspected the hole and determined it to be decomposing fill under the surface, similar to the two other larger holes we dealt with in recent years. Mike filled the hole with crushed stone and we are taking a "wait and see" attitude before tackling the paving project we had planned to schedule. We do hope to move forward soon with a resealing and relining of the main church parking lot.

As always, please alert me if you see something broken or in need of our attention around the church. We are striving to be faithful stewards of this awesome facility, and your eyes really help us in that process. Thank you.

Roger Walton
Facilities Manager

Prayer Team

Nourishment

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

~~~~~  
A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

~~~~~  
Remember:

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!
Faith *sees* the **invisible**, *believes* the **incredible** and *receives* the **impossible**!
Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

~~~~~  
When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, 'Jesus, could you get that for me, while I give this message to your children?'

~~~~~  
IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

~~~~~  
B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

~~~~~  
When you carry "the Bible", Satan has a headache.
When you open it, he collapses;
And, when he sees you reading it, he loses his strength,
AND . . . When you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

~~~~~  
All right, now that you're done reading, pass it on to someone who seems to need this nourishment! When you are about to give this to others, the devil will discourage you. So go on! Give this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.

|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p><i>FIRST NEWS FIRST</i><br/><b>Editor:</b> Kristin Brown<br/>The <b>October</b> newsletter deadline is<br/><b>September 15</b></p> | <p>All submissions should be received in the church office on or <b>before</b> this date.<br/><b>Early submissions are always welcome!</b></p> |
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## Church News and Notes

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### Special Birthdays

Foster Creamer.....September 4  
 Bill Neumyer.....September 4  
 Emma Whitcomb ...September 8  
 Ken Nelson.....September 13  
 George Rehfluss.....September 16  
 Ike Bomboy .....September 20  
 Lil Thomas.....September 22  
 Bill Seig.....September 27  
 Peggy Shenberger....September 28  
 Betty Fribance .....October 4  
 Peg Hassinger.....October 8  
 Skip Hutter .....October 13  
 Catherine Mader.....October 19  
 Carol Moomaw .....October 21  
 Winslow Brown .....October 23  
 Paul Strock.....October 31

### Special Anniversaries

♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 52 years on September 1  
 ♥ Richard & Alberta Knause married 65 years on September 2  
 ♥ Ed & Ginny Johnson married 51 years on September 3  
 ♥ Bill & Betty Etter married 72 years on September 4  
 ♥ Milt & Dolly Dougherty married 65 years on September 23  
 ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 51 years on September 26  
 ♥ Paul & Lorraine Strock married 62 years on September 27  
 ♥ Leroy & Pam Weaver married 53 years on October 7  
 ♥ Skip & Pat Hutter married 60 years on October 8  
 ♥ Ralph & Gwendolyn Harkins married 53 years on October 20  
 ♥ Paul & Vesta Rynard married 51 years on October 24

*Addresses of these  
 members can be found in  
 the Church Directory.*

### Thank you...

*Dearest Women of First Church,*

*Thank you so very much for your gift in memory of mom, and be continued giving it will provide. Your thoughtfulness brought comfort during this time of loss. God Bless,*

*Georgianna and family*

*Thank you to the Backyard Missions team for your help with repairs, painting and weeding around my house in preparation for sale. It looks wonderful and has inspired other neighbors to fix up their homes, none of which would have happened without all of you.*

*Kristin Brown*

## Church Staff

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### PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR\*

Rev. Dr. David Reed

### YOUTH PASTOR

Lisa Aronson

### ADULT MINISTRIES\*

Tina Eaton

### DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY\*

Dawn Fisher

George Canonizado

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE\*

Janice Bowen

### OFFICE MANAGER

Kristin Brown

### FACILITIES COORDINATOR\*

Roger Walton

### CUSTODIANS\*

George Canonizado

Matthew Miller

### FINANCE DIRECTOR\*

Nancy Robinson

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ SANCTUARYCHOIR\*

Jody Brinley

### ORGANISTS\*

Nicholas Werner

### ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR\*

Gail Leinhos

### BELL CHOIRS\*

Kathie Bittenbender

Jon Snyder

### INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR\*

Allison Ometz

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS\*

Lorette Cale

\*PART-TIME