



# First News First

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

MAY 2016

## First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

### From the Pastor

#### Dates to Remember

- May 1 .....Communion  
Sierra Leone  
Guest Speaker
- May 5 .....National Day of  
Prayer
- May 7 .....Bike Bonanza
- May 8 .....Attendance  
Challenge  
Sunday
- May 10-20 ..General  
Conference
- May 15 .....Pentecost  
Ecumenical Choir  
Concert
- May 18 .....Grocery Bagging
- May 22 .....Confirmation  
Sunday  
Rejoicing Spirits  
Service

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#### "Therefore, Go!"

Those words, lifted from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, serve as the theme for the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Conference, which takes place every four years, is scheduled for May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon. 864 delegates will represent our 12,311,438 member denomination. Members of the conference will act on 1,044 petitions to change *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*, approve the denominational budget, and approve amendments to our constitution to send to the annual conferences.

Ten delegates, five clergy and five laypersons, were elected to represent the Susquehanna Conference last June at our annual conference sessions at Messiah College. Anne Horton, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries for the conference and a member of First Church, was elected as a lay delegate. As the sixth clergy elected, I will attend the conference as a reserve delegate. Along with another clergy reserve and two lay reserves, we will be available to make sure our conference is fully represented at all the sessions.

In addition to participating in the proceedings of legislative committees and General Conference sessions, Anne and I will have the opportunity to join in numerous worship services and other celebrations. It is a wonderful privilege to join in uplifting worship, to hear inspiring preaching from our Bishops, to receive accounts of lives being transformed in Christ, and to share in fellowship with our United Methodist sisters and brothers from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. We are both grateful to represent not only our conference, but also our First Church family at this great gathering!

During the conference we will address a number of issues that will have a significant impact on the future of our denomination. Given the ethnic and theological diversity of our church, there will be difficult, and sometimes painful conversations. Anne and I ask that you hold us in your prayers, along with our fellow delegates, the presiding Bishops, and everyone involved. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant us wisdom to discern God's will and love that will unify us for the great mission to which we have been called.

When Anne and I return, we will have much to share with you from Portland. If you have a need for pastoral care while I am away, please contact the church office. Pastor Dave and our dedicated staff will continue our many ministries during this time. Be assured that as I travel and participate in the General Conference, you will be always in my thoughts and prayers. I cannot thank God enough for you!

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

Monthly Communion	May 1	Pew Service
Monthly Communion	June 5	Loaves and Chalice
Monthly Communion	July 3	Pew Service
Monthly Communion	August 7	Loaves and Chalice
Monthly Communion	September 4	Pew Service
World Communion	October 2	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	November 27	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

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

### Attendance Challenge

The sermons, testimonies and small group discussions during our four week church-wide sermon series and small group study, "Just Walk Across the Room", helped us to see that evangelism is about developing friendships, discovering stories, and discerning next steps for pointing others to Christ.

One of those next steps is happening on **Sunday, May 8**. We will have an **Attendance Challenge** at our 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. services. We will celebrate Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home and welcome New Members. There will be inspiring music, faith sharing, and a sermon on the theme, "God Builds Bridges."

On May 10, 2015 (the same Sunday last year), attendance at our two services was 394. Pastor Denny is issuing a challenge for us to exceed last year's attendance by more than 100 people and to have 500 in attendance that day. If each of us brings a friend, we can do it! We might even exceed our Easter 2016 attendance of 615!

Of course, the goal of evangelism is not just to increase church attendance. It is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know him, and to welcome them into a Christian community like ours at First Church. As a loving community of Christ followers, let's encourage one another to continue on this path of pointing others to a life-changing relationship with Christ.

### Pentecost

Pentecost is coming up on Sunday, May 15th. This celebration represents an ending as well as a beginning: the end of the "Great Fifty Days" of the Easter Season (*Pentecost* means "the 50th day" in Greek) and the beginning of the early church.

Pentecost also gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves the question, What are we "on fire" about? What fans the flames of our church's ministry? Hopefully things like compassion, love, hospitality and a passion for justice come to mind.

So this Pentecost, remember the question: What is stirring within us? What warms our hearts? May the Holy Spirit work in surprising ways in all of our hearts so that others see and are drawn to the light of Christ!

## Finance

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### Financial Report Through March 31, 2016 25% of year

#### General Fund

2016 budget	\$ 890,000	
Expected income	\$ 222,500	
Actual income	\$ 213,062	(24% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 9,438	
Actual expenses	\$ 205,036	

**Building Fund** \$ 1,347

**Legacy Campaign** \$ 850

Our shortfall is largely because of the storm-related church closing in January. Many members have already caught up with their pledge, but not all. Please check your quarterly statement.

Another way to make sure you are always honoring your pledge is to sign up for electronic payments. It's easy and secure and you can change at any time if necessary. Forms are available in the Welcome area or at the church office.

## Staff-Parish

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The Staff-Parish Relations Committee regrets to advise the congregation that Roger Walton is resigning from the position of Facilities Coordinator as of June 30, 2016. Roger has served the church with diligence, distinction and high competence for the past five years. One has but to look anywhere in the building and outside property to see the fruits of Roger's commitment to stewardship of our physical plant. Please join SPRC in thanking Roger for his efforts and prayerfully wishing him the best as he continues his faith walk with us.

SPRC invites expressions of interest in taking on the responsibilities of the Facilities Coordinator. It is a part-time position, averaging 15 hours per week. The job requires a mix of skills including hands-on mechanical tasks, managing contractual relationships with service providers and facilities maintenance. A copy of the job description is available in the church office. SPRC expects to fill the position by mid-June, so applications will be most useful if submitted by April 29. Questions may be directed to Roger or Dave Florey, SPRC Chair.

## Music

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### Ringin' In the News

The members of the bell choirs want to thank you for all of your support this year. We hope you enjoyed our music during worship as well as our concert on April 17<sup>th</sup>. May marks the last time the regular choirs will play until the fall. We will be playing in church as well as joining the Ecumenical choir on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. That concert begins at 3:00 pm at Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Kathie Bittenbender is also directing the Ecumenical choir this year.

A group of us continue to practice for the 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium to be held in Vancouver this July. Our fundraising continues to help pay for this trip. On Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> a "Dining to Donate" day is occurring at Applebees on the Carlisle Pike. Last time we went to Applebees we had 32 vouchers turned in by FUMC friends and family. We challenge you this time to put us over the 40 mark. This would raise us to the next larger donation level. Look in your May 22<sup>nd</sup> bulletin for your voucher. Extras will be available at the welcome desk. We also have a Hoss's day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again vouchers will be in the bulletin and at the welcome desk. We hope you will have a chance to hear the "Vancouver Choir" play in church before we leave. Again, thank you church family for the support you continue to show us!

## Missions

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### Sierra Leone Guest Speaker

Mark your calendars, tie a string around your finger & set your alarm...whatever it takes to make sure you don't miss the opportunity to meet and greet Phileas Jusu, our guest from Sierra Leone on Sunday May 1st. Phileas will be speaking in the multi purpose room during the Sunday school hour. The Missions Team of First Church is pleased to host a fellow Missioner for Christ!

Mr. Phileas Jusu, Communications Director for the Sierra Leone Conference joins us for Sunday morning worship on May 1. Information sharing during the Sunday school hour includes the Sierra Leone Initiative and how our partnership keeps UM pastors in full time ministry, an Ebola update, and recommitment to the Sierra Leone pastors and parishes.

Please plan to join us and show your support for the Sierra Leone Initiative and God's powerful work with our brothers and sisters from this amazing continent.

God Bless you all, The Missions Team

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

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 125 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,580.38.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

### 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 May 18 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.

### Card Donations

Mission Central needs your all occasion cards! If you have greeting cards that you no longer have use for, give them to Mission Central, as they recycle them for the Candy Kit care packages. Cards can be new or used, and they prefer anything other than Christmas cards. There is a bin marked 'Cards for Mission Central' at the Donation Center outside the multipurpose room. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430. Thank you!

### Sierra Leone

Did you know that First Church has a partner church in Sierra Leone? Most of you would answer this question with Yes and hopefully in the weeks and months to come everyone will know. First Church joined the Sierra Leone Initiative of the Susquehanna Conference in 2006. As part of the Initiative, First Church was partnered with Calvary UMC in Taiama, Sierra Leone. The Initiative's main purpose is to provide salary assistance for full time pastors. The money given through the Initiative is divided up to pay approximately 70 pastors.

The purpose of partnering churches is to provide prayer and support to help build the kingdom of God. Several FUMC members have traveled to Sierra Leone and a couple have gone several times. Each trip brings new excitement for the support we can provide to Calvary UMC. Our first step has been to create a permanent display in the tower hallway so that information can be shared with everyone. Check out the display and watch for ways you can get involved.

## Missions

### Mission Opportunities

Our Susquehanna Conference Missional Board offers many wonderful mission trips through the "Volunteers in Mission" program. To check out these opportunities see the list below or check out <http://www.susmb.org/>.

If you are interested in any of these trips, please contact Pastor Jeff Fisher at [missions@calvaryunitedmethodist.org](mailto:missions@calvaryunitedmethodist.org) or call (717)545-0021. There are limited spaces for New Mexico & Nicaragua. If you do sign-up to participate in one of these wonderful mission opportunities, please also let Tina Eaton know so that First Church can support you!

List of opportunities that First Church is invited to participate in:

#### **In Harrisburg:**

Neighborhood Center ~ Friday, May 13, 2016, 1801 North Third Street.

Outdoor spring cleaning and mulching. Needed: Folks with trucks and 15-25 additional volunteers.

*Note: Contact John Bowen directly at [bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com) instead of Jeff Fisher. John is putting together a team from First Church to go on this date.*

#### **In Pennsylvania:**

Wesley Forest Church Camp ~ Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2016.

Removing log cabin shutters and painting each tin roof on log cabins. Free meals and lodging.

Needed: 8 to 10 people to remove shutters and 8 to 10 people for roof painting, Leaders: Pastor Jeff Fisher & Bill Toner

Wesley Forest Church Camp ~ Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 19-21, 2016.

Cleaning Lakeside Cabins & Painting Shutters, Staining cabins. Free Meals and Lodging. Needed: 30 volunteers to stain cabins, 12-20 volunteers to spring clean cabins, 10-12 volunteers to paint shutters. Leaders: Pastor Jeff Fisher & Bill Toner

Allport/Bigler/Woodland in Clearfield County ~ Sunday, June 19 - Friday, June 24, 2015. Repairing and painting homes for elderly and low income families. Cost: \$50 for a week (for those lodging) or \$10 per day. Leaders: Pastor Jeff Fisher & Bill Toner

Mt. Asbury Church Camp ~ Thursday, August 11 - Sunday, August 14. Repair of camp buildings. Cost \$75. Leaders: Pastor Jeff Fisher & Bill Toner

#### **Beyond Pennsylvania:**

Onondaga Native American Camp ~ Sunday, July 17 - Friday, July 22, 2016. Repairing homes. Cost: \$225. Leaders: John & Susie Shepler

Jinotega, Nicaragua ~ Monday, August 15 - Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Construction at orphanage, addition to home and other projects. Cost: \$1,600. Leaders: Pastor Jeff Fisher & Lauren Romberger

Shiprock, New Mexico ~ (Four Corners Ministry, Navajo Nation)

Saturday, September 24 - Tuesday, October 4, 2016. Home Repairs. Cost: \$1,600. Leader: Pastor Jeff Fisher

**Note:** Some of these VIM trips require team leader/member training, so contact Curt Knouse at [cknouse@susumc.org](mailto:cknouse@susumc.org) for more information on training. Current training sessions are scheduled for:

April 23 ~ at Tunkhannock UMC near Scranton. Cost is \$10 (lunch provided).

June 4 ~ at St Paul's UMC in State College. No Charge (buy your own lunch).

Register by providing your name, home church and phone number to Curt Knouse at [cknouse@susumc.org](mailto:cknouse@susumc.org).

## Fellowship



Celebrate summer with your First Church family at a Harrisburg Senators baseball game and picnic on Sunday, June 12! The game starts at 3:30 pm, but head over after church to enjoy an “all you can eat” buffet lunch with your friends! The buffet, which is open from 2:30 – 4:30 pm, includes hotdogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, chips, popcorn, cookies, soda and water.

The church is partially covering the expense of the ticket and picnic, so take advantage of the low cost... only \$15.00 for adults (ages 13 and up) and only \$8.00 for children ages 4 – 12 (kids ages 3 and under are free).

Please sign up and pay *no later than May 25* if you would like to attend – there is a sign up sheet in the binder at the Welcome Desk. No registrations can be accepted after that date. Questions? Please contact Holly Kurten at [bgooser@comcast.net](mailto:bgooser@comcast.net) or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611.

Don't miss this great event for all ages!

## FUMC visits Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre ~ Saturday, August 6th, 2016

### Itinerary:

Leave FUMC parking lot at 10:30 AM (be at the church by 10:15 AM). Drive to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see the 1:15 PM showing of Mary Poppins. Buffet lunch begins at 11:45 AM before the show, return to church after dinner.

Cost: \$49/person (includes transportation, show, and buffet style all-you-can-eat lunch at the theatre, tax and gratuity). Transportation will be via 2 church vans and personal mini-van.

Please contact Jeff Hoffnagle at 732-6430 to sign up or you may sign up at church on the sign-up sheet that will be passed around at Sunday School. Registration for Seniors-only open until May 9, at which time we'll open it to the whole church. Trip limited to the first 22 to sign up, so reserve early!

Please make checks payable to FUMC with “Dutch Apple” on the memo line or cash payment accepted. Please provide payment directly to Jeff Hoffnagle or place the payment in my mailbox at church.

## Men of First Church

### Men of First Church

Have you been looking for a way to connect on a deeper level with other men of our church? Would the friendship and support of others facing similar challenges be beneficial to you? Could you use a little encouragement in your walk of faith? Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Please join us as we gather together for men's fellowship to “keep each other sharp” on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 8:00-9:30pm in room B005 (in the youth Sunday school wing).

Our first meeting will be on May 4. As a group we will also be exploring other ideas to grow men's ministry at First Church. If you have questions, or have ideas you want to share, please feel free to reach out to John Bowen ([bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com)) or Barry Eaton ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)). Should Wednesday evenings not work well for you, stay tuned for more details on other options that may be coming soon. We hope to see you there!

## Library

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If you read last month's newsletter, you know I was dealing with a case of spring fever. If I were not dedicated to writing this month's newsletter, I would be outside looking for that missing spring. Next month I will probably be complaining about it being too hot and summery. Yes, spring is a precarious thing in Pennsylvania. So I will ignore the weather and write about my true passion which is reading a good book. An enjoyable book can take you way past your everyday life and weather woes. After reading about some of the library's new books, I know you will want to run to the library and get one or two!

Terry Blackstock has been one of my favorite mystery writers for over 25 years. Ms. Blackstock writes with passion and clarity about many hot topics. She has openly spoken about her daughter's drug addiction and their journey to a clean and healthy life. I hope her latest book is not based on her life experience. **If I Run** is a murder mystery with the main character on the run after finding her friend Brent stabbed to death in her apartment. Casey Cox lost her father to violence ten year ago. With Brent's help, she was trying to find who had murdered her father and then made it look like a suicide. Evidence seemed to be pointing to corrupt detectives. But now Brent has been murdered and Casey's DNA is all over the crime scene. With nowhere to turn, she decides to run and live off the grid. Meanwhile, Brent's family is devastated at his death and doesn't feel the police are doing enough to locate Casey. They hire Army vet, Dylan Robert who is fighting a private battle with PTSD, to investigate privately. Will her investigation into her father's murder end up costing Casey her life, or will Dylan track her down in time to save them both? A sequel will follow in December.

In the fall Trisha Goyer and pie specialist Sherry Gore started a series about a hometown bakery. **Made with Love** included some of Ms. Gore's special pie recipes. **Planted with Hope**, the second book in *The Pinecraft Pie Shop series*, finds Hope Miller expanding her bakery to include fresh produce grown right behind the bakery. Hope is excited about the prospect of her own little garden away from her family and all their well-meaning help. But all too soon not only her family but also most of the town have an opinion on her garden project. Then the school teacher, Jonas Sutter, proposes it become a community garden. Reluctantly, Hope agrees but wonders if she can ever have something just for her. Don't miss this inspiring read about planting seeds that can grow friendship and community as well as vegetables.

Just a heads-up about our summer book sale. It will be held in August in conjunction with the UMW yard sale. Mark your calendars for August 20<sup>th</sup>. You can plan to donate books, puzzles, DVDs and CDs starting in June and then restock your shelves later in the summer. Hope to see you in the library!

Pam & Donna

## Prayer Ministry

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### National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is being held this year on May 5th. Since its inception in 1952, this day has continually united Americans from all socio-economic, political, and ethnic backgrounds in prayer, and encourages personal repentance and righteousness in our culture. The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens to celebrate our most beloved freedom; the freedom to humbly come before our God and seek His guidance in prayer. The theme for 2016 is **Wake Up America** and is based on Isaiah 58:1, which says, "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet."

A prayer vigil will be held at First Church on that day. See the display in the main lobby for more details and to sign up for a prayer time slot. A group prayer time will be held at noon in the sanctuary on that day. This time of prayer will be lead by members of our prayer team. All are welcome!



## 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

### 2016 Events:

<b>May 7</b>	Bike Bonanza
<b>July 7-9</b>	MissionU, Bucknell University
<b>July 16</b>	MissionU Sampler Day at Chambers Hill UM Church, Chambers Hill
<b>August 20</b>	Bake Sale and Yard Sale
<b>November 20</b>	World Thank Offering

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

### The Cupboard was Bare!

There was no food in the Power Pack Pantry at Neighborhood Center a few weeks ago, so the Deborah Circle decided to change that. They are holding a mini food drive to restock the Power Pack Pantry, which provides food for children to take home over the weekend. Their most needed items are 100% fruit juice (in bottles or individual containers), healthy snacks (such as granola bars, raisins, etc.) and cereal (in boxes or individual sized). You can join us in this effort to put food back on their shelves. If you want to honor someone by donating any of the items, you can fill out the card that will be with the collection box (in the narthex). One Circle member noted that her mother's pantry was always filled with wonderful snacks for the grandchildren, so she plans to honor her by donating to the Power Pack Pantry at Neighborhood Center. If you have questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle or Sandy Walton. Thanks for your support!

### Bicycle Bonanza! – Saturday, May 7, 10 am to noon

The women of Mary Circle invite you to a fun morning of activities to promote biking joyfully and safely! Children are encouraged to bring their bikes to decorate. We also welcome used bikes (in any condition) for donation to Carlisle's LifeCycle program.

Activity Stations will include:

- Simple bike repairs – learn how and bring your bike along if in need of a simple repair.
- American Trauma Society will assist with correct helmet fitting and offer new helmets.
- Prudential's ID-A-KID
- Informational stations about Bike Trails, LifeCycle, PET Carlisle.

Questions? Contact Janice Bowen - [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 766-4611 x 112



**We need your clothing.** Don't forget to drop your unwanted clothing and shoes in the Community Aid bin.

Money raised from your donations helps local schools, churches and other non profit charitable organizations, as well as FUMC's UMW.



## Facilities

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The roof is leaking! The roof is leaking! The roof is leaking! I have heard those four words way too many times these past few months. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to resolve the leak in the flat rubber roofing that ends up dripping onto the second floor hallway at the top of the center stairwell. As I reported last month, we replaced over 200 square feet of rubber roofing and some of the rigid foam insulation panels under the rubber roof in that area, only to have the leak reappear. We sealed over all of the overlapping seams and vertical corner joints in the rubber roofing in that area, only to have the leak reappear. Nothing we have done has been successful in stopping the water infiltration. Now we're thinking that the water may be leaking through the underside of the large air conditioning unit in that space. The unit's condensation drain was pretty much clogged with debris, so I cleaned it out and we sealed the roofing all around that equipment. Now we're waiting for another steady rain to see whether this latest "fix" does the trick or we need to try something else to resolve this persistent problem. My frustration level will go down considerably once I know we have this leak resolved.

Thank you to Judi Buddenbaum and Amy Erno for their efforts in painting in the Frederick Street stairwell from the main floor up to the balcony now that the balcony wall and ceiling plaster repairs are completed. What a professional looking job these ladies have done in sprucing up that area!

Matthew Canonizado's Eagle Scout project to construct a Prayer Garden on the Frederick Street side of the church building was completed shortly before Easter with the installation of a wooden cross as a prayer focal point. Thank you to Charlie Ryder for his help to Matthew in constructing the cross. It was awesome to see the cross draped with a black cloth after Maundy Thursday, and then to be reminded of Christ's resurrection with the draping of a white cloth on Easter morning. Please take advantage of this outdoor area for prayer and meditation.

PPL Electric recently changed out the tall area lamp in our church parking lot with new LED lighting. This provides lots of good light in the main parking area at a reduced cost to us, and the LED lamps should last a long, long time. In addition, Verizon recently changed all of our incoming phone lines from copper to fiber optic so we are up to date with the industry standard.

We recently purchased another set of choir risers and a backrail assembly for the risers. This should help alleviate the crowded conditions on the risers when our choirs are combined for special performances like the Christmas cantata. We also purchased a new monitor for the electronic drumkit to replace the unit that went missing recently.

By the time you read this, we hope to have all of the parking lots restriped. Thanks to Judi and Larry Buddenbaum for their efforts on this project. Not enough good things can be said about the tireless efforts of Judi and Larry to help make First Church a welcoming place for everyone who enters through our doors. They are true faithful servants!

My "to do" list hasn't gotten any shorter in the past month. Video system upgrades, areas that need painting, those choir loft spotlights, and finalizing the requirements statement for replacing the control system for our rooftop HVAC units continue to occupy my mind. Every time I walk through or around the building I see a couple more items that warrant attention. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and words of encouragement for our efforts to be faithful stewards of God's house in Mechanicsburg.

Roger Walton  
Facilities Manager

## Youth Ministry

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### Graduating?

Please help us out by filling out the Graduating Information form which can be found on the Youth Events & Activities page of the church website ([www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com)) or at the welcome desk. Completed forms should be returned to the youth department by **May 15** in order to have your information included in the Graduation Sunday bulletin. **Thank you for your response!**

### Grateful Grads

Join us on **May 22nd** at 6:00pm  
in the green chair section of the Sanctuary.

Hear from our graduating seniors about their time of growing up at First Church and be encouraged by their faith stories and future plans.

Stick around after the service as we continue to celebrate our seniors in our

### Senior Showdown!

Following the service we will be in the multi-purpose room until 8:00pm

### Youth Mission Trip Trading Cards!

### Collect them all.

Stop by the Missions table in the main lobby during May and see the display featuring this year's 2016 Youth Mission Trip Team Trading Cards. Take a pack of cards and see who you get! *Keep them. Trade them. Hang them on your fridge...* Use these cards to pray for us while we are gone. Flip the cards over and learn about our team....see who each team member would want to be stuck on City Island with!

Try to collect them all. Feel free to take as many packs as you like and pray for those you collect. A suggested donation per pack is \$5.00, but don't let that stop you from taking a pack. While we are grateful for any financial support if you are able to offer we are even more appreciative of your prayers!

We are excited to be staying in Harrisburg this summer and taking a closer look at the needs and challenges facing our neighbors across the river. We look forward to getting more familiar with Harrisburg and the people in the city! How well do you know Harrisburg? See if you can figure out where in Harrisburg each team member took their Trading Card picture. Think you know? Fill out the form at the display, return it to Lynn Rapp and if you are correct, you'll win a prize.

This year's mission trip is in partnership with YouthWorks and will take place July 3-July 8.

## Scholarships

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### 2016-2017 Academic Year Scholarships ~ Applications due by June 1

The Board of Trustees of First Church is now accepting applications for scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. First Church has three scholarship funds as follows:

- Comfort Education Fund, which supports students who are approved candidates for pastoral ministry;
- Brandt Scholarship Fund, which supports students with disabilities as they pursue post-secondary education; and
- Zimmerman Youth Scholarship Fund, which supports students who have been active participants in First Church's youth department.

Scholarship application forms are available from Cheryl Mengle ([cmengle1@verizon.net](mailto:cmengle1@verizon.net)), Youth Department ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) or the church office. Completed applications are to be submitted to the Board of Trustees (Attn: Cheryl Mengle) by **June 1st**.

## Church News and Notes

### *Love & sympathy...*

- to the family upon the death of Glenn Heller’s son, Bart, on March 25, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of Rick Herring’s brother, Randy, on March 26, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of Bill Etter on March 29, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of John Behel’s mother, Helen, on April 8, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of Roger Walton’s cousin, Sally Walker, on April 9, 2016.

### *Thank you...*

*Dear Pastor Denny, Janice Bowen, Mr. Otto and all our church family,*

*With warmest thanks, grateful hearts, and deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness. We both would like to thank all of your for your thoughtfulness, prayers, many cards, notes ad flowers. May you all be blessed for the kindness you have shown us. Thank you again! Love,*

*Jerry ad Carol Minnich*

### **Special Birthdays**

Jean McAfee .....May 5	Bill Morland..... June 6	Beryl Morgan .....June 30
Milt Dougherty.....May 8	Thomas Hartsock..... June 14	
Annabelle Elder.....May 10	Joe Moomaw ..... June 14	
Jane Gunder.....May 11	Dolly Scholl..... June 16	
Grace Gensler.....May 12	Joanne Reed ..... June 23	
Charlie Ryder .....June 1	Romaine Lehman ..... June 24	

### **Special Anniversaries**

- ♥ Gerry & Darlis Aumiller married 58 years on June 7
- ♥ Jim & Shirley Russell married 52 years on June 7
- ♥ Dave & Sandy Coover married 58 years on June 14
- ♥ Paul & Liz Nesmith married 61 years on June 19
- ♥ Jack & Grace Koser married 63 years on June 20

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

<p><b>FIRST NEWS FIRST</b></p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Kristin Brown</p>	<p>The <b>deadline</b> for submitting articles for the <b>June</b> issue is <b>May 15</b></p> <p><b>Early submissions always appreciated</b></p>
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## Help Needed—Low (no) pay but great rewards

### Newsletter Editor

Editor for the monthly edition of First News First. Only qualification is knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher. Contact the church office

### Wee Worship Leader

Person needed to share in special worship with small children. Materials for lessons provided. Opening available on the second Sunday each month. Contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at 717-766-4611 ext 102 or kidscout@fumchurch.com

### Childcare Greeter

Person needed to welcome the little ones and their parents before and during Sunday morning worship at 10:45 am. Opening available on the fourth Sunday each month. Contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at 717-766-4611 ext 102 or kidscount@fumchurch.com

### Childcare Provider

Persons needed to hang out with the little ones during Sunday morning worship at 10:45 am. Openings on the third and fifth Sundays each month. Contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at 717-766-4611 ext 102 or kidscout@fumchurch.com

### Childcare Provider

Persons needed to hang out with the little ones during Sunday morning worship at 8:15 am. Openings on the first, second, third and fifth Sundays each month. Contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at 717-766-4611 ext 102 or kidscount@fumchurch.com

## Church Staff

### 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/ SANCTUARY CHOIR\*

Jody Brinley

### ORGANIST\*

Nicholas Werner

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

Gail Leinhos

### BELL CHOIRS\*

Kathie Bittenbender

### INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR\*

Allison Ometz

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS\*

Lorette Cale

*\*PART-TIME*