



# First News First

April 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church  
of Mechanicsburg

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

## "Christ, the First Fruits"

Last year my wife Betsy and I attended our first Easter Sunrise Service in Mechanicsburg. Led by members of our youth group, the service took place in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. I have celebrated Easter sunrise on top of the mountain at King's Gap, along the seashore in New Jersey, at fairgrounds and county parks, in church sanctuaries and fellowship halls, and on church lawns. But last year was the first time I had ever celebrated Easter in a graveyard.

The service was wonderful. It ended with Lisa Aronson blowing a *shofar*, a ram's horn used by the ancient Hebrews to celebrate victory. Somehow Lisa managed to get enough air to sound the shofar, even though she was just weeks away from the birth of her son, Joshua! The whole service was a most special way to begin our Easter celebrations.

Seeing a bunch of people gathered in a graveyard in the cold of an early April morning may look strange to some. We go to cemeteries to bury deceased loved ones, to grieve those we've lost, and to honor the dead with wreaths, flowers, and flags. It seems an unlikely place for an early morning gathering, but for us it has great significance. At Easter we celebrate that Christ has conquered the grave. He is victorious over death. Because he lives, we shall live also.

In I Corinthians 15:20 the apostle Paul illustrates what Christ's Resurrection means for us.

***But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.***

(I Corinthians 15:20)

In Biblical times, people couldn't get fresh fruits and vegetables just by going to the produce department of the local grocery store. They had to wait until the season came for fruit to grow. When summer came and fruit began to ripen, it was a happy event. People had waited a long time for the first fruits of the season. Imagine their delight in the first fruits.

In a couple of months, we will get the first fruits of the season. We will finally be able to eat a real tomato again—not the tasteless, hard tomatoes of winter, but the firm, ripe, red, juicy tomatoes of summer. That first real tomato of the year is a special treat, isn't it? I'm writing this in the middle of a mid-March blizzard and I'm picturing a hamburger just off the grill with a thick slice of tomato on top. There is nothing like it!

A part of the joy of that first tomato of the summer is the realization that it is just the first of many red, ripe, juicy summer tomatoes. That one tomato announces the coming of a host of tomatoes. It is the first of many fruits. And so it is with the resurrection of Christ. Easter is God's promise that just as Christ has risen from the dead so we, through his power, shall be victorious over the grave. Christ rose as the first fruits, the first of many who will rise from the dead.

April is filled with special events and worship experiences at First Church. We will celebrate with worship on Palm Sunday, our annual Passion Play, Holy Thursday Communion and Easter. Once again at sunrise we will gather in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery. Why? Because we have victory in Jesus! We have hope eternal in the Risen Lord!

Rejoicing in the Lord with you, I am,

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

Maundy Thursday	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
	September 3	Pew Service
World Communion	October 1	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	November 26	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

## Music

### March Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

- April 2 Sanctuary Choir (8:15); Praise Team & Handchimes (10:45)
- April 9 Sounds of Worship & Praise Ringers (8:15); Praise Team (10:45)
- April 16 Youth Choir (8:15); Sanctuary Choir & Joy Ringers (10:45)
- April 23 Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir, Junior Choir & Children's Choir (10:45)
- April 30 Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir (10:45)

## Holy Week & Easter

- April 9 Palm Sunday - Worship services at 8:15 & 10:45 am
- April 12 Passion Play (Family Friendly) at 6:30 pm
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm
- April 14 Good Friday Prayer Walk at Noon (see below for more information)
- April 16 Sunrise Service at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 6:30 am  
Easter Sunday Worship at 8:15 & 10:45 am



You are invited to participate in a Good Friday Prayer Walk on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The walk will begin at First Church at noon. We will walk through our community, stopping periodically for scripture reading, prayer and reflection, and finish up back at First Church at about 1:15 pm. Come to celebrate God's gift of redemption, given to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Look for more details in the April bulletins. If you have questions, please contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611/adultministry@fumchurch.com or Debbie Karns at dekarns@comcast.net.

## Easter Flowers

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the Sanctuary, you may do so by purchasing your own flowers and placing them in the Sanctuary by NOON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 15. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by NOON ON TUESDAY, APRIL 11.

Please circle whichever is appropriate: *In Memory of* OR *In Honor of*

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

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

Will you be picking up the flowers? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Endowment Committee

### First Endowment Proceeds to be Distributed

The Endowment Fund of First United Methodist Church ended 2016 in the very favorable and long-anticipated position of being able to distribute proceeds for the first time.

The Endowment Fund, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, has grown steadily due to the generous support of our congregation, as well as a strong overall economy and Stock Market.

As a result, the Endowment Fund generated \$11,200 in income to be used in 2017. Of this, roughly \$8,000 is undesignated and will be used to support church ministries. The remaining balance, in accordance with the donor's wishes, will be added to a special fund created for the restoration of First Church's historic stained glass windows.

For the undesignated portion, the Endowment Committee and church staff invited requests for support from church committees for specific missions and ministries. The following requests were approved by the Administrative Board at its March meeting to receive funding this year.

**Family Fun Fest** – In August, the Fellowship and Evangelism/Outreach Committees will host a new outreach event targeted to families in our community. In addition to carnival games, face painting and other fun activities, children who attend will receive free backpacks and school supplies. The goal is to help First Church become more engaged with our community.

**New MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Program** - MOPS provides support and encouragement to the mothers of young children through group meetings and the use of mentors. The goal is to help young moms become more confident, and equip them to become leaders who then strengthen their families and communities. We will start a MOPS chapter at First Church, to serve the significant number of young families (ages 25-35) in Mechanicsburg.

**Support for First Church Members to Attend Mission Trips** - We are blessed to have several church members, both youth and adults, who have felt the call to attend mission trips. Locations range from nearby Lancaster to international missions work later this fall at our sister church in Taiama, Sierra Leone. The Missions Committee will provide financial assistance, upon request, to help individual church members finance their mission trips.

Each program represents a new mission or ministry for which no budget was allocated in 2017.

To learn more about the Endowment Fund and how you can support it, please contact Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee chair, or either of First Church's pastors.

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## Finance

### Financial Report—through February 28, 2017

#### General Fund

2017 budget	\$ 935,000	
Expected income	\$ 158,950	
Actual income	\$ 158,622	(17% of budget)
Surplus	\$ 328	
Actual expenses	\$ 131,741	

## From the Director of Outreach

### Reach Out

Did you know the number one reason new people come to church is because they were personally asked by someone? Wow, what a simple thing to do! If you are thinking of inviting someone to church, now is the time! Not sure the best way to do that? We have the tools for you!

Visitor Gifts - Feel free to give to someone you want to ask to church, pick up at the Welcome Desk.

First News First - this is a great way to communicate all the wonderful activities going on at church, pick up at the Welcome Desk.

Website - Lots of great information and details about our church, [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com).

Facebook - Make sure to 'Like' us on Facebook and share the events with your friends! First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA

Need more ideas or information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

## 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 April 19 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or [eking@verizon.net](mailto: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 2,058 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,754.04.



**Thank you for a great month of donations and for your continued prayers and financial support!**

### 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 literature stand in the narthex and on the following pages.





**Bethany Robinson**  
 Missionary in the Susquehanna Valley

Mailing address:  
**1035 Rural Ave.**  
**Williamsport, PA 17701**

This past month has been a wild ride. Our boss, Joel, was gone on sabbatical. Dan, Caleb and I were basically on our own making executive decisions and continuing to keep the movements going all semester. I have to say, that we did a pretty great job at it, but that is truly all because of the Lord.

Day in and day out Dan, Caleb and I see a lot of each other. This past month we started seeing how broken and sinful we truly are. When we started to realize that, we always had wonderful, but hard conversations with each other. I personally found it really hard to fully love like Christ loves during this process.



Not only was it hard to love like Christ loves, but Christ was constantly revealing himself to me and all of my shortcomings.

A huge thing that came to the surface was that I need to stop feeling guilty. I am a HUGE people pleaser (not always healthy). I kept feeling like I was being pulled in a million different directions. I wanted to say yes to it all. I wanted to help babysit the girls I live with. I wanted to make sure there was peace between the three of us. I wanted to be able to meet with all the students that were asking me to meet with them. I felt guilty for saying no to certain things, because I felt like I was letting someone down.

I came to this realization about "guilt" when I was fully fixing my thoughts on Jesus during a worship night at my church. I was there before Him still and listening to what He had to tell me. He basically came before me and said that I need to surrender it all to Him and accept the grace that He so freely gives.

God was truly showing me, through so many people asking me to do things, that I needed to come to a screeching halt and analyze where I find my identity. Do I find my identity in what others think of me/ my performance or am I finding my identity in Christ?

I am so beyond blessed to have Dan and Caleb not only as team mates, but as my brothers in Christ. We may have had a big "storming" (one of the phases of team building) phase this past month, but boy oh boy was it beneficial. I have never been more awakened to my own shortcomings and how I need to be able to fully love on others when it gets hard.

I am still working on feeling guilty and accepting grace, but recognizing it is the first step. My goodness, it is so refreshing and freeing!!

Blessings,  
*Bethany Robinson*  
**Bethany Robinson**

Our first big fundraising dinner coming up (Fellowship Dinner) in April

Mission Liberti (Spring Break) with safe travels and God's face revealed to the city of Philadelphia.

Caleb, Dan and I continuing to love on each other when it gets hard in spite of our brokenness.



**February** has us deep into second semester and there has been a lot happening at Miami! Much of this month, I got to see the Lord work in sweet ways. However, this month has also been really hard.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Knowledge and discernment as the Miami staff team navigates how to help the campus in a lasting solution toward the alcohol issue on campus
- That the Lord would clearly define my placement as the region makes a decision this month for my next year with Cru
- For spring break, we will travel 16 hours via van with students to Cru's spring break conference- Big Break; pray for safe travels, impacting others as we fulfill the great commission in Panama City beach and for growth in our students attending

#### Praise the Lord:

- This spring, 6 students have made the decision to trust Christ and enter into a personal relationship with him - He's using us!
- We have 21 students committed to Montenegro summer mission
- 700+ contacts we have to follow up with via surveys done on campus this month
- Leah, a mature freshman who is truly reaching out to friends, inviting them into community and casting vision for campus ministry: What a picture of Christ's love!

**Thank you** for your support whether it be through prayer and/or finances. Please know that your co-laboring with me is an incredible blessing to both me and to the students I get to interact with. I am humbled by your continued support!

Kristi is a freshman in my bible study chain. A disciple, Katherine, and I got to meet with, and we are so encouraged by her story. She grew up moving a lot and doesn't ever remember becoming established in one place, but consistently asked her dad to take her to church. Every place she moved, she longed for the church that she could call home which she saw others at school being able to do. When getting her drivers license, she took on the task of finding a church herself. After trying a few churches, she developed a tight knit friendship with a youth leader who began to shepherd her. Kristi's junior year of high school, she made the personal decision to follow Christ as her Lord and Savior!! Ever since, Kristi has acknowledged the longing that was always inside her for fulfillment that she finds in God. WOW! What a reminder that we are all created for a personal relationship with our Creator. Katherine and I are now reading the bible with Kristi weekly as she explores many questions she had growing up. Not only am I encouraged by Kristi, but also by Katherine who is learning and growing in how to multiply her faith! Katherine took the courageous step to asking Kristi to meet with us, and now we have the privilege of mentoring her in her faith. She is building skills for a lifetime of ministry wherever she goes!

Also, this month I've been reminded of how desperate people are to be fulfilled. In January, Miami lost 2 female students (1 to alcohol

overconsumption and the other is thought to be linked to an eating disorder). Miami has also seen a large number of hospitalizations this spring due to alcohol over-consumption. While it is easy to be paralyzed by the reality of students in college, I am pushed toward helping people find the lasting solution of life and fulfillment they are seeking: Life in Jesus Christ. **Will you join me and asking the Lord to use these desperate circumstances to shed light on our need for a savior?**



130+ students pack into a local coffee shop for open mic night- one of our late night socials for students

*in love,  
jenna*



"I know God is faithful, but experiencing it first hand was incredible."

-Amy Soster, Junior



First United Methodist Church,

For the last 4 months, a team of 25 girls has been working to promote and plan a large scale outreach called **Girls Night Out**, which we hosted on February 22nd. This outreach was geared towards reaching women on campus, and more specifically, women in sororities. Marian Jordan Ellis, founder of Redeemed Girl Ministries, travels across the country speaking to women on college campuses about how Christ saved her out of a "Sex and the City" lifestyle.



### The Planning Committee

From feeling used, abused, and unwanted, to aspirations of career success, wealth, and glamour, all that Marian felt was unfulfilled and empty. After searching to find her worth in the world and true love in the wrong places, she was introduced to Jesus. She prayed, "God, if you're real, **help me.**" Sure enough, He did! Finally, that "God-shaped hole in her soul" was filled.

After Marian shared that true fulfillment, satisfaction, and love can only be found in Christ, she prayed on stage. The women were then asked to fill out a response card which included a check-box that said, "I prayed to start a relationship with Jesus tonight."

Out of the 220-plus women in attendance, 24 girls said they had questions and wanted to learn more, and **79 women indicated starting a relationship with Jesus!**

Like never before, being a part of this event has taught me what Paul meant when he said in 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow."

Please join me in praying for the 103 seeds that were planted at Girls Night Out, for the Cru women who are watering those seeds, and ultimately for God to transform their lives from the inside-out.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to devote our lives to sharing the only love that satisfies in a world that is searching for it.

LeeAnn & Matt

## Day of Pampering

The following service providers volunteered at Day of Pampering 2017. In many cases, these professionals are trained to offer services in addition to the ones listed below. Aside from being talented in their respective fields, they have servant hearts and have blessed us all with their willingness.

**If you are looking for any of the services listed here, please consider contacting one of these talented volunteers... and, while you're at it, please express your gratitude for their willingness to help make Day of Pampering a success!**

~HAIR CUTS/STYLES~

**Mikee Bentz, Aaron Menzer**  
*MetroMikee's*  
234 North Street, Harrisburg  
717-329-2990

**Kate Musser**  
*Another Look*  
2435 North 2nd Street #1, Harrisburg  
717-232-8889

**Lori Aloisi**  
*Bella Uno Salon*  
4401 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill  
717-761-5560

**Samantha McGarvey**  
*Ashley Stevens Salon*  
4900 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
717-737-4796

**Ryan Diehl**  
*Studio 110*  
110 N. 2nd Street, Wormleysburg  
717-980-5938

**Luis Rameriz, Morgan Carmichael**  
*Jenny's Salon*  
4500 Gettysburg Road, Mechanicsburg  
717-761-5309

**Kim Martin**  
*Butterfly Kisses 714*  
[kimbermartin61@yahoo.com](mailto:kimbermartin61@yahoo.com)

~MASSAGE~

**Steve Crossley, Jocelyn Tress**  
*Ashley Stevens Salon*  
4900 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
717-737-4796

**Andrea Longenecker**  
*Catherine & Co. Alternative Therapies*  
1514 Commerce Ave., Suite 202, Carlisle  
717-245-0497

**Mary Rahn, Marjorie Rahn**  
[maryforprayer777@aol.com](mailto:maryforprayer777@aol.com)

**Monica Malpezzi**  
[echommm@aol.com](mailto:echommm@aol.com)

**Christina Boyle**  
*Happy Sol Massage Holistic & Alternative Therapy*  
Level Suite 101, 5008 Lenker Street, Mechanicsburg 717-724-7250

**Aileen Minium**  
*Therapeutic Massage by Aileen*  
1509 Cedar Cliff Drive, Camp Hill  
717-763-1032

**Stephanie Lahnstein**  
*Hygea Wellness Co.*  
2321 Market Street, Rear, Camp Hill  
717-412-0447

**Shannon Maye**  
615-525-3858

~HAND MASSAGE~

**Ann Dennison**  
*Advanced Physical Therapy and Fitness*  
102 W. Allen Street, Mechanicsburg  
717-790-9994

~MAKEUP and EYEBROW WAXING~

**Chelsea Nolan**  
*Makeup by Chelsea Studio and Spa*  
106 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg  
717-763-1500

~MAKEUP~

**Lori Bell, Christie Smith, Hannah Bryner,  
Stephanie Toth, Crystal Ranck**  
Independent Beauty Consultants/ *Mary Kay*

~REFLEXOLOGY~

**Maureen Maxwell**  
*My Heart N Sole Reflexology*  
717-919-2373

~HEALING TOUCH~

**Amy Nelson**  
*Heel Your Sole*  
717-591-2256

~RELAXATION TECHNIQUES~

**Beth Murray**  
[bethrnhnc@gmail.com](mailto:bethrnhnc@gmail.com)

~HEALTH SCREENINGS~

Offered by *Holy Spirit* - A Geisinger Affiliate  
Glucose/Cholesterol  
Bone Density Screening  
Cardiovascular Risk Assessment  
Blood Pressure Reading  
Body Mass Index Assessment  
Dietary Consultation

*Also stop by these local business and express your gratitude for their support of Day of Pampering*

**Pennsylvania Bakery**  
1713 Market Street, Camp Hill

**Giant Food Stores  
Weis Markets  
Karns**

**Wegman's  
Filson Water, LLC  
Olive Garden**

Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
**Red Lobster**

4711 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
**Ressler's Bagel & Deli**  
Windsor Park Shopping Center  
5252 Simpson Ferry Road, Mechanicsburg

*And we would like to thank the  
Mechanicsburg Men's Club for their  
generous donation.*



## ACCESS Ministries News

"For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people." Isaiah 56:3

(Yet 90% of families affected by persons of disAbilities do not have a church home)

If there are barriers of attitude, communication or architecture for ANYONE, the foundation of the House of God is weakened for ALL.

- Every person is created by God, each is loved by God, and none should be diminished by another, even by unintentional actions or words.
- God may see "wholeness of spirit" where our imperfect vision may see only "brokenness of body or mind"
- Rather than being a burden, shared need and vulnerability should be recognized as the "glue" of a supportive community.

(*"That All May Worship - An Interfaith Welcome To People With Disabilities - Page 5"*)

### Do You Know of or Have You Been Affected by Persons with this DisAbility?

**Dyslexia** is a specific learning disability that manifests primarily as a difficulty with written language, particularly with reading and spelling. Persons you may have heard of who were affected by this disAbility:

Walt Disney - Film Producer

Agatha Christi - Author

Cher - Singer

George Burns - Comedian

Woodrow Wilson - U.S. President

Henry Winkler - Actor

Danny Glover - Actor

Richard Branson - Entrepreneur

## Library

If you are like me, you find it hard to believe it is April. As I write this article during the first days of March, we really haven't had much winter and spring popped up in what should have been winter. With Easter just days away, I hope spring is really here. But just in case the weather is fooling us or April showers keep us indoors, you had better stop in the library and stock up on reading materials at your earliest convenience. And we will be right there waiting to help you find the best and newest books in Christian fiction. Let me tell you about a couple choices, just to get you started.

Shelley Shepard Gray is starting a new Amish mystery series called *The Amish of Hart County*. The first book, **Her Secret**, tells why Hannah Hilty and her family leave their Amish community and make a fresh start in Hart County, Kentucky. The family was forced to leave their home when Hannah was stalked and threatened. Now, safe in Hart County, Hannah is having trouble trusting people again, even her new neighbor and perfect gentleman, Isaac. He teasingly calls her "The Recluse", until he learns of her past. Now all he wants to do is assure her he is a man of God and willing to let her take her time to trust him. But just when all seems to have returned to normal in Hannah's life, tragedy strikes. Hannah must decide whether to flee or stay and fight for her life! I won't spoil the ending to this page turner.

The library has received the second book in the *Montana Rescue* series, and it is aptly called **Rescue Me**. Again set in Montana at the edge of Glacier National Park, Deputy Sam Brooks is trying to win the heart of Sierra Rose, but little does he know that Sierra's younger sister, Willow has been in love with Sam for a very long time. As she watches Sam court Sierra, Willow decides to concentrate on nabbing the job of youth pastor in her small town church. But neither Sam nor Willow can foresee that a sudden snow storm will strand them together in the wilderness with a group of teenagers. Injured, with little more than hope to help them, they work together to survive and protect their charges. Maybe a crisis will allow love to grow in a way neither of them had planned. Get the coffee and plan to stay up late. If you missed the first book, **Wild Montana Skies**, it is on the shelf waiting to be enjoyed too!

By the way if you are planning on see the movie **The Shack**, the library has a copy to get the scoop before you go.

I have had several visitors tell me we have a wonderful library—I wish more of our congregation thought so too. Stop in, and I know we can help you find just the right book.

See you in the library!

Pam & Donna



### 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 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:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>April 29</b>    | UMW Baby Shower to support a local mission  |
| <b>April 30</b>    | Spiritual Enrichment Day, Mt. Zion UMC, Enola from 2 to 4 p.m.  |
| <b>July 6-8</b>    | Mission U - Three day mission education conference at Bucknell University<br>(scholarships available) |
| <b>July 29</b>     | Mission U Sampler Day at Chambers Hill UMC, Harrisburg  |
| <b>August 19</b>   | UMW Yard, Book and Bake Sale to benefit local missions  |
| <b>October 7</b>   | First Church hosts the Harrisburg District UMW Annual Day   |
| <b>October 14</b>  | Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Camp Hill UMC  |
| <b>November 19</b> | World Thank Offering and Mission Meal   |

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

### **Knit@Nite - Thursday Fellowship Group**

First Church welcomes knitters, crocheters and crafters of all types for the new Knit@Nite fellowship group. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Room B002. Attendees can work on any project, but prayer shawls and hats for premature babies are currently needed.

### **Join the UMW for a**



All women are invited to attend the UMW Baby Shower on April 29 in the Guyer Classroom from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Learn more about the ministry of the Capital Area Pregnancy Center from Director of Operations, Judy Cline. Enjoy fun and creative baby shower games, food, and prizes! Look for a list of items to bring to the shower to support Capital Area Pregnancy Center in your mailbox. If you can't attend the Baby Shower on April 29, feel free to drop off the items in the collection box, which will be located outside of the multi purpose room. Hope to see you there and feel free to bring a friend!

## A Note of Thanks to Squares and Prayers

The women in the Squares and Prayers Sewing and Quilting Circle have been busy working on several projects that have been a blessing to others and recently received the following thank you note:

*"Recently, my mother was the recipient of one of your lap quilts from Homeland Hospice. I was with her when it was presented to her. The look of joy and happiness on her face was priceless, and it brought tears in her eyes."* She goes on to write: *"My only wish to you is that other families who have loved ones that also received this quilt recognize the wonderful thing that you do to bring happiness to others."* Wow, what a wonderful testimony to this ministry! The women would love more help to complete all the projects that have been requested. The projects not complicated and all levels of sewers and quilters are welcome. If you would like to join this wonderful ministry or know of someone who likes to sew or quilt, please feel free to drop in any time on Monday's from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Congregational Care

### Discussing Death: Part Two

Some topics are easier to talk about than others.....death is not an often-discussed, comfortable topic, but we would like to change that. Fear not! We invite you to join us for a tour and an informal discussion at Malpezzi Funeral Home on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! (No RSVP necessary.) For questions, please contact: Janice Bowen, Congregational Care [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) 717-766-4611 x112

### Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Tammy Snyder and Nancy Eddy will join us to share information about the Squares and Prayers quilting and sewing circle. Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) for more information.

## Health & Wellness

### March Blood Drives

Please consider donating blood in the month of April. Listed below are the dates for blood drives in our local area. You can also go to [www.cpbb.org](http://www.cpbb.org) for additional blood drives.

- 4/1/17 Grace UMC 9am to 12pm – 216 S. Market St. Mechanicsburg 17055
  - 4/4/17 Denny's 3pm to 7pm – Carlisle Pike
  - 4/5/27 PinnacleHealth 2pm to 5:30pm – 1 Trinity Drive East, Dillsburg
  - 4/6/17 Technology Park 10am to 4pm – 2020 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg 17050
  - 4/8/17 Trinity UMC 9am to 1pm – 405 Bridge St. New Cumberland 17070
  - 4/10/17 Messiah College 9am to 4pm – One College Ave, Mech. 17055 (Boyer Hall)
  - 4/14/17 Fox Center 8am to 7pm – 120 S. Filbert St. Mech. 17055
  - 4/14/17 REMCO 8am to 12pm – 195 Hempt Rd. Mech. 17050
  - 4/20/17 Buffalo Wild Wings 3pm to 7pm – Carlisle Pike
  - 4/23/17 Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren 8:30am to 11:30am – 301 Gale St. Mech. 17055
  - 4/27/17 Applebee's both Carlisle and Mechanicsburg locations 3pm to 8pm
  - 4/28/17 Apicella Lorei Orthodontists 10am to 2pm – 400 E. Main St. Mech. 17055
-

## Youth Department



### 2017 Youth Mission Trip – Partner with us on our journey!

*“We are going to Wasilla, Alaska to serve alongside Matsu Evangelical Covenant Church to assist them in their children, youth, and community ministries because we are salt and light of the world, called by Jesus to serve all the nations.”*

- 2017 Team Mission Statement



Please help us in making this trip possible and join us in our efforts to be the salt and light to the Wasilla community. Below are a few ways you can support the youth and adults participating in the 2017 summer mission trip:

#### PAINT NIGHT – MAY 5 – 7:00-9:00

Spread the word! This trendy “night out” activity is coming to First Church, but it’s not just any paint night...this is a night of painting with a purpose. Come spend the evening being guided through the process of painting a beautiful picture (all supplies provided), enjoy the company of friends, all while nibbling on tasty desserts (coffee, tea, and punch provided too). You not only get to take home your own artwork but are able to help financially support our mission trip through your participation. Interested? Contact Lynn Rapp [klrapp@msn.com](mailto:klrapp@msn.com) or 717-364-7841 for tickets (Tickets are \$35 a person and space is limited).

#### CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT – JUNE 21 – 5:00-8:00

After a fun and full day at VBS, why not take a break from cooking dinner and go dine out at Chick-fil-a? If you do, make sure to bring along one of the flyers (will be made available closer to the date) and know that a portion of your purchase benefits our mission trip. For those that like to eat out, this fundraiser is for you!

#### IDITAROD ENVELOPES

Help us make our way to Alaska! Each envelope is denoted with a number and that number corresponds to the financial donation you are offering to make (1=\$1, 2=\$2, 3=\$3,.....200=\$200). But we aren’t just asking for your financial commitment, we are asking for you to be a part of our team! Pick a sled and join in! Inside each envelope is information about our trip. Things you can learn about Alaska, information about the trip, ways you can be praying for us and even information about team members. Please consider taking an envelope, filling out the slip (located inside the envelope) and return it along with the financial contribution to Lisa Aronson by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Keep your eyes peeled for additional ways that you can be supporting the team. Thanks for all your help and all your prayers!



The team working together during a team building activity at a recent meeting. We only need one pen when writing!



**Graduating?**

Please help us out by filling out this form and letting us know if you are graduating this year. Completed forms should be returned to the youth department by May 7<sup>th</sup> in order to have your information included in the Graduation Sunday bulletin.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduating from:**

High school      Undergrad      Masters      Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of school:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planning to attend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch of service/employment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree being pursued/future Plans:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If pursuing post high school education, when is your anticipated graduation date?  
(Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fall Contact Information (This is important if wishing to be included in our adopt a college student outreach):**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**We plan to celebrate our graduates on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 during our services. (8:15 and 10:45)**

**Will you be present for this celebration?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

After the 10:45 worship service on June May 21<sup>st</sup>, all graduates are invited to a time of fellowship with the pastors at 12:15 pm at JoJo's.

**Will the graduate be attending the luncheon on May 21<sup>st</sup>?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Thank you for your response!**



## **I m p a c t 2 0 1 7**

**July 26 – July 30, 2017**

A dynamic spiritual experience you won't want to miss!

### **Interested in going to Impact?**

- ✓ Complete Registration form
- ✓ Attend a pre-Impact meeting
- ✓ Have a current medical form on file in the youth department
- ✓ Turn in the all paperwork into the Youth Dept by:

### **Paperwork Deadlines:**

**\*\* May 21, 2017 \*\*** (for discounted rate)  
**\*\* June 4, 2017 \*\*** (for regular rate)  
**\*\* June 5-July 23, 2017\*\*** (for late rate)

IMPACT is a 5-day camping experience that focuses on cultivating a relationship with God and enhancing relationships within our youth ministry. Join us as we camp out in Tent City and daily make our way to the main stage for transformative worship, speakers, dramas, and dances, and end every night with a main stage band and a camp fire back at our camp site. Families are always encouraged to attend this event together with their youth but youth may also attend alone. If your family enjoys camping, this is a great way to spend time with your teenage kids and their friends in a Christian atmosphere. We encourage families to camp on site with us! Registration forms are located in the youth form area and on the church website.



**Looking for a game for a Birthday Party? Family Reunion? Grad Party?**

***9 Square is a great party game!***

It is one of those unique games that easily include everyone no matter their athletic ability.

Have smaller kids? The 9 Square can be lowered! 9 Square is always a hit!

**The Youth Department rents out their 9 Square as a fundraising opportunity. How does it work?**

- Contact Lynn Rapp to schedule your use of 9 Square
- Make out a check to FUMC with "Youth – 9 square in the memo" for \$100 (\$50 deposit, \$50 donation)
- We will give you verbal instructions and the special keys for setting up/taking down 9 Square
- Return 9 Square with no damage and we will return your \$50 deposit and put the other \$50 towards our youth mission trip fundraising.

(If you have a friend wanting to borrow 9 square, we ask that you as a church member schedule and rent the 9 square to make it easier for us to track the use our equipment.)

**CONTACT Lynn Rapp if interested: [klsrapp@msn.com](mailto:klsrapp@msn.com)**

# Church News and Notes

## Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the passing of Betty Etter on February 23, 2017.
- to the family upon the passing of Bill Henschke on February 23, 2017.
- to the family upon the passing of Roxann Guyer’s daughter, Judy Skelly, on March 7, 2017.
- to the family upon the passing of Romaine Lehman on March 8, 2017.

## Thank yous...

I thanked many of the people who rang or sang in the recent recital. I want to thank everyone who shared their musical talent. They were WONDERFUL! My favorite arrangement was “Great is Our God”.

Since I have no musical talent I especially love hearing all those who are blessed with the ability to make sweet music. First Church is truly blessed! Thank you

Helen Kane

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I would like to thank the First Church family for all your love and support that Deb and I (and family) have received. Your prayers, sharing of life experiences, cards, books, etc. have been a huge help during my treatments. I am especially thankful to Tina Eaton for compiling this year's Lenten devotional and to all those who took time to share scriptures, personal stories and prayers so very meaningful to them. They have touched me profoundly this year with what I am going through. Has a devotional ever spoken to you too? If so, then I challenge you to write your own devotional NOW and give it to Tina for next year's Lenten season. Someone will be so very glad you did!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Steve Noss

## Special Birthdays

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert Meck..... April 2        | Grace Brandt ..... April 25 |
| Marilyn Seig..... April 2       | Barb Shover..... April 29   |
| Dolores Farr ..... April 3      | Jean McAfee..... May 5      |
| Alberta Knause..... April 15    | Milt Dougherty..... May 8   |
| Darlene Wilkinson .... April 17 | Vesta Rynard..... May 8     |
| Ron Handwerk ..... April 18     | Annabelle Elder..... May 10 |
| Richard Knause ..... April 21   | Jane Gunder..... May 11     |
| Charles Cramer ..... April 22   | Grace Gensler..... May 12   |
| Janet Baker..... April 25       |                             |

## Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 51 years on April 2
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 57 years on April 10
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 54 years on April 21
- ♥ Don & Kay Heiges married 59 years on April 26

## Church Staff

### SENIOR PASTOR

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

### ASSISTANT PASTOR\*

**Rev. Dr. David Reed**  
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### YOUTH PASTOR

**Lisa Aronson**  
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uthrock@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP\*

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### DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY\*

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

### DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH\*

**Lori Hoffnagle**  
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### OFFICE MANAGER/FINANCE SECRETARY

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**Kristin Brown**  
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### FACILITIES COORDINATOR\*

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### CUSTODIANS\*

**George Canonizado**  
**Matthew Miller**  
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### FINANCE DIRECTOR\*

**Nancy Robinson**  
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/SANCTUARY CHOIR\*

**Jody Brinley**  
Brynleawesties@comcast.net

### ORGANISTS\*

**Gail Leinhos**  
**Tom Mullikin**  
**Seth Wickenheiser**

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

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leinhosdav@verizon.net

### BELL CHOIRS\*

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rbittenben@verizon.net  
**Jon Snyder**  
jonsnyde@aol.com

### PRAISE TEAM\*

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

### INTERIM JUNIOR CHOIR\*

GERI NUSS

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS\*

**Lorette Cale**  
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### 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 **May** issue is

**April 15**

Early submissions always  
appreciated!