



First News First

December 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

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



Take the “BE ONE MAKE ONE” Discipleship Challenge!

At First Church our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, but in order to **make** disciples, we must first **be** disciples!

We have identified **six core values** that guide us in **being** disciples. If we are living according to these values each of us can say, as a disciple of Jesus Christ I am a...

1. **Lifelong Learner.** I am continually growing as a disciple by studying God’s word alone and with others.
2. **Praying Follower.** I faithfully listen in order to discern God’s will and respond to God in prayer every day.
3. **Passionate Worshipper.** I glorify God in my personal life every day and in corporate worship on a weekly basis.
4. **Dedicated Missionary.** I demonstrate God’s love for all people as I actively seek and respond to the needs of others. I am committed to reaching, encouraging, serving and connecting with our community and beyond.
5. **Relationship Builder.** I strive to always express love and compassion for others in a way that helps to create Christian community.
6. **Generous Giver.** In response to God’s extravagant love for me, I cheerfully and consistently give both my spiritual gifts and financial resources to support God’s mission.

Our “**BE ONE MAKE ONE**” discipleship challenge will start on January 1, 2018. We will begin by studying God’s Word because we believe that, as lifelong learners, this is the foundation of our life in Christ. We challenge every child, youth and adult to visit the display in the main lobby during December to pick up a Bible and a reading plan, and add you name to the display to indicate that you have accepted the challenge! Please also take a Bible and reading plan for a friend!

Each week in 2018 the daily Scripture readings will focus on a key biblical theme, and we will center on this theme in our Sunday morning worship services. This will help us to stay focused, and if you have invited a friend to join you in reading, it will then be easy to invite them to join us for worship or listen to the sermons on our website (fumchurch.com)!

But wait, there’s more! As we move through 2018 we will offer additional opportunities for every person to engage in a variety of spiritual activities that will address the other five values so that, no matter where you

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(Continued from page 1)

are in your spiritual journey, you (and the friends you invite to join you) will develop into more fully engaged and growing disciples of Jesus!

Please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 717-766-4611, extension 104 if you have questions or would like more information.

Discipleship is vital not just to our own spiritual health, but also to the spiritual health of others. By *being disciples* who *make disciples*, First Church will open doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors and work toward fulfilling our mission!

Worship

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

Sunday School
9:30 am



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

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

Holy Communion

First Sunday in Advent	December 3	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice
Covenant Communion	January 7, 2018	Loaves and Chalice
Ash Wednesday*	February 14	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Lent	February 18	Pew Service
Palm Sunday	March 25	Loaves and Chalice
Maundy Thursday	March 29	At Tables
Easter Sunrise	April 1	Mechanicsburg Cemetery
	May 6	Pew Service
	June 3	Loaves and Chalice
	July 1	Pew Service
	August 5	Loaves and Chalice
	September 2	Pew Service
World Communion	October 7	Loaves and Chalice
	November 4	Pew Service
First Sunday of Advent	December 2	Loaves and Chalice
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

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

Finance

Financial Report—through October 31, 2017

83% of year

General Fund

2017 budget	\$ 935,000	
Expected income	\$ 776,050	
Actual income	\$ 767,304	(82% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 8,746	
Actual expenses	\$ 722,035	

Work has already started on the 2018 budget. The Finance Committee will take the results of Consecration Sunday into account when finalizing the 2018 budget for adoption at the December 18 Administrative Board meeting.

Advent & Christmas Services and Event Schedule

December 3 1st Sunday in Advent

Worship, Holy Communion 8:15 & 10:45 am
Service of Hope and Remembrance 7 pm

December 10 2nd Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Night in Bethlehem 4 pm ~ Special Needs
Participants; 5:15 pm ~ General Public

December 17 3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Christmas Caroling 5 pm

December 21 Little Friend's Nursery School

Christmas Program 9:15 am

December 24 4th Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am



Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 pm ~ *Family Service* ~ Designed for families of all ages, but especially sensitive to families with young children. Will conclude with candle lighting.

8 pm ~ *Service of Christmas Eve Simplicity* ~ Designed as a quiet, prayerful service for individuals and families. Simplicity marks this service with instrumental music, Communion, Prayer Time and a brief candle lighting service.

11 pm ~ *Festival Service of Light and Wonder* ~ Includes Holy Communion, lessons and carols, music by our choirs, and candle-lighting.

Service of Hope and Remembrance – Sunday, December 3rd at 7 pm



We invite those who are grieving this holiday season....missing your loved ones and experiencing the hollowness of loss....to please join us for a special Sunday evening service during which we will gather to remember and honor the memory of cherished family and friends.

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

Night in Bethlehem – Sunday, December 10th

Travel to ancient Bethlehem to experience life at the time of Jesus' birth. Visit the inter-active Bethlehem marketplace. Here, guests might taste the bread, create a toy, craft a harp, or scribe a prayer. Hear the talk of the town on this exciting day. Visit the new baby in the manger. What a remarkable reminder of God's amazing love for us!

Unwrap the gift of God's love and discover the meaning of Christmas. Learn how you can carry the gift of Christmas with you throughout the year.

A mission meal of grilled cheese and tomato soup will be available. Proceeds benefit mission projects of First Church Youth.



A Hands-On Holy Land Experience

(Continued on page 4)

Christmas Caroling – Sunday, December 17th

Calling Christmas Carolers of all ages! We invite you to enjoy a covered dish dinner (5 pm) before heading out in groups (5:45 pm) to share Christmas carols with members of our homebound community. No singing experience or talent necessary, just a desire to have fun and spread Christmas cheer! Treat yourself to cookies and hot cocoa in Fellowship Hall upon your return.

Questions? Janice Bowen – 717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com



Cookie Donations Welcome!

In the mood to bake? Have a favorite cookie recipe to share? We welcome your cookie donations to serve at special events planned for Sunday evenings in December (Service of Hope 12/3 and Christmas Caroling 12/17). Donations may be placed in the church kitchen at your convenience – please mark “December Special Occasion Cookies!” Questions? Ask Janice Bowen – wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112. Thank you, Cookie Bakers!!

Remember Those at Home

A list of First Church member at home and their addresses can be found at the Welcome Desk in the main lobby. Send a little cheer to those we don’t get to see as often as we would like.

Holiday Bell Concert

Our 13th annual Holiday Bell Concert at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill is Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. We share the spotlight with a delightful harpist. This is always a fun time for all of us, come early for a seat!

Advent Sermon Series

"Unwrapping Christmas:
Making the Most of This Wonderful Time of Year"

One of the great joys of this season is giving and receiving gifts. It's a joy to receive a gift. You hold the carefully wrapped package in your hands. You observe its shape and size. You feel how heavy it is and even shake it trying to imagine what might be inside. You read the tag, searching for clues. Then, at last, you tear it open to discover what's inside! It's a joy to give a gift, too. You can't wait to see the reaction of the one opening that carefully chosen present.

Amid the joys of this "season of giving," we are invited to unwrap other gifts, gifts more valuable than anything you can find under the tree. Join us each week for worship as we unwrap the Good News of Great Joy and discover how to make the most of this wonderful time of year.

December 3	"Refocus"	Mark 13:24-37	Holy Communion
December 10	"Be Restored"	Mark 1:1-8	
December 17	"Reconnect"	John 1:6-8, 19-28	
December 24 (morning)	"Rejoice"	Luke 1:26-38	
Christmas Eve	"Restart"	Luke 2:1-20	



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 **December 20 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at eking@verizon.net for more information.

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



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

There were **3,026** (\$30.26) pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of **\$12,899.89**. Thanks to all who are contributing for a great month. **Please keep the donations flowing and don't let the well run dry.**

Neighborhood Center Christmas Tree

Look for the Neighborhood Center Christmas Tree, once again located near the Scrip Box. To better serve the families at Neighborhood Center, we have been asked to provide items they have requested for their children. Please purchase the item listed on the star ornament and please return the star ornament with the unwrapped gift, to help us match the item with the correct child. Thanks for helping families at Neighborhood Center! Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

New Hope Ministries

Christmas Blessing Express, where New Hope Ministries' guests shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family, is back again for the 6th year. You cannot imagine the difference you make in the families' lives by your willingness to help make their Christmas a special one. Take an ornament from the tree in the Main Lobby or go to New Hope's website (www.nhm-pa.org) for suggested gifts to donate. Then return the unwrapped item to the display. Please join New Hope in sharing Christ's love during this special time of the year!

From the Director of Outreach

The Food Trucks will be returning in 2018! The organizers of the event were very pleased with our hospitality and the number of people who attended. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the event. Watch for more details in upcoming months.

Broad Street Elementary Community Dinner

The next Community Dinner will be Thursday, February 15. We have offered to provide the barbeque for the meal. Watch for more details on how you can support the Community Dinner.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Christmas is a great time to invite others to church! If you would like to invite a friend or neighbor to worship with us, we have small 'invite' cards at the Welcome Center for you to share with others. The card includes our church name, address, map and Christmas Eve Service times. Feel free to take as many as you need. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Thanks for your support of Socktoberfest!

The initial count is in for the sock collection! First Church gathered over 400 pairs of socks for the deacon ordination project. The goal was to collect 1,000 pairs for distribution to homeless shelters. With our help, over 4,000 pairs were collected, praise God!

Marketplace & of Miracles **Cookie** Walk

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

Shop, Learn and Support Great Causes!
Saturday, December 16
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church



WAR (Women at Risk)
will have beautifully handcrafted jewelry for sale.
Change Purse will be selling new or gently used purses,
some starting at just \$1.00!

These organizations are dedicated to the education and prevention of human trafficking.

Ten Thousand Villages will have Fair Trade items for sale.

All proceeds benefit the organizations.



First Church **Youth** invite you to purchase and customize your own box of delicious homemade cookies at the annual **Cookie Walk** Boxes provided.

First United Methodist Church
135 W. Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
www.fumchurch.com • 717-766-4611

Access Ministries News

Day of Pampering 2018

A Day to serve and honor mothers of children/wives of husbands with disAbilities.

🌸 **Save the Date!** ~ Saturday, February 24, 2018

🌸 **Interested in helping?** ~ Contact Karin McHale at karinmch@comcast.net

Rejoicing Spirits 2018 - Quarter 1

Worship/Fellowship for persons of **ALL ABILITIES**. **Everyone is welcome!**



Inclusive - Interactive - Fun



Save the Dates!

Sunday, January 28, 2018 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 25, 2018 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 25, 2018 4:00 PM

"Readers" wanted!

Do you or your small group want to know more about the disAbility community? If so, *Joni & Friends* have created *The IRRESISTIBLE CHURCH Series* just for you!



A Sample of just a few of the Booklet/Pamphlet Titles:

Start with *HELLO* - Introducing Your Church to *SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY*

We've *GOT THIS!* Providing Respite for Families *AFFECTED BY disABILITIES*

Pathways to *BELONGING* - Creating *INCLUSIVE MINISTRY ENVIRONMENTS*

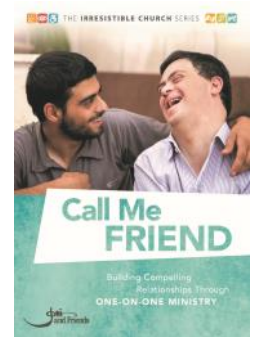
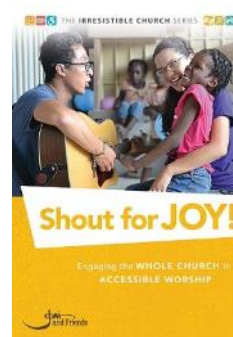
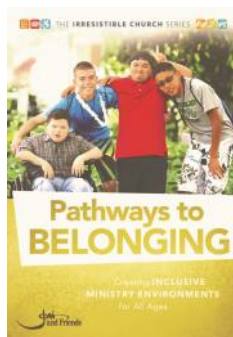
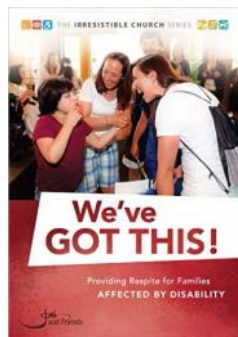
Shout for *JOY!* Engaging the *WHOLE CHURCH* in *ACCESSIBLE WORSHIP*

Call Me *FRIEND* - Building Compelling Relationships Through *ONE-ON-ONE MINISTRY*



Interested in reading any of these titles?

Contact Steve Noss at sdppp@msn.com



Wellness Ministry!

For more than 25 years, the Health and Wellness Committee has faithfully advocated for healthy living among our First Church family and the surrounding community. As a branch of Congregational Care, the **Wellness Ministry** will continue to carry on this mission!

More specifically, Wellness Ministry will continue to.....

- * maintain First Aid Kits throughout the church
- * maintain AED outside the gym
- * maintain on-site wheelchairs
- * coordinate periodic presentations during the Sunday School hour on health and wellness topics
- * collaborate with the Access Team in offering Disability Awareness Sunday

If you are interested in promoting healthy living and wellness, please plan on coming to the Wellness Ministry's vision and planning meeting @ 6:30 pm on January 9th! For more information, contact Janice Bowen (WeCare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112)

Please consider donating blood during this holiday season. Here are the drives in the Mechanicsburg area for December 2017. As always, donors can also go to the website, www.717giveblood.org for a complete listing of drives by date or zip code.

- December 1 – Cumberland Valley High School 8am to 3pm – 6746 Carlisle Pike 17050
- December 2 – Grace United Methodist Church 9am to 12pm – 216 S. Market St. 17055
- December 3 – Black Landscape 11am to 5pm – 1360 East Lisburn Rd. 17055
- December 5 – Denny's on the Carlisle Pike 3pm to 7pm
- December 6 – Silver Spring Township at the Silver Spring Fire House on the Carlisle Pike – 4pm to 8pm
- December 8 – Fox Center 8am to 7pm – 120 S. Filbert St. 17055
- December 9 – New Cumberland First Church of God 8:30am to 1pm – 323 Reno Ave 17070
- December 14 – Patriot News 10:30am to 3:30am – 2020 Technology Parkway 17050
- December 20 – Turnpaugh Health & Wellness 9am to 12pm – 310 Lambs Gap Rd. 17050
- December 20 – Century 21 Realty Services 3pm to 7pm – 3315 S. Market St. 17011
- December 21 – Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike 3pm to 7pm
- December 23 – Lowe's on the Carlisle Pike 8am to 12pm
- December 27 – One Sterling Place 10am to 2pm – 100 Sterling Parkway 17050

Welcome to our New Members!



Sarah & Steve
Allison
Maggie & Chase



Mallorie & Andy
Batson
Brantley



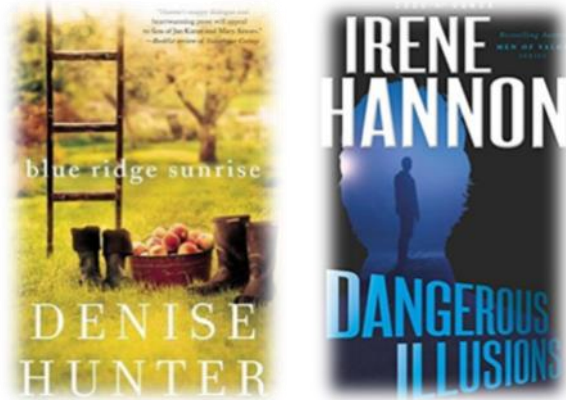
Eve
Kellenberger



Merri
Shellenberger

Library

This month's reviews:



This is absolutely the best day to write the December newsletter. The first snowfall, which is always the best, is falling, I have a big pot of soup bubbling on the stove, and Christmas music is softly playing to set the mood. And yet I have been sitting here for a half hour staring at the screen. Maybe more caffeine, maybe less---different chair --no chair---and so it goes. I think the wind tunnel effect (feeling like I am being blown in many directions) is causing me to think I should not be sitting in front of the computer but accomplishing the endless list of holiday tasks. But I do hope to have time to read these books in December and hope you will find time, too.

Denise Hunter is one of my favorite writers, despite the fact she does not write in my preferred genre. She is a romance writer who has a knack for weaving characters that are believable and could be people we know. In her latest book **Blue Ridge Sunrise**, Zoe Collins returns to Copper Creek for her grandmother's funeral. When she left five years earlier, she vowed never to return or speak to Cruz Huntley, the man who broke her heart. Zoe has established a life away from Copper Creek with boyfriend Kyle Jennings and their daughter. But her grandmother has left her the family's peach orchard, and everyone is expecting her to take over the business. Running the business is adding stress to Zoe's life that she never saw coming. Meanwhile, ex-boyfriend Cruz is not sure he can handle life in the same town with the woman he never stopped loving. Try to fit this into your December schedule.

Irene Hannon, one of my favorite romantic suspense writers, has a new series out called *Code of Honor*. Book one is titled **Dangerous Illusions**. Detective Collin Flynn is investigating a tragic death linked to a grieving woman with apparent memory loss. But soon he realizes there is more to this case than meets the eye. His job is to decide if Trish Bailey made a mistake that led to her mother's death, or did she deliberately murder her own mother. Trish is in a very fragile state as she has not yet recovered from the deaths of her husband and father from an accident that had left her mother disabled. What I love about Ms. Hannon's books are the twists and turns. Just when I think I have pinpointed the culprit, a clue takes the story in another direction. And this book is just as complex. Sneak out of your least favorite holiday event to read this book!!

With those two recommendations, I want to remind you to stop in the library and check out all we have to offer. I hope you have had time to catch up with recent goings-on in Mitford in Jan Karon's newly released **To Be Where You Are**. If you saw **The Mountain between Us** movie in theaters now, I have been told the book is so much better. And as you all know we have the best Amish library around!

All the volunteers in the library wish you the blessings of the season!

See you in the library.

Pam and Donna

Women's Ministry

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

United Methodist Women

DEBORAH CIRCLE

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

MARTHA CIRCLE

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

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen ~ jjgbowen@yahoo.com
meets the 4th Monday of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

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

COVERED IN LOVE

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

SQUARES AND PRAYERS

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

KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

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

Other Opportunities to Connect

BOOK CLUB

Janice Bowen ~ jjgbowen@yahoo.com

DAY OF PAMPERING

Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net
February 24, 2018

LADIES' OVER 80 TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com
Held in the spring

MOMS IN PRAYER

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

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net
February 2 to 4, 2018, Mt. Asbury Retreat Center

ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)

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

Upcoming Events:

Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk

December 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See flyer on Page 6 for details.

Women's Retreat

February 2 to 4, 2018, Mt. Asbury Retreat Center

Early Bird Registration due **December 31, 2017**. See registration form on Page 11

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

Tailor Made: God's Masterpiece
2018 Women's Retreat
February 2-4, 2018

Mt. Asbury Retreat Center
Newville, PA

Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon.
 Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals included.

Please make checks payable to **FUMC** with 'women's retreat' in the memo section. Registrations may be mailed to Patti Herring at 613 Lavina Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055 or can be placed in the **Scrip Box** near the coffee area. (Please do not place checks in her mailbox). Questions, call Patti Herring at 795-9721 or email at familyzeke@verizon.net. Details will be sent closer to the retreat date.

Return this portion with your payment

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____
 Allergies or diet restrictions _____
 _____ Medications _____
 Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Early Bird Registration by **12/31/17** is **\$120**. After that date, the fee will be **\$130**. Fees include two-night stay (**3 to 4 per room**) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. **All registrations are due by 1/14/2018.**

_____ \$120 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/17)
 _____ \$130 registration enclosed (if paying **after** 12/31/17)

Is this your first retreat? Yes ___ No ___ Special Concerns _____

Women's Retreat Fundraiser

Have you tried the SCRIP program yet? Would you also like to support the Women's Ministries of First Church and the Women's Retreat? From now through January some of the proceeds from the SCRIP program will go to support the 2018 Women's Retreat. If you purchase gift cards from Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, or TGI Friday's, the proceeds will directly benefit the Women's Retreat. Please check out all of the great restaurants, retail stores, hotels, etc that SCRIP offers. The SCRIP box and order forms are located at the end of the main entrance hallway, to the right. Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net.

Senior Fellowship ~ Tuesday, December 19th 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to enjoy a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Sanctuary Auditorium Gathering space just beyond the church library. Northern Middle School's Select Choir will join us with sounds of the season!

Please contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

First Connections! Thursdays 1-3 pm in the Tower Meeting Room

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." ~Acts 2:42 (NIV)

First Connections meets every week so that you can come when you have a free afternoon on a Thursday! We welcome you to simply enjoy this opportunity for a hot cup of coffee/tea and a chance to relax and fellowship. Simple activities are available for those who are interested (puzzles, cards, service projects, adult coloring, etc.) Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or call 766-4611 x 112.



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

First Saturday Breakfasts

Brother's Restaurant, 705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg

Next gathering, **December 2** at 7:30 a.m.

Contact: John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com

Winter Retreat

Wesley Forest, **February 16 to 18**, 2018

See registration form on Page 13 for details

Bible Study

Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, led by Ken Guise and David Mengle

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

Tool Pool

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

Contact: Don Karns at dekarns@comcast.net

Small Groups

We look forward to offering a small group for men beginning in January. Instead of meeting at the church on Wednesday evenings, we plan to hold these meetings/discussions at the home of one of the leaders for more comfort and convenience. Watch for more details!

Men's Retreat Registration Form



Rev. Dr. Stephen Gallaher

- *Founder, Pastor in Residence of Salt 'n Light Youth Ministry*
- *Associate Pastor Camp Hill UMC*
- *Professor of Christian Ministries/Youth Ministry Messiah College*

- *D.Min., Perkins School of Theology*
- *M.Div., Lancaster Theological Seminary*
- *B.A., Messiah College*

Men of First UM Church, are you interested in new mattresses, wall-mounted flat-screen televisions, and new windows to keep out the cold? Sounds like a Man Cave in the making, but these are actually all part of the renovations we can enjoy when returning to Wesley Forest for our 2018 Men's Winter Retreat.

The dates will be **February 16-18, 2018** and we will be blessed by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Gallaher as our guest presenter this year. Many of you may know Stephen from his wonderful leadership with youth at CHUM and Salt 'n Light. He continues to teach at Messiah College but has carved time out of his busy schedule to join us on retreat. To register, detach and return the form below.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please return registration forms to John Bowen or leave in his mailbox.

Early Bird prior to 12/31/17: \$80 / Registration after 1/1/18: \$95.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Check out next year's camps by going to <http://www.susumcamps.org>

1. Go to "Camp & Retreat Facilities" and click a specific Camp Name

2. Go to "Summer Camp" and click on 2018 Summer Camp List

3. Repeat this process to review all four camp location opportunities

NOTES:

- Brochures and new pricing will come out in January
- FUMC will pay for half of the camp fees and provide prayers partners
- Always need Deans, Nurses, Counselors and of course Campers!
- Most camps offer year-round opportunities for ALL ages
- Questions: Contact Steve/Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com



Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Bill Neumyer on November 8.

to the family upon the death of Davis & Sandra Coover's son, David, on November 17.

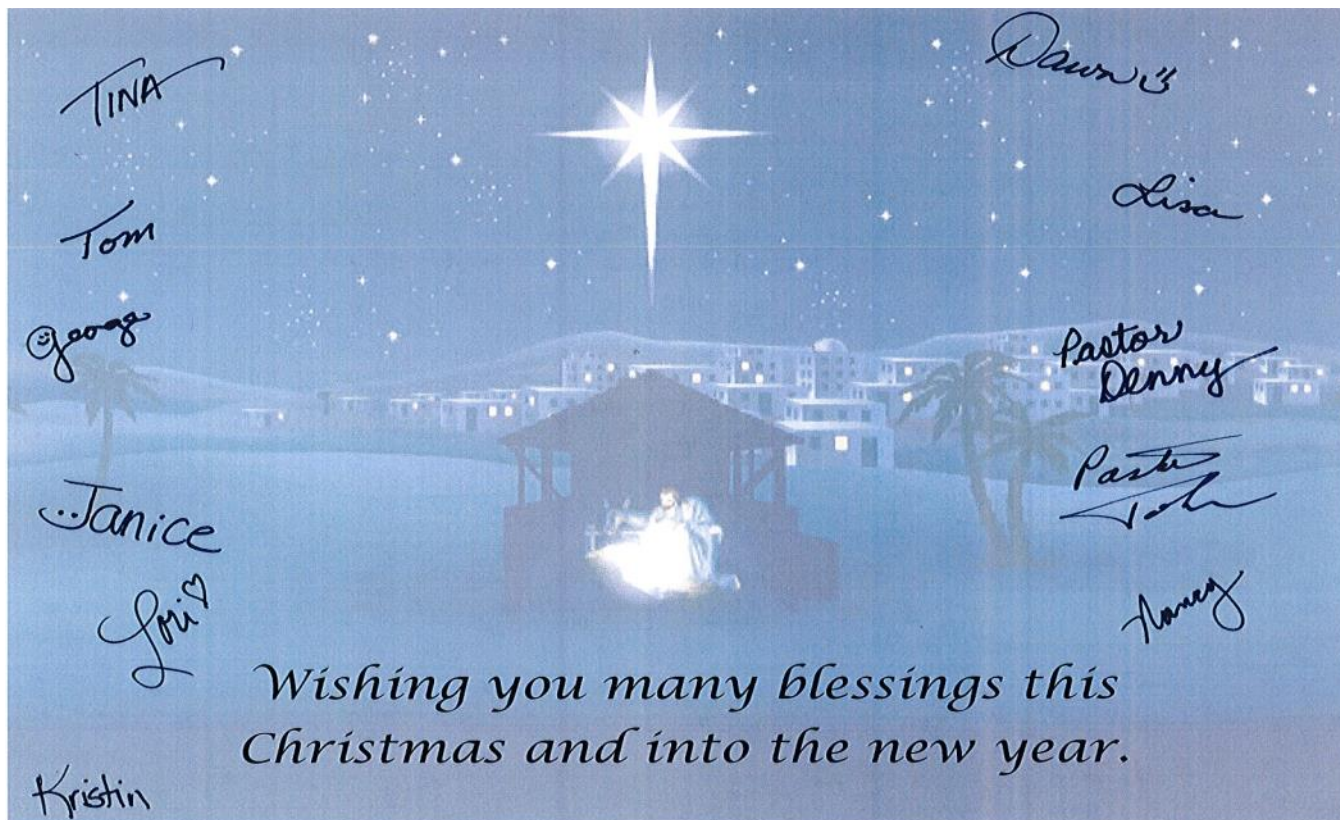
Special Birthdays

Joyce Woods..... December 1
Jo Nye..... December 13
Helen Ritter December 13
Dolores Shell December 13
Joan Buechel..... December 17
Elaine O'Hara..... December 26
Doris Dougherty December 27
Sandra Coover December 28

Pat Hutter..... January 3
Winnie Prowell..... January 7
Richard Reed January 15
David Coover..... January 16
Charlie Glessner January 16
Ida Bardell January 21
Leta Rohlmeier January 23
Dot Souder..... January 27
Margaret Baker January 30

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Roy & Ginnie Miller married 50 years on December 9
- ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 57 years on December 10
- ♥ Harriet & Douglas Steuart married 50 years on December 16
- ♥ Joe & Carol Moomaw married 52 years on December 24



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FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

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

December 15

Early submissions always
appreciated!