



September 2018

# *First News First*

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

## **"Worship Matters"**

On Sunday, July 15, Dave Florey, chair of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, announced that effective August 15, Jody Brinley was stepping down as our Director of Music. Jody served First Church for nine years and enriched our worship by directing our Sanctuary Choir and coordinating our music ministry. On Sunday, August 5, we celebrated Jody's ministry at the 8:15 service and at a fellowship time between services.

As we look to the future, representatives from our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, our church staff, and youth and adults leaders have been meeting with Dr. Douglas Curry, Director of Worship Arts at Messiah College. He has been guiding us through a process to develop a new position to direct the worship arts at First Church. In July, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee approved a job description for a Director of Worship Arts. This position will be recommended to our Finance Committee and Administrative Board in the near future.

We will keep you informed as we work out the details for this new position. As a congregation we are so very blessed with adults, children and youth who are gifted in worship arts, including music, dance, drama, and the use of media. The group of 25 people that has been involved in this process is very excited about how the leadership of a Director of Worship Arts will enhance our worship at 8:15, 10:45, and other special services.

As we continue the process of developing this position and searching for a Worship Arts Director, I am glad to report that our excellent music ministry will continue .

At the 8:15 service, Frank Heberlig will serve as organist. Flossie Ryder will direct Sounds of Worship, with Karen Philp as their accompanist.

At the 10:45 service, Trace Morgan and Allison Ometz will lead our Praise Team. This past week, the Staff Parish Committee asked Allison to serve as our interim director of Sanctuary Choir. We are still looking for an accompanist for the choir. If you have any recommendations, please see Allison.

Kathie Bittenbender will lead our bell ministry for adults and children.

Our Youth Praise Band will support our Sunday night youth gatherings, and will also be involved in Sunday morning worship as well. Our children will participate in Worship Arts during Wonderful Wednesday, which begins in October. They will offer choral music, dance, and drama in worship.

We all come to worship to bless God, to serve God, to praise God. I am asking for your support as we offer our best to God in worship. Please pray for those who currently lead and serve in our worship services, and for those discerning our next steps toward a new Director of Worship Arts. If you feel called to join one of our choirs, to serve on our praise team, to operate sound and media, or to serve in other ways, please reach out to me or Pastor John or a member of our staff.

It's such a joy to worship with you in this wonderfully gifted congregation!

Pastor Denny

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## BE ONE. DISCIPLE MAKE ONE.

### Week 35: Theme ~ *Revival*

- August 27** *Wavering*  
1 Kings 18:16-40
- August 28** *Being Overwhelmed*  
2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- August 29** *Revive Us Again*  
Psalm 86
- August 30** *Revived by the Spirit*  
Acts 19:1-11
- August 31** *God-Breathed Life*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14
- September 1** Relax & Reflect
- September 2** Worship

### Week 36: Theme ~ *Humility*

- September 3** *Like a Child*  
Matthew 18:1-5, 11:25-30
- September 4** *Humble Recognition*  
Luke 14:7-24
- September 5** *Jesus' Humility*  
Philippians 2:1-16
- September 6** *Wisdom Brings Humility*  
Proverbs 9:10-12, 11:2, 15:33, 22:4
- September 7** *Strength in Weakness*  
2 Corinthians 12:5-10;  
Colossians 3:12
- September 8** Relax & Reflect
- September 9** Worship

### Week 37: Theme ~ *Generosity*

- September 10** *Forgiving Debt*  
Deuteronomy 15:1-11
- September 11** *Generous Welcome*  
2 Samuel 9:1-13
- September 12** *Giving to God*  
Mark 14:3-9; John 6:1-13



- September 13** *Generous Love*  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 1 Peter 1:22-23;  
Romans 5:5
- September 14** *Generous Works*  
1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:19-21
- September 15** Relax & Reflect
- September 16** Worship

### Week 38: Theme ~ *Gratitude*

- September 17** *Life of Praise*  
Psalms 92, 146
- September 18** *Deeper Gratitude*  
Luke 7:26-50
- September 19** *For All God Has Done*  
Deuteronomy 8:1-20
- September 20** *Great Is God's Faithfulness*  
Lamentations 3:22-26, Psalm 40
- September 21** *Gratitude in Any Situation*  
Philippians 4:10-13; Hebrews 13:5-6;  
1 Timothy 6:3-10
- September 22** Relax & Reflect
- September 23** Worship

### Week 39: Theme ~ *Forgiveness*

- September 24** *Forgive Us*  
Matthew 6:5-15
- September 25** *Forgiveness Comes from God*  
Psalm 103:8-14
- September 26** *Forgiving Others*  
Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 17:1-5
- September 27** *Forgiveness in the Church*  
Hebrews 12:14-15; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11;  
1 Peter 3:8-12
- September 28** *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*  
Matthew 5:21-24, 43-48; Luke 23:26-43
- September 29** Relax & Reflect
- September 30** Worship

## Take the Challenge!

Have you accepted the ***Be One, Make One Discipleship Challenge*** yet? If not, please join us on this adventure! Simply visit the Welcome Center display, pick up a Common English Bible with a reading plan and begin reading. Then come on Sundays to worship God and learn from the sermons, which dig deeper into the weekly readings.

## Fall Bible Studies

Looking for a new way to grow, learn and get into God's Word this fall? Then consider participating in any of the following classes/groups:

- **Regular Sunday School** classes will resume on September 9, and walk-in visitors/new class members are welcomed in all classes. Look in the September 9 bulletin for more details regarding the class choices.
- **Study the book of Romans** (chapters 9-11) beginning August 30. This 8-lesson Inductive study, led by Juanita Guise, focuses on the Sovereignty of God and the past, present and future of God's people. Thursday morning and evening classes are available. Sign up at the Welcome Center display. Workbook cost is \$18.
- **New study for women - *Igniting a Passion to Pray***, is a 12-week study being facilitated by Nadine Ogden and Merri Shellenberger. It begins September 10 on Monday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 pm at the church. Come to cultivate a more intimate relationship with God and become more comfortable with prayer. Sign up at the Welcome Center display. Workbook cost is \$15.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** with Pastor Denny begins on September 12 and will run 10 weeks. Class meets from 6:45 - 8:00 pm in room B004. This study is based on our 2018 daily Bible reading plan, so visit the Welcome Center display to sign up, pick up a Common English Bible with the companion daily reading plan and begin reading! Then come to class to discuss the readings in greater depth.
- **Men's Bible Study - *Experiencing the Power of Life-Changing Faith***, is a 13-lesson study of the book of Romans led by Ken Guise and David Mengle. It begins September 16 and meets 6:15 – 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Sign up at the Welcome Center display. Workbook cost is \$9.99.
- **Wednesday Lunch & Learn** with Pastor John begins on October 3 and will run 7 weeks. Bible study starts at 11 am under the balcony in the sanctuary. Come to dive deeper into our 2018 daily Bible reading plan, followed by lunch out together at noon. Sign up at the Welcome Center display, pick up a Common English Bible with the companion daily reading plan and begin reading!

## Scholarship Awards

The Board of Trustees granted 2018-2019 scholarships from the Zimmerman Youth Scholarship Fund to twelve of our students pursuing post-secondary education. This year's awardees include Graham Bowen (West Chester), Angelica Brill (Penn State), Matthew Canonizado (Gettysburg), Alex Clark (Eastern), Joshua/Kyle/Ryan Eaton (Lebanon Valley), Joshua Herring (Lebanon Valley), Lauren LaPointe (University of Iowa), Timothy Losh (Millersville), Ethan Spencer (Penn State) and Seth Wickenheiser (Lancaster Bible). The scholarship awards are not large monetarily, but they help to reinforce our Christian love for these young persons as they take this next step in their life's journey and aren't here with us on a weekly basis.

The Board of Trustees also granted a 2018-2019 scholarship from the Comfort Education Fund to our Youth Pastor Lisa Aronson as she continues her studies towards a Master of Divinity degree from Evangelical Seminary.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship awardees and best wishes for an outstanding academic year!

## Library

On this beautiful August evening, I am wondering were summer went, and if someone turned time to double time. Everyone is now preparing for back to school and everything that entails. If this were my first book report of the school year, I'd go back to last month's article as I think those two books (**Called to Protect** and **Auschwitz Lullaby**) inspired me so much that the newsletter almost wrote itself. Well, time to quit staring out the window, and tell you about some other inspiring reads.

It is often said that history repeats itself, and I often find books repeat the same theme—the story is just adjusted to a new time and place. **The Hope Jar** by Wanda Brunstetter is such a story. Michelle Taylor is homeless and hopeless, until the elderly Lapp family of Lancaster County mistakenly identifies her as their long-lost granddaughter. Even though Michelle knows it's wrong to deceive these wonderful people, she is feeling secure and loved for the first time in a long time. As she debates about how to get out of this lie, she discovers a blue jar in the barn filled with slips of papers containing prayers, quotes and inspirations to her budding faith. Of course, I won't spoil the plot by telling you how she reveals to her new family she really isn't their granddaughter.

If you haven't been in the library lately, you may have missed the book **Tear Soup**, brought to us by Janice Bowen, the Director of Congressional Care Ministry. It's a book about grief that is appropriate for all ages. It explains that grief is a normal part of life, and everyone grieves in different ways and for different lengths of time. When you first look at the book, it looks like it is for children, but it can comfort anyone. Another plus to this book has a directory in the back of the book of where to get help for all ages. You might want to have a look at this book before you need it as a resource or need it as a comfort gift to a grieving family.

Lastly, the library would like to thank everyone who donated books or purchased books from our annual book sale. Through these books sales the library is almost self-sustaining and we owe it all to you. THANK YOU!!

See you in the library!

Pam & Donna

## Praying Follower

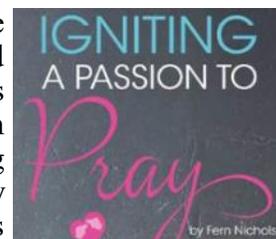


### Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Ken Rapp's father, Lenny, on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Igniting a Passion to Pray

Women tend to worry – it's just a part of our human nature, but prayer has the ability to change everything! This fall First Church will be offering a study called **Igniting a Passion to Pray**. This study will guide women through the Four Steps of Prayer; praise, confession, thanksgiving and intercession. Come to grow, gain confidence in your prayer life and discover the important role you have in releasing God's power to accomplish His work on earth! This 12-week study, facilitated by Nadine Ogden and Merri Shellenberger, begins September 10 on Monday evenings from 6:45 – 8:00 pm at the church. Sign up at the Welcome Center display. Workbook cost is \$15.



### Bless Our Schools Sunday

**Bless Our Schools Sunday** is coming up on September 16 - you won't want to miss worship that day! Together we will pray for our schools, teachers, staff and students so they are ready to stand firm in Christ this school year.

## Moms in Prayer

Did you know that through **Moms in Prayer International**, thousands of mothers around the world gather together in groups to passionately pray for the lives of their children in more than 140 countries? The impact on children, their teachers and their schools is profound, and it is life-changing for the mothers who pray as well!

In addition to groups meeting in homes to pray for specific schools, and the children and teachers who attend those schools, there is an “open group” that meets here at First Church. This group, led by Deb Noss, will resume meeting for the 2018/19 school year on Monday evenings beginning August 27 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Prayer Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator landing).

All mothers are invited and no prayer experience is required. Your child can be any age/any stage of life. And what is prayed in the group stays in the group, so don't worry – your prayer requests will remain private within the group.

Please contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611 if you have questions or would like to join this group. You can also check out [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org) if you would like more information about this organization or would like to search for another group that fits your schedule.

## Passionate Worshipper



### 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

World Communion	September 2	Pew Service
	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

### Ringling In the News

Have you ever thought about ringing bells?? We'd love to have you! We are going to have an open **“Come, Give Ringing a Try”** night on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 pm in the music room. No obligation – just fun and fellowship. Now is your chance to learn more about the bell choirs and get to hold and ring one of those bells!



Our regular bell rehearsals will begin again the week of September 10th. If you are interested in ringing handbells please don't hesitate to come and join us! We love new members! Grades 7 through adult are welcome! Email Kathie Bittenbender at [RBittenben@verizon.net](mailto:RBittenben@verizon.net).

Handchimes for children (grades 1-6) will begin Sunday, September 23. Again, contact Kathie if you are interested.

Mark your calendars now – the Bell Choir's 17th annual Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. Look for tickets soon!

## Dedicated Missionary



### Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission

On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on **September 19 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at [eking@verizon.net](mailto: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 ~ they're the best!!*

There were **1,860** (\$18.60) pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of **\$13,124.22**. Thanks to all who are contributing for another great month! **Please keep the donations flowing and don't let the well run dry.**

### Missions in Sierra Leone

**Thank you** to everyone for your support of the Missions in Sierra Leone table at the Yard Sale. We are making progress in raising money for the Parsonage Rebuild Project and the 2019 mission trip!

Roughly \$3,000 is still needed to fund the final phase of the Parsonage Rebuild Project. The Sierra Leone Mission team is participating in Boscov's Friends Helping Friend fundraiser and we will receive the proceeds from specific gift cards purchased through the Scrip Program. Check out the *Generous Giver* section of this newsletter for more information. A portion of the money raised through these 2 efforts will go to the project. If you would like to make a donation specifically for this project, there are envelopes at the Sierra Leone display in the tower hallway.



### Serving the Homeless with Isaiah 61



On the third Wednesday of the month, members of First Church serve meals to approximately 100 people in Harrisburg. Everything is prepared, we just serve the food to those in need through Isaiah 61 Ministries in Halifax. Please consider joining us as we fulfill one of our Core Values to be a *Dedicated Missionary*. The next date to serve is August 15 at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Tiffany Holland at [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### Open Invitation

The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work!

- VIM (Volunteers in Mission) – Visit their website at [susmb.org](http://susmb.org) for a list of upcoming trips.
- Bagging groceries at Mission Central for Bethesda Mission, third Wednesday of each month.
- Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry in Harrisburg, third Wednesday of each month.
- If you are going on a short term mission trip, we want to support you! Feel free to complete an application for financial support. The application can be found on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), click on the Missions tab.
- The Ministry and Missions Fair will be held during the Sunday School hour on November 11th in the Multipurpose Room. Stop in to learn more about the ministry and missions of First Church and the missions we support!
- Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4.

## **Broad Street Community Dinner on September 20th**

The next community dinner at Broad Street Elementary is Thursday, September 20th. First Church, along with several other churches, look forward to preparing and serving a meal to students and their families. If you are able to help with set up, serving or clean up, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) or (717) 766-4611, ext. 115. Thanks for helping us to bless the community!



## ***Relationship Builder***

### **Annual Fall Picnic**

Mark your calendar! Our annual all-church fall picnic is coming up on Sunday, September 9. It is being held again this year at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion and begins at 3:30 pm. Come to play and stay for the pot-luck supper at 5 pm, followed by outdoor worship as the sun sets on a beautiful day! Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Also bring your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company!

### **MOPS Meets Here!**

Our MOPS group will begin meeting for the 2018/19 school year on Friday, September 28. MOPS provides a welcoming and open environment where every mom can grow through friendship, mentoring and leadership development. Here are the basic elements of every group meeting:

- Fellowship time over light breakfast
- Valuable teachings/lesson time
- Small group discussion time
- Christian devotions to take away and apply to everyday life
- And best of all ... quality childcare!



The cost for MOPS International registration is just \$31.95 for the entire 2018/19 year (scholarships available as needed), and the local dues (to cover childcare and other expenses) is only \$20.00 per semester.

In addition to monthly meetings, fun outings/play-dates, creative projects and service opportunities will be organized for those who are interested.

If you are expecting a child/are the mother of a young child, you won't want to miss this special opportunity! If you know an expectant mother/mother of a young child, please invite them to come and check out a meeting for free!

Contact Krissy Marshall at [kjmarsh1126@gmail.com](mailto:kjmarsh1126@gmail.com) or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611 for more information.

### **September Food Trucks Announced!**

The Food Trucks are here again on Friday, September 21 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. The following trucks are confirmed for September: Mad Sandwiches, Mad Dash, Chicken Truck, Up in Smoke, Soul Burrito, Sugar Whipped, Tropipop and Smoothie King. Come for great food, music and fantastic fellowship!

### **Honoring Our First Responders on September 11**

First Church is participating in the upcoming Honoring and Blessing Mechanicsburg's First Responders on Tuesday, September 11. All are invited to attend and show their appreciation and support. Join us in front of the PNC Bank building, Trindle Road/Main St., Mechanicsburg, at 11:30 a.m.

Several area churches are participating. The one-hour ceremony includes free lunch, a brief program with words of thanks, and prayer.

For more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at (717) 766-4611 or [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

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### First Connections Gathering

The next First Connections time for fellowship will be held on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the Tower Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor children’s Sunday School wing). Please join us between 1-3 pm to simply relax and visit with some First Church friends! Questions or need a ride? Ask - Janice Bowen at WeCare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112



### Generous Giver

#### Financial Report—through July 31, 2018 58% of year

<b>General Fund</b>		
2018 budget	\$ 945,000	
Expected income	\$ 548,100	
Actual income	\$ 532,285	(56% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 15,815	
Actual expenses	\$ 521,355	

\$15,000 from the General Fund and \$8,800 from the Building Fund has been paid on the debt thus far in 2018. An interest payment of \$ 1,321 was made during July.

### Support Missions in Sierra Leone

Boscov’s *Friends Helping Friends* is an opportunity for local non-profit organizations to raise funds for their group by selling shopping passes to the **Friends Helping Friends Day** event on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The passes cost \$5 and everyone who purchases a pass receives a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Sierra Leone Mission team is selling passes to raise money for Missions in Sierra Leone. See any team member to purchase you pass or contact the church office at 171-766-4611.



#### **Increase your support by purchasing Boscov’s gift cards through the Scrip Program to use when you shop on October 16<sup>th</sup>.**

It is never too early to start thinking about Christmas shopping. Use gift cards from the Scrip Program to buy your gifts and support First Church ministries. Through November, proceeds from the purchase of the following cards will support Missions in Sierra Leone.

- |                                      |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Bass Pro Shops</i>                | <i>Olive Garden/Longhorn Steakhouse/Papa John's</i> |
| <i>Boscov's</i>                      | <i>Panera Bread</i>                                 |
| <i>Harry and David</i>               | <i>Red Lobster</i>                                  |
| <i>Marshall's/TJ Maxx/Home Goods</i> | <i>Texas Roadhouse</i>                              |
| <i>Ross Dress for Less</i>           | <i>Giant Foods</i>                                  |
| <i>Stein Mart</i>                    | <i>Weis Markets</i>                                 |
| <i>Cracker Barrel</i>                |                                                     |

Pick up a scrip order for at the Scrip box located in the gathering area by the stairwell or at the Sierra Leone Display in the tower hallway. Place your completed form and payment in the Scrip box in the gathering area.

### Mission Central Missions in Motion 5K Run/Walk - October 27

Mission Central is the mission warehouse of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. The 5K Run/Walk is being held to help with Mission Central’s daily expenses. Mission Central moved nearly \$8 million in resources through the warehouse in 2017. They reached over 4.1 million people and 63% of the warehouse output remained in Pennsylvania!

Support Mission Central by walking or running in the upcoming 5K on Saturday, October 27th with a 9:00 a.m. start. Registration information can be found here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Mechanicsburg/MissionCentralsMissionsinMotion5K>.

### **Save Your Dried-Out Markers!**

Crayola and schools across North America are banding together to help kids understand the importance of their role in protecting the environment. That's why we launched Crayola ColorCycle. Through this initiative, students in K-12 schools across the continental United States and parts of Canada can collect and re-purpose used Crayola markers.

Little Friends Preschool is an official Crayola ColorCycle participant and collection site! Anyone can bring in their used, dried-out markers, ANY name brand and they will be collected and sent back to Crayola to be recycled to make clean energy! Look for the sign and bin at the Collection Center outside the multipurpose room to place your dried-out markers. Thanks for helping us to protect the environment! Questions, contact Maria Petrilak, Little Friends Preschool Director at [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com).

### **Endowment Committee to Host Coffee Café September 30**

Do you have questions about the Endowment Fund, or want to learn more about how you can support the future of First Church?

Join us at the Coffee Café in the multipurpose room on Sunday morning, September 30. Representatives from the Endowment Committee will be available to answer your questions.

Gifts to the First Church Endowment Fund last forever. That's because contributions to it are never spent. They are invested to generate income for future use.

Endowment support can be provided in many ways.

- Individual Retirement Account contribution (for those age 70 ½ or older)
- Gift annuities
- Bequest in a will
- Life insurance policy (First Church as beneficiary)
- Stock Transfer
- Contributions in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones
- Cash contributions

If you would like to learn more about the Endowment Fund, please call or approach Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee Chairperson, or either of First Church's pastors.

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# A WAY FORWARD IN UNITY A HOLY CHRISTIAN CONVERSATION



An invitation for United Methodist Laity and Clergy. Sessions include opening devotions by the District Superintendent, a briefing on the Commission on a Way Forward report, and time for Q&A.

**Saturday, September 29**  
**9:30 am - 12 pm**

**Harrisburg District**  
**Camp Hill UMC**  
**417 S 22nd Street**  
**Camp Hill, PA 17011**

**Register at [susumc.org/WayForward](http://susumc.org/WayForward)**

# Women's Ministry

Any and all women are invited to participate in Women's Ministry events and activities. This page gives you an overview of all the ways to connect. More information can be conveniently found in other parts of the newsletter or feel free to contact the person involved with the event. Coming soon, a Women's Ministry Facebook Page, watch for details!

## 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

### 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

Nancy Eddy ~ naeddy3@aol.com  
meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

### 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

### DAY OF PAMPERING

Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net  
February 23, 2019

### LADIES' OVER 80 TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com  
**September 18**

### MOMS IN PRAYER

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

### MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

First meeting September 28 at 9:15am  
Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

### WOMEN'S PRAYER STUDY

Starts September 10, 6:45-8:00 pm  
Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net  
February 8 - 10, 2019, Mt. Asbury Retreat Center

### ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)

#### Resumes the week of September 3

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:

Harrisburg District Annual Day, **September 29**, Calvary UM Church, 519 Pottsville Street, Wiconisco

The topic is "Journey to Recovery" A faith community's response to the opioid epidemic. Keynote speaker is Amy Whitworth who has a personal testimony from a mother's perspective, for how God has turned the destruction of ignorance, addiction and shame into the miracle of recovery and hope. For registration information, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 115.

UMW Thank Offering and Mission Meal, **November 18**

Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk on **December 15**



If you have any questions about Men's Ministry, please contact John Bowen at [bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com).

### **FORE!! Golf Anyone??**

There are several opportunities for golf:

☆ **Emmaus Walk** is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. Each year the Men's and Women's Walks are held in the spring and fall, with a Chrysalis Flight for teens in February. Help support these spiritual events by playing in the Golf Outing fundraiser to be held on Sunday, **September 23** at 2:00 p.m. at Rich Valley Golf Course. The fee is just \$65 and includes Scramble start, light lunch and picnic style dinner. To register, to be a sponsor, or if you have questions, contact Tom Ziegler at 717-525-0955 or [hafphast@hotmail.com](mailto:hafphast@hotmail.com). Thanks for your support of this life-changing event!

☆ **Men's golf outing** has been scheduled for Friday afternoon, **October 12**. Four tee times have been reserved (16 golfers) beginning around 12:30pm into the afternoon at the Armitage Golf Club on Orrs Bridge Rd. The format will be a "scramble" in which all players hit each of their shots from where the best previous shot of the foursome landed, ending with a team score instead of individual scores. Individual sign-up is preferred over foursomes, as we plan to randomly draw names for the foursome pairings. This should make men of all golf skill levels comfortable participating in an afternoon of fun and fellowship. At the end of the round, men are invited to stay for dinner on the deck of the Caddy Shack restaurant on premises, and spouses/guests are invited to join us for a group dinner. The cost of golf is approximately \$33 (depending on the number of golfers we get signed up), with dinner at your own expense. Space is limited and spots are bound to go quickly so please contact Barry Eaton to reserve your spot with payment as soon as - possible ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)) or drop a note and check in his church mailbox.



### **Men of First Church**

Small group meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 8-9:30 pm. The next meeting is September 19. All men are welcome and encouraged to join us. Currently the group is watching a video lesson with follow-up discussion. The September meeting will be held at the Eaton home in Mechanicsburg. Contact John Bowen ([bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com)) or Barry Eaton ([theaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theaton5@verizon.net)) if you have questions or would like more information about this group.

### **Men's Breakfast**

An open invitation is extended to any and all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month. Please come join us at Brother's Restaurant, located at 705 Gettysburg Pike in Mechanicsburg. Even though it is Labor Day weekend, we are sticking with the normal schedule this month - our next gathering will be on Saturday, September 1 at 7:30 am. Hope to see you there!

### **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](mailto:dekarns@comcast.net)

## Retuning to First Church

### StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Strength Training Program

First United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg and Penn State Extension will be teaming up again to offer the **StrongWomen/Growing Stronger Program** this fall. This eight week program is geared for middle-aged to older women and men and is based upon years of research on how strength training and proper nutrition improve the health of women and men of all ages. The program was developed to help individuals increase their strength, bone density, balance and energy and help them look and feel better. Participants will meet two times a week for one hour sessions. There is a \$60 fee for this program.

**This session will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 17 – Nov. 14, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall** (no class Oct. 8 or 10). Mandatory paperwork must be completed in order to participate in the program and individuals age 70 and over must get a doctor's permission. Past participants must pre-register. Instructor is Cherry France.

For more information or to register for the program, go to: <http://extension.psu.edu/strongwomen/events> and search for Cumberland County classes or call 1-877-345-0691. Contact the Penn State Extension office at 240-6500 or Nancy Rouch at [ner10@psu.edu](mailto:ner10@psu.edu) with any questions about the program.

## Do You Have Your Clearances?

As we prepare for the fall it's a great time to update your clearances if expired and make sure you are ready for the great opportunity of partnering in ministry alongside our children and youth.

Do you not have a regular scheduled volunteering opportunity? That's okay, get your clearances anyway! One, they are FREE for volunteers. Two, you will be able to serve if an opportunity arises. This way if God gives you a "shoulder tap" you will be set to go!

If you currently serve as a partner in ministry in any capacity within the children or youth department, you must update your clearances for our Safe Sanctuary Policy every 5 years. (This includes all one time volunteering engagements such as VBS or the Sleep Out). Any clearances older than 5 years will no longer be a valid.

Please obtain an instruction sheet (located in the children and youth form area or online under the "children's" tab of the church website) and follow the instructions and begin the process of securing or updating your clearances.

Thank you for your partnering in ministry and helping us keep our children and youth straight!

-Lisa Aronson, Dawn Fisher, and Anna Harris

# SAFE Sanctuaries



## Church News and Notes

### Special Birthdays

Emma Whitcomb .....	September 8	Peg Hassinger.....	October 8
Ken Nelson.....	September 13	Skip Hutter .....	October 13
George Rehfuß .....	September 16	Carol Moomaw .....	October 21
Ralph Harkins .....	September 25	Winslow Brown .....	October 23
Peggy Shenberger .....	September 28	Don Shover .....	October 23
		Paul Strock .....	October 31

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 55 years on September 1
- ♥ Richard & Alberta Knause married 68 years on September 2
- ♥ Ed & Gina Johnson married 54 years on September 3
- ♥ Darrell & Barbara Sill married 51 years on September 16
- ♥ Milt & Dolly Dougherty married 68 years on September 23
- ♥ George & Mary Beth Snoke married 52 years on September 24
- ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 54 years on September 26
- ♥ Paul & Lorraine Strock married 65 years on September 27
- ♥ Leroy & Pam Weaver married 56 years on October 7
- ♥ Skip & Pat Hutter married 63 years on October 8
- ♥ Ralph & Gwen Harkins married 56 years on October 20
- ♥ Paul & Vesta Rynard married 54 years on October 24

### Thank you...

*We would like to thank everyone for the many cards and prayers we have received over the past few months. We are so appreciative of the continued cards, calls and visits by Pastor Denny, Betsy and Janice. Your faithfulness is evident by your actions. God bless for all and thank you again.*  
*Cheryl & Bob Erikson*

*Dear First Church Family,*

*How great to have all the kindness given to me.*

*The flowers were beautiful and were very much enjoyed. And the food was also delicious and so much so I divided it in smaller containers so I have about 4 more evening meals, all very good.*

*How thoughtful and kind, and my arm is somewhat better, but will have it in a sling for 2 more weeks. I do thank God it was my right arm because I am left handed.*

*Blessings to all,*

*Peg Hassinger*

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## Church Staff

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### DIRECTOR OF JUNIPER TREE COUNSELING CENTER

**Glenn Covert**

### A note from the Editor

Looking ahead... due to my being in Sierra Leone January 19 through February 2, 2019, we have decided to combine the January/February editions of First News First. The combined edition will be published in December 2018. Please keep this in mind as you plan events for January and February that would need to be communicated through the newsletter.

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
Editor: Kristin Brown

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

**Early submissions always**  
**appreciated!**

**September 15**