



December 2018

First News First

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

"Join the Great Procession"

On Christmas Eve the church of my childhood only had one service. 500-600 people would crowd into the large sanctuary of Grace Church, Carlisle. The service began with a long processional. Every choir in the church participated. Since I was in the children's choir, then the youth choir, then the chancel choir, I was part of this processional from the time I was a small child until I went off to college.

My heart would pound with excitement every year as we entered through the back doors of the sanctuary. I would peer down the center aisle into that magnificent sanctuary, a mysterious mix of darkness and candle-light. I remember the familiar faces of my grandparents amid a sea of strangers. They sat along the aisle near the back and whispered my name as I walked past. And, I remember the sound of the great pipe organ, and the incredible mix of voices lifted up in song all around me. Every year, the processional hymn was the same: "Angels from the Realms of Glory." Again and again, the joyous refrain rang out, "Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King."

When James Montgomery penned these words nearly two hundred years ago, he could not have imagined that we would be singing them today. Montgomery was a newspaper editor in Sheffield, England. Originally "Angels from the Realms of Glory" appeared as a poem in the Christmas Eve edition of his paper in 1816. A few years later, someone set the words to music. In 1830 the carol first appeared in the Methodist Hymnal.

Montgomery reminds us, as we "worship Christ the newborn King," that we are part of a magnificent processional that began in Bethlehem long ago when the angels who "sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth." Soon the shepherds, who "behold the infant light," join in. The sages who "have seen his natal star" get in line, too. As do the "saints before the altar bending." All who worship Jesus are marching together toward that day when "suddenly, the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear."

Our December calendar at First Church is filled with opportunities to worship Christ. In your devotional time each day, and on Sunday mornings in Advent and Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, I encourage you to join the procession. Proclaim his birth. Behold his light. Kneel in adoration. Embrace the hope. "Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!"

Joining You in the Great Procession!

Pastor Denny





BE ONE. DISCIPLE MAKE ONE.



Week 48: Theme ~ *Self Denial*

November 26 *Self-Denial to Answer God's Call*
Luke 1:26-56

November 27 *Self-Denial Creates Possibility*
Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23

November 28 *Saying No to Self*
Matthew 16:24-28; Mark 8:27-38;
Luke 14:25-35

November 29 *Self-Denial and Giving Up*
Luke 18:18-30

November 30 *Learning from the Master*
Matthew 26:36-46

December 1 Relax & Reflect

December 2 Worship

Week 49: Theme ~ *Evangelism*

December 3 *Good News*
Luke 2:1-20

December 4 *Miraculous Witness*
Luke 7:11-17

December 5 *A Story to Tell*
Luke 8:26-39

December 6 *New Sight*
Luke 18:35-43

December 7 *Creation Tells the Story*
Psalm 19:1-14; Romans 1:18-20

December 8 Relax & Reflect

December 9 Worship

Week 50: Theme ~ *Wisdom*

December 10 *Wisdom in Discernment*
Matthew 2:1-23

December 11 *God's Wisdom Is Best*
Proverbs 4:1-27

December 12 *Christ Is God's Wisdom*
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

December 13 *True Wisdom*
Colossians 2:1-23

December 14 *Wisdom for All Seasons*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

December 15 Relax & Reflect

December 16 Worship

Week 51: Theme ~ *New Song*

December 17 *Starting Over*
Psalm 33

December 18 *Second Chances*
Isaiah 55:6-9; Luke 15:11-32

December 19 *Help in Burnout*
Isaiah 40:25-31; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

December 20 *All Things New*
2 Peter 3:1-14; Revelation 21:1-7

December 21 *Life Song*
Psalm 96:1-13

December 22 Relax & Reflect

December 23 Worship

Week 52: Theme ~ *Savior*

December 24 *The Need for a Savior*
Romans 5:6-21; John 3:16-17

December 25 *Changed by the Savior*
1 John 2:1-6; John 14:15-21

December 26 *Salvation and Wholeness*
Mark 1:40-45, 8:22-26

December 27 *Living Hope*
1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 5:1-5

December 28 *Our Savior-Friend*
John 15:9-17

December 29 Relax & Reflect

December 30 Worship

December 31 Celebrate! You Did It!!!

Take the Challenge!

Finish 2018 strong by participating in the Be One, Make One Discipleship Challenge! If you haven't already done so, 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 daily readings.

Winter Studies

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

- **Advent Study: The Gift of the Nutcracker**
Draw closer to Christ during Advent through this endearing Christmas classic! This 4-week study, based on the popular story of the Nutcracker, will be held in the church multipurpose room from 9:30 – 10:30 am on Sunday mornings from December 2 through December 23. Each session will include a short video and discussion in small table groups. There is no need to register, and you can attend one or all of the sessions. Visit the Welcome Center display for more information, or contact Tina Eaton at 717-766-4611 or email adultministry@fumchurch.com.
- **Regular Sunday School** classes meet Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Look in the bulletin for more details regarding the class choices.
- **Wednesday Bible Studies** with both Pastor Denny and Pastor John will resume in the new year, so keep your eye out for more details in the bulletin!
- **Thursday Bible Study and Sunday Men's Bible Study** will also resume in the new year, so look in the bulletin for more details in December/January!

Library

As I began to write this newsletter, I realized I skipped over our big news last month. The library hit its twentieth anniversary last month. And before you remind me, yes, the church had a small reference library before Pam, Fran (Davis) and I started adding fiction. I'm just counting the years since we reinvented the library. We have written about 480 newsletter articles and decorated the window in the hall at least that many times. And we continue to do it with the help of some very dedicated volunteers who have generously given their time. Why you ask? Well, we all love books, and we want you to have the opportunity to have the best of Christian fiction. Yes, some of this is available at the public library, but we have some features they don't have. Small wait times, assurance that each series will be complete, and a staff that is knowledgeable and can help find just the right book for you. You can let your teen borrow our books without worry about content. That doesn't mean our literature is dull and boring. Most Christian writers tackle the hard issues with compassion and insight. So, if you haven't browsed our shelves in the last twenty years, now might be a good time to start!

Now that we are done with the back patting, on to the important part: a review of some new books. I know many of you have been waiting for Susan May Warren to write the sixth book in the *Montana Rescue Series* and it has arrived. **Wait for Me** is on the shelf ready to be checked out. Sadly, this is the last book of the series, but reviewers have said that Ms. Warren has wrapped up the series with "a shocking but satisfying ending, tying up all the loose ends". I won't tell you the plot, but there is lots of suspense and romance. What could be better? If you haven't read this series, now is the time with all six books available. Merry Christmas from the library!

If your Christmas stocking isn't full enough, let me deliver one more present. Denise Hunter's **On Magnolia Lane** just arrived. This is the third romance (of four) in the *Blue Ridge Sunrise Series*. I have to admit I rarely read romance novels, but Ms. Hunter's novels are so down to earth and character driven, I dive right in with everyone else. Pastor Jack McReady has been Daisy Pendelton's counselor for two years. Now he would like to give up that job and start dating her. Unbeknownst to him, his best friend has put his profile on a dating app that Daisy has been checking out. Since Jack is only identified by his initials, Daisy doesn't know she is interested in her counselor. Will these two overcome the stumbling blocks before them and find true love? Guess you'll be up late finding out.

You may have noticed the library has had a large group of Amish fiction donated to us. We have worked hard to flesh out each series and hope you will enjoy this bounty.

We also have some new Christmas fiction and hope you have a few spare moments to sneak in some uplifting fiction for the season.

See you in the library!!!

Pam & Donna

Praying Follower



Praying Together

As disciples of Jesus, we value faithfully listening in order to discern God's will and respond to God in prayer every day. Here are a couple of great opportunities being offered to help you engage in prayer this winter:

- **Advent Devotions** - Looking for a devotion to enhance your daily prayer time during Advent? Stop by the Welcome Center display and pick up a special Advent devotion booklet, based on the writings of Henri Nouwen, today!
- **Moms in Prayer** – This small group of mothers and grandmothers meets at First Church every Monday (that Mechanicsburg schools are in session) in the evening from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Prayer Room (2nd floor elevator landing). 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. For more details, please contact Tina Eaton at 717-766-4611 or email adultministry@fumchurch.com.

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.

Save the Dates! (4th Sunday at 4:00 PM)

December 23

Holy Communion

First Sunday of Advent

December 2

Loaves and Chalice

Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00

December 24

Loaves and Chalice

Advent & Christmas Services and Event Schedule

December 2 1st Sunday in Advent

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

December 9 2nd Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am

December 15

Marketplace of Miracles/Cookie Walk
10:00 am - 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room

December 16 3rd Sunday in Advent

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

December 20 Little Friend's Nursery School

Christmas Program 9:15 am

December 23 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. Join Pastor Denny by the fireplace and hear the story of our Savior's birth. Service 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 Remembrance and Hope – Sunday, December 2nd at 7 pm

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

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

First Church is Hiring!

First Church is seeking a full-time Director of Worship Arts. We are looking for a versatile musician with a growing relationship and heart for Jesus Christ, gifts to engage people of all ages in Christian worship, both traditional and modern, proven organizational and leadership abilities, and excellent communication and relational skills. A bachelor's degree in a specific or related field required. Master's degree preferred. For details, see the job description posted on our website at www.fumchurch.com. Send resumes to office@fumchurch.com.

Dedicated Missionary



The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

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 19 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 ~ they're the best!!***

There were **3,146** (\$31.46) "pennies" contributed this past month for a total to date of **\$13,189.99**. 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

January 19th is quickly approaching. Please continue to keep Kristin Brown, Tiffany Holland and Andy Irons in your prayers as they prepare for this exciting trip.

Thank you to everyone who supported Missions in Sierra Leone through the Scrip Program. We raised \$351.30. What a great and nearly effortless way to raise money and support ministries of First Church. Want more information about the Scrip Program? See Kathie Bittenbender.

Serving the Homeless with Isaiah 61 and Exciting New Update!

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. A carpool leaves from First Church at 6:00 p.m. for those who are interested. To volunteer, contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com.

Susquehanna Conference Seminar Trip to Washington, DC

The General Board of Church and Society invites you to an educational trip to Washington, DC, February 10 to 13, 2019. The topic is White Privilege and Racism. The fee is \$375 and includes bus transportation, lodging at the Hotel Harrington, meals and materials. Find the registration form and more information at http://www.susumc.org/files/ministries/sus_ministries/church_society/GBCS_Seminar_Trip_2019.pdf. If you require financial assistance, you may submit a request to the Missions Committee. For more information about the trip, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Neighborhood Center Winter Flea Market & Bake Sale, Cakes Needed!

Neighborhood Center will be hosting their first annual Winter Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at 1801 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg. The event features the popular election day bake sale, free activities for children, a variety of vendors and free wellness screenings. The proceeds from this sale benefit programs and college scholarships for high school students. We have been asked to provide a total of 10, 8 inch cakes for the bake sale, any flavor. If you can provide a cake(s) for the sale, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. The cakes should be made in disposable containers. Thanks for your support of this event! More information about Neighborhood Center and the sale can be found at neighborhoodcenterumc.org.

Mission Trip to Bucharest, Romania

The Missions Team shares a new mission opportunity to an orphanage in Bucharest, Romania. The trip is through Children To Love International in partnership with Halifax United Methodist Church. The dates are May 16 to 26, 2019. Participants will be working with kids from various orphanages and impoverished families. For details about the trip, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611. For more information about Children to Love International, view their website at childrentolove.org.

Feminine Hygiene Kits

The Deborah Circle is sponsoring a sewing day to make feminine hygiene kits for Mission Central. If you have not heard about these kits, it is an eye opener to know what women and girls do in poor countries to take care of their menstrual period. Sometimes they use dirt or weeds or worse during this time and if nothing works, they must stay home from school or work one week a month. This adds to their poverty and lack of education. To get a full look at this project go to Mission Central and look under ways to contribute and there is a larger explanation. You can help with this project even if you don't sew. There is a lot of cutting out of materials and if you do sew simple sewing. A serger sewing machine is very helpful but not mandatory.

We will start at 8:30 on January 12th (January 19th if we need a snow day) and sew until the fabric is used up, we are done, or you just need to leave. Pack a lunch if you care too. Coffee and muffins will be provided in the morning. Deborah Circle is providing the first \$100. worth of fabric including the all-important water proof fabric needed. If you can bring flannel or cottons for the project great. All fabrics must be washed in unscented soap and no fabric softener used. If the fabric is preshrunk and the kit made properly the kit will last 3 years. The fabric dos and don'ts are listed on the Mission Central website (and there are several). If you can bring your sewing machine-great. Other sewing supplies such as sharp scissors, rotor cutters, quilting rulers, and cutting mats will be needed. Dark thread is always used. If you have any questions, call me, Donna Nichols at 717-249-9477. The lady at Mission Central who went to Africa and distributed these kits said it was just like Christmas- the girls and women were so happy to have the kits.



Relationship Builder

Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, December 18th 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to enjoy a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the 'Hardwood Café' just beyond the church library. Mechanicsburg resident, John Maietta, will present "Joy to the World! The Stories Behind Our Favorite Christmas Carols." We'll hear the colorful stories behind some of our favorite Christmas carols. You'll learn who King Wenceslas really was....how a partridge got into a pear tree....why a Pennsylvania pastor immortalized the visit of the Three Kings to the baby Jesus....and how a snowy, starry night in an Austrian village inspired a beloved song of Christmas joy and peace.

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

Christmas Caroling – Sunday, December 16th – 5:30 p.m.

Calling Christmas Carolers of all ages! We invite you to meet at the 'Hardwood Café' (round table area under the balcony of the sanctuary) to join a group for sharing 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 around the tree back at the church upon your return.

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

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.

Broad Street Update

Thanks to everyone who supported the Broad Street Elementary Community Dinner on Thursday, September 20th. It was a great success with over 350 in attendance! Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 7. First Church will be providing the barbeque for the spring meal. The staff and families at Broad Street appreciate your support of this community event!

Day of Pampering February 23, 2019

Please be in prayer for this ministry as our planning continues.

Not everyone who has helped in the past can return. Currently we are in need of several hair stylists, 4-5 massage therapists and volunteers. If you know of someone with these talents who might be interested in helping, please provide their contact information to Karin McHale at karinmch@comcast or 717-379-8329. If you would like to volunteer in some way, feel free to contact me. There are many ways to help including decorating, painting nails, doing hand waxing, helping in the parking lot, moving furniture or equipment, washing dishes and so much more.

Each year we learn of some way Day of Pampering has touched the lives of the women who attend. Some love the worship and the Blessing of the Hands. Others enjoy the time to lunch leisurely and share conversation with new friends. Each woman who attends Day of Pampering has been invited and received a confirmed registration. Do you know a woman caregiver in need of a respite from the responsibilities of caregiving? Just share their name and email address with Karin McHale so they can be invited to Day of Pampering.

Generous Giver



Financial Report—through October 31, 2018 83% of year

General Fund

2018 budget	\$ 945,000	
Expected income	\$ 784,350	
Actual income	\$ 770,086	(81% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 14,264	
Actual expenses	\$ 751,838	

Work has already started on the 2019 budget. The Finance Committee will take the results of Consecration Sunday into account when finalizing the 2019 budget for adoption at the December 17 Administrative Board meeting.

Neighborhood Christmas Tree.

It's time to shop for families from Neighborhood Center. Like last year, there is a Christmas tree with ornaments with specific requests from the children chosen for our church. I don't know what items will be requested yet, but if it is like last year, there will be some larger items. Those items might be chosen by a Sunday School class or 2-3 individuals can go together and split the cost. Look for the tree mid-November and Happy Shopping. Contact Lori Hoffnagle or Donna Nichols for more information.

Shopping Made Easy for the United Methodist Home for Children

The United Methodist Home for Children has shared their Christmas Wish List and gift cards are a very popular item. We have the perfect solution! Buy a gift card from our church Scrip Program and help the UM Home for Children! Please purchase the following requested cards in any amount: Dick's Sporting Goods, Payless Shoes, Rite Aid, Staples, Walmart, and Applebees and indicate on the form they are for UM Home for Children. Lori Hoffnagle will deliver the gift cards to the Methodist Home just in time for Christmas! The Scrip Gift Card Program is located near the coffee prep area (behind the double door). Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com or Kathie Bittenbender at rbittenben@verizon.net.

Women's Retreat and the SCRIP Program!!!

Think Christmas shopping! Think treating yourself or someone else to dinner! In December and January, proceeds from specific gift card purchases will benefit the 2019 Women's Retreat - Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, TGI Friday's! The SCRIP box and order forms are located in the gathering area by the stairwell. Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net.

December Blood Drives

December 1	Black Landscape, 10am to 2pm – 1360 E. Lisburn Rd. 17055
December 4	Applebee's on the Carlisle Pike, 3pm to 7pm
December 5	Silver Spring Fire Co, 5pm to 8pm – 6471 Carlisle Pike, 17050
December 6	Technology Parkway, 10:30am to 3:30pm – 2020 Technology Parkway, 17050
December 8	New Cumberland First Church of God, 8am to 1pm – 323 Reno Ave, New Cumberland 17070
December 11	Denny's on the Carlisle Pike, 3pm to 7pm
December 12	UPMC Pinnacle Dillsburg, 2pm to 5:30pm – One Trinity Drive East, Dillsburg 17019
December 12	UPMC Pinnacle Camp Hill, 8am to 12pm – 1200 Camp Hill Bypass, 17011
December 19	Turnpaugh Health and Wellness, 9am to 12pm – 310 Lambs Gap Rd., 17050
December 19	Century 21 Realty, 3pm to 7pm – 3315 Market St., Camp Hill 17011
December 22	Lowe's on the Carlisle Pike 8am to 1pm
December 28	Fox Center 8am to 7pm – 120 S. Filbert St., 17055

Endowment Support: A Lasting Gift to First Church

For many, Advent is a joyous season as we prepare for the Christmas holiday and anticipate the coming of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas is also a popular time to give and receive gifts. This Christmas, why not give a meaningful, lasting gift that will continue to give well into the future?

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.

- Cash contributions
- Gift annuities
- Bequest in a will
- Life insurance policy (First Church as beneficiary)
- Contributions in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones

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

Endowment Grants Awarded in 2018

For the second year, the Endowment Fund of First United Methodist Church was in the very favorable position of being able to distribute income.

The Endowment Fund generated enough income in 2017 to be safely withdrawn from the fund and reinvested into the church. The distribution amounts were calculated using the Total Return Policy, as previously adopted by First Church.

Distributions were given in the form of grants to fund various mission-related projects in 2018:

Worship Arts Team - \$2,500 for the creation of this team, focused on creating an environment at First Church that engages people in worship in a way that allows them to uniquely experience the presence of God in a corporate worship setting. The team will evaluate the function, aesthetics and design of our worship space and prepare a plan for enhancements to improve our worship experience.

Worship Arts Clubs – A \$1,500 grant to fund the addition of Worship Arts Clubs to the 2018-19 Wonderful Wednesday family fellowship program. Students can choose from three clubs featuring music, dance and drama. The clubs provide alternative expressions of worship to help children praise in a way that they feel most connected to God.

Stained Glass Windows - \$3,700 was added to the church's stained glass restoration fund in accordance with the donor's wishes.



POINSETTIAS will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 16 and 23. You have the option of purchasing a poinsettia for \$7.50 or giving a monetary gift in memory/honor of your loved one. Gift donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Please complete the form indicating the number of “plants” or “gifts” and place it in the offering plate or send it to Kristin Brown in the church office by **December 6**.

Plants may be taken after any Christmas Eve Service that you attend. If you order a poinsettia, please be sure to pick it up. Plants not claimed by December 31 will be disposed of.

If you are not planning on taking your poinsettia please consider a monetary gift instead.

POINSETTIA OR GIFT ORDER FORM

Please indicate below, in the correct section, the number of plants and/or gifts that you are giving and who they are being given in memory/honor of.

1. Number of plants _____ **Circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

2. Number of Gifts _____ **Circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Women's Ministry

Any and all women are invited to participate in upcoming 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. The Women's Ministry Facebook page has been created! Look for it on our FB page titled "First Church Women's Ministry" and feel free to join!

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)

Next meeting December 14 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

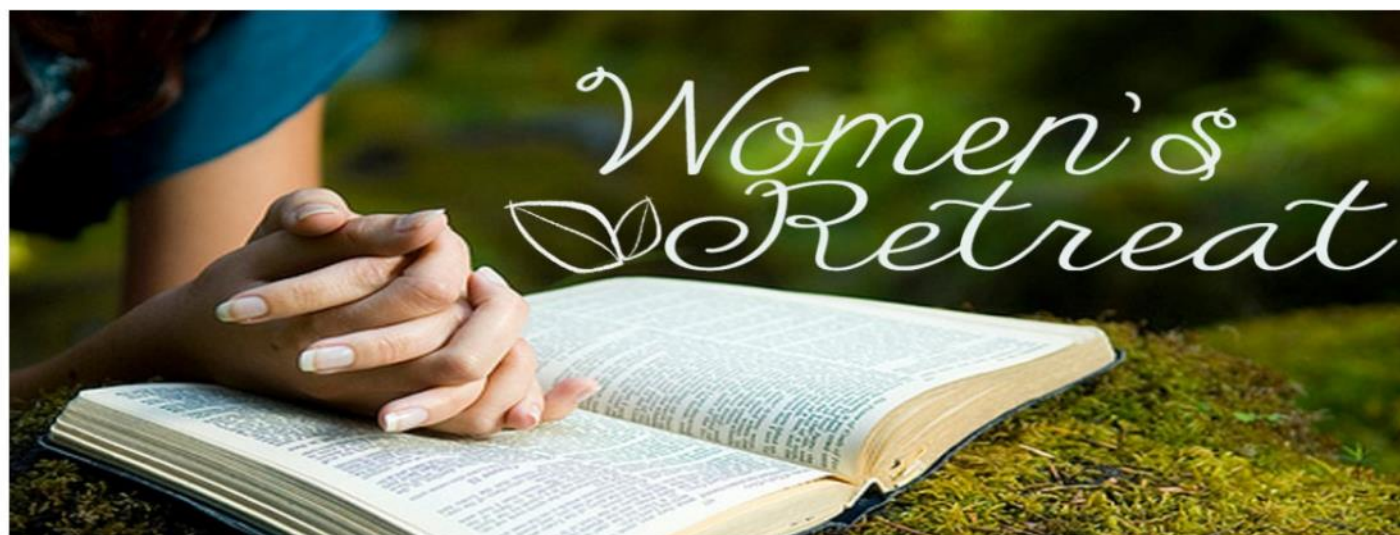
Upcoming Events:

Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk, December 15
Women's Retreat, February 8 to 10, 2019

Registration is now open for the annual **Women's Retreat** to be held February 8 to 10, 2019 at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center. This year's theme is Re-Purposed: Our New Life in Christ! You can find the registrations at the Ministry Display Tables, the Women's Ministry window, our website or contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com or Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net. All women are invited!

The **Annual Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk** is Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are excited that Women at Risk, Change Purse, Ten Thousand Villages, She's Somebody's Daughter and Trades of Hope will be joining us this year. These organizations raise awareness and support victims of human trafficking and promote Fair Trade. Come shop for a cause! The extremely popular Cookie Walk promises a variety of homemade cookies, just in time for Christmas! Shoppers can choose from over 30 different types of cookies, including peanut and gluten free. Boxes will be provided. Proceeds from the Cookie Walk benefit youth mission trips. Come early for the best selection!

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



Re-Purposed: Our New Life in Christ!
2019 Women's Retreat
February 8 to 10, 2019



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 12/31/18 is \$135. After that date, the fee will be \$140. Fees include two-night stay (**New this year, 3 per room**) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. **All registrations are due by 1/20/2019!**

_____ \$135 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/18) Financial assistance available upon request.

_____ \$140 registration enclosed (if paying **after** 12/31/18)

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

MEN'S MINISTRY

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 December 19. All men are welcome and encouraged to join us. Currently the group is watching a video lesson with follow-up discussion. The next meeting will be held at either the Eaton or Bowen home (watch for a bulletin announcement and/or email with location). Contact John Bowen (bowenhome720@gmail.com) or Barry Eaton (theeaton5@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. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, December 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

Men's Winter Retreat ~ January 25-27, 2019

Men of First Church, you are invited to join us for the Annual Winter Retreat which will take place the weekend of January 25-27, 2019. We are excited to announce that we will be enjoying the facilities at Mt. Asbury this time around. Registration forms are available at the church Welcome Desk. Deadline to register is January 10.



Men's Winter Retreat January 25-27, 2019

Complete the bottom portion of this form and put in the Bowen church mailbox with check for \$100 made payable to FUMC, with "Men's Retreat" on memo line.* More information regarding directions, carpooling, and what to bring will be sent to you soon. Contact John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com with any questions.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

*Deadline for registration is January 10th

Church News and Notes

Thank you...

Dear Frist Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the prayers and support through the surgery and as I move through the recovery and physical therapy.

Church and I have felt the many prayers and enjoyed the meals prepared by many of you. Again, thank you!

In His love,

Chuck & Patti Loomis

I want to thank everyone who helped me move into my new apartment that I love very much. I want to thank everyone for the food and the flowers. I want to thank John and Jeannette Behel for the microwave. I am very thankful for my church family.....you are so important to me. Again, thank you all very much, I love you all. ~ Annabelle Elder

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to thank all who have prayed and expressed concern for me and Deb over the last year and a half. I was diagnosed with Prostate cancer February 2017. The radiation therapy that occurred last year coupled with the hormone therapy that finished this February went very well. Through the time of my treatments I was at peace knowing that I was in God's arms, as well as, the loving arms of the First Church family. I don't want to forget to thank those whose knitted my prayer blanket. It was often on my lap at work – a tangible reminder that I was being surrounded by love and prayers. My latest test results show that all levels have returned to normal and I can go back to a regular follow-up schedule. Praise God!

When I first received my diagnosis, I wasn't sure whether to keep this to myself or share with the church. I know this kind of thing is a personal choice for each person. For me, I can only say again thank you to the First Church family. This for me is an example where God has worked things for good. I have been overwhelmed with love and support and developed friendships with many people who shared their stories, their lives with me. What a precious gift!

Your Brother in Christ – Steve Noss

Special Birthdays

Joyce Woods December 1
Jo Nye December 13
Helen Ritter December 13
Dolores Shell December 13
Darlis Aumiller December 21
Elaine O'Hara December 26
Doris Dougherty December 27
Sandra Coover December 28
Pat Hutter January 3
Richard Reed January 15
David Coover January 16
Leta Rohlmeier January 23
Dot Souder January 27
Margaret Baker January 30

Special Anniversaries

♥ Roy & Ginnie Miller married 51 years on December 9
♥ Harriet & Douglas Steuart married 51 years on December 16
♥ Joe & Carol Moomaw married 53 years on December 24



COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Coloring & Activity Pages by: Bible-Printables.com

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Maria Petrilak

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DIRECTOR OF JUNIPER TREE COUNSELING CENTER

Glenn Covert

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

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

Early submissions always
appreciated!

December 15