



# First News First

March 2019

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

**From Pastor Denny...**

## "Take Time to Breathe"

Wow, First Church, you are surely off to a busy start in 2019! As I write this, we are not yet two months into the year, and already you've done so much!

- You've participated in weekend retreats for Men and Women at Mount Asbury, and you've attended the amazing Salt 'n Light Youth Ministries winter event, Zeteo, in Altoona.
- You've come out to worship God every Sunday morning, even on two Sundays when other area churches cancelled due to bad weather, and you've focused on building relationships in the church (WE > ME) and in the community (See All the People).
- You've attended monthly Rejoicing Spirits services, joined in an inspiring evening of Prayer and Praise led by our youth, and celebrated Youth Sunday at both services February 17th.
- You've kicked off another great season of Wonderful Wednesday for children, and you've enthusiastically rehearsed for our annual Passion Play in April.
- You've sent Kristin Brown and Tiffany Holland on a mission trip to continue our vital partnership with our sister church in Taiama, Sierra Leone. You've also welcomed a missionary couple from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, and supported numerous mission projects and missionaries with your prayers, your gifts, and your service.
- You've prayed for our United Methodist Church, as delegates engaged in a Special General Conference in St. Louis in late-February.
- You've continued the search for a full-time Worship Arts Director.
- You've supported renovations to our sanctuary, including a beautifully crafted platform to increase the size of the chancel area, an ADA approved ramp for greater accessibility, and other projects to enhance our worship space.
- You've joined in Sunday school classes, Bible studies, and small groups, supported Little Friends Pre-school, and extended such care to our church family and community. You've provided funding for ministry, maintained excellent facilities, and offered creative programs.

I could add to the list. So could you. In so many ways you open doors with Christ, one another, and your neighbors. With all of this activity, I also want to remind you, as **Praying Followers** of Jesus, of the spiritual necessity of slowing down to be with God. Jesus calls us to **abide** in him.

*<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. (John 15:5)*

This Lenten Season, I invite you to slow down to be with God. Take time to breathe. Worship weekly. Read the Bible daily. Abide in Christ, always, so that you may produce much fruit!

## Lifelong Learner



### 2019 Daily Bible Reading Plan

Join us on this adventure as we read through the Bible using this plan, which has been specifically designed to go along with the sermon series schedule for 2019. Simply visit the Welcome Center display, pick up a reading plan and begin reading! Then come to worship to enjoy the sermons and participate in a Bible study using this plan to dig deeper. Do you need a Bible? You can pick one up with the reading plan at the Welcome Center display.

### New Bible Studies, Classes and Groups

Looking for new ways to learn and grow in your discipleship during Lent? Then we invite you to join us for one of these new study opportunities:

#### **Wednesday Lunch & Learn Bible Study** **“Praying Through the Names of God”**

This study is based on our worship sermon series for Lent. Come to dig deeper into the scripture you read as a part of the daily Bible reading plan, which you can pick up at the Welcome Center display, then enjoy a Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant afterward.

When: March 6 – April 17 Study at 11:00 am/Lunch at 12:00 pm Where: Sanctuary

Leader: Assistant Pastor John Shellenberger

#### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** **“Praying Through the Names of God”**

This study is based on our worship sermon series for Lent. Come to dig deeper into scripture using your sermon notes and the daily Bible reading plan, which you can pick up at the Welcome Center display.

When: March 13 – April 24 from 6:45 – 8:00 pm Where: Room B004

Leader: Senior Pastor Dennis Keller

#### **Wonderful Wednesday** **Parent Discussion Group**

All parents are invited to drop in and share both concerns for prayer and practices that they have found to be helpful in setting their children on the path of faith, spiritual growth and service.

When: Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 7:00 pm Where: Fellowship Hall

Leader: Collective leadership within group

#### **Thursday Bible Study** **“LORD, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days”**

by Kay Arthur

This 4-week study will transform your life as you learn to mine the riches of God’s Word for yourself! Workbook provides hands-on practice with study method like keyword searches, using context, identifying themes, metaphorical and literal phrases, and much, much more.

When: March 21 - April 11 Mornings 9:00 – 11:00 am/Evenings 6:45 – 8:30 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall Leader: Juanita Guise Cost: \$5.00

#### **New Member Class** **“A Disciple’s Path: Deepening your Relationship with Christ and the Church”**

by James Harnish

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness... this is what we commit to when we become church members, but this study looks at more than just membership. It provides participants with a discipleship plan that leads to a deeper relationship with Christ, which impacts all other relationships.

When: Orientation on March 3 6-week study follows syllabus received at orientation  
9:30-10:30 am (Sunday School hour) Where: Room 207

Leader: Senior Pastor Dennis Keller

Childcare: Children’s Sunday School classes for all ages provided

**Sunday Evening Men's Bible Study**  
**"The Holy Spirit Unleashed in You"**  
by Kay Arthur

Do you want the power to witness for Christ in all circumstances? Come to study the book of Acts using the inductive Bible study method, and learn about miracles, boldness and having the courage to fully rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to preach the Word of God.

When: Begins March 10 from 6:15 – 7:00 pm

13-week study will be broken into a spring and a fall semester

Where: Room 207    Leader: Ken Guise    Cost: \$9.99

**New Topical Bible Studies for Sunday School**

Two new groups are being formed as intergenerational classes designed for people of all ages who desire to learn and grow together as they study specific topics and how they are addressed in the Bible:

**Option 1: "Short Stories by Jesus"**

By Amy-Jill Levine

Jesus knew how to tell a story. He knew that in order to get his message across he needed to relate to the people who gathered to listen. Come to learn how original audiences understood Jesus' parables, and how those same lessons continue to challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

When: 6-Week study begins March 10      9:30-10:30 am

Where: Room B002    Leader: Lisa Aronson

**Option 2: "Resolving Everyday Conflict"**

By Peacemaker Ministries

Come to unpack the amazing things the Bible has to say about conflict and relationships. As you go through this study, you'll find the powerful and practical answers you are looking for to forever change how conflict looks in your life.

When: 8-week study begins March 10      9:30-10:30 am

Where: Room B006      Leaders: John Aronson and Barry Eaton

*Note: Sign-up sheets for all studies can be found at the Welcome Center display.  
Scholarships to cover cost of class materials (where a cost is noted) provided upon request.*

**Camp Sunday ~ March 10**

Join us for Camp Sunday on March 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the multipurpose room. Learn more about the many opportunities for church camp this summer and how to register. Children will have an opportunity to experience a 'day at camp' as they rotate through the hands-on stations. First Church firmly believes in the benefits of a church camp experience. A list of camps can be found on the camp website at [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org) or at the camp display outside the multipurpose room. Fees vary based on the camp session. Scholarships are available and First Church will help sponsor children and youth from our congregation who wish to attend. For more information, contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com). See you at Camp!

## Library

I'm sitting at my kitchen table wondering when I will see the sun again. It is still February as I write this, and I know that March can be a dreary month. Well, at least I can brighten my days with some really good books. The minute I saw these two books on the Christian Book Distributors web site, I knew they would be good for the library. And if you have ever read this newsletter or you know me at all, you will know why I was so drawn to them.

**The Coffee Club Mysteries: 6 Whodunits are Brewing in Small-Town Kansas** is light fiction-filled with book club ladies, mysteries, and, of course, coffee. Each novella is written by a different author, but they all revolve around Morgan Butler and the Coffee Perk Shop she owns in Oak Grove, Kansas. Oak Grove is very much like Cabot Cove, Maine as dead people keep showing up in this small town, and it is up to a group of coffee drinking book club ladies to solve each mystery. I won't give the plots away, but I will warn you these books might make you crave more coffee—but at least the caffeine will allow you to stay up late reading.

**Brunch at the Bittersweet Café** by Carla Laureano is the perfect match with the coffee club book. I selected the second book in The Saturday Night Supper Club series because I felt it fit better with a coffee book, but you may want to start with book one aptly titled the **Saturday Night Supper Club**. Baker and pastry chef Melody Johansson is stuck in a rut, not only in her work, but also in her social life. Her night baking job at a chain bakery doesn't allow her to use her talents as a classically trained French baker and her love life is a disaster AGAIN. Then she meets Justin Keller who arrives at her workplace during a snowstorm, and she thinks this might be a sign that her life is turning around. Justin is in about the same place in his life as Melody. While exploring a relationship, both Melody and Justin are offered their dream jobs, but at opposite sides of the country. Melody wonders if she should keep with her dream of her own bakery or chuck it all and follow the man she has come to love. I think if you like romance, you will love this series.

I just wanted to mention to all of you who loved The Montana Rescue series that Susan May Warren is bringing out a new series called The Montana Marshalls with the first installment due mid-March titled **Knox**. Something to brighten up March!!!

If neither of these books interests you, stop in the library and a volunteer will help you find just the right book—many genres to choose from! Now off for a large latte, maybe a pastry and some quality time with my sewing machine. More next month.

See you in the library.

## Praying Follower



### Moms in Prayer

All mothers and grandmothers are invited to come any Monday that Mechanicsburg schools are in session to pray for one another's children and grandchildren. No prayer experience is required and the child for which you are praying can be any age/any stage of life.

When: Monday evenings, 7:00 – 8:00 pm      Where: Prayer Room (2nd floor elevator landing)

Leader: Deb Noss

### Good Friday Community Prayer Walk, April 19

First Church is pleased to join with other local churches to prayer for our community on Good Friday. The groups will set out to pray for local schools, businesses, homes and organizations on their walk. Watch for more details about the event next month. All are welcome to pray for our community!

## 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

|                               |             |                        |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Ash Wednesday                 | March 8     | Loaves and Chalice     |
| First Sunday in Lent          | March 10    | Pew Service            |
| Palm Sunday                   | April 14    | Loaves and Chalice     |
| Maundy Thursday               | April 18    | At Tables              |
| Easter Sunrise                | April 21    | Mechanicsburg Cemetery |
|                               | May 5       | Pew Service            |
|                               | June 2      | Loaves and Chalice     |
|                               | July 7      | Pew Service            |
|                               | August 4    | Loaves and Chalice     |
|                               | September 1 | Pew Service            |
| World Communion               | October 6   | Loaves and Chalice     |
|                               | November 3  | Loaves and Chalice     |
| First Sunday of Advent        | December 1  | Pew Service            |
| Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00 | December 24 | Loaves and Chalice     |

### Lenten Sermon Series

In the Bible, names were more than just a way to identify a person: The name itself revealed something about a person's character. Their name could relate to the circumstances of their birth (Moses means "drawn from the water"); a specific characteristic about the person (Esau means "hairy one"); or a praise to God (Jeremiah means "God is exalted"). A name also said something about a person's destiny (Jesus means "Saviour").

The Old Testament uses more than 85 different names for God. Each name reveals something about God's character, mostly related to a need in people's lives. God's people called on the Lord for provision, peace, healing, forgiveness, strength, hope, victory and so much more. Each name expressed confidence that God can meet every need.

Join us during Lent as we learn more about some of these names in our new worship sermon series, "Praying Through the Names of God". Come to experience a deeper relationship with God, whose many names reveal his steadfast love for us all.

|          |  |                                 |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| March 10 | <i>Jehovah Jireh</i> : The Lord Our Provider | Genesis 22:14, Luke 12:22-34    |
| March 17 | <i>Jehovah Shalom</i> : The Lord Our Peace   | Judges 6:24, Ephesians 2:11-22  |
| March 24 | <i>Jehovah Raphe</i> : The Lord Our Healer   | Exodus 15:26, Mark 2:1-12       |
| March 31 | <i>El Nose</i> : The God Who Forgives        | Psalms 99:8, Luke 15:11-32      |
| April 7  | <i>Jehovah Shamma</i> : The Lord Is There    | Exodus 48:35, Revelation 21:1-6 |
| April 21 | <i>El Shaddai</i> : Almighty God             | Genesis 17:1-2, John 20:1-18    |



### Ash Wednesday Service

The Mechanicsburg United Methodist Cluster will offer an Ash Wednesday preaching and Holy Communion worship service with imposition of ashes Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm, at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 5000 Simpson Ferry Road, Mechanicsburg. Rev. Eric Funk, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, New Kingstown, will preach. An offering will be received for the United Methodist Home for Children and Mission Central, both in Mechanicsburg.0

### Handbell Concert

Mark your calendars now! Our Annual Spring Handbell Concert will be Sunday, April 7th, at 7pm. Our theme this year is “We Love You Lord”. We hope to see many of you there. The concert is free, and refreshments will follow!

### DisAbility Awareness Sunday

Please mark your calendars now to attend church on April 28<sup>th</sup> as we mark DisAbility Awareness Sunday. There will be a special speaker for the morning services. During the Sunday School Hour, a guest speaker who lives with Cerebral Palsy will join us in the multi-purpose room. Plan now for your Sunday School class to attend. At 4 pm that day we will have our monthly Rejoicing Spirits service. See you on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Dedicated Missionary



The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5 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 **March 20 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!!**

Your contributions have been overflowing the bucket. Thank you and please keep them coming. In January 5,330 (\$53.30) “pennies” were contributed and in February 4,870 (\$48.70) for a total to date of **\$13,342.39.39**. Thanks to all who are contributing for another great month! **Don’t let the wells run dry.**



### Missions in Sierra Leone

We’re back! And we would love to share about our trip. We are so blessed by God, the people of Sierra Leone, and First Church.

Join us on March 10th in Fellowship Hall. We will start with “A Taste of Africa” at 6:15 pm where you can sample some of the foods we enjoy when we are there. Then, at 7:00 pm, there will be a presentation about the trip, including an update on the Parsonage Rebuild Project. We could not do this without you so please come and let us show our appreciation. All are welcome. Please sign up at the display in the lobby so that we can prepare enough food!



**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, March 20 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.

**Mission Opportunity for Young Adults**

The Global Mission Fellows Program is a 2-year mission opportunity for young adults ages 20-30. Young adults are invited to engage with the local communities, connect the church in mission, and grow in personal and social holiness. This program allows for transformation and leadership development to take place while addressing root causes of social injustices with other young people from around the world.

To learn more about the Global Missions Fellow program, visit their website at: <https://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Generation-Transformation/GMF>.



**Relationship Builder**

**First Connections Gathering – Thursday, March 21st 1-3 p.m.**

The next First Connections time for fellowship will be held on Thursday, March 21st in the Tower Meeting Room (2nd 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? Contact Janice Bowen at WeCare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611 x112

**Next Broad Street Community Dinner**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 7. First Church will be providing the barbeque for the spring meal. If you or your group would like to provide barbeque for the meal, please use the following recipe:

- 5 lbs. of ground beef (80% lean or higher)
- ½ cup of white vinegar
- ½ cup of brown sugar
- 3 ¾ cup Ketchup
- ¼ cup mustard

Cook beef and drain fat. Mix in other ingredients and heat thoroughly.

Please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com to sign up to make barbeque or if you have any questions. We need 12 people to make the above recipe (60 pounds of BBQ total). The staff and families at Broad Street appreciate your support of this community event!

**LENTEN LUNCHESES**

sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches

At noon on Wednesdays, share a light meal and devotions led by the pastor of each church. Please notify each church by Monday AM.

- |          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| March 13 | Hope United Methodist Church           | 717-766-3072                                      |
| March 20 | Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren   | 717-766-8880<br>email: Mcob-secretary@verizon.net |
| March 27 | Shepherdstown United Methodist Church  | 717-766-3076<br>email: Shepherdstownumc.org       |
| April 3  | St. Luke Episcopal Church              | 717-766-5182                                      |
| April 10 | Shiremanstown Unithed Methodist Church | 717-737-6621                                      |

### Free Tax Preparation!

First Church is proud to have a church member volunteer for the AARP Free Tax Preparation Program starting February 1 through April 15 at the following locations:

|   |                                  |                              |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bethany Towers                          | Wednesday, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm    | By appointment: 717-591-8300 |
| Camp Hill UM Church                     | Tuesday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm      | By appointment: 717-737-5631 |
| E. Pennsboro Township<br>Community Ctr. | Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm | By appointment: 717-732-3915 |
| Mechanicsburg Place                     | Monday & Friday, 9 am to 3 pm    | By appointment: 717-697-5947 |
| Mission Central                         | Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm           | By appointment: 717-766-1533 |
| Trinity Lutheran Church                 | Friday, 8 am to 2 pm             | No appointment necessary     |
| West Shore Senior Center                | Monday & Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm  | By appointment: 717-774-0409 |

For more information, see the website at <https://westshoretaxaide.weebly.com/>.

### Re-Creation Returns in June!

First Church is excited to once again welcome Re-Creation, America's ambassadors to hospitalized veterans, for their high energy patriotic concert on Saturday, June 22 and for worship on June 23. The Saturday concert will feature "Classic" a new show featuring the best in American music with a grand Patriotic Finale! The Sunday worship is "a celebration of faith and confidence in God's Mighty Love." The concert is free and open to the public. Please feel free to invite your neighbors and friends and especially, Veterans to this concert. Watch for details and ways to get involved closer to the time of the event. Hope to see you there! Any questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### Day of Pampering

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and talents for Day of Pampering. Did you realize there were volunteers who prayed, moved furniture, decorated nearly every space on the first and basement floors, packed gift and thank you bags, greeted guests, prepared or cooked and served breakfast and lunch, blessed hands, helped service providers set up, hosted and decorated lunch tables, painted nails, waxed hands, prepared teas, coffee and desserts, prayed with and over guests, washed dishes, helped service providers pack up, moved the furniture back in place, cleaned up spaces, put all the decorating away, put all the dishes away and soooooo much more. Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? None of it would be possible without the help you provide and the support of our First Church community. THANK YOU! Following is a list of providers who participated this year. If you find yourself in need of any of these service please consider one of the providers who gave of their time and talent.

#### ~HAIR CUTS/STYLES~

##### **Kate Musser**

*Another Look*

2435 North 2nd Street #1,  
Harrisburg  
717-232-8889

##### **Ryan Diehl**

*Studio 110*

110 N. 2nd Street, Wormleysburg  
717-980-5938

##### **Selina Fitzsimmons**

*Chic Hair Designs*

3816 Gettysburg Rd, Camp Hill  
717-761-0228

##### **Amy McLaughlin**

*Amy's First Impressions Hair Studio*  
711 S York St, Mechanicsburg  
717-790-2938

##### **Laurie Karagiannis**

*Moda Salon*

56 W Main St, Mechanicsburg  
717-766-1115

##### **Stacy Grow**

*Salon Indigo*

107 Valley Street, Ext., Marysville  
717-957-3122



**Amy Snyder, Jessica Black**

*Hair Cuttery*  
734 Wertzville Road, Enola,  
717-732-9901

**Suzy Brenner**

*Suzy's Beauty Salon*

**~MASSAGE~**

**Mary Rahn, Marjorie Rahn**

[maryforprayer777@aol.com](mailto:maryforprayer777@aol.com)

**Amanda Dillon, LMT**

[amandakenes@gmail.com](mailto:amandakenes@gmail.com)  
717-979-0455

**Alicia Smith**

*Alicia Smith Healing Arts*  
717-357-3453

[www.aliciasmithhealingarts.abmp.com](http://www.aliciasmithhealingarts.abmp.com)

**Priscilla Herd**

717-991-7551  
[priscillaherd@gmail.com](mailto:priscillaherd@gmail.com)

**Christina Boyle**

*Happie Soul Massage*  
717-254-7250  
[happiesoulmassage@gmail.com](mailto:happiesoulmassage@gmail.com)

**~HAND MASSAGE~**

**Ann Dennison**

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

**Amy Urenko**

*doTERRA Essential Oils/AromaTouch Hand Massage*  
717-497-7751

**~MAKEUP and EYEBROW WAXING~**

**Chelsea Nolan**

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

**~MAKEUP~**

**Lori Bell, Jessica Rust, Wendy Yeager,  
Toni Young, Brooke Haas**  
Independent Beauty Consultants/ *Mary Kay*

**~REFLEXOLOGY~**

**Maureen Maxwell**

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

**Trish Zook, Karin Phillips**

*H2L Studio*  
2151 Fisher Road, Suite 103, Mechanicsburg  
717-697-4425

**~HEALING TOUCH~**

**Amy Nelson**

*Heal Your Sole*  
717-591-2256

**Marissa Corley, RN**

[ma\\_corley@yahoo.com](mailto:ma_corley@yahoo.com)

**Tammy Nickel, LM, HTCP/1**

*Tammy Nickel Healing Touch*  
Elizabethtown  
717-471-4332

**~RELAXATION TECHNIQUES~**

**Beth Murray**

[bethrnhc@gmail.com](mailto:bethrnhc@gmail.com)



## Generous Giver

### Financial Report—through December 31, 2018

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b> |                             |
| 2018 budget         | \$ 945,000                  |
| Expected income     | \$ 945,000                  |
| Actual income       | \$ 945,545 (100% of budget) |
| Surplus             | \$ 545                      |
| Actual expenses     | \$ 945,528                  |

First Church had a very successful financial year. Our policy of using all unspent balances of individual line items allowed us to fund a variety of missions beyond the budget and to add \$10,700 to the trustee's capital reserve.

Our outstanding debt is \$105,000.

### March Blood Drives

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 3  | St. John's Lutheran Church – 8:30am to 12pm – 44 W. Main St., Shiremanstown             |
| March 3  | Vibrant Church – 10am to 1pm – 1775 Lambs Gap Rd., Mechanicsburg                        |
| March 4  | Eureka/West Shore Masons Lodge – 3pm to 7pm – 910 S. Market St., Mechanicsburg          |
| March 6  | Carlisle Church of Christ – 3pm to 7:30pm – 971 Walnut Bottom Rd., Carlisle             |
| March 7  | St. John's Episcopal Church – 3pm to 7pm – 1 N. Hanover St., Carlisle                   |
| March 10 | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 7:30am to 12:30pm – 310 Hertzler Rd., Mechanicsburg             |
| March 17 | Silver Spring Presbyterian – 8am to 12:30pm – 444 Silver Spring Rd., Mechanicsburg      |
| March 17 | Bruster's – 4pm to 7pm – 220 Penrose Place, Carlisle                                    |
| March 20 | UPMC Pinnacle West Shore Hospital – 12pm to 4pm – 2015 Technology Center, Mechanicsburg |
| March 21 | Buffalo Wild Wings – 3pm to 7pm – Carlisle Pike   |
| March 21 | Harmony Church of God – 3pm to 7pm – 1 Clear Spring Rd., Dillsburg                      |
| March 22 | Fox Center – 8am to 7pm – 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg                             |
| March 23 | Trinity UMC – 8am to 12pm – 405 Bridge St., New Cumberland,                             |
| March 24 | Aldersgate UMC – 8:30am to 11:30am – 1480 Jerusalem Rd., Mechanicsburg                  |
| March 27 | UPMC Pinnacle Camp Hill Bypass – 8am to 12pm – 1200 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill         |
| March 31 | Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren – 8:30am to 11:30am – 301 Gale St., Mechanicsburg  |

As always, interested donors can always visit our website at [www.717giveblood.org](http://www.717giveblood.org) for a listing of local drives based on date or zip code.

### Christian Fellowship Sunday School Class Peanut Butter Easter Egg Fundraiser

Orders are being taken for peanut butter Easter eggs. The cost is \$6.00 for a bag of 6 eggs. Order your eggs by signing up in the notebook at the information desk, by calling Nancy at 717-258-8954, or by emailing [mwrner@aol.com](mailto:mwrner@aol.com). Eggs will be ready for pick up in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 6, after 12:00 pm, and on Sunday, April 7, after Sunday school and each of the morning worship services. Please place your orders by Sunday, March 31st. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Little Friends Spring Craft and Vendor Fair, March 2

The Little Friends Preschool will be holding their annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Over 25 vendors will be present, along with food and door prizes. All proceeds benefit our Preschool, which is a ministry of First Church. Come out and support our Little Friends! If you have questions, or would like to be a vendor at the fair, contact Maria Petrilak, Director of Little Friends Preschool at [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com).

### **Mission Meal to Support Local Ministries**

The United Methodist Women Deborah Circle will hold a Mission Meal on Sunday, March 17. Join us in Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 worship service for a wonderful meal of chili, cornbread and brownies. Takeout available after Sunday School. Proceeds from the Mission Meal support local ministries that help women, children and youth. If you have questions, contact Sandy Walton at [swalton54@comcast.net](mailto:swalton54@comcast.net).

### **Special Giving Sunday, March 31 – UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)**

Throughout the year, United Methodists receive special offerings to support our mission in the U.S. and around the world. At First Church we support these offerings through our annual Missions budget. In March, the UMC observes UMCOR Sunday, formerly One Great Hour of Sharing. When disaster strikes around the globe, United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. “Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do.” For more information about UMCOR, visit their website at: <https://www.umcor.org/>.

### **Help First Church Grow Through Planned Endowment Support**

*“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

*Matthew 6:20-21*

Do you want to support First United Methodist Church and the Endowment Fund, but think you cannot afford it? There are many ways that you can contribute now, or plan to contribute in the future, to ensure a solid foundation for First Church.

For example, if you are 70½ or older, did you know that you can make a charitable gift from your IRA account directly to First Church?

Endowment support can also be provided in the following ways.

- 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

Contributions to the Endowment Fund last forever. That’s because the contributions are never spent. They are invested to generate income, which is distributed annually to support our congregation’s many missions and ministries.

If you would like to learn more about the Endowment Fund, please call or approach Bob Wertz, Sr., Endowment Committee Chairperson, or either of First Church’s pastors.

# 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

### 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)

Upcoming meetings March 15 at 9:15 am  
Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net

### 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:

### UMW Deborah Circle Mission Meal: March 17

### Susquehanna Conference Women's Retreat, March 29 to 30, 2019

Karen Knight will present Courageous and Contagious Christian Women (Martha's Story)  
Best Western/Country Cupboard 7701 West Branch Highway Lewisburg, PA 17837 Registration starts  
4:00 P.M. Friday – Saturday 3:00 P.M. Cost (includes room, meals and registration fee): \$189.00 for  
Single occupancy; \$132.00 per person for Double occupancy; \$110.00 per person for Triple occupancy;  
\$102.00 per person for Quadruple occupancy; and \$69.00 per person for commuters (includes Friday  
buffet and Saturday lunch). Space is limited so register early. DEADLINE for registration is Wednesday,  
March 6. Questions, Contact Annette Steger, registrar at (717) 235-5693 or stegeraj@aol.com. For  
registration form, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com

### Mission U 2019, July 11 to 13

Take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, the topic of money and the inspiring story of women organized  
for mission! July 11 to 13, Bucknell University. Express Day is July 27 at Chambers Hill UM Church.  
All women are invited to attend. For details and scholarship information, contact Lori Hoffnagle, First  
Church UMW President at outreach@fumchurch.com.



### **Men of First Church**

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 March 20. 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 home. 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, March 2 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

## ***Church News and Notes***

### ***Love & sympathy...***

- to Rev. Mike Minnix and family on the death of his mother, Grace, on January 2nd.
- to the family of Richard Knause who passed away January 5.
- to the family of Jim Anderson, who passed away on January 14th.
- to Brandy Zimmerman and family on the death of her uncle, George Crozier, on January 25.
- to Brian Smithmyer and family on the death of his mother, Jane Smithmyer, on January 26.
- to the family upon the passing of Rev. Chuck Hiller on February 13.

### **Thank you...**

*"I want to thank the church for the prayers, cards, special notes, and flowers. I greatly appreciate it and wanted to thank everyone." ~ Charlotte Hess*

*"Thank you to the congregation for your prayers and cards during back surgery. I am recovering well and will see you soon." ~ Sue Chilton*

*"On December 5th 2018 members of Ruth Circle gathered at Hoss' Restaurant for lunch and our meeting to follow. As we placed our orders for lunch, our waitress informed us that our Secret Santa was paying for our lunch - plus taking care of the tip for our waitress. This is the 6th year that our circle had received this very special offer. We then received an additional offering from our members, and were able to increase our annual gifts to New Life for Girls and Domestic Violence. The member of Ruth Circle want to express our thanks to this very generous person once again." ~ Members of Ruth Circle*



## Church News and Notes

### Special Birthdays

|                         |          |                         |          |                    |          |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Janet Fertenbaugh ..... | March 6  | Dave Scholl .....       | March 31 | Grace Brandt ..... | April 25 |
| Ben Miller .....        | March 12 | Robert Meck .....       | April 2  |                    |          |
| Sara Meck .....         | March 15 | Marilyn Seig .....      | April 2  |                    |          |
| Marge Robinson.....     | March 15 | Dolores Farr .....      | April 3  |                    |          |
| Art Murray .....        | March 16 | Alberta Knause .....    | April 15 |                    |          |
| Roy Kohr .....          | March 21 | Darlene Wilkinson ..... | April 17 |                    |          |
| Mabel Strock.....       | March 28 | Ron Handwerk .....      | April 18 |                    |          |
| Bob Erikson .....       | March 29 | Janet Baker.....        | April 25 |                    |          |

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 55 years on March 21
- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 53 years on April 2
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 59 years on April 10
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 56 years on April 21
- ♥ Donald & Kay Heiges married 61 years on April 26

### Wellness Presentation

Everyone is invited to the Wellness Presentation - ***Finding Your New Normal After Experiencing Loss*** planned for Tuesday, March 26th in the Sanctuary Gathering area. Jeanne McClintick, LPN, Certified Hospice and Palliative Care nurse with Hospice of Central PA, will offer this presentation at both 4 pm and again at 6 pm. Please choose the time that best suits your day. All are welcome to enjoy supper at 5 pm! RSVP by March 24th is appreciated.

Questions and RSVP, please contact Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112

### Easter Flowers

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the Sanctuary, you may do so by purchasing your own flowers and placing them in the Sanctuary by NOON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the church office by NOON ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23.

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

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

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

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

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





**CAMP  
PENN**

**GREENE  
HILLS**

# 2019 CAMPS & RETREATS

**MOUNT  
ASBURY**

**WESLEY  
FOREST**

**SKY  
LAKE**

Register for summer camp by May 1 for the \$25 Early Bird Discount!

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

[susumcamps.org](http://susumcamps.org)





## Church Staff

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**Karen Philp**

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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 **April** issue is

Early submissions always  
appreciated!

**March 15**