

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

In This Issue...



A Note From The Editor

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

What a time we are living in! The Coronavirus (also commonly referred to as COVID –19) has certainly caused change for us all. Some may now be working from home. Others are completing classes online or receiving assignments virtually. And then there are some people who are on the front lines, caring for those who are sick or working to stop the spread of the virus.

Normal business operations have been put on hold and several planned activities, both inside and outside the church, have been postponed or cancelled. In addition, we are being encouraged to practice “social distancing” in order to “flatten the curve” or contain the virus so to speak. Much of this has caused fear and anxiety to arise around the world.

The fact that we cannot gather physically right now is challenging. However, the words from 2 Timothy are a great comfort in times like these. How powerful it is to know that we are not called to worry or be fearful but that we can find hope and strength in God our Father! Praise be to His holy name!

I wanted to point out that this edition of First News First looks a little different than it normally does. Though it is still categorized by the six core values of First Church, the information within is more general. Due to the nature of COVID-19, we are uncertain as to how long it will be before we are able to resume and schedule normal activities and services. Therefore, we did not want to give information regarding specific events that may have to be postponed or cancelled.

Despite these challenges, and to maintain some level of normality, we still wanted to provide this April 2020 edition of the First News First newsletter. It contains some articles many of you are familiar with and enjoy reading. In addition, you will find some information within each section that may help you develop some new spiritual practices and disciplines during these uncertain times.

We appreciate your cooperation, understanding and support as we faithfully continue in ministry despite the present circumstances.

Blessings to all,
Ellen Hill
First News First Editor

General News

Lifelong Learner



Bible Reading Plan

Use our Bible reading plan to remain in God's word daily as we focus on our sermon series, "Giving it up: Our Journey to the Empty Tomb" during Lent. This reading plan is available on our church website at fumchurch.com.

Connect With The Bible App

Check out the YouVersion Bible app, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at bible.com. There are many wonderful devotional studies, including many for Lent. You can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests.

NEW Bible Study Opportunities and Zoom

Although our Bible study groups are not currently meeting face-to-face, we plan to use Zoom video conferencing to carry on! Don't worry - once you get the hang of it, it's easy! (And if you don't have access to a computer/iPad/smartphone you can still call into the meeting to listen.) The following new Bible studies will be starting at the end of March and the beginning of April... If you are interested in joining, please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com so that she can send you the information you need to join the study:

- *The Power of Knowing God*, a 6-week Precept Bible study, will begin on Sunday, March 29 at 6:15 pm, and will run 60 - 90 minutes.
- *Breaking Free From Fear*, a 6-week Precept Bible study, will begin on Thursday, April 2 at 6:45 pm, and will run 60-75 minutes.

In addition, our Alpha study will be starting up again! There are 5 lessons remaining and newcomers are welcome to join at any time! If you are interested, please call or email Tina Eaton so that she can send you the information you need to join the study. There are two classes to choose from: Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 am or Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm.

Men's Bible Study Opportunity

Our Wednesday evening men's group is still meeting, using Zoom video conferencing. The next meeting is April 1 at 8:00 pm. Please contact Barry Eaton if you are interested in joining.

From the Library

With my daffodils and crocuses sprouting I am getting spring fever. I'm not sure why because for Pennsylvania it was a mild winter. But spring always signals new life, bright colors, and more energy for everyone it seems. Of course, April and its flowers are the backdrop for Easter; the time to remember and celebrate what Jesus sacrificed for us.

Usually I write about new books, but I am going to tie a new book to a not so new book this month. The first book I am showcasing is Lisa Wingate's **Before We Were Yours** written about a year ago. This heart wrenching fiction story is based on the true story of Georgia Tann and the Tennessee Children's Home Society. Starting in 1924 and finally ended in 1950, Georgia Tann stole children and "sold" them throughout the country, charging anywhere from seven dollars to upward in the hundreds of dollars. Babies were stolen by her paid helpers, (nurses, police officers and other paid cronies), off the street, from maternity wards and even front yards of their homes. Judges were paid to not only facilitate adoptions, but also negate true parents' petitions to get their child back. This is the fictionalized story of four children and how their lives played out in this system. Though tragic, you won't be able to put this down. When this book was published in 2019, people began to write to Ms. Wingate, telling her their stories. Many were children looking for lost relatives after finally finding out they were adopted (Georgia Tann conveniently burned all her records) or children of adoptees who wanted to share their stories. A reunion was planned for anyone who wanted to come, and many did. Ms. Wingate wanted to document this event and the stories from the adoptees. She contacted her friend and journalist Judy Christie and together the book **Before and**

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After: The Real Life Stories Of Orphans That Survived the Tennessee Children's Home was born. Both books are compelling reads and heartbreaking. Today we find human trafficking horrifying, but this took place in plain sight with many lauding Georgia Tann as a great humanitarian. You won't want to miss either of these books.

On the lighter side or if history isn't your thing, you might enjoy **The Amish Picnic**. A four story novella written by four best selling Amish writers is the perfect spring read. Four lighthearted romances revolve around picnics. A glass of iced tea, your porch swing, and this book will officially welcome spring.

If none of these books interests you, stop in the library and let one of our volunteers help you find just the right book. See you in the library,
~Pam & Donna

Praying Follower



Prayer Guide

We invite you to use any of the Prayer Guides posted on our website and spend more personal time in conversation with God and/or pray together with those at home with you. Praise God for who He is, confess your sins and ask forgiveness, practice gratitude by thanking God for what He has done and ask God your requests.

Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, sign up for our weekly prayer email so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

New Prayer Forum

If you are on Facebook, you can request to join our private Facebook page, "First Church Forum", and share praises and prayer requests there.

Passionate Worshipper



Online Worship

Whether you are home alone, or are home with your family, we can virtually gather on Sunday mornings to worship together. We invite you to light a candle, symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit, and connect to our worship recording posted on our church website, www.fumchurch.com. Sing, pray, hear the message proclaimed and continue to respond through your weekly giving.

Dedicated Missionary



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

This past month 535 "pennies" (\$5.35) were contributed to the Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone. Every penny helps so keep dropping 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!! Thank you everyone!***

Help Us Feed Those In Need

We are asking all who can to help us fill our Little Free Pantry – the food is going fast and your donations are needed. Go to our church website for information on what you can donate and contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com if you have questions.

Donate Blood

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are asking all interested donors call 1-800-771-0059 to make an appointment at a donor center or a blood drive nearby. Many blood drives have been canceled and due to safe social distancing we can no longer hold drives on our bloodmobiles. To ensure safe social distancing we are asking donors to make an appointment instead of showing up to a location. Please feel free to call the 800# with any concerns or questions as well. We appreciate your support during this difficult time. Stay safe and healthy!

Get Connected With Service Opportunities

If you have not already done so, sign up to receive our periodic "Service Opportunities" email. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com to share opportunities and to sign up.

Relationship Builder



Hospitality Tip

Despite our present circumstances, we still have opportunities to offer hospitality, which is a ministry of service that requires a genuine love for God and the people He places in our lives. Kindly allow someone else to have the last pack of toilet paper at the store or offer to run an errand for an elderly neighbor. Be intentional in thinking of small ways to show the genuine love of Christ to all.

Connect With Others

Now is a great time to connect with others by calling or mailing notes and cards to those who are older, in nursing homes, living with chronic health challenges, are disabled, grieving or are prone to deep sadness or depression. Help to lift their spirits or offer practical help as appropriate to support them. Contact Janice Bowen if you would like suggestions on who might benefit from this kind of connection.

Mission Central Gala — POSTPONED

The Mission Central Gala, originally scheduled to be held on March 28, was postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. We will keep you updated and are hopeful that you will be able to join us! Our own Dawn Fisher will be honored as the 2020 Mission Central Volunteer of the Year! Be sure to congratulate Dawn for this well deserved honor when you see her!

Summer Camps, Retreats and Events!

Get your registrations in now to hold your place for some of the very best life-changing and relationship-building experiences available. The camp/retreat experience is for everyone - adults, children and youth! Registrations can be done on-line through the conference website, <http://www.susumcamps.org>, or by picking up a brochure available in the main lobby area. Forms are also available in the lobby for you to share how you would like to support the camping ministries this year.

Please keep the 2020 Camp and Retreat Season in your prayers. This is a year we will never forget! Pray that all those who desire to go to camp will be able to find the time and funding necessary to grow closer to our Lord and Savior?

Take advantage of Early Bird and Sibling Discounts. First Church will pay for half camp fees upon request.

NEW this year!: "Invite-A-Friend gifts" are available when you invite someone that has never been to our conference camp.

NOTE: Please provide registration confirmations to the camp coordinators so that everyone that goes to camp (regardless of age) receives a prayer partner and (if desired) financial support in a timely manner. So, how can you help this to be the "best camping year" ever? Attend a camp, retreat or event this year, volunteer as a Dean, Nurse, Counselor or Junior Counselor, be a prayer partner for a camper, provide financial assistance to support a camper or camp program, or help with a work camp at one of the camp sites. Questions, contact: Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com / 717-697-5982 or Amy Ogden at amy.ogden7@gmail.com / 717-602-3999. Please be in prayer and ask how you can participate this year. REMEMBER – CAMP'S GREAT!!!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Through February 29, 2020 — 15.4 % of year (8 of 52 wks)

General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,000	
Expected income	\$ 146,923	
Actual income	\$ 143,483	(15.0 % of budget)
Shortfall	\$ - 3,440	
Actual expenses	\$ 155,055	(16.2 % of budget)

Similar to 2019, income is a bit lower than expected through 8 weeks. However, we are favorable to the prior year giving after two months. Expenses are slightly higher as we already made our entire debt payment for this year. We continue to have good stewardship and cost controls in place. Thank you so much for continuing to support our mission of opening doors and spreading the word of our Lord.

Financial Giving Resources

We encourage you to continue to respond through your weekly giving. Offerings can be mailed in to the church office. Alternatively, you can securely give online through our church website or our VANCO Financial “GivePlus” app. Please contact the church office for more details on electronic giving.

2020 First Quarter Financial Giving Statements

First quarter financial giving statements are normally distributed at the end of March each year. Due to the church closure as a result of the coronavirus, these statements will be processed once the church re-opens and resumes its normal worship schedule. Statements will include all recorded giving from January 1st through the most recent Sunday at that time.

Community Aid Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated clothing to the Community Aid bin on our property. Community Aid is temporarily closed, therefore, we are NOT accepting any donations to our bin. Please hold on to your items until the bin is reopened. We will inform you when Community Aid starts collecting again. Thanks for understanding!

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

As a mission trip fundraiser the youth will again be participating in the August church yard sale and will be collecting items to sell (collection information will be available at a later date). Therefore, as you start your spring cleaning remember to hang onto any item you can donate!

Thank You From Day of Pampering

THANK YOU from Access Ministries to First Church for all the prayers and support for this year’s Day of Pampering program. What a wonderful day we had serving 82 women caregivers! With planning for this event beginning back in October, on February 29th First Church was ready to be the hands and heart of Jesus administering love and care.

THANKS to the many community service providers and volunteers, the ladies enjoyed a worship service, having their hands blessed, a tasty lunch, and time in the tea room. Spa services such as haircuts, nail painting, facial waxing, makeup, massages (table, hand & chair), healing touch, reflexology, reiki, relaxation techniques, foot soaks, foot washing (just as Jesus did) and a photo booth were available during the afternoon. Be sure to review the List of Community Providers who supported Day of Pampering. If you are looking to use any of the services, please consider contacting one of these people. And tell them

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THANKS from First Church.

Best of all prayers from these women were received and will continue to be prayed over. I share this THANK YOU with you.....

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the truly amazing Day of Pampering on Saturday. It was a wonderful day of relaxation and refreshment. The worship was an encouragement and the speaker was inspirational. I enjoyed the lunch and the lovely lady who hosted our table – and her beautiful china! It was nourishment to my soul to be able to connect with other special needs moms. Exchanged emails and phone numbers means the beginning of new friendships! A haircut, relaxation time, painted nails, reflexology, a chair and hand massage, eyebrows waxed and that marvelous tea with all the treats. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have no words.

Christina

The 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

Studio 4 at Vada Salon

1847 Center Street, Camp Hill

717-805-4177

Laurie Karagiannis

Kaitlin Argarin

Moda Salon

56 W Main Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-1115

Stacy Grow

Salon Indigo

107 Valley Street, Ext., Marysville

717-957-3122

Amy Snyder, Jessica Black

Hair Cattery

734 Wertzville Road, Enola,

717-732-9901

Suzy Brenner

Suzy's Beauty Salon

Lori Alosi

Bella Uno Salon

4401 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill

717-761-5560

Jessica McCoy

5th Ave Salon

1911 Trindle Road, Carlisle

717-245-0706

~MASSAGE~

Mary Rahn, Marjorie Rahn

maryforprayer777@aol.com

717-623-1986

Amanda Dillon, LMT

amandakenes@gmail.com

717-979-0455

Jannet Quirk

Elements Massage - Camp Hill

www.elementsmassage.com/camp-hill/

Alicia Smith

Alicia Smith Healing Arts

717-357-3453

www.aliciasmithhealingarts.abmp.com

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Priscilla Herd
717-991-7551
priscillaherd@gmail.com

Christina Boyle
Happie Soul Massage
717-254-7250
happiesoulmassage@gmail.com

~HAND MASSAGE~

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

**~MAKEUP and EYEBROW
WAXING/THREADING~**

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

Roopa Dantaluri
AKS Salon & Day Spa
5023 E Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg
717-590-7187

~MAKEUP~

Sunny Sidhu
AKS Salon & Day Spa
5023 E Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg
717-590-7187

Angie Lowery, Tara Benkovic & Team
Independent Beauty Consultants/Mary Kay
717-385-2353

~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

~REIKE~

Dottie Smyser
Happie Soul Massage
717-254-7250
happiesoulmassage@gmail.com

~HEALING TOUCH~

Marissa Corley, RN
ma_corley@yahoo.com

Tammy Nickel, LM, HTCP/1
Tammy Nickel Healing Touch
Elizabethtown
717-471-4332

Lois Gobel
Lancaster
loisgobel@gmail.com

Alanna Berger
Mechanicsburg
alanna@hsgsh.com

~RELAXATION TECHNIQUES~

Beth Murray
bethrnhnc@gmail.com

~HEALTH SCREENINGS~

Offered by Geisinger Holy Spirit
John Lyons, RN
Lori Bauer, RN

Tauna Ebersole, Radiology Technologist
Kim Ahlers, Radiology Technologist
Shannon M. Walko, MSPT
Marcy Guido-Posey

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to the Swank family in the death of Dick Swank, on February 11th.
- to Rev. Buddy Miller and Jeanne Eakin-Miller in the death of Buddy's sister, Maxine, on March 4th.
- to the Heiges family in the death of Jan Heiges, on March 9th.
- to the Shuey family in the death of Gary Shuey, on March 14th.
- to the Otstot family in the death of Ivan Otstot, on March 15th.
- to the Erikson family in the death of Cheryl Erikson, on March 15th.

Thank You...

As the (Day of Pampering) lead decorator for the last 10 years, I would like to personally thank each and every person that helps to transform our church for this wonderful day. That includes the Covered in Love group, the WW men, the men who come and move furniture on Wednesday night, the people who come and actually help to decorate things, and those who come and help put everything back in its place before Sunday morning. A huge Thank You to all.

~ Judi Buddenbaum.

We would like to thank our pastors and the congregation for your many prayers and cards during our son Tyler's illness. We have indeed felt the blessings of God through the prayers of the people of First Church.

~ Jeff and Gayle Fugate



Special Birthdays

Robert Meck.....	April 2	Grace Brandt	April 25
Marilyn Seig	April 2	Milt Dougherty.....	May 8
Dolores Farr	April 3	Annabelle Elder.....	May 10
Alberta Knause	April 15	Jane Gunder.....	May 11
Darlene Wilkinson	April 17	Grace Gensler.....	May 12
Victor Handwerk.....	April 18	Don Heiges.....	May 16
Janet Baker.....	April 25	Vesta Rynard.....	May 18

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 54 years on April 2
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 60 years on April 10
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 57 years on April 21
- ♥ Don & Kay Heiges married 62 years on April 26



FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles
for the **May 2020** issue is
April 15

**Early submissions always
appreciated!**