



*First News First*

March 2020

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

## **"Giving It Up For Lent"**

One year the people of the Otterbein UMC, Emigsville, where I served just after seminary, decided to make fastnachts as a fund raiser. A fastnacht, in case you've never had one, is a fried donut served on the day before Ash Wednesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday or Fastnacht Day. The tradition of making fastnachts began among German Christians in Europe as a way of emptying their pantries of lard, sugar, fat, and butter before observing a fast from such things during the 40 days of Lent.

That first year we had so many orders for fastnachts that it took the whole church to fill them! Teams started working right after church the Sunday before Fastnacht Day. The kitchen and fellowship hall were busy with people mixing dough, rolling it out, cutting it into rectangular shapes, and frying it in lard. They laid the finished donuts out on tables and covered them with powdered sugar or cinnamon sugar. Night and day they worked right up to Tuesday morning, filling orders and serving walk-ins who lined up out the door of the church.

Fastnacht making became an annual tradition at the Emigsville Church. Every year was more successful than the year before! We not only raised money for some wonderful projects; we also had a lot of fun together. Our friends and neighbors sure loved those fried donuts, lard, sugar, fat, butter and all!

Like our German ancestors who emptied their pantries to sacrifice for Lent, many Christians give up certain things for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Some abstain from food for a meal or for a day each week, or give up favorite foods or beverages for the whole season. Others let go of watching television or being on social media. Others stop a hurtful habit or behavior.

Giving up things for Lent is a way of remembering the great sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross. It also makes us mindful of those who suffer in the world. Whatever we give up for Lent, the purpose is deeper fellowship with Jesus and our neighbors. What is God calling you to give up for Lent?

In our worship services this Lenten Season, beginning March 1, we're going to focus on the theme, "Giving It Up." Please join us every Sunday as we journey with Jesus, who calls us to lay everything at his feet, so that we might find true freedom!

March 1	"Overcoming Temptation"	Matthew 4:1-11
March 8	"Losing My Religion"	John 3:1-17
March 15	"Letting Go of Shame"	John 4:5-42
March 22	"Opening Blind Eyes"	John 9:1-41
March 29	"Untying Unbelief"	John 11:1-45
April 5	"Laying It All Down" (Palm Sunday)	Matthew 21:1-11
April 12	"Rising Up to New Life" (Easter)	Matthew 28:1-10

"Giving It Up" with you as we make the Lenten journey together,

Pastor Denny



## Bible Reading Plan

Looking for new ways to grow closer to Christ? Pick up your copy of our Bible reading plan for Lent today at the display across from the Welcome Desk and start reading on your own. To study with others, consider joining one of the Bible studies being offered, and if you are in need of a new Bible, simply pick one up at the display. Large-print versions are available.

## Winter Studies

We have several studies, both ongoing and new, that are being offered and all are invited to come for fellowship and learning!

- **New Member Class** – Begins March 1. This class, which runs 7 weeks, will be held during Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:30 am in room 207. Please see the display across from the Welcome Desk for more details and to sign up. If you have questions, please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 717-766-4611.
- **New! The Savior of Sinners** - How did Jesus spend his final days? And just what happened when Jesus died and rose from the dead? Come to find the answers for yourself in this study of Luke, chapters 17-24. This 7-week study, led by Juanita Guise, will begin on March 5. Thursday morning and evening classes will be available. Workbook cost is \$15.75. See details and sign up at the display across from the Welcome Desk.
- **A new Men's Bible Study**, "The Power of Knowing God" begins on March 15. This is a 6-week "no homework" Precept ® Bible Study, led by Ken Guise and David Mengle. Workbook cost is \$7.99. Meets Sunday evenings at 6:15 pm in room 207. Sign up at the Welcome Center display or contact Ken at [kguise@knouse.com](mailto:kguise@knouse.com) for more information.
- **Alpha** – The world is looking for real love, real hope, real friendship and the real message of Jesus. And this all starts with us... we must equip ourselves as leaders with the real truth in order to effectively reach outside of our church and offer ourselves as a welcoming community to those who need to know Jesus. Come each week to discuss the big questions of life and faith, talk about the real answers and prepare to share this truth with others. Drop in at any time! There is no cost and three class times are being offered:
  - **Sunday morning** 9:30-10:30 am in B004. Facilitated by Tina Eaton
  - **Wednesday mid-day** 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Facilitated by Pastor John Shellenberger (plus dutch-treat lunch to follow for those who are interested)
  - **Wednesday evening** 6:45-8:00 pm. Facilitated by Pastor Dennis Keller

## From the Library

The dreary month of March. That is always how I think of March with Spring still on the far horizon and Winter still able to rear its ugly head. And did I mention no holidays? Unless you are Irish or pretending to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day. So I am tasked with brightening up your reading list. And you know I am always ready for that.

Rachel Hauck's newest book is the **Fifth Avenue Story Society** that is described as a book filled with stories of second chances and hope. Anonymous, mysterious invitations summon five different people to come to the library and write their true stories. Among the five invitees is Lexi Prescott who is dismayed to find her newly ex-husband has been put in charge of the Monday night story time at the old library in their community. Jeff Wilder, her ex, is no more thrilled than she is to be thrown into such close contact with Lexi. None of the five invitees are sure they want to bare their souls to strangers, but something pulls them in, and they struggle to share their hearts and look for their second chance. Loneliness brings them back to the library each week as the bond of friendship and shared stories cocoons them in the healing power of love. You won't be able to put this book down until you unravel each of their stories to the end.

A little adrenaline always lifts the spirits and Lynette Eason has once again brought that skill to her latest book **Collateral Damage**. After the war in the Middle East has raged on for now its nineteenth year, Ms. Eason has brought forward the timely topic of psychological damages many people returning from war are facing. Psychiatrist Brooke Adams has left the Army after an explosion nearly killed her. She has set up

shop to help other veterans with war scars of their own. When Special Ops veteran James Asher, finally admits he needs help to escape his war nightmares, he is assigned to Brooke as a client. When he arrives at her office she isn't there, but a dead body is. After entering the office and falling to pieces in James' arms, Brooke is not sure if she should be his counselor after such an unprofessional start. But James is sure he should be her protector when it is revealed that Brooke was the target of the murderer. Will the two of them find more than healing in their budding friendship? I will not ruin the ending for you by telling you the answer.

If neither of these books is right for you, stop in and let one of our volunteers help you find the right book.

See you in the library! ~ Pam & Donna

## Health and Wellness

In conjunction with Disability Awareness Sunday on April 26th, the Health and Wellness team is offering a presentation entitled "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's" during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:30 am. Nancy Rutch, RD, LDN, from Penn State Extension and a Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Association, will be presenting the program. Nancy Rutch will share another presentation entitled "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body" on March 25th from 3-4 pm at Bethany Village. Everyone is welcome to attend this program which offers an overview of how humans age and how the brain works. Information including current research and practical strategies will be presented regarding physical health and exercise, diet and nutrition, cognitive and social engagement. Specific location at Bethany Village, 5225 Wilson Lane, is the West Education Room via the entrance to Maplewood Assisted Living (door #21). Please contact Janice Bowen for more information. (717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com))

## Praying Follower



### New Prayer Group – All are Invited!

A new prayer group has formed and all are invited to join! This group, which focuses on prayers for the church, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in the West Apartments Community Room at Bethany Village (this month the group meets on Tuesday, March 3). We realize everyone has a different comfort-level of praying in a group setting, and want to assure you that there will be no pressure to pray beyond what is comfortable for you! Please contact Janice Bowen or Tina Eaton if you have any questions or would like to participate. We are very excited at the possibility of having you join us in prayer!

## 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

First Sunday in Lent

March 1

Pew Service

Palm Sunday

April 5

Loaves and Chalice

Maundy Thursday

April 9

At Tables

Easter Sunrise

April 12

Mechanicsburg Cemetery

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	May 3	Pew Service
	June 7	Loaves and Chalice
	July 5	Pew Service
	August 2	Loaves and Chalice
	September 6	Pew Service
World Communion	October 4	Loaves and Chalice
	November 1	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday of Advent	December 6	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

**Sermon Series for Lent - "Giving It Up! Our Journey to the Empty Tomb"**

Many of us give up certain things for the forty days of Lent, and doing so can be a very beneficial thing for us! This seven-week series takes that idea one step further, focusing on the things Jesus invites us to give up, not just for forty days, but forever.

March 1	"Overcoming Temptation"	Matthew 4:1-11
March 8	"Losing My Religion"	John 3:1-17
March 15	"Letting Go of Shame"	John 4:5-42
March 22	"Opening Blind Eyes"	John 9:1-41
March 29	"Untying Unbelief"	John 11:1-45
April 5	"Laying It All Down"	Matthew 21:1-11
April 12	"Rising Up to New Life"	Matthew 28:1-10

*Note: If you happen to miss a Sunday, go to our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), to hear an audio recording of any sermon.*

**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 11**. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by **noon on Monday, April 6**.



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.*

## Dedicated Missionary



### Monthly Mission Opportunities:

**Mission Meeting** ~ The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. If you are planning to go on a short-term mission trip, please feel free to complete the application for financial assistance found on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), under the Missions tab. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

**Isaiah 61 Ministries** ~ 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 18 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](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

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

This past month 4,670 “pennies” (\$46.70) 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!! Let’s make 2020 a record year! Thank you everyone!***

### From the Sierra Leone Mission Team

We would like you to “meet” two of the four fabulous women who are going on the 2020 Mission Trip to our Sister Church, Calvary UMC in Taiama, Sierra Leone. All four will be leaving on Wednesday, March 18th and returning on Sunday, March 29th. We will feature Tiffany Holland and Edie Reichert’s in April’s Newsletter.

#### **Christine M. Curtis, RN;**

About 11 months ago, my friend (Tiffany Holland) approached me about a lifetime opportunity ~ to accompany her and others on their mission trip to Sierra Leone. This is my very first mission trip of any sort, and I am both excited and nervous (more excited though). As a Registered Nurse, I will be with the staff in the medical clinic and I am most looking forward to being able to offer care/health services to the citizens of the village.

#### **Kristin Brown:**

I started attending First UMC in 2011 when I began working at the church. I first felt the nudge to go on an international mission trip before coming to First Church, I just didn’t know where. It was First Church’s connection to Sierra Leone through the Sierra Leone Initiative that led me to take my first trip in 2013. Shortly after that I became involved with the Sierra Leone Initiative Committee, serving as the treasurer. Since then I have made 4 additional trips in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2019. Sierra Leone has become a part of me and I often say that it is like my second home. I have been so blessed to make many treasured friendships that stand the test of time and distance. It is always inspiring to see how God works in the lives of the people of Sierra Leone and to see how they fully depend on Him for everything, something we can learn to do more. On several of my trips I have been able to be part of others’ first visit to Sierra Leone and this year I look forward to sharing in introducing our two “first-timers” to Sierra Leone. I am also looking forward to working side by side with the members of the congregation of Calvary UMC in Taiama to beautify their church. Thank you to the congregation of First Church for allowing me to represent you.

### VIM (Volunteers In Mission) Training

If you’d like to have a training at your church, please contact me! 2020 training events will be scheduled as needed. It prepares you to lead an UMVIM Team locally, nationally, or globally. Topics covered include: Best Practices, Cultural Awareness, Health & Safety, Team Orientations, Useful Forms, and Fundraising. Open to all: those who have lead teams, those who have never been on a team. We can all learn to become better missionaries and servants. Taking this training does not require you to lead a trip but equips you for service. We learn from the course materials and from one another. Learn more about the connectional system of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission. **March 14, 2020 9:00 AM-4:00 PM** Beach Lake UMC 7 Milanville Rd, Beach Lake, PA 18405 Light breakfast and materials provided. Please bring a bagged

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lunch. RSVP to **Michelle Schwartzman**, Director Volunteers in Mission 2 weeks prior to the training ~ [vim@susumc.org](mailto:vim@susumc.org) or 717-766-7441 ext.3105. **Note:** Michelle attended our Ministry and Missions Fair in November.

### **Mission Central Gala - Saturday, March 28**

Mission Central invites you to join them for dinner and a silent/live auction on March 28 at 5:30 pm. It will be held at the Camp Hill UMC (417 S. 22nd Street, Camp Hill PA 17011). Tickets can be purchased at [www.missioncentral.org/events](http://www.missioncentral.org/events). If you would like to support Gala in other ways, please consider:

- Make a basket to be auctioned. Or donate an item for our auction.
- Sponsor Gala. We have great sponsorship packages available. They are detailed online but range from \$500-\$10,000. These are perfect for churches, organizations or individuals.
- Place an ad. For \$150-\$500, this is great to promote your business, your church services or even to celebrate an important personal milestone.
- Promote the event! Share our event on your social media pages.
- Buy a table. Tables are available for \$500 (8 seats) and a great way for your friends and coworkers to learn about Mission Central while having a great time!

For additional information, please contact Stephanie Titzel at 717.766.1533 or [Stitzel@susumc.org](mailto:Stitzel@susumc.org).



## *Relationship Builder*

### **Hospitality Tip**

Hospitality is an all the time thing. We have many opportunities to make friends and neighbors feel welcome. We have a new member class starting this month, so let's all work at making them part of our family. When you get a new member sheet in the bulletin, take it home and put it in your church directory, so you can familiarize yourself with all of these people. Soon we will be working on a new directory, so when we ask you to sign up, please don't hesitate. This book can be very helpful to all of us.

### **Address listing available for mailing cards:**

If you would like to reach out to some of our church friends who are unable to venture far from home, we have updated a listing of names and addresses that will be available at the church's Welcome Desk, next to the greeting card display. Please help yourself to the greeting cards, too!

### **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 come to **CAMP SUNDAY** - March 15th during the Sunday School Hour! All who attend will learn more as children participate in a typical day at camp – experience pool fun, 4-square, music, campfire, devotions, cabin time and the snack shack. Enter that unique place where we can encounter God. *All are welcome.* 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](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) / 717-697-5982 or Amy Ogden at [amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com) / 717-602-3999. Please be in prayer and ask how you can participate this year.

**REMEMBER – CAMP'S GREAT!!!**

## Squares and Prayers Circle

The Squares and Prayers Circle is a ministry of First Church that meets every Monday from 9:00 to 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. They are involved in several project such as:

- Making twin lap quilts (which are then donated to Homeland Hospice, Yellow Breeches EMS, 5 Police departments, New Digs at Mission Central, and home bound and hospitalized church members)
- Sewing fabric pencil cases for UMW school kits
- Sewing fabric flower pins and chapstick holders for Day of Pampering
- Sewing finger fidgets donated to Day of Pampering, Bethany Village, Little Friends Nursery School and Hospice
- Receiving blankets, quilts, burp clothes and more for CAPC (Life Choice Clinic)



Interested in helping? Here's how! Join us on Mondays or donate fabric or batting. No sewing experience needed. There are lots of things to do and ways to help. Questions? Contact Nancy Eddy at [naeddy3@aol.com](mailto:naeddy3@aol.com) or talk to Gail Leinhos at 717-761-3338.

## Drawing Closer Café to start March 4

Join us for the Drawing Closer Café, located at Mechanicsburg Crafter's Retreat, 304 W. Main Street, Mechanicsburg. We will enjoy a time of crafting and creating using God's Word as our backdrop. Each night will include a time of fellowship, coffee, crafting and learning. The classes will be held on the first and third Wednesday's starting March 4 through May 20th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The first class will include a modern calligraphy mini lesson. Classes will be led by church members and all materials and instruction provided at no cost. No registration required. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext 115. You don't have to be a member of First Church or any church to participate, all are welcome!

## Broad Street Dinner, March 5

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 5, as we will be providing the hamburger BBQ for the spring community dinner at Broad Street Elementary. We will need close to 60 pounds of BBQ for the dinner. The recipe for BBQ is as follows:

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

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

If you would like to make a batch for the families at Broad Street, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). **We still need 8 more batches of BBQ!** We can reimburse you for the cost of the barbeque, if you would volunteer to make a batch. Thanks for caring for your community! Thanks for caring for your community!

## Joy in the Morning – March 9th

If you live with ongoing health challenges, we invite you to our new, spiritually-grounded support group. We meet at FUMC (room 105) on the second Monday of each month in the afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings from the book, With the Dawn Rejoicing. For more information, contact Janice (717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)).

## Great Night Out

It's time to get your tickets... **Mark Cable** is returning to First Church for a **Great Night Out** on Friday evening, **March 13** at 7:00 pm! All adults (not just couples) are invited to come to enjoy a great night of music, storytelling and a dessert buffet. There is no fee for the performance, but please register at Eventbrite through our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com) or sign up across from the Welcome Desk. A love offering will be taken during intermission. Questions? Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 717-766-4611.

**First Connections Gathering**

First Connections fellowship gathering will be held on Thursday, March 26th 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? Ask - Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

**“Jesus” on the Big Screen!**

The epic production of “Jesus” at Sight and Sound was filmed before a live audience and will be shown in theaters! Locally, you can see the movie at AMC Camp Hill 12 Theaters on April 7, 9 and 11 only. See [Jesusevent.com](http://Jesusevent.com) for details and tickets.

**Save the Date: Community Good Friday Prayer Walk, Friday, April 10**

First Church, along with other local churches, will once again participate in the annual Good Friday Prayer Walk. The prayer walk starts at noon at several locations and ends at First Church of God on the square in Mechanicsburg. Join us as we lift up our community in prayer!

**Third Friday Food Trucks Return in 2020!**

The Food Trucks are back for another season starting April 17! This popular event includes gourmet food trucks, music and a block party atmosphere, all in our church parking lot! If you haven’t attended the food truck event, be sure to put the dates on your calendar and invite your friends! New this year, more live music provided by local groups. The dates are April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18 and October 16. The time is 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. See you there!

*Generous Giver*



**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Through January 31, 2020 - 8 % of year**

General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,000	
Expected income	\$ 73,461	
Actual income	\$ 66,548	(7 % of budget)
Shortfall	\$ - 7,003	
Actual expenses	\$ 79,383	(8 % of budget)

Income is anticipated to recover from the January shortfall. Actual expenses includes a \$5,000 payment of Church debt. Thank you again for your continued support of our mission to open doors for Our Lord.

**Free Tax Service**

Once again Mission Central (5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg) is offering free tax preparation on Thursdays through AARP. Church member Rick Herring is a volunteer with this program. If you are interested in using this service, call Mission Central at 717-766-1533. Time slots are filling up quickly!

**Chili Mission Meal, March 15**

The United Methodist Women will be serving a Mission Meal of chili, cornbread and dessert on Sunday, March 15 after 10:45 a.m. worship in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the meal will benefit local mission organizations that support women, children and youth. Takeout will be available after Sunday School. Thanks for your support!

**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 Rouch 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, March 28,

after 12:00 pm, and on Sunday, March 29, after Sunday school and each of the morning worship services. Please place your orders by Sunday, March 22. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Bell Choir Sub/Sandwich Sale**

Order your R&K subs/sandwiches from any Bell Choir member or at the Info Desk book located in the narthex! Orders are due by Wednesday, March 25. Pick up is Sunday, April 5 from 9:15 am - noon.

### **Care Kit Challenge**

The Harrisburg District of the Susquehanna Conference has been challenged to collect over 1,000 adhesive bandages (band aids) for Mission Central Care Kits. First Church has accepted that challenge! During the month of April, we will be collecting ¾” to 1” adhesive bandages (band aid is a brand name, but any brand will be accepted). Please bring your band aids to the collection box outside the multipurpose room during the month of April. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). Thanks for ‘banding’ together to help us reach our goal!

### **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!

### **Liners and Shields and Bags, Oh My!**

A group of 10 women came together on a cold, Saturday morning in January to make life better for women in Africa. The Feminine Hygiene Kits, which are made up of reusable liners and shields, allow women to continue working during their menstrual period. The women at First Church sewed 272 liners, 177 shields and 67 bags! These items are then taken to Mission Central where they will be put together with other items and sent to women in poor countries. If you missed your chance to help in January, there will be another workshop on Saturday, October 17. For details, contact Donna Nichols at [djnichols43@hotmail.com](mailto:djnichols43@hotmail.com).

### **Endowment Committee Funds Two Staff-Related Projects For 2020**

The Endowment Committee has provided financial support for two staff-related projects for 2020:

- An intern to backfill Lisa Aronson’s duties while she is on maternity leave; and,
- A demonstration project designed to test an expansion of worship arts development and practice in the Youth Ministry.

The Youth Ministry intern, Caroline Barsom, is a student at Messiah College. She will be working with us for thirteen weeks under the supervision of Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller and will benefit from the mentorship of Rev. Dr. Stephen Gallaher, Associate Professor of Christian Ministries at Messiah. In addition, she will be coached by Cheryl Mengle and Lynn Rapp of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Caroline has been getting to know our young people and familiarizing herself with FUMC operations as she manages day to day activities and programs in accordance with a detailed set of instructions and schedule information Lisa prepared before her leave. The 15 hours per week, 13 week intern position is supported by a \$1,950 stipend and runs concurrently with Lisa’s maternity leave. The Director of Youth Worship Arts Team Demonstration Project is managed by Allison Ometz who will report to Sarah Pugh. Allison has been doing similar work at a lower level of effort for over a year. The project is a response to the broadening range of worship modality interests FUMC youth have been developing. Elements of youth participation expansion, both under discussion and active, include dance, drama, an increased role in regular worship and, of course, music. The results of the project will drive the decision of whether to include the enhancement in the 2021 FUMC unified budget proposal. Two thousand nine hundred and ten dollars have been granted to fund the project for the 2020 budget year. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee, on behalf of the FUMC congregation, extends thanks to the Endowment Committee for the leadership and support that make these efforts possible.

### An Endowment Committee Tax Tip

You may be able to lower your 2020 Income taxes.... And improve your cash flow just by changing how you give, not how much you give. Please read to find out if you can take advantage of this tip!

1. The stock market is near all time highs. Do you own stocks or mutual funds in taxable accounts.. that have gained in value?
  - a. How do I know? If you have declare Dividends and/or Capital Gains on your tax return you own investments that are taxed each year. Non-IRA investments.
  - b. Look at your year end statement.. is the Cost Basis less than the current value?
    - i. If so... you potentially qualify... go to step 2.
2. Do you contribute to the church from your checking account?
  - i. If so... this Tax Tip may be for you.....

**The TIP....** Transfer Stock Shares to the church in the amount of your gift instead of taking money out of checking each month. (Call the church office for further assistance).

1. Don't sell the shares. Instead, transfer them direct to the Church.
  - a. If you sell the shares, you have to pay capital gains taxes on the sale
  - b. If you give shares direct to the church, you are credited with the appreciated value as a donation.. the church can then sell the shares and as a non-profit pay no capital gains tax.

**Example:** If you are giving \$50 per week to the church, that's \$2,600 in a year. If you sell stock you paid \$1,000 for to generate the \$2,600, you will have a realized capital gain of \$1,600 and may increase your income taxes. (Your Tax Advisor can help determine the actual difference in your taxes.) If instead you transfer \$2,600 worth of the stock to the church, you realize no capital gains.

Would you like to make a lifetime difference to church missions? Consider a gift of a highly appreciated stock to the Endowment Fund. We are on track to fund over \$10000 in projects and missions this year alone. Each additional gift allows us to increase the amount available each year.

~ Ken Rapp, Endowment Committee Member

### February Blood Drives

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 3/1/20, 7:30am to 12:30pm –  | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 310 Hertzler Rd. 17055  |
| 3/1/20, 10am to 1pm –        | Vibrant Church, 1775 Lambs Gap Rd., 17050  |
| 3/1/20, 8:30am to 12pm –     | Enola Emmanuel Church, 22 Salt Rd., 17025  |
| 3/1/20, 9am to 11:30am –     | Mt. Zion UMC, 4685 Mt. Zion Dr., 17025   |
| 3/2/20, 3pm to 7pm –         | Eureka/West Shore Lodge, 910 S. Market St., 17055  |
| 3/4/20, 3pm to 7:30pm –      | Carlisle Church of Christ, 971 Walnut Bottom Rd., 17015  |
| 3/11/20, 2pm to 6pm –        | UPMC West Shore Hospital, 2015 Technology Center (at the Fredricksen Outpatient Entrance), 17050           |
| 3/14/20, 8:30am to 11:30pm – | Cub Scout Pack #196 Pancake Breakfast, at the Sporting Hill Elementary School, 210 Sporting Hill Rd. 17050 |
| 3/15/20, 3pm to 7pm –        | Bruster's Carlisle – 220 Penrose Place, 17013  |
| 3/19/20, 3pm to 7pm –        | Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike  |
| 3/20/20, 8am to 7pm –        | Fox Center, 120 S. Filbert St., 17055  |
| 3/22/20, 8:30am to 11:30am – | Aldersgate UMC, 1480 Jerusalem Rd., 17050  |
| 3/24/20, 8am to 11am –       | One Sterling Place, 100 Sterling Parkway, 17050  |
| 3/26/20, 12pm to 5pm –       | Penn State Dickinson School of Law, 150 S. College St., 17013  |
| 3/27/20, 4pm to 7:30pm –     | Camp Hill Fredricksen Library, 100 N. 19th St., 17011  |
| 3/28/20, 8am to 12pm –       | Trinity UMC, 405 Bridge St., 17070   |
| 3/28/20, 9am to 12pm –       | West Shore YMCA, 410 Fallowfield Rd., 17011  |

(continued on p. 11)

3/29/20, 8:30am to 12pm –  
3/31/20, 8am to 12pm –

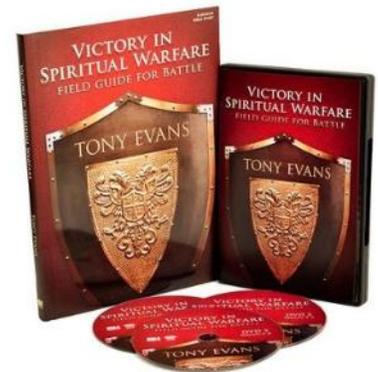
St. John's Lutheran Church, 44 W. Main St., Shiremanstown, 17011  
Hampden Township at the Sporting Hill Fire House – 203 S. Sporting Hill Rd., 17050

*Please visit our website ([www.717giveblood.org](http://www.717giveblood.org)) and our Facebook page for more blood drive listings and information.*



### Men's Small Group Video Series

The Men's group meets for fellowship time and a short video/discussion on the first and third Wednesday of each month. March dates are 3/4 and 3/18, from 8 – 9:30pm. We are now watching and discussing "Victory in Spiritual Warfare" by Dr. Tony Evans - you don't need to have seen any videos so far to join us as each lesson stands on its own. Contact Barry Eaton at [theeaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theeaton5@verizon.net) or John Bowen at [bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like more information.



### Men's Retreat

The theme for this year's men's retreat will focus on the role each of us plays as leaders even when we don't consider ourselves to be one. With the guidance of Kevin Witt, presently the Director of Camp/Retreat and Discipleship Ministries for the Susquehanna Conference Camp Director, we will discover how we are already influencing those around us and how we can develop those skills by seeking others who may be just ahead of us on the journey. We are very pleased to offer this timely subject since it fits with whatever stage of life you may find yourself in this year. Join us at Wesley Forest the weekend of March 6 – 8, 2020 to enjoy good fellowship, food, and programming that will greatly enhance your overall social, spiritual, and emotional health. Seek out Barry Eaton or John Bowen (email addresses listed under the video announcement above) with any last minute questions or interest.

### 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 7 at 7:30 am**. We usually sit over to the right and in the back. 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 [dekarns0107@gmail.com](mailto:dekarns0107@gmail.com).

# 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' SEPTEMBER TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com

### MOMS IN PRAYER

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

### MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

**March 27, April 24, May 22**  
**(9:15 a.m.)**

Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net

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

Multipurpose Room  
Tuesday at 1:00p.m. ~  
Mary Stine: freddlz@comcast.net  
Thursday at 1:00 p.m. ~  
Lisa Lynch: lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com

## Upcoming Events:

The United Methodist Women will be serving a **Mission Meal** of chili, cornbread and dessert on **Sunday, March 15 after 10:45 a.m. worship** in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the meal will benefit local mission organizations that support women, children and youth. Takeout will be available after Sunday School. Thanks for your support!

## **Spiritual Enrichment Day, April 19**

First Church is hosting the Harrisburg District Spiritual Enrichment Day on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m. The topic is: "Who is Our Neighbor?" Guest speakers include a representative from She's Somebody's Daughter, Neighborhood Center and Bethany Village. The offering taken on that day will benefit Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church. All women are invited to this free event. No need to register, just show up! For more information, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

**MissionU:** This annual UMW learning event has moved to Country Cupboard/Best Western in Lewisburg and is now just 2 days! The express day is Thursday, July 16 and the 2 day school is Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18th. The express day at Chambers Hill is Saturday, July 25. All women are welcome to attend! For more information about MissionU, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). Scholarships are available for first-time attendees!

**October 31:** Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Fishing Creek Salem UM Church, Goldsboro.

## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

to the Karns family in the death of Ruth Karns, on January 28th.

to the Sheely family in the death of Shirley Panza, on January 19th.

to the Swank family in the death of Dick Swank, on February 11th.

### Thank You...

*"The Trustees would like to personally thank Michael Garman for the gift of three wireless microphones. This was a very generous gift and if you see Michael, thank him in person."* ~ Board of Trustees

*"Our thanks to our 'church family' for all the prayers, cards, and flowers during the end of my sister's life."*  
~ Pat Sheely

*"Access Ministries wants to thank First Church Staff and Members for all the support provided for Day of Pampering. Without your help this event would never be possible. Watch for a listing of the many service providers who participated in next month's newsletter. They are important part of the success of Day of Pampering as well. Thank you."* ~ Access Ministries



### Special Birthdays

Janet Fertenbaugh.....March 6  
Ben Miller.....March 12  
Sara Meck.....March 15  
Marj Robinson.....March 15  
Art Murray.....March 16  
Mabel Strock.....March 28  
Bob Erikson.....March 29  
Buddy Miller.....March 29  
Dave Scholl.....March 31

Robert Meck.....April 2  
Marilyn Seig.....April 2  
Dolores Farr.....April 3  
Alberta Knause.....April 15  
Darlene Wilkinson.....April 17  
Victor Handwerk.....April 18  
Janet Baker.....April 25  
Grace Brandt.....April 25

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Ivan and Nancy Otstot married 61 years on March 21
- ♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 56 years on March 21



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

Editor: Ellen Hill

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

**Early submissions always  
appreciated!**