



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

"Consecrated, Lord, to Thee"

Six years ago our Administrative Board approved the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our congregation. We have continued this program every fall since. Its focus is not on the church's need for money, but on our need as disciples of Jesus to give as an important part of our spiritual growth.

This year, Consecration Sunday, is scheduled for November 14. We will ask members and friends of our church to make financial commitments to support the church's mission and ministry for 2022. I want to thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday. You have been so generous, especially over the past 18 months amid the challenges of this season.

As we plan again this year, I want to take a moment to focus on the word "**consecration**." It is not commonly used in our everyday language, but it is still filled with meaning for us as followers of Jesus. To consecrate means, "to make or declare something sacred," or "to dedicate somebody or something to God."

Long ago, our mothers and fathers in the faith **consecrated** our church building as a sacred space. They declared that the sanctuary was to be set apart to glorify God in worship. The classrooms and fellowship hall, the offices and multi-purpose room, even the parking lots were dedicated as sacred spaces where each generation could grow in faith and fellowship and service for Christ.

On World Communion Sunday, October 3, as we gather at the Lord's Table, I will say a prayer to **consecrate** the elements. We will remember that Jesus took the bread and the cup and made them sacred. **This** bread and **this** cup do not just nourish our bodies and quench our thirsts. The gift of God's grace, freely given to all in Jesus Christ, cannot be fully described in words. But as we partake of the **consecrated** elements, we experience the love of Christ, whose body was broken and blood was shed for our salvation.

The apostle Paul reminds us that, as followers of Jesus, we have been consecrated, as symbolized in our Baptisms. He writes, "**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.**" (Romans 12:2). We are set apart in this world. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our lives are formed to resemble the life of Jesus.

One of our great hymns asks God to, "Take my life and let it be, **consecrated**, Lord, to thee." The hymn continues, "Take my moments and my days...take my hands...take my feet...take my voice...take my lips...take my silver and my gold...take my intellect...take my will...take my heart...take my love...take myself..." To ask God to **consecrate** our lives is to dedicate all that we are and all that we have in ways that honor God.

On **Consecration Sunday**, we will ask ourselves, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to **consecrate** for God's work in and through the life of First Church?" We can be sure that what we **consecrate**, when put in God's faithful hands, will be multiplied and used to impact the lives of people in our church, our community, and the world!

Celebrating God's blessings with you,
Pastor Denny

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Adult Discipleship

No matter whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, there is always something new to learn on our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

- **Daily Bible Reading Plan:** God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin, which is posted on our church website, fumchurch.com.
- **Next Step New Member Class:** Ready for the next step in your journey with Jesus? Join us for a 4-week study, “Our Disciple’s Path”. Together you will explore spiritual practices, discover your unique gifts and grow in your commitment by becoming a church member. The fall Next Step class is scheduled to begin on October 3 from 9:45 – 10:45 am. Childcare will be provided. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to register today!
- **Steps Beyond:** As you learn and grow, consider these next steps on your path to becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus... new participants are encouraged to join at any time!
 - **Sunday School Enrichment** — If you are looking to add a time to learn, grow and enjoy fellowship with others to your Sunday morning routine either before or after worship, here is a list of opportunities for all ages. All Sunday school enrichment groups meet from 9:45 – 10:45 am.
 - ◆ **Faith in Everyday Life**
Target: 30-50something
Location: Room 207
Contact: Jenell Paris at jparis@messiah.edu
 This small group enjoys being out in our community, and focuses on fellowship and friendship/mutual support. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture.
 - ◆ **Growing in Christ**
Target: Adults all ages/stages of faith
Location: Meets on Zoom
Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com
 This group provides a caring community that loves to study the Word of God, laugh together, pray for one another, and encourage each other in faith. Contact Tina for Zoom link.
 - ◆ **Christian Fellowship**
Target: Adults all ages/stages of faith
Location: Room B003
Contact: Wayde Leister at waydeleister@outlook.com
 A friendly, caring group, eager to apply God’s Word to life’s challenges. Enjoys short-term Bible studies that challenge and inspire.
 - ◆ **Faithful Families**
Target: Parents
Location: Room B005
Contact: Bob and Tracy Wertz at wertzfive@gmail.com
 An active group of parents with older school-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another, and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.
 - ◆ **Helping Hands**
Target: Primarily 60+
Location: Room B004
Contact: Bob Wertz, Sr. at robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com

A group of active seniors who focus on studies which provide encouragement and instruction on faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class.

◆ **Guyer Class**

Target: Primarily 70+

Location: Room 123

Contact: Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com

This lecture-based class, taught by a variety of church leaders, is comprised of a group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons. This fall, lessons center on the theme “Belong”. We belong to God, to one another as a community of faith and, as Jesus modeled, we invite all to belong as we practice open-table fellowship!

- o **Mid-Week ReFuel** — A mid-week program that expands the focus of Wonderful Wednesday to include learning opportunities for *everyone* is in the works. However, due to circumstances regarding Covid, and giving special consideration to families with young children who cannot be vaccinated, coupled with our Children’s Department staff transition, *we have made a decision to delay the start of this program until winter, 2022*. Current mid-week learning and fellowship opportunities include:



- ◆ **Wednesday Men’s Group** – This group enjoys great fellowship and short-term Bible studies together. Currently meets in person (outside) at the home of Barry Eaton at 8:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, but will move inside or on Zoom as the weather turns colder. Contact Barry at 1785eaton@gmail.com if interested.
 - ◆ **Wednesday Women’s Lunch and Learn** – Bring your own lunch and enjoy discussion and fellowship time with other women as you study “Brave” by local author Tabitha Deller. Do you battle fear and doubt? Find strength for the journey by studying the lives of Joshua, Caleb, Ruth, Paul, David and Esther. Facilitated by Tina Eaton, this group will meet from 12:00 – 1:00 pm from October 6 through November 17. Order your study guide at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com to register for this group.
 - ◆ **MOPS** – Connects moms to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together. Meets once a month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings at the church. Cost is \$32.00, which covers special guest speakers and dinner together each month from September through May. Fun monthly outings with your kids will also be scheduled throughout the year! The next meeting date is October 20. Contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com for more details and to register today!
- o **Additional Bible Studies** — In addition to our Sunday and Wednesday enrichment opportunities, we also offer Bible studies other days of the week so that you can choose what suits your schedule and your interest!
- ◆ **Thursday Bible Study** – Led by Juanita Guise, began September 16, but latecomers are always welcome! Meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Come to study the topic of holy living in, “Live Like You Belong to God”. Contact Juanita at kguise@comcast.net for more details and to order your study book (or order for \$7.99 at shop.precept.org).
 - ◆ **Monday Men’s Bible Study** – Led by Ken Guise, began September 27, but latecomers are always welcome! Meets Monday evenings at 6:45 pm on Zoom. Will start with the book of Jude, then move to a study in Hebrews entitled, “The Key to Living by Faith”. Contact Ken Guise at guiseken100@gmail.com for more details. Order study book for \$9.99 at shop.precept.org.

Connect Using The Bible App

Check out the YouVersion Bible app, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at [bible.com](https://www.bible.com). There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

From the Library

I am missing summer, but I still love fall with the crisp mornings, pumpkins everywhere, and the leaves turning lovely shades of autumn. It's a perfect time to curl up with a soft throw, a pumpkin spice latte, and a heart pounding mystery. And of course, the library has several from which to choose.

Irene Hannon has been a favorite in our library since we started ordering fiction. In the second installment of her *Triple Threat* trilogy, **Labyrinth of Lies**, police detective Cate Reilly goes undercover at an elite boarding school after the daughter of a prominent businessman disappears from the school. But as she is settling in with the students and beginning her work, she is startled to find the only man she ever loved is working at the school. Zeke Sloan has never forgotten Cate either, but now isn't the best time to revive their relationship. And can Zeke successfully explain to Cate why he chose undercover work over marriage and a family? With personal issues set aside they must work together to unravel the intricate web of deceit that has been constructed at the school to protect what is really going on. As the danger escalates, you won't be able to put this page turner down until the last page. If you missed the first book in this series, **Point of Danger** is on the shelf ready for you.

I know some people prefer less adrenalin surging mysteries—sometimes called cozies—and the library has one to fit that category, too. **The Tea Shoppe Mysteries: 4 Mysterious Deaths Steep in Costal Maine** is a delightful book of 4 novellas—it's perfect for start and stop reading if you don't want to stay up late finishing a long book. What I especially like about this book is that each story is set in a different season in Maine. Each murder is discovered by someone who works in the local tea shop—makes you wonder if they have any customers left, doesn't it? Brew some tea and enjoy Maine at its most deadly!

When I wrote last month's newsletter, I thanked you before our book sale for your support of the books sale. Now I can report we had the best sale ever! And it is thanks to you. Now we can keep providing the most current and best Christian books ever.

See you in the library,

~ Pam and Donna

Praying Follower



October Prayer Challenge – Penny Prayers

As Marion Amberg, author of the book, *Penny Prayers: True Stories of Change* says, "Engraved on every penny is a prayer – In God We Trust. This prayer can lift burdens and instill a deep peace, even in the worst of times. By saying the penny prayer, 'God, I trust in you,' we can find hope one penny at a time." So, this month your challenge is an easy, yet profound one. Simply carry a penny in your pocket everywhere you go. When you feel stressed, worried or just need to feel God's presence, touch the penny in your pocket, feel the texture of the words on your fingertips and say the penny prayer. Then breathe deeply and remember that God is always with you.

Moms in Prayer

With kids back in school, does your mind go to thoughts of your child or grandchild and how they will handle a new school year, especially in the midst of dealing with Covid? We invite moms and grandmoms to pray with us for our kids (no matter what age!) and their schools, impacting them for Christ. Our church Moms in Prayer group meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm for one sweet hour of prayer in room 105. If you are interested, contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com.

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.



Upcoming Sermon Series — "Grit: Endure. Persevere. Thrive"

It takes grit to follow Jesus and "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). Grit is passion and perseverance. Enemies of grit are fear, drift, trials, indifference, and Grit is something we all need these days. In this series we're going to look at the stories of some women of faith who had a "never say quit" kind of grit in the face of difficult circumstances. Their stories encourage us as we endure, persevere and thrive as followers of Jesus today.

- October 3: "Shiprah and Puah: Fierce Faith" (Exodus 1:15-22) *(World Communion Sunday)*
- October 10: "Deborah: Anchored in God's Promises" (Judges 4)
- October 17: "A Servant Girl: Declaring God's Goodness" (2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-15)
- October 24: "Dorcas: Doing Simple Things With Great Love" (Acts 9:36-42)
- October 31: "Lois and Eunice: Modeling Faith" (2 Timothy 1:1-8a)

Rejoicing Spirits

The Rejoicing Spirits ministry reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of differently abled individuals along with their families, friends and other supportive community members. God's message of love is shared through meaningful and adapted Christian worship services and fellowship time. Individuals are free to be themselves while actively participating as contributing members in an inclusive faith community.

The next worship service will be held Sunday October 24th at 4:00 pm and include:

- Music and joyous singing
- A brief, meaningful message
- Be yourself; a "no shushing" environment
- Fellowship opportunity and light refreshments
- A welcome to everyone in the community!

Plan now to join us in person for the Rejoicing Spirits service at 4:00 pm. If you would like a link to the Rejoicing Spirits service, please contact Karin McHale at [717-379-8329](tel:717-379-8329) or karinmch@comcast.net.

Ring In The News — October 2021

NASHVILLE here we come! Another International Handbell Symposium is upon us next summer, and although we aren't traveling to Liverpool, England or Vancouver, Canada, we do hope to make the trip to Nashville, Tennessee in August 2022! We so appreciate our church's support in all our ringing endeavors and so many of our fundraising opportunities.

Our calendar is full already. In addition to playing in church once a month, we will be in concert at the Camp Hill Frederickson Library on Monday, December 13. We will be ringing as part of the Ecumenical Concert – as Kathie directs again this year – at St. Joe's Catholic Church on Sunday, May 15, 2022. And our annual Concert here at First Church is scheduled for Sunday, May 22. We always like to see faces we know in our audiences and congregations as we play!

It will be a busy fundraising year for us as we attempt to raise the major portion of our needs for Nashville. So, jot down our dates and contact us for tickets or pies! If you don't see us in church call your favorite bell ringer or contact Kathie Bittenbender at rbittenben@verizon.net. We thank you in advance!

- Tuesday, October 12 – at the Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade – We sell soup, mac & cheese and hotdogs in the corner of the church parking lot. Come early, get a seat, and have dinner.
- Saturday, October 30 is the 20th annual Chicken BBQ! Get your tickets early as we sold out last year!
- Saturday, November 20 is our Pie Sale Day! All pies are made to order, so make sure you get yours ordered! Pumpkin, Apple, and Mincemeat in November – Cherry and Apple in February.

We love you First Church – thank you for loving us and allowing us to represent the church near and far!

Livestream Team — New Ministry

Livestream worship is underway! This new group forming has exciting potential to reach beyond the walls of our church. *Because of the higher demand for more volunteers to livestream, we are looking for more individuals to help grow our livestream team.* No prior experience is needed, and training is provided. If you would like to meet the challenge of modern church and advance the kingdom into a digital era, please contact Sarah Pugh at worship@fumchurch.com.

Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Each song-- hand-picked by staff, musicians, and volunteers-- has been on our hearts, and prayed over for a holy and meaningful connection with our congregation. For Spotify users, search for the user First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled “*Where Words Fail, Music Speaks*”. For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYEFfHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>

Dedicated Missionary



First Church Accepting Applications for Director of Children and Family Ministry

First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg is seeking a full-time Director of Children and Family Ministry. This person will be responsible for the overall vision and implementation of the faith development of children (birth through 5th grade), in partnership with their families. Education related to children and/or family ministry, or applicable experience is required. To view the full job description, visit the church website at fumchurch.com or <https://fumchurch.com/director-of-children-and-family-ministry/>. Please submit resumes to office@fumchurch.com or to Ellen Hill, Office Manager, at 135 W. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Save the Date — 2021 Church Conference

All church members are invited to attend First UMC’s Church Conference on Monday, November 1 at 6:30 pm as we celebrate our mission and ministry in 2021 and plan for “Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors” in 2022. More details will be given closer to the time.

ACCESS Team

The ACCESS Team started more than 10 years ago. It began with one basic question – **How can those of us at First Church grow in our understanding of the differently abled community, their families and their unique needs?** After a period of time and with newfound awareness of their needs, we moved in tangible ways to reduce barriers, whether they be physical or emotional, and promote opportunities for nurturing, spiritual growth and community. In the April newsletter, we asked ourselves another question - **Aren’t we doing a great job here at First Church?** We have made positive strides in addressing needs, offered programs like Day of Pampering and Rejoicing Spirits, worked with others in the church to make physical accommodations promoting safety and hospitality and designed quiet places within the worship environment. **Isn’t that enough?** Our answer remains no. As long as there are families with a member who is differently abled and wants to belong to a faith community but struggles with feeling unwelcome or marginalized, we will have work to do. As a community of faith, we must continue to welcome all God’s children. Remember that Jesus taught “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:32)

During this last year and a half, all of us has experienced at times – feelings of isolation, loneliness and fatigue. For many in the differently abled community, these feelings are too often the norm. The ACCESS Team is now asking ourselves yet another question – **Where do we go from here?** During this “season” that we are currently in, God is moving, and He has been speaking. Have you heard him?

Is He calling you to participate in the next steps for the ACCESS team? Is He calling you to share your experiences as a family member of a differently abled individual that would help others with awareness and sensitivity? Is He calling you to share your vocational skills and talents to educate others? Is He calling you to work with others to grow this ministry?

If you have questions or would like to be a part of the next steps of the ACCESS Team, please contact Steve Noss at [717-679-5982](tel:717-679-5982) or Pastor Denny at the church office [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611).

Change for Water

Water is the foundation of our very lives; yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support the **Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone** by dropping your loose change, or even bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket located in the main lobby by the mailboxes. Donations from August totaled \$16.62. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

Isaiah 61 Returns in Harrisburg!

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, October 20 at 6:30 pm. New safety protocols have been established, such as wearing a mask, gloves and physical distancing. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland at tholland1967@gmail.com.

UMW Conference Annual Day, November 6, 2021

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women will be holding their Annual Day at Fishing Creek Salem, Goldsboro on Saturday, November 6 from 8:45 am. to 3:00 pm. At this time, they are planning for an in-person event, however, they plan to also offer Annual Day via livestream for those who cannot attend in person. The topic will be: *Championing Mental Wellness*, with keynote speaker, Sharon Engdahl, Executive Director of the Mental Wellness Awareness Association for Pennsylvania. All women are welcome to attend! Here is the link to register for the event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTavGDpWQihyUjvDvpEjhGT4OWCbi6mGJ0ckRS8p6NmfcGyg/viewform>. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com with any questions. You can find more details about the event on the Conference website here: <https://www.susumc.org/susquehanna-conference-united-methodist-women/>.

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



Extravagant Hospitality

Here is the thing about HOSPITALITY ~ we can practice it wherever we go! Think about that! We can practice it every time we step outside of our door or drive out of our driveway! We can practice it with our extended family, our church family, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues ~ the possibilities are endless! It can be as simple as a smile or a wave or as involved as delivering a meal to someone! Give it a try today!

Blessing of the Pets at St. Mark Lutheran Church, October 3

On Sunday, October 3, 2021, there will be blessing of the pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis taught us much about our connection to all of creation, and he was well known for his love of animals. The pet blessing will take place in the courtyard behind St. Mark Lutheran Church, 117 W. Keller Street on

Sunday, October 3 at 2:30 pm. The service will be brief with a time for individual pet blessings. Please bring all pets in cages or on leashes for the blessing. We give thanks to God for the companionship and love that our pets provide us each and every day! Questions, contact Pastor Marleen Griffith-Stull at revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com.

Trinity's Closet on Main, October 9

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding a Clothing Closet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. They have a variety of gently used clothes (in all sizes) for men and women to choose from. Breakfast to go is provided for each person - including a cup of coffee! The Closet is open from 9:00 am. to 11:00 am. every 2nd Saturday. Trinity is located at 132 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The next Clothing Closet will be held on Saturday, **October 9**. Questions, contact Vanessa Storlie at trinitymburgoutreach@gmail.com.

Widows/Widowers Fellowship

The widows/widowers fellowship will dine at Snappers Restaurant on Tuesday, October 12 at 4:30 pm. If you plan on attending, please contact Bonnie Guyer at [717-766-0145](tel:717-766-0145).

Front Row Seats for Annual Halloween Parade, Tuesday, October 12

First Church invites the public to enjoy front row seats for Mechanicsburg's Annual Halloween Parade! The parade, set for Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 7 pm., passes right by our Simpson Street property. The public is welcome to set up seating along the sidewalk. Food will be available for purchase from our Handbell Choirs, along with free parking. See parade map [here](#).

Third Friday Food Trucks, Friday, October 15

We look forward to seeing you at our next Food Trucks on Friday, October 15 in our parking lot! The time is 4:30 to 8:00 pm. We will be welcoming the following trucks in October: Mad Dash, Grappling Crab, Potato Coop, Philly Hoagie on a Roll, Dough Heads Stuffed Waffles and Sugar Whipped Bakery, yum! Come out for great food and a chance to meet our neighbors! Check our Facebook page and website closer to the next date, as the trucks may change.

Be Safe, Get Your Flu Shot!

Once again, Flu Shots (quadrivalent vaccine) will be offered by Sandy Leister, RN in the multi-purpose room on Sunday, October 24th, from 9-11 am. for anyone over 18 years of age. Please pre-register to secure a time slot and pre-screen your insurance coverage by signing up at the Time to Sign Up here: <https://ttsu.me/n7egdh> or by contacting Janice Bowen. Please choose your preferred time and list your insurance carrier. We will provide ample time between each person to allow for cleaning and physical distancing. Your friends and extended family members are welcome to sign-up as well!

Insurances listed below are accepted. Without insurance coverage, the flu shot costs \$40 (cash or check please, made out to VNA of Central PA). If you have any questions or would like to pre-register by phone, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611)

Accepted insurances include: Medicare B; Medicare B and a secondary insurance; Medicare B and AARP; Medicare B and commercial (supplement); Railroad Medicare B; GHP; GHP Gold; Humana Gold; Humana Choice PPO

Men's Retreat, October 30

Men of First Church are invited to a one-day retreat on Saturday, October 30 at Mt. Asbury Camp and Retreat Center, Newville. The time is 8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. The activities will take place outdoors and inside in the large dining room to allow for physical distancing. The day includes video lesson, breakout sessions and a hike through the forest which includes pine, hemlock, spruce and oak. The fee is just \$15 and includes lunch. Please contact John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Feminine Hygiene Kits

First Church will be putting together some feminine hygiene kits on October 16 beginning at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall (Please pack a lunch if you plan to stay into the afternoon). If you can bring your

sewing machine, or serger sewing machine if you have one, it would be very helpful. Other sewing supplies such as sharp scissors, rotor cutters, quilting rulers, and cutting mats will be needed. Dark thread is always used. This year there is lots of fabric, thanks to donation from the church quilting group!

If you have not heard about these kits, it is an eye opener to learn about the feminine hygiene challenges that women and girls in poor countries face. Sometimes it may cause them to have to stay home from school or work, which adds to their poverty and lack of education. Use this link for more details, the pattern and directions, and fabric do's and don'ts for this project: <https://missioncentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/MC-Fem-Hygiene-Kit-complete.pdf>. You can help with this project even if you don't sew. Properly made kits can last up to three years.

To have enough fabric and patterns, please call or email Donna Nichols at djnichols43@hotmail.com. Tanya Weaver who presented this project with Mission Central and who has distributed kits in Africa says it is just like Christmas- the girls and women are so happy to have the kits!

Joy in the Morning - a small group invitation!

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this spiritually-focused small group. We will meet next on Monday, October 25 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, taking inspiration from the book, With the Dawn Rejoicing. For more information, contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com.

Summer Camp and Retreat Options 2021 and beyond!

Visit the camping website <http://www.susumcamps.org> to see all the offerings for camp and retreat options that were planned for this very eventful year - 2021. Although not all camps or retreats were able to take place due to low registrations, we take heart that there were many individuals who did participate safely this year. Begin now to plan for opportunities to go to camp in 2022! Continually be in prayer for your camping and retreat ministry. Camp still needs financial gifts to grow this ministry not just for next year but for future generations to come.

Pray and ask God how He would like you to use your gifts for Him! **(FUMC Summary)**

- Attending a camp, retreat or event this year (**30** attended this year)
- Volunteering as a Dean, Nurse, Counselor or Jr. Counselor (**17** went as volunteers)
- Praying for a camper, a retreat participant, a campsite day worker (**All** attendees had a least one prayer partner)
- Providing financial assistance to support a camper or camp program (Individuals offered **extra** camping funding)
- Help with a one-day work camp at one of the camp sites? (**If you are interested**, please reach out)

If you have any questions about Camp and Retreats or unable to access the website feel free to contact Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com or 717-697-5982 or Amy Ortiz at amy.ogden7@gmail.com. You may also contact the church office at office@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ON-GOING SUPPORT OF **YOUR** CAMP AND RETREAT MINISITRIES!

Generous Giver



FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 31, 2021 — 67% of year

General Fund — August giving:

Actual giving in the month of August	\$97,905	(5 weeks in August)
Average month per 2021 budget	\$75,416	

General Fund — Year-to-date

2021 budget	\$ 905,000	
Expected income	\$ 603,363	(67% of budget)
Actual giving	\$ 640,728	(70% of budget)
Actual expenses	\$ 587,260	(65% of budget)

Our year-to-date financial position continues to be blessed by the faithfulness of our Lord through the gifts of our congregation and friends. August giving was a 5 week month and made up for the small “short” we had in July. Thank you again for keeping First Church in your prayers and thoughts as we go through this extraordinary time.

Our expenses remain in good shape as we continue to offer online services, in addition to opening up more and more through this unusual time. We are excited to see the Fall season approach and all that we can celebrate with our ministry in this new season. We look forward to getting back to classes and the refreshing Fall weather.

CROP Hunger Walk, October 17 – Looking for Your Support!

First Church will once again be participating in the annual CROP Hunger Walk sponsored by Church World Services. This year’s date is Sunday, October 17th at 1:00 pm. at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 117 W. Keller Street (the church behind us!) This year we are excited to announce the 50th Anniversary of the CROP Hunger Walk in Mechanicsburg! If you want to support the CROP Walk and our walkers, please donate to our page here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-walkers>. We’d love to have you walk with us! You can choose to walk/run one or three miles, throughout the beautiful streets of Mechanicsburg, led by our own favorite mascot, Red Robin! All walkers will receive a Free tee-shirt and a meal will be served after the Walk compliments of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. Let’s all help to ‘End hunger, one Step at a Time!’ For more information or how to join us, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Mission Central Monster Mash and Dash: October 24 – 31, 2021

The Mission Central annual 5K has turned into the second ever virtual run – the Mission Central Monster Mash and Dash! All runners/walkers/movers and shakers to participate! The event will run October 24, 2021 through October 31, 2021. Please join us with your best Halloween costume and share your experience on social media – #MCmonsterdash. See details and registration information at <https://missioncentral.org/events/>.

It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Mt. Asbury is excited to announce the Second Annual Drive-Thru Christmas Light Show! Experience the story of the Birth of Jesus in a unique way! Bring your family, youth group, friends, and neighbors to enjoy thousands of lights as you drive $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile through the main site and forest of Mount Asbury Retreat Center. See the angels as they talk to Mary, Joseph and Shepherds. Follow the Star to the Manger. No registration necessary. The event starts Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, November 26 to December 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They are asking for a \$10 per car donation. Follow the Facebook page for event news and updates here: <https://www.facebook.com/MountAsburyChristmasLightShow>. This is a great family activity, just load everyone up in the car and bring a little extra cash for hot chocolate and cookies that will be available at the entrance!

Little Free Pantry Update

Thanks for your support of the **Little Free Pantry** on our property. Please consider helping to stock our pantry during this difficult time for families. Please be sure to place items that are not expired or near expiration. If you or your group would like to sign up, see the available months [here](#). A simpler list of suggestions can be found [here](#). **Feel free to sign up for just one week, if that works better for you!** If you would like to choose a week this fall or would like to make a financial donation to the pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.



October Bible Reading Plan

Friday, October 1
Saturday, October 2

Exodus 1
Rest and Reflection

Sunday, October 3

"Shiprah and Puah: Fierce Faith" (World Communion)

Monday, October 4
Tuesday, October 5
Wednesday, October 6
Thursday, October 7
Friday, October 8
Saturday, October 9

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
Judges 4
Rest and Reflect

Sunday, October 10

"Deborah: Anchored in God's Promises"

Monday, October 11
Tuesday, October 12
Wednesday, October 13
Thursday, October 14
Friday, October 15
Saturday, October 16

Job 38:1-7, 34-41
Psalm 104:1-9
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-15
Rest and Reflect

Sunday, October 17

"A Servant Girl: Declaring God's Goodness"

Monday, October 18
Tuesday, October 19
Wednesday, October 20
Thursday, October 21
Friday, October 22
Saturday, October 23

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52
Acts 9:36-42
Rest and Reflect

Sunday, October 24

"Dorcas: Doing Simple Things With Great Love"

Monday, October 25
Tuesday, October 26
Wednesday, October 27
Thursday, October 28
Friday, October 29
Saturday, October 30

Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146:1-10
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34
2 Timothy 1:1-8
Rest and Reflect

Sunday, October 31

"Lois and Eunice: Faith Is Caught More Than Taught"

Church News and Notes

Our love & sympathy...

to Ken Hammaker and family in the death of Ken’s sister, Deb Landrum
 to the Dougherty family in the death of Tammy Dougherty, on August 6
 to the family and friends of Richard Hayworth, upon his death on August 6
 to Sarah Pugh and family in the death of Sarah’s uncle, Jack, on August 11
 to the Hutter family in the death of Skip Hutter on August 22
 to Rodney Clark and family in the death of Rodney’s father, Dick Clark, on August 27
 to the Eaton family in the death of Barry’s mother, Brenda Eaton, on September 10

A Note of Thanks...

To my First Church family, many thanks for the cards, meals, flowers and support during the hospital stay and subsequent passing of Skip. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Denny for the hospital visits which meant so much to us. I appreciate the many loving thoughts and prayers.

~ Pat Hutter & family



Special Birthdays

Pam Weaver	October 7	Sadie Heim.....	November 1
Peg Hassinger.....	October 8	Liz Nesmith	November 4
Kay Heiges	October 18	Elvin Hess.....	November 6
Carol Moomaw	October 21	Paul Cain.....	November 11
Winslow Brown	October 23	Mary Cain	November 11
Don Shover	October 23	Patricia Marr	November 23
Gail Leinhos.....	October 28	Marlin Lehmer	November 24
J. Paul Strock	October 31		

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Leroy & Pam Weaver married 59 years on October 7
- ♥ Ralph & Gwen Harkins married 59 years on October 20



FIRST NEWS FIRST
 Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles
 for the **November 2021** issue is
October 15

Early submissions always
appreciated!