



# First News First

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

## “One Another One Another”

On Sunday Aug. 14, First Church held a “40 Years in Ministry” celebration for Betsy and me. We were blessed beyond words by two special services, including the sermon by our “surprise preachers,” our daughters, Jen and Rachel. The music was inspiring! The fellowship time in between services with amazing sticky buns, a slide show of photos from our ministry across the years and many delightful conversations blessed us, too!

Betsy and I are grateful to everyone involved in our celebration! We will treasure the memory of this day and your cards, gifts and kind words for years to come. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

As I reflect on the people and places we’ve been blessed to serve over the past 40 years, including our loving First Church family, a phrase that appears frequently in the New Testament comes to mind: “one another.” In every place we’ve served, we’ve witnessed how beautiful it is when sisters and brothers in Christ “one another one another.”

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul writes, “The only thing that really counts is faith that shows itself through love” (Galatians 5:6 NIV). If you were to ask Paul what this “faith that shows itself through love” looks like, he would likely rattle off a list of instructions that include the words, “one another.” “Build one another up.” “Forgive one another.” “Bear with one another.” “Serve one another.” The list goes on and on...

It’s likely that after each “one another” Paul would add the words, “just as.” Each of the 59 “one another’s” in the New Testament is a specific application of Jesus’ command, that we “love one another just as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

In worship this fall, we’re going to consider some of the “one another’s” in the New Testament. These instructions seem especially timely today as we build relationships with “one another” in the church that reflect the love of Christ to the world around us. Join us each week as we deepen our relationships with Christ, one another and our neighbors, learning to love one another just as Christ has loved us.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Denny

- September 4 — “Love One Another”                      John 13:34-35; John 15:9-17- Communion
- September 11 — “Encourage One Another”              I Thessalonians 5:1-11
- September 18 — “Forgive One Another”                  Colossians 3:12-17
- September 25 — “Pray for One Another”                  James 5:13-20
- October 2 — “Be Kind to One Another”                  Ephesians 4:1-6, 32 World Communion Sunday
- October 9 — “Bear One Another’s Burdens”              Galatians 6:1-5
- October 16 — “Serve One Another”                          I Peter 4:7-11

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## Adult Discipleship

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 and on our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com).

## First Step Gathering

If you are new to First Church, or haven't been around for a while, First Step gatherings provide the opportunity to get to know Pastor Denny and the staff, while you learn and decide the best next step to grow in your faith at First Church. Our next gathering is scheduled on **September 18 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in room 207**. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 717-766-4611 to register today!

## Next Step Class

Ready to be baptized (if you have not already), become a member of First Church or simply want to explore the foundations of our faith? Join us for a six week study, "A Disciple's Path." Together with Pastor Denny, you will explore what it means to faithfully participate in the life of the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. The fall Next Step Class begins on **Sept. 25 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in room 207**. Childcare will be provided. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 717-766-4611 to register.

## Steps Beyond...

As you continue to 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 – Groups begin meeting Sept. 11, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.:**

- **Faith in Everyday Life**  
**Target:** 30-50 something  
**Location:** Room 105  
**Contact:** Jenell Paris at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu)  
 A group focused on fellowship and friendship/mutual support in and outside the classroom. Includes group discussion of Bible passages from the weekly lectionary.
- **Growing in Christ**  
**Target:** Adults all ages/stages of faith  
**Location:** Fellowship Hall  
**Contact:** Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)  
 This group provides a welcoming space for newcomers who are looking to pray and study God's Word together. **A new six week study on Galatians will begin September 11.** Learn that true freedom is found in surrender, not self-dependence.
- **Christian Fellowship**  
**Target:** Adults all ages/stages of faith  
**Location:** Room B003  
**Contact:** Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com)  
 A friendly, caring group, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. **Begins a new 6-week study, "Better decisions - Fewer Regrets," by Andy Stanley on Sept. 11.** Our decisions don't just affect our present circumstances; they radiate into our future.
- **Faithful Families**  
**Target:** Parents  
**Location:** Room B005  
**Contact:** Bob and Tracy Wertz at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto: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. Stay tuned for more details on their upcoming study this fall.

- **Helping Hands**  
**Target:** Primarily 60+  
**Location:** Room B004  
**Contact:** Bob Wertz, Sr. at [robert\\_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto:robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com)  
 A group of active seniors who focus on encouraging instructions for faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class. Lessons this fall are focused on the theme “Freedom”, which challenges us, who have experienced God’s gracious salvation, to work for freedom and justice on behalf of others.
- **Guyer Class**  
**Target:** Primarily 70+  
**Location:** Room 123  
**Contact:** Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)  
 This lecture-based class, taught by a variety of church leaders, is comprised of a group of older members in the church. Lessons this fall are focused on the theme “Freedom,” which challenges us, who have experienced God’s gracious salvation, to work for freedom and justice on behalf of others.

### Mid-Week Learning Opportunities

- **Wednesday Men’s Group** – This group enjoys great fellowship and a variety of short-term Bible studies together. Meets in person at the home of Barry Eaton at 8:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month beginning September 21. Contact Barry at [1785ea-ton@gmail.com](mailto:1785ea-ton@gmail.com) if interested.
- **Wonderful Wednesday — EXPANDED!** First Church's popular Wonderful Wednesday program is returning, and *it's not just for kids!* Children, youth and adults are all invited to participate in this family fellowship and learning program. The fall session will run for six weeks from Oct. 12 through Nov. 16. The program begins at 5 p.m. with prayer and a family-style dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed by small-group learning for all ages at 6 p.m. The program concludes at 7 p.m. This session's theme, "Faith Foundation," focuses on building a solid foundation of vibrant faith in Jesus. Together, we will center ourselves on Christ and learn how to practice our faith in a way that strengthens us and helps others to know Him through us. Groups will be offered for children K-5th grade, youth, adults and one specifically for parents. Childcare will also be offered for children under the age of 5. Stay tuned for registration information, or contact Katie Knorr at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com) for more details.

### **Children and Family Ministries News**

- ⇒ **Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)** connects moms to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together. We meet monthly from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the church September-May and have monthly outings for kids and parents. Every group meeting will include fellowship time over dinner, teachings/lesson time, small group discussion time, encouragement and support from mentor moms and Christian devotions. The cost is \$32.00, which covers special guest speakers and dinner together. First meeting is Sept. 11. Contact Katie Knorr at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com) for more details and to register today!
- ⇒ **Fall Kickoff**— Our Fall Kickoff begins Sept. 11! During the 11 a.m. service, nursery and preschool aged kids can go to Wee Worship and kids Kindergarten-5th grade can go to Kids Worship, both of which will offer activities and a lesson/Bible story for the kids. Then, meet us at Our Annual Fall Picnic at the pavilion at Pleasant View Park (90 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg). Worship starts at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck supper and fellowship.
- ⇒ **Bible Sunday**— We will be presenting Bibles to 4 year olds and second graders this year during worship on Sept. 25. If you are the parent or guardian of a 4-year-old or second grader who would be interested in receiving a Bible during either the 8:30 or 11 a.m. service, please reach out to Katie at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).

### **From the Library**

When I write the newsletter, I usually look at the new books that have come in during the month, check the reviews on-line and then try to come up with some entertaining prelude to get all of you interested in reading these books. As I checked out Wanda Brunstetter’s website, I see that she was one of the founders of Amish fiction and has written more than 100 books, sometimes with other family members, but mostly by herself. I

was marveling at how she came up with so many ideas as I sit here and wonder how to start this newsletter. Then I remember that Pam, Fran and I started the library in October 1998. So, I have been writing this newsletter with Pam as my hardworking editor for 20 years. 20 years times 12 months come to 240 newsletters. I am way out in front of Ms. Brunstetter! No wonder I can't think of one more witty thing to say. Guess I will just skip to the book review this time.

*The Apple Creek Announcement* is the third book in Wanda Brunstetter's *Creektown Discoveries Series*. If she follows the usual format of Christian fiction writers, this should be the last book in this series, but there is no indication she is winding up the series. The first two books, *The Walnut Creek Wish* and *The Sugarcreek Surprise* arrived earlier this year. All three books are set in Amish communities in Ohio and are romances. Like the song says, "the course of true love never runs smooth", and that is the point in each of these books. You will have to read each book to the end to find out how each couple overcomes their difficulties to find a lasting relationship.

Patricia Bradley is finishing her *Natchez Trace Park Rangers Series* with a "protocol breaking" fourth book in the series titled, *Deception*. All four books are romantic suspense books set in Mississippi and this one not only involves park rangers, but also the FBI. Madison Thorn has transferred into the white-collar crimes department of the FBI after her last case turned extremely violent. She needs time to heal, but she doesn't want to leave her job. She is less than thrilled to be sent to the Natchez Park and finds she will be working with a former childhood friend slash enemy, Clayton Bradshaw. All too soon Madison finds herself in danger and will have to work with Clayton to solve the case and to stay safe. Reviewers have said that this story has more twists and turns than a pretzel—so plan to stay up late to finish it all in one sitting.

As you well know I am writing this before the book sale, but I want to thank you for all the donations and the continued support of the library.

See you in the library.

~Pam and Donna

Praying Follower



## Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, we invite you to sign up for First Church's FirstLink Prayer Letter to receive updated prayer requests and praises from our church family once a week. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share joys and requests and to sign up for the Prayer Letter email.

## Moms in Prayer

Did you know that, through Moms in Prayer International, thousands of mothers around the world gather together in groups to passionately pray for the lives of their children in more than 140 countries? The impact on children, their teachers and their schools is profound, and it is life-changing for the mothers who pray as well! In addition to groups meeting in homes to pray for specific schools, and the children and teachers who attend those schools, there is a group that meets here at First Church. This group, led by Deb Noss, has resumed meeting for the 2022/23 school year each Monday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in room 105, and all mothers/grandmothers are invited! No prayer experience is required, and your child can be any age/any stage of life. What is prayed in the group stays in the group, so don't worry – your prayer requests will remain private. Please contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 717-766-4611 if you have questions or would like to join this group. You can also check out [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org) to learn more information about this organization or to search for another group that fits your schedule.

## See You at the Pole

SYATP prayer events are happening at schools around the globe on Wednesday, Sept. 28. All are encouraged to attend school events (go to <https://syatp.com/> for more details) or join us here at First Church that day to specifically pray for our Little Friends Preschool. Come to the church flagpole on that day at 9:40 a.m. Our prayer time will be brief, yet powerful!

## Passionate Worshipper



### Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Search for 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/5rbHEYEfHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>



### Sounds of Worship

Attending First Church and enjoy singing? Consider joining the Sounds of Worship choir! We meet weekly from 7-8 p.m. in the music room (basement, near Fellowship Hall). Absolutely NO auditions! Just come and make a joyful sound with us! The first rehearsal of the fall will be Thursday Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you all there (new faces and returning faces) we missed you!

## Dedicated Missionary



### Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry, Sept. 21

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, Sept. 21** at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### Save the Date

Please add **Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>** to your calendar as a date to gather at the church for the annual Feminine Hygiene Sewing Day. I hope you can help in this important mission to help our sisters in third world countries live their lives with dignity.

## Relationship Builder



### Missional Hospitality

The practice of hospitality is part of our mission as Christ followers. Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, and 1 Peter 4:9 all encourage us to offer hospitality to our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? By knowing who our neighbors are, we can become more attuned to how God wants us to connect with them and serve them. So, one question for you: What do you think the largest "phase of life" demographic group is in the community surrounding First Church?

- Young Adults/Singles (ages 18-34)
- Families - Parents with Children at Home or Empty Nesters (age 35-56)
- Boomers (ages 57-75)
- Senior Adults (76+)

The answer: Our community has a fairly equal number of both younger and older adults, however, the largest "Phase of Life" group is Families. Yet, that's one of the smallest groups of people seen in many of our churches right now. Why do you think that is? What do you think we can we do to connect with and serve the needs of families in our community? Over the next few weeks, please spend some time praying and thinking about the needs of both married and single parents raising their children, empty-nester parents and young people. If you have thoughts you would like to share, please contact Tina Eaton at 717-766-4611 or [adultministry@fumchurch](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch) or Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com).



## Save the Date for Annual Day: At-Tea-Tude of Grat-Tea-Tude!

Join us for our next United Women in Faith Annual Day on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Emmanuel UMC (22 Salt Road, Enola). The registration fee is \$12 and includes morning refreshments and a tea luncheon. Registration opens at 9 a.m. Bring a **teacup and saucer** to donate to Women At Risk, Int'l (WAR). WAR's many talented artisans will repurpose your teacup donation into beautiful candles to be sold in support of its safe houses. The day also includes a speaker from WAR and a boutique of war chest items for sale. Certified lay speaker Cindy Thomas will provide a message on gratitude. Our afternoon workshop is presented by **Rosemary House** and will include a tea sipping peace ceremony. All women are invited! For registration information and details, contact Lori Hoffnagle, FUMC United Women in Faith president, [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) or 717-732-6430

## Chicken BBQ

Tickets available now! The handbell choirs are sponsoring their 21st annual Chicken BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 24. The hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., cost is \$10. Includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, roll, applesauce and butter. Reserve your tickets now by seeing a member of the handbell choirs, or calling or emailing Kathie Bittenbender at [rbittenben@verizon.net](mailto:rbittenben@verizon.net)



## Joy in the Morning

A small group invitation! Next meeting – **Monday, Sept. 19 @ 1 p.m.** 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 meet Monday afternoons once a month from 1-2 p.m. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals, including from the book, *With the Dawn Rejoicing*. For more information, contact **Janice Bowen** at 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)

## Men's Fellowship Opportunities

The men of First Church are planning several things this fall to build relationships through fellowship activities:

- o **First Saturday Men's Breakfast** — An open invitation is extended to all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month at Brothers Restaurant (705 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg). Our next gathering will be on Saturday, Sept. 3, at 7:30 a.m. And mark your calendars – the next one will come up on October 1. Please contact Barry Eaton at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.
- o **Men's Hike** – All men are invited to enjoy the great outdoors together this fall on a men's hike. Stay tuned for more details later in September, and contact John Bowen at [bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping to plan or just want to participate. Join us to deepen your relationship with Christ, as well as cultivate lasting bonds of friendship between one another.

## FUMC Summer Pickleball Continues!

**Every Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m. Mechanicsburg's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park.** Whether you're a single player or double, whether you play pickleball every week or have never played, we invite you to please join us on the pickleball Court! Bring a friend and assume we will be there unless it's wet and rainy! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at 717-766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)



# First Church Women



## First Church Women

Want to join a group of caring women at First United Methodist? You may ask what age is this group; a group of caring women, some working some retired (but busier than when they worked). You're welcome to join the Deborah Circle as we reconvene from our summer break. We will meet on September 13 at 6:30 PM in the basement, room B003. All are invited. We meet every other month on the second Tuesday of the month. We will be starting a Study Gateway Bible study "When Strivings Cease" by Ruth Chou Simons. This study is for strivers, for those of us exhausted by the "You are enough-just improve yourself" narrative. The answer we're looking for is in the enduring gift of amazing grace. It's only when we receive that gift that our striving will cease! Previous projects our circle has done: November Food Basket (previously Thanksgiving meal basket) for a neighbor, New Hope Christmas Blessings sorting and Neighborhood Christmas angel tree, Easter time food basket for a neighbor; making/serving lunch at Neighborhood Center/New Hope in the summer. Pre-pandemic we dined out at a local restaurant on the months we didn't meet at the church. Contact Sandy Walton at 717-433-3687 (call or text) or [swalton54@comcast.net](mailto:swalton54@comcast.net) with questions. Hop to see you on there!

### Covered in Love Knitting Group

The Covered in Love Knitting Group has returned to in-person meetings **every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.** and will gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to join if you love to knit, crochet or do some other kind of crafty work. Questions? Contact Judi Buddenbaum at [717-697-2524](tel:717-697-2524) or [ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net).

### Widows and Widowers Fellowship

The widows/widowers fellowship is taking a pause for the month of August. Stay tuned for an upcoming gathering date in September.

### Third Friday Food Trucks, Sept. 16!

The food trucks return to our parking lot on Friday, Sept. 16. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors in a fun and casual atmosphere! This month, we welcome the following gourmet food trucks: Audrey's Cup of Sunshine, Philly Cheesesteak, Mad Dash, Shredderz, Pretzel Spot, The Sweet Patch and Dough and Arrows (ice cream and cookie dough). We are always looking for help with set up and clean up. If you are interested in lending a hand with setting up tables and chairs or putting them away, we'd love to have you! Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) for more details. The food trucks serve from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Mark your calendar for the remaining date, Oct. 21.



### Camp Fancy Fundraising Gala, Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 – Save the Date!

Everyone who values the power of camp and retreat experiences to change lives: this invitation is for you! Come one and come all for an evening of inspiration, fun and generosity. Camp Fancy means you can choose your attire from prom night outfits to outdoor gear- just be sure to have one part of your outfit that is “fancy” as part of the celebration. Enjoy the Wesley Forest grounds and a catered meal as we honor some special folks together, hear stories of making a difference and raise needed funds for the Camping & Retreat Ministry. This inaugural event will take place at Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat Center, 58 Wesley Forest Lane, Weikert, PA from 4:00 to 8 p.m. We will honor long-time volunteer and camp dean, David Poole, and enjoy special music, auction items, great food and much more! See all the details here: <https://susumcamps.org/gala>. To learn more about Camp Fancy, how to volunteer, making a donation or contributing an auction item, contact Camp and Retreat Ministries Board Members, Steve Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Lori Hoffnagle ([l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com)). Thanks for your support of the Camp and Retreat Ministry!

### Squares and Prayers

The quilters continue to sew and complete quilts at home. These quilts go to local hospices, fire and police departments and members of our church who are at need. Fidget mats are also being made and are available. Anyone who desires to sew kits together can find kits located near the Alley Entrance.

*Generous Giver*



### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through July 31, 2022 58 % of year

#### General Fund

2022 budget	\$ 925,985	
Expected income-YTD	\$ 540,157	(58% of budget)
Actual income -YTD	\$ 532,097	(57% of budget)
Actual expenses-YTD	\$ 516,565	(56% of budget)

Receipts year-to-date through the end of July are a bit down from our expectation. Keep in mind that the summer season is usually our slowest time of year. Expenses for the month of June were again favorable and our year-to-date “receipts over expenses” is positive \$15,000. The staff at first church and its volunteers continue

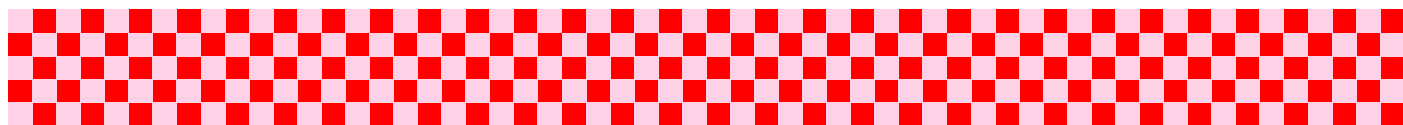
mindful stewardship of the gifts of our congregation and are working to open doors to others for the glory of God. We are grateful to all our congregation and guests who continue to support the work of First Church, as we serve the Lord by opening doors for all to know salvation through Jesus. We continue to ask for your prayers, your presence and your support through service and gifts to the mission of our First Church family. As we move into the end of the summer season, we look forward to having you join us online or in-person, serving the King together.

### Change (or Paper) 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 paper bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket located back on the Sierra Leone mission table in the Main Entrance hallway. Donations from July totaled **\$20.75**. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

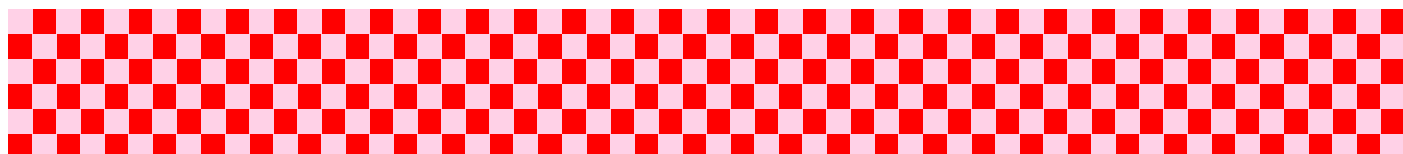
### Little Free Pantry Mini Collection

Thanks for your support of the **Little Free Pantry** on our property. This small (but effective) way to bless our community has been very popular over the past two years. We have been able to keep up with the demand for food, but are starting to run low. If you would like to donate items, there is a **collection basket** inside the Alley Door entrance at the church. Most needed items include canned tuna/chicken, any type of boxed mac and cheese, small boxes of cereal, granola bars, individual snack items and small ready to eat meals. Please make sure they are non-perishable and not too far past the expiration dates. You can also drop off the items at the church office during regular business hours. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [l\\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com](mailto:l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com). Thanks for blessing our neighbors!



## Annual Fall Picnic

Our all-church fall picnic is coming up on Sunday, Sept. 11. This year we are holding it at the pavilion at Pleasant View Park (90 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050). The picnic will begin with worship at the pavilion at 4:00 p.m., followed by a potluck supper and fellowship. Hot dogs, hamburgers, iced tea and water will be provided, but bring a side dish and/or dessert to share, along with your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company until the sun sets on a fun-filled day!





## First Church Mission Moments...

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love...*

Recently, several First Church members became aware that a friend was battling cancer and needed emotional and spiritual support, along with help to cover mounting medical bills. This sweet woman is locally active as a business-woman and gives much to our community. After much prayer and discernment, First Church made a decision to host a special benefit event, and Eat, Pray, Shop was created! This event included vendors, gift baskets, a bake sale, food trucks and the opportunity to support and pray for our friend. We handed out 'prayer scrolls' at the event to those who were interested so they could pray the scripture on their scroll over her, and we gave her a basket full of prayer scrolls for her to pull out and pray when she needed to feel God's love.

She was able to attend the event and was overwhelmed with the love and support she felt! Here is how she described the day: *"What made this day absolutely amazing is all the friends that came out to support me, friends I haven't seen in years. Thank you to each and every one of you for coming to give me a hug and words of encouragement. You are the reason I keep going on... It was such a great surprise and of course my tears wouldn't stop running. I am blessed. I am grateful. I really hit the jackpot with all of you. Thank you for all your support!!"*

We are thankful to God for providing clear direction, the leadership and space to host this special Eat, Pray, Shop event, which allowed us to fulfill our First Church vision of "Opening doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors!"

We are blessed to be a blessing!

*Lori Hoffnagle*

FUMC Community Engagement  
Coordinator



## **Daily Bible Readings September 2022**

Thursday, September 1  
Friday, September 2  
Saturday, September 3  
Sunday, September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
John 13:31-35  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship “Love One Another”

Monday, September 5  
Tuesday, September 6  
Wednesday, September 7  
Thursday, September 8  
Friday, September 9  
Saturday, September 10  
Sunday, September 11

Psalms 14  
I Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10  
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
I Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship “Encourage One Another”

Monday, September 12  
Tuesday, September 13  
Wednesday, September 14  
Thursday, September 15  
Friday, September 16  
Saturday, September 17  
Sunday, September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
I Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship “Forgive One Another”

Monday, September 19  
Tuesday, September 20  
Wednesday, September 21  
Thursday, September 22  
Friday, September 23  
Saturday, September 24  
Sunday, September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
I Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31  
James 5:13-20  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship “Pray for One Another”

Monday, September 26  
Tuesday, September 27  
Wednesday, September 28  
Thursday, September 29  
Friday, September 30  
Saturday, October 1  
Sunday, October 2

Lamentations 1:1-6  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10  
Ephesians 4:1-6, 32  
Rest and Reflect  
Worship “Be Kind to One Another”  
World Communion Sunday

## Church Staff

### **Pastor:**

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### **Organist/Accompanist:**

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### **Timeless Connections:**

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## Church News and Notes

**Our congratulations and best wishes** to our former Office Administrator, Ellen Hill on her marriage to Mr. Taylor Martin on Aug. 20. We wish Mr. & Mrs. Martin a lifetime of happiness and blessings.



### Special Birthdays

Sally Kauffman..... September 8  
 Pat Sheely..... September 11  
 George Rehfus..... September 16  
 George Carpenter..... September 18  
 Joan Stokes..... September 19  
 Marty Otto..... September 20  
 Marley Ann Schmick..... September 21  
 Gary Klinger..... September 22  
 Ralph Harkins..... September 25  
 Curt Bonser..... September 26  
 Peggy Shenberger..... September 28  
 Kaye Reynolds.....September 29

Jane Bonser.....October 1  
 Pam Weaver.....October 7  
 Peg Hassinger.....October 8  
 Kay Heiges.....October 18  
 Jim Siemons.....October 20  
 Carol Moomaw.....October 21  
 Winslow Brown.....October 23  
 Don Shover.....October 23  
 Gail Leinhos.....October 28  
 J Paul Strock.....October 31

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Weaver married 60 years on October 7, 1962.
- ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Harkins married 60 years on October 20, 1962.



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

Editor: Dawn Fisher

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **October 2022** issue is  
**September 15**

**Early submissions always  
 appreciated!**