



First News First

April 2019

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

From Pastor Denny...

"Mary Magdalene Took Her Time "

Each of the four Gospels tells the resurrection story slightly differently. In the Gospel of John, we notice that Mary Magdalene took her time. Lost in grief, she was not in a rush. The other disciples in this story, Peter and John, were in a hurry. So much in a hurry, they actually raced to the tomb. Raced each other, to see who would get there first. John was the winner. At least John was the winner in the Gospel of John, the Gospel of his followers!

After the two disciples have rushed in and then rushed out again, Mary remains behind. She spends some time in the empty tomb. She spends some time crying. And it is then that she sees Jesus. At first she thinks he is a gardener, because he looks different. The resurrected Jesus looks different in all the appearance stories. He was not immediately recognizable to those who ran into him after Easter, even to his closest friends. They had to stop and spend some time with him, and then after that they recognized him. But it took a little time.

In our society today most of us are more like Peter and John, racing here and there, than we are like Mary Magdalene, who took her time. We are busy, busy, busy people. The most frequent answer to the question, "How are you?" has become, "Busy. I am so busy." "How are the kids?" "Oh, you know, busy." "Mom, can you..." "No, I'm too busy." "How's retirement treating you?" "Oh, I'm busier than I was when I was working full-time." To which the most frequent response is, "Good." As if being busy is a sign that life is as it should be.

Busy means productive. Busy means your kids are successful. After all, you have to play a lot of sports and musical instruments to be busy. You have to have an important job for it to keep you busy. You have to be a superhuman parent, the most devoted kind, to be busy. Heaven forbid you are not busy.

Mary Magdalene might ask us, "Why all the rush? Is all the stuff you're so busy with really all that important? What if the things you're so busy with are keeping you from your most important work, loving God and loving others?"

Mary invites us to see the time we have as a gift from God for us to appreciate. She learned this lesson the way many of us learn it. She learned to cherish time when the person she most wanted to spend time with was gone. Jesus had died so unfairly young, and Mary, along with all the disciples, must have asked: Did we spend our time with Jesus wisely? Did we talk about the right things, the most important things? If we could have more time with him, what would we do now?

On Easter, Mary took her time and she met the Risen Lord. This Easter, may you meet him too, in the worship and fellowship of the church, in the people you love, and in the time that you have been given. Let's stop managing time and instead appreciate it, as God's gift. No more time management. Only time appreciation.

No more busy, busy, busy. Just thankful, thankful, thankful.

May you have a most blessed Easter!

Pastor Denny

Lifelong Learner



2019 Daily Bible Reading Plan

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

New Bible Study

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

Do you want the power to witness for Christ in all circumstances? Come to study the book of Acts using the inductive Bible study method, and learn about miracles, boldness and having the courage to fully rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to preach the Word of God. 13-week study broken into a spring and a fall semester

When: Begins March 31 from 6:15 – 7:15 pm Where: Room 207 Cost: \$9.99

Leader: Ken Guise

Ongoing Bible Studies

Wednesday Lunch & Learn Bible Study ~ "Praying Through the Names of God"

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

When: Wednesdays through April 17; Study at 11:00 am/Lunch at 12:00 pm Where: Sanctuary

Leader: Assistant Pastor John Shellenberger

Wednesday Evening Bible Study ~ "Praying Through the Names of God"

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

When: Wednesdays through April 24 from 6:45 – 8:00 pm (No Class April 17) Where: Room B004

Leader: Senior Pastor Dennis Keller

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. 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. Additional forms are also available in the lobby for you to share how you would like to support the camping ministries this year. First Church will pay for **half** camp fees upon request.

NOTE: Please provide registration confirmations to the camp coordinators so that everyone that goes to camp (regardless of age) receives a prayer partner and that financial payments (if needed) are addressed 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.
- 🔥 Be a prayer partner for a camper.
- 🔥 Provide financial assistance to support a camper or camp program.
- 🔥 Help with a work camp at one of the camp sites.

Questions, contact: Deb Noss at sdppp@msn.com or Amy Ogden at amy.ogden7@gmail.com

Participating and supporting camping and retreats helps us individually and collectively to grow our roots deeper into the word so as to better branch out and connect with others within our fellowship and our community. Please be in prayer and ask how you can participate in the Camping and Retreat ministries this year - whether by your attendance, your financial gifts, your prayer support or other unique gifts.

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

Library

I am sighing a large sigh of relief that maybe winter is behind us. In celebration of hopefully sunny skies and warmer weather, I am bringing a new series by Susan May Warren. *Knox: The Montana Marshalls* series just came out last week and already people are raving about the series. After the *Montana Rescue* series ended, many people wondered if Ms. Warren could top that series, and the answer is a definitive YES. I must admit when I ordered the series, I thought it was going to be about the U.S. Marshals, but it is not. It is a modern-day western book, complete with rodeos, saloons, and cowboys. The only things missing are Marshall Dillion and Miss Kitty. But reviewers are saying even if they usually don't like western-themed books, they love this new series and can't wait for August when the next book titled *Tate* comes out.

So, what makes **Knox** a standout? Because it is my favorite genre: romantic suspense. It was good enough to read past my bedtime. Former bull rider, Knox, now works on the family ranch raising champion bucking bulls. Kelsey Jones is an up-and-coming country western singer. Kelsey is performing at the National Professional Bullrider's Expo, and Knox is there to see the bull riding. Knox is feeling the lost glory of his bull riding days and wondering if the quiet life is really for him, when a bomb explodes, throwing Kelsey and Knox together. From there Knox is determined to find the bomber and help Kelsey who has retreated into crippling nightmares from her past. Hold on for a great ride!!

If you missed the book club's reading of the **Masterpiece** by Francine Rivers, you can still pick it up in the church library. Ms. Rivers has woven together a romance from the jagged pieces of two people's lives. Roman Velasco is an artist who seems to have everything--fame, money and a house as large as a palace. Few know he is an empty man rattling around in an empty house. He is haunted by demons from his past and starts tagging buildings, using the alias "The Bird" to escape from his visible life. Knowing that he risks arrest and exposure only heightens the rush. His new personnel assistant, Grace Moore is also a broken spirit coming from a disastrous marriage. She plans to rebuild her life while avoiding any personnel entanglements. Can two broken people help each other to start anew?

If neither of these books is right for you, stop in the library and let one of the volunteers help you find just the right book. The library has the best and newest books from Christian authors.

See you in the library.

Pam and Donna

18 Wounds of Disability

Each of us, if we live long enough, will experience temporary and/or permanent disability first-hand. Disabilities occur in every age group, class, race and culture. Regardless of the disability, it is often accompanied by a profound sense of devaluation and wounding that can be reinforced by societal attitudes. Many of us are unaware of how our social policies and daily lives contribute to the wounding of those living with disabilities.

This insightful presentation draws from the works of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger (one of the world's most impactful professionals in the area of intellectual disabilities), as well as that of Dr. Jeff McNair (California Baptist University; Christian Institute on Disability/Joni & Friends, Int.) and Kathi McNair. It is a discussion of the "18 Wounds" that individuals and families affected by disability may experience as a result of the actions and attitudes of society; and even of many churches. It provides a view through a disability lens and serves to lay a foundation of understanding and sensitivity. From this foundation, a discussion about the ways that the church can move to counter such devaluation and wounding is encouraged. When a mindset based on this exploration of ideas is adopted, and acted upon, those living with disability will learn what it is to be loved and accepted by God through the love and acceptance they receive from those in the church. Individuals and families affected by disability will be compelled to come into God's house, and the Body of Christ will be complete.

We at First Church are continually striving to offer growth and awareness opportunities for the entire community. Therefore, everyone is invited to one of two deliveries of the above special event being held in Fellowship Hall. Please choose one presentation time that fits your schedule and **RSVP by April 23rd** to Steve Noss at sdppp@msn.com. Please invite a friend!

Sunday, May 5th 12:30 – 2:00 pm. (Lunch provided) **Tuesday, May 7th** 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'" Luke 14:23

Scholarships

The Trustees offer scholarships for anyone enrolled in post-high school education of any kind. Applications are available online or from Lisa Aronson or Lee Cadwallader. **Applications are due May 1st.** You can put completed applications in Lee Cadwallader's mailbox at the church or email lacselect@aol.com.

Praying Follower



Good Friday Community Prayer Walk, April 19

First Church is pleased to join with several other local churches to pray for our community on Good Friday. The groups will set out to pray for local schools, businesses, homes and organizations on their walk. We will meet here at First Church at noon, prayer walk the community and then gather at First Church of God on Main Street, Mechanicsburg to close in song and prayer. The complete list of participating churches will be listed on our website closer to the event. All are welcome to pray for our community!

National Day of Prayer

Each year on the first Thursday in May our nation pauses to observe a National Day of Prayer. On that day we focus on praying for our people, our community, our military, our leaders, our government and our nation's impact on the world for God's glory.

Locally, First United Methodist Church is hosting a National Day of Prayer Gathering on Thursday, May 2 at 12:00 pm, and all are invited to come for a brief time to prayer together. We will pray outside by the flagpole (or in the sanctuary if it is raining)

The theme and focus this year is **Love One Another** (John 13:34). Together let's exercise one of our most precious freedoms... the right to gather, turn to God and pray.

If you cannot attend, we encourage you to pray from your home or place of work. Prayer guides are available at the Welcome Center display and on our website (fumchurch.com). If you have questions, please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call 717-766-4611.

Moms in Prayer

All mothers and grandmothers are invited to come any Monday (7:00 - 8:00 pm) that Mechanicsburg-schools are in session to pray for one another's children and grandchildren. No prayer experience is required and the child for which you are praying can be any age/any stage of life.

Where: Prayer Room (2nd floor elevator landing) Leader: Deb Noss

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 Week & Easter

April 14 Palm Sunday - Worship services at 8:15 & 10:45 am

April 17 Passion Play (Family Friendly) at 6:30 pm

April 18 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm

April 19 Good Friday Prayer Walk at Noon

April 21 Sunrise Service at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at 6:20 am

Easter Sunday Worship at 8:15 & 10:45 am

Holy Communion

Palm Sunday	April 14	Loaves and Chalice
Maundy Thursday	April 18	At Tables
Easter Sunrise	April 21	Mechanicsburg Cemetery
	May 5	Pew Service
	June 2	Loaves and Chalice
	July 7	Pew Service

Easter Flowers

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the Sanctuary, you may do so by purchasing your own flowers and placing them in the Sanctuary by **NOON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20**. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the church office by **NOON ON TUESDAY, APRIL 16**.

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.

Lenten Sermon Series

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

April 7	<i>Jehovah Shamma</i> : The Lord Is There	Exodus 48:35, Revelation 21:1-6
April 14	<i>Jehovah Nissi</i> : The Lord My Banner	Exodus 17:16, Mark 11:1-11
April 21	<i>El Shaddai</i> : Almighty God	Genesis 17:1-2, John 20:1-18

Handbell Concert

Our **Annual Handbell Concert** will be Sunday, April 7, at 7pm. Mark your calendars now! Our theme this year, keeping in sync with Lent and our church theme right now, is "We Love You Lord". Again, we think you will recognize all the pieces we play! The concert is free, and refreshments will follow!

**DisAbility Awareness Sunday**

Access Ministries will participate in both morning worship services. A combined Sunday School Hour will be hosted by Health and Wellness as well as Access Ministries in the multi-purpose at 9:30 am.

Pastor Elizabeth Brake of the United Methodist Church, Susquehanna Conference, has been invited to speak during a combined Sunday School Hour at 9:30 am on April 28th. Pastor Brake was born with cerebral palsy. She earned her degrees from Messiah College and Edinboro University. She planned to work in disability services in higher education. But God had a different plan. She continued her studies to become a pastor and is currently serving as a part-time pastor at Roxbury and Upper Strasburg United Methodist Churches in Franklin County. Join us in welcoming Pastor Brake to First Church and hearing about her journey, disability and faith.

A Rejoicing Spirits service will also be held that day at 4 pm in the Sanctuary followed by time for fellowship.

Dedicated Missionary



The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2 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, under the Missions tab. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

Monthly Mission Opportunities:

Grocery Bagging for Bethesda Mission— On the third Wednesday evening of every month members of First United Methodist Church gather at Mission Central to bag groceries for Bethesda Mission. All are invited to join and be a part of this mission opportunity. Join us at Mission Central on April 17 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Isaiah 61 Ministries ~ Serving those less fortunate — First Church members help serve meals in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, April 17 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.

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

WOW! What an awesome month for donations to help support well drilling in Sierra Leone. This past month 10,550 “pennies” (\$105.50) were contributed. Thank you to everyone!! 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!!**

Missions in Sierra Leone

Thank you to everyone who attended our presentation on March 10th. We were so pleased to be able to share with all of you. If you were not able to attend, the slide presentation is running at the Missions in Sierra Leone table in the tower hallway. Also, check out some picture of the new parsonage. There is still some work to be completed on this project, such as plumbing and electricity, but the difference is amazing and on future trips team members may even be able to stay in the guest rooms.

Moving forward... the needs in Sierra Leone and Taiama are always great and hearing about them from our brothers and sisters in Taiama can be overwhelming. The good news... The congregation/community in Taiama and surrounding villages are working on an agricultural project that would provide income for the area and hopefully sustainability for the church. There is also a technical institution being built in this area of Sierra Leone, including an automotive school in Taiama. More information on how First Church can help with either of these initiatives will be communicated in future newsletters and at our display.

One particular need that was shared that we are excited about is the need to paint the church. The Missions in Sierra Leone team is looking into the possibility of a joint effort between First Church and Calvary Church, Taiama to accomplish this task. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please let us know. More information and updates will be provided as they become available.

Finally, we cannot say it enough... THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. We are so blessed to be a part of First Church and this mission, and it would not be possible without you!

Tiffany, Kristin and Sarah

Mission Opportunity for Young Adults

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

To learn more about the Global Missions Fellow program, visit their website at:

<https://www.umcmision.org/Get-Involved/Generation-Transformation/GMF>.

Primetimers Mission Trips

Global Ministries and the Mission Volunteers Office are pleased to offer two great educational and mission service events, one in the Czech Republic and one in Paducah, Kentucky. Both events are designed with less strenuous activities than the traditional UMVIM team. The events will continue to focus on peace and poverty, history and sustainability of resources and living with and loving those of different cultural backgrounds. The dates are September 6 to 16, 2019 to Czech Republic and October 1 to 8, 2019 to Paducah, Kentucky. For registration information and details, see the website at umcmmission.org/primetimers.

Mission Central Annual Gala, April 6

This year's event will feature a Celebration of 2018, Live and Silent Auctions, HUB Person of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. We are pleased to celebrate this year's Volunteer of Year, Patti Herring! She will be recognized at the event at Camp Hill United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 6. If you would like to attend this event or support Mission Central, feel free to contact Dawn Fisher at 717-766-4611, ext. 102 or visit the website at missioncentral.org. Come out to support Mission Central and celebrate Patti Herring! Mission Central is the mission outreach project of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Their mission is "Connecting God's Resources with Human Need."



Relationship Builder

Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, April 23 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Hardwood Café' under the balcony. Pastor John Shellenberger will present "The Dirt on Downsizing a Garden." Please contact Janice Bowen (717-766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

Lenten Lunches sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches

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

April 3	St. Luke Episcopal Church	717-766-5182
April 10	Shiremanstown Unithed Methodist Church	717-737-6621

Broad Street Community Dinner Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who made BBQ and helped with the Community Dinner at Broad Street on March 7. The staff and families of Broad Street appreciate our support!

Free Tax Preparation!

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

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

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

Food Trucks Return for 2019!

We are pleased to announce the return of the Third Friday Food Trucks at First Church, starting May 17 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. There will be 6 to 7 trucks scheduled for each month. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors, build relationships, and enjoy great food! The trucks scheduled for May are Mad Dash, Soul Burrito, Up in Smoke, It's All Greek, Lucky Penny Burger Co., Sugar Whipped and Kona Ice.

We can always use help with set up, clean up and parking lot attendants. If you would like to help in any way, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. See you in May!

Re-Creation Returns in June!

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



Generous Giver

Financial Report—through February 28, 2019

17% of year

General Fund

2019 budget	\$ 970,000	
Expected income	\$ 167,900	
Actual income	\$ 131,749	(14% of budget)
Surplus	\$ -36,151	
Actual expenses	\$ 143,389	(14.7% of budget)

Similar to the start of 2018, income has been slow this winter. Expenses are favorable to budget.

The Endowment Fund

God will provide. God has planted a seed in the hearts of many generous contributors to the Endowment Fund since its creation in 2008. These gifts to the Endowment Fund embodied a deep and earnest desire to be faithful to the missions of First United Methodist Church through a plan where the gifts are permanent in a perpetuity fund and the earnings are used for mission grants.

Based on the fund structure, the Endowment Committee’s responsibility is to protect the principle and generate sufficient earnings for mission grants. All gifts are welcomed, regardless of the amount and frequency. Gifts may be sent to the church, placed in the offering plate, gift annuities, bequest in a will, life insurance policy beneficiary, and memorial gifts.

Thank you for supporting The Endowment Fund.

All questions and/or suggestions are welcomed by any member of the Endowment Committee.

Bob Wertz, Sr.

Endowment Committee Chair

Support First Church Bell Choir

Sub/Sandwich Sale! Sunday, April 14 - pick up between 9:15 am - noon! Orders may be given to any bell choir member or may be placed in the binder on the Information Desk! Orders are due by Wednesday, April 3.

Also, you won’t want to miss our 10th annual **Spaghetti Dinner** to be held Saturday, April 27. Tickets will be available from any bell choir member, at the Info Desk sign-up sheet, or at the door. If you haven’t had a chance to dine with us for this Italian evening, you don’t know what you’re missing!

Women's Ministry

Any and all women are invited to participate in upcoming events and activities. This page gives you an overview of all the ways to connect. More information can be conveniently found in other parts of the newsletter or feel free to contact the person involved with the event. The Women's Ministry Facebook page has been created! Look for it on our FB page titled "First Church Women's Ministry" and feel free to join!

United Methodist Women

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton ~ swalton54@comcast.net
meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick ~ marleyannrichard@gmail.com
meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

Joan Mains ~ mains.joan@yahoo.com
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Hoss's in
Mechanicsburg

COVERED IN LOVE

Sandy Bennetch ~ dsebennetch@comcast.net
meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 in
Fellowship Hall

SQUARES AND PRAYERS

Nancy Eddy ~ naeddy3@aol.com
meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

Mary Helm ~ mthelm4@yahoo.com
meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Tower
Meeting Room

Other Opportunities to Connect

DAY OF PAMPERING

Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net

LADIES' OVER 80 TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com

September 18

MOMS IN PRAYER

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

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Next meeting April 12 at 9:15 am
Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net

ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)

Margaret Paredes ~ 4paredesfam@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room
Lisa Lynch ~ lisaloveszumba2@gmail.com
Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room

Upcoming Events:

July 11 to 13 Mission U 2019

Join us as we take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, learn about Our Faith Response to our Money and hear the inspiring story of women organized for mission, July 11 to 13, Bucknell University. Express Day is July 27 at Chambers Hill UM Church. All women are invited to attend. New this year, WAR (Women at Risk) will be selling items during the breaks. For details and scholarship information, contact Lori Hoffnagle, First Church UMW President at outreach@fumchurch.com.

August 17 Annual Yard, Book and Bake Sale, 8:00 am to noon

November 24 World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

December 14 Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thank you to the members of the **Covered in Love** Knitting Circle for their beautiful knitted baby items donated to Capital Area Pregnancy Center!

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men of First Church

New Video Series starting in May! All men are welcome to join the men's monthly small group meetings as we begin a new video series in May. On Wednesday, May 15 the men will begin watching and discussing the video series, "Kingdom Man" by Dr. Tony Evans. This study challenges men to fully understand their position under God, as well as their position over what God has given them. To kick off the series, any men interested in attending are invited to watch the related movie, "Kingdom Men Rising" which will be shown in late April at a local theater - watch for more information on the location, date and how to get tickets coming soon. The May 15 meeting will be held at the Eaton home from 8-9:30pm, and the series will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, with 6 videos in total. Contact Barry Eaton (theeaton5@verizon.net) or John Bowen (bowenhome720@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like more information. The men's group will not meet in April as the 3rd Wednesday of April is the same date as the FUMC Passion Play.



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, April 6 at 7:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Tool Pool

A directory for any hand or power tools that you may need to borrow for one-time use.
Contact: Don Karns at dekarns@comcast.net

Men's Retreat Recap



Approximately 20 men attended Mt. Asbury in late January for a weekend to relax, reconnect with other men, and learn about new tools that they can use to draw nearer to God. There was a lot of laughter and learning of new vocabulary words at our annual Balderdash game, and we were fed so well, it was difficult to get up from the table after each meal. Highlights from the weekend were spending time out in God's creation appreciating the quiet of the forest and immersing ourselves in it at a much slower pace than how we might ordinarily hike or camp. While a few men of First Church stepped up to lead the 3 teaching sessions, it was the variety of perspectives from all who attended that made for such a rich experience.



Camp Workday

On April 6th there will be a Camp Workday at Mt. Asbury. This is an opportunity for us to give back and help the camp prepare for the coming summer season. This is also a fundraiser for FUM men, and will help us to offset some of the costs for the next time we hold a men's retreat at Mt. Asbury. We will begin at 9:00 with jobs ranging from clearing trails and splitting firewood to painting and cleaning bunk houses. A delicious and hearty lunch will be provided. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information please contact John (bowenhome720@gmail.com). For those who want to get "fueled-up" before you get to work, plan to join us at Brother's Restaurant at 7:30am before we all head over (see info above). There are also 2 other dates of April 27th and May 11th if those suit better.

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to family upon the death of George Yatsky's father, George, on March 18.
- to the family upon the death of Denny & Sally Kauffman's son, John, on March 19.
- to the family upon the death of Devon Betz's mother, Joan Hughes, on March 21.
- to the family upon the death of Roy Kohr on March 21.
- to family upon the death of Donna Nichol's mother, Margaret Monn, on March 25.

Thank you...

We would like to thank the church and our church families for the cards and flowers we received for our anniversary. They were very much appreciated.. Thank you very much. ~ Blessings, Sally and Denny

Thank You!! I can't say that enough! I have enjoyed your kindness for several years and always look forward to the Day of Pampering. I can't imagine the hours of work that goes into the day. It is evident that it is driven by kindness, service, open hearts and God's love. THANK YOU! ~ Sincerely, Mary, Greencastle PA

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you, First Church, for all your prayers and support of Day of Pampering. It was exciting to see several new faces volunteering to help this year. Once again our building was magically transformed into a "spa" for a respite day for women caregivers. Over 80 women were blessed by this Day. Breakfast was served, God was praised, hands were blessed, and lunch was served. Then many received haircuts, massages, blood pressure checks, manicures, prayer and more. The final treats included time to sip a cup of tea and enjoy some chocolate treats, a flower bouquet and a box of valentine chocolates. All of this service and love is shared to remind these women they are loved, appreciated and not alone.

In addition to all this activity, over 40 service providers from the community came to First Church to provide their time and talents to benefit the caregivers who attended Day of Pampering. Once our volunteers got their equipment moved in, they were able to enjoy a light lunch and time in the tea room as well. We have received several comments from community service providers that this is the most organized event they attend. And many are looking forward to coming again. Day of Pampering truly is a mission of opening our hearts and doors to the community we live in. Thank You for your participation in this mission. Without you, there would be no Day of Pampering.

Access Ministries

Special Birthdays

Robert Meck	April 2	Milton Dougherty	May 8
Marilyn Seig	April 2	Annabelle Elder	May 10
Dolores Farr	April 3	Jane Gunder	May 11
Alberta Knause	April 15	Grace Gensler	May 12
Darlene Wilkinson.....	April 17	Donald Heiges	May 16
Ron Handwerk.....	April 18	Vesta Rynard	May 18
Janet Baker	April 25	Helen Kane	May 23
Grace Brandt.....	April 25		

Special Anniversaries

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

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Glenn Covert

FIRST NEWS FIRST
Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting
articles for the **May** issue is

Early submissions always
appreciated!

April 15