



# First News First

August 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church  
of Mechanicsburg

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

## "And Who Is My Neighbor?"

In early July, our youth and adult Sunday school classes were engaged in discussion as part of our summer series by Rev. Mike Slaughter entitled, Change the World. The group made an impressive list of ways that we, as a church, are involved in mission to our neighbors. They identified mission teams close to home and far away. They listed our conference camping program, Mission Central, New Hope, Neighborhood Center, Vacation Bible School, Isaiah 61, Sierra Leone, and partnerships with local schools and community agencies. Beginning July 21, we are making space available in our parking lot for Food Trucks as part of Mechanicsburg Borough's third Friday Family Fun Fest each month. In addition to numerous hands-on missions, we provide significant financial support locally and globally.

During our discussion, I was filled with gratitude for the reach of First Church for Christ. I was also reminded of a challenging book I read a few years ago, The Externally Focused Church. After studying growing churches throughout the country, authors Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson concluded that one of the most effective ways to reach our neighbors with the message of Jesus Christ is through real and relevant acts of service.

Rusaw and Swanson identify four characteristics of *Externally Focused Churches*:

**First, they are convinced that good deeds and good news can't be separated.** They write, "To tell the truth, we must show the truth." It's the model Jesus used. He served. He met needs. People listened. It's not really "church" if it's not engaged in the community through ministry and service.

**Second, they see themselves as vital to the health and well-being of their communities.** They believe that their communities cannot really be healthy without the church's involvement. They recognize that God has placed them in their communities to be salt, light, and leaven.

**Third, they believe that ministering and serving are the normal expressions of Christian living.** Christians grow best when they are serving and giving themselves away to others. The instruction we receive in worship and in small groups and classes is important, but we really cannot grow in Christ if we remain uninvolved in ministry and service.

**Fourth, they are evangelistically effective.** People in these churches don't just "go to church." They make connections with their neighbors by "being the church" to people through love and service.

Reading these characteristics, I am so proud of the external focus of our church. One of our core values as a congregation is *Reaching Beyond. We believe in a commitment to reach, encourage, serve, and connect with our community and beyond.*

Can you imagine the difference it would make in our community if every follower of Christ in every church began loving and serving in a meaningful way? How do you picture yourself demonstrating God's love? What is your next faithful step as an externally focused follower of Christ?

Joining Jesus on the mission field with you,

Pastor Denny

## Worship

Sunday Morning  
Worship Services  
8:15 am & 10:45 am

Sunday School  
9:30 am



### The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disAbilities, their families, friends and care givers.

## Holy Communion

	August 6	Loaves and Chalice
	September 3	Pew Service
World Communion	October 1	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	November 26	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

Note: Gluten-free bread available in the center of the bread plates.

## Music

### August Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

August 6	Stu Diehl
August 13	Kathie Bittenbender Praise Team (10:45)
August 20	Flossie Ryder
August 27	Cello Ensemble Praise Team (10:45)



## Summer Sunday School

During the summer months all adults are invited to participate in either of these two Sunday School class options (from 9:30 – 10:30 am):

1. A combined class is being offered for adults and youth in the Multipurpose room. We are studying *Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus* by Mike Slaughter. Each week we dig into Scripture to learn how Jesus welcomed the stranger, fed the hungry, healed the sick and rescued those in need, then we discuss how we ought to respond to similar problems in our world today. Here is the schedule for the remainder of the summer:
  - **July 30:** Jenna Mengle will share the details of her mission work with Cru
  - **August 6:** Our Youth and adult leaders will share the details of their mission trip to Wasilla, Alaska
  - **August 13:** Graham Bowen will share the details of his summer mission with Cru plus Shawn Rapp will share the details of his summer mission with Coalition for Christian Outreach
  - **August 20:** Lesson on rescuing those in need - God is not in the disaster, but in our response to it!
  - **August 27:** Bethany Robinson and Matt/LeeAnn Herring will share the details of their mission work with Cru
  - **September 3:** Lesson on Going Boldly - You are God's plan for changing the world!

Every Christian is a missionary - Join us as we take action together!

2. The Guyer Class will continue meeting in room 125B in the sanctuary. This is a well-established group of elders in the church who study the United Methodist Quarterly Adult Bible Studies, which are designed to encourage and instruct participants on living a life of faith.

## Summer Sermon Series

### “Legacy: Claiming Our Inheritance” continues...

Every person, in one way or another, leaves a legacy. For what do you want to be remembered? Some give generously to support churches or cancer research or a new building on a college campus. Others found organizations or build businesses that enrich their communities. Financial and institutional legacies make valuable contributions in society, but there is a third, more lasting form of legacy. It's the gifts we pass on to others because of who we are and how we live.

This summer, our sermons will focus on our inheritance from our ancestors whose stories are recorded in the Book of Genesis. They lived thousands of years ago, yet their legacies continue to form our lives and our faith communities today. Claim your inheritance this summer and be inspired to pass it on to others.

<b>August 6</b>	<b>"Laban's Exasperating Commitment"</b>	<b>Genesis 29:15-28 (Communion)</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>"Esau's Extreme Forgiveness"</b>	<b>Genesis 32</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>"Joseph's Extravagant Love"</b>	<b>Genesis 45:1-15</b>

Did you miss a Sunday? To listen to a sermon recording, go to [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), click “Sermons” on the dropdown menu under “Resources”.

## Finance

### Financial Report—through June 30, 2017

50% of year

#### General Fund

2017 budget	\$ 935,000	
Expected income	\$ 467,500	
Actual income	\$ 464,751	(50% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 2,749	
Actual expenses	\$ 446,382	

### Endowment Fund Continues to Grow, Support First Church

The First Church Endowment Fund, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, continues to grow thanks to the generous support of the congregation.

For the first time, the Endowment Fund generated enough income to be safely withdrawn from the fund and reinvested into the church. Approximately \$11,200 in income will be distributed this year. Of this, \$8,000 is undesignated and will be used to support the following ministries: Family Fun Fest outreach event, mission trips taken by church members, and a new chapter of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). The remaining balance is designated, and will be added to the fund for the restoration of the church’s stained glass windows.

You can help the Endowment Fund grow, now or in the future! Contributions can be made at any time, and in any amount. Support can be provided in many ways.

- Cash contributions
- Gift annuities
- Bequest in a will
- Life insurance policy (First Church as beneficiary)
- Contributions in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones

The Endowment Fund is permanent. Gifts are applied directly to the principal, and invested responsibly to grow the fund. All gifts remain in the principal of the fund in perpetuity. As the principal grows, so does the interest generated. The interest then is available to support the church’s missions and ministries.

If you would like to learn more about the Endowment Fund, please contact Katie Hammaker, committee chair, or either of First Church’s pastors.

## Missions

### 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 **August 16 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at [eking@verizon.net](mailto:eking@verizon.net) for more information.



### Penny Report ~ Now Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway



Help support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any 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. There were 1,260 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,836.96.

**Thank you for another great a month of donations and for your continued prayers and financial support! Let's keep the water flowing.**

### Sierra Leone Update

Please come visit the Sierra Leone table in the tower hallway to see the progress being made on the parsonage rehabilitation, at our sister church, Calvary United Methodist Church in Taiama, Sierra Leone. The parsonage will be used as the official residence for the District Superintendent who also serves as the lead pastor of the church. This building will be used for conferences and hosting of out of town guests visiting the area. Recent correspondence on June 7th from Bishop Yambasu states, "The current work on the Taiama parsonage is fantastic! Many thanks for all your support!" Before and after pictures of the roof are on display on the Sierra Leone table.

The team from First Church, Tiffany Holland and Sarah Jones, will be visiting Calvary Church in November to spend a few ministry days visiting the village, sharing meals, teaching Sunday School, documenting and reporting the progress on the parsonage and worshipping with the community. This visit will further connect our congregation to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Taiama. As part of that connection we are asking for help in several ways:

- **Funding:** We will hold a few fundraising events to support the team. These include a letter writing project to the congregation in Taiama – send a letter, a picture, etc, and donate the "postage" to get it to Africa. The goal is to make a personal connection with our brothers and sisters at Calvary Church. We will also have a spot at the UWM yard sale on August 19. Donations are appreciated!
- **Dresses for girls:** We are sending 50 tee shirt dresses for the church to distribute as needed. We are collecting tee shirts (small and medium) in pastel colors, and colorful pillowcases for our First Church seamstresses to magically transform the shirts and pillowcases into a suitable dress for little girls. Watch for a collection bin for the tee shirts and pillowcases. Thank you so much to the Martha Circle for making this happen!
- **Hats for boys:** We are sending knit hats for the children handmade by our Covered in Love and Knit@Nite groups. If you are a knitter, feel free to join them in making the hats or donate yarn for the project.
- **Prayers:** We covet your prayers for Tiffany and Sarah in the planning of their upcoming visit. As the letter from our coordinator, Smart Senesie, in Sierra Leone states: "Thanks for your mail and your intention to come back home in October. We are more than happy to receive you. Pray that God's divine power will see you through the preparations."
- **Check out the interactive display, now thru September 10th, on the Sierra Leone table.** You will be able to learn more about the people in Taiama. Meet Reverend Conteh and Kaille. Meet Samuel and Margaret, who are not only Sunday School teachers but also teachers at the UMW school in town! Meet Alice, who is not only a RN, but also the president of the UMW at Calvary. Also meet the youth leader and find out their passions. Every other week answers to that week's questions will be filled in the blanks. Take a form to fill out the answers as we march thru the summer months! Who says you can't learn new things in the Summer

MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2017

jenna.mengle@cru.org

May, June &  
July:

Cru summer  
mission: around the  
world!



Our group had dinner at the Ebsen's home once a week. They are the full-time missionary family there with 3 adorable kids!



The 3 beautiful girls I got to meet with one on one, and personally do ministry with this summer!



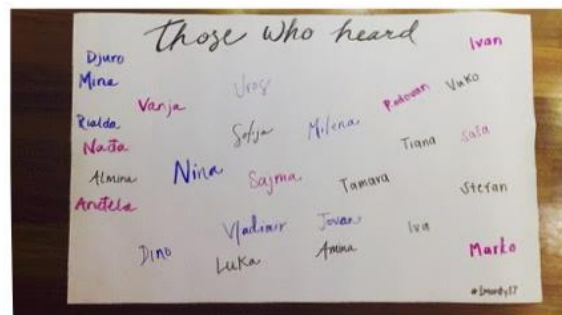
Jocelyn, Kelsey, myself, Kathryn, Carrie, Cheyenne and Hannah after walking 77 flights of stairs for a beautiful view of Monty!

## Hello, from Miami to Montenegro and back!



(above) This is a photo from the Montenegrin church we attended. It was all in Montenegrin, with an english translator. The final week, it was 104F. What a testament to these believers to go to church not for comfort but to learn about Jesus & be in community! 20 of us Americans were there, so the church is very small & is the only known, Jesus following church in Montenegro.

(below) names of Montenegrin students who had the opportunity to hear that Jesus lived, died, and conquered the cross for them. Prayerfully as each expressed, they will connect with our full time team in the fall to continue to explore their faith.



### May: Graduation:

My 2 senior students that I met with one-on-one have begun their jobs and adjusting to 'the real world.' Thank you for praying for their transition period. If you could specifically pray for friendships to develop in their new environments, I know it would bless them!

### June: Montenegro in a nutshell:

Wow! What a trip! I couldn't possibly explain our 35 days overseas in a single letter. There are endless stories, God-moments and praises. Summer mission is one of my favorite things that Cru does. It's an incredible opportunity that I haven't seen replicated in many spheres. Leading 21 students to this foreign country was no small task. We surely had our adjustments with time-change, culture shock and language barriers. However, **the Lord is so good.** We had an incredible trip. Some highlights are below. **Thank you so much for your prayers,** they were felt as we saw the Lord move both in our group, and in the students we got to meet.

Tiana was just stepping off her bike on campus when Carrie and I approached her. We introduced ourselves and invited her to a fun day we had planned for Saturday. None-the-less, Tiana met our group at the train station Saturday morning with her boyfriend, Vladimir. We got to know her and become friends. The following week, we had coffee 3 times to talk about life, beliefs and life in Montenegro. Her honesty, spiritual interest and loyalty blew me away. Tiana and Vlad are interested in getting involved in the Montenegro Cru movement come the fall. I am **amazed** at how the Lord has prepared her heart. Will you pray they come to understand what it means to become a Christian?



Katrina, myself, Vladimir, Tiana, Hannah and Kelsey at our good-bye party!

Tatjana is a Montenegrin that became a Christian about 2 years ago with Cru. Since, she has been reading the bible, learning about Christ's character and is so excited for Americans to continue to come and minister alongside her. I had the privilege of leading bible study with her. Her life change is amazing and incredibly encouraging. She is a huge blessing in welcoming us as we come. She helps with language and the best ways to reach her peers.



Celebrating Tatjana's 23rd birthday with cake!



In our first week there, we went to a village in the mountains called Lubnice. We cleaned up trash around the river (our only warning was to look out for snakes...), ate authentic Montenegrin food, went on a 5 hour scenic hike (yes..5 hours!), ate lunch with a herd of sheep, and



spent the night with host families (who spoke no English at all). **What an adventure** it was to bless these families and see traditional living on the countryside.

Over the summer, we got to interact with hundreds of students in many different places in their spiritual journey. I was **AMAZED** by how the trip went. Through changed plans, culture and travel, our students were quick to smile and adapt. **The Lord grew them in ways I could not have imagined!** Leaving after the trip was hard after living in such close fellowship for 5 weeks with indescribable experiences. The Lord truly grew my heart, and the girls' hearts I met with for the world.

### July: I'm home in Mechanicsburg!

Upon returning from Montenegro, I moved out of my Oxford apartment and will be living with my parents until reporting to Italy on the 1st of September. This month, I'd love to share a meal and some stories about the Lord with any of you in the area, please text or email me if you'd be up for it. Also, please don't miss the dessert invite on the right!

### Montenegro summer mission was...

"an incredible opportunity to share the gospel, learn to walk in the Holy Spirit, and choose to step out of our comfort zone in order to reach out and love others well. It was so special getting to learn and grow amongst an encouraging community"

" a sweet summer filled with growing in community and creating lasting friendships with Montenegrin students searching for hope and truth."

"an amazing experience where I learned how to take steps of faith in sharing Jesus Christ with Montenegrins while also enabling me to grow in ways I never thought possible in such a short time "

Your faithfulness and generosity keep me praising God for you in my life. I cannot imagine this journey without a team of 75 behind me! *with love,*

*Jenna*

### Praise the Lord:

- 27 Montenegrin students heard the life-altering gospel in totality, giving them a chance to begin following Jesus personally.
- Safe travels, lots of laughs, and SO MUCH growth on summer mission
- Hannah, Carrie and Kelsey, my 3 disciples for the summer grew more than I could imagine, and we became sweet friends that I know I'll have for a life-time!

### Prayer requests:

- Each of the names from the above picture to continue their spiritual interest. Many of them have never heard of Jesus and a typical time-line for students from another culture to become a Christian is over 1 year.
- Continued growth for our students from summer mission. They learned and grew tremendously in community, but can become discouraged adjusting back to American culture. Pray for encouragement, endurance and to continue to be in fellowship with one another.

### You're invited!

If you're in the Mechanicsburg area, my parents are hosting a dessert for all of my team on July 30th @ 6pm. Come share in some Montenegrin snacks and allow me to express my thanks to you for your support!

## From the Director of Outreach

Stay Connected!

Make sure to stay connected with everything happening at First Church, so that you don't miss out on important information and events!

- Sign up for the weekly Prayer Letter. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to sign up.
- Like us on Facebook at First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA. We didn't get to our goal of 500, so make sure to Like us now!
- Pick up the monthly First News First newsletter at the Welcome Desk or view it on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com).
- View the weekly bulletin on our website under the 'Resources' tab.
- Check your church mailbox on a regular basis.
- Watch the video screen in the Main Entrance hallway for upcoming events.
- Check out the Bulletin Board (near the alley entrance) for community and church events and feel free to share the mini posters with others!

If you have any questions about how to share information or stay connected, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).



### The Food Trucks are coming!

First Church has been asked to host gourmet food trucks the third Friday of the month, in partnership with the Borough of Mechanicsburg. The trucks, which were previously located in Harrisburg, will be located in our parking lot and be open from 5 to 9 p.m. starting Friday, July 21st and continuing through October. We welcome this opportunity to invite our neighbors and friends to our parking lot for good food and to share upcoming events at our church. Join us at Third Friday Food Truck Feast and meet our neighbors! If you have any questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle, Director of Outreach at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### Mechanicsburg Community Day

Join us on Saturday, August 12 for Community Day at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Church is one of the local churches sponsoring the pool to be free of charge and we will have a Castle Bounce House and face painting! Visitors can also enjoy music from local bands, food trucks, Washington Fire Company chicken barbeque, and a special exhibition of a baseball game from the 1860's. Enjoy a fun day at the park and stop by to see us!

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## Discipleship

### Looking Ahead...

Our annual "Fall Kick-Off Sunday" is coming up on September 10th and you won't want to miss these special opportunities for discipleship, fun and fellowship with your church family:

- Regular Sunday School classes resume that morning at 9:30 am (look in the September 10th bulletin for more detailed information)
- Our church picnic begins at 3:30 pm at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion. Come to play and stay for the pot-luck supper at 5 pm, followed by outdoor worship as the sun sets on a beautiful day! Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Also bring your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company!

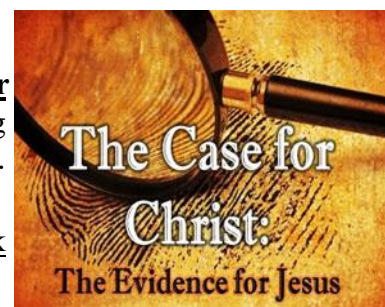


### Coming This Fall:

#### New Sermon Series and Small Group Study!

Is there evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the son of God? **Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us** as we journey together, along with New York Times journalist Lee Strobel, on a quest for the truth about Jesus. There are many ways to participate in this journey:

- **SIGN UP NOW** at the display in the main lobby if you would like a book to read in August – this is a great summer read! Books are just \$5.00.
- **SIGN UP DURING AUGUST** if you are interested in the 4-week small group study that goes along with the sermon series. The sermon series begins in early September and small groups will meet each week following the sermon. See the display in the main lobby to sign up for an existing group or start your own group!
- **COME AND SEE THE MOVIE** at First Church this fall (keep your eye out for more details in the weeks to come). This movie is rated PG and the runtime is 112 minutes. Bring your friends, neighbors and co-workers!

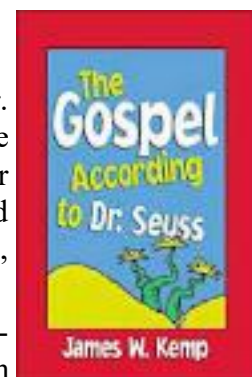


Questions? Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611, extension 104.

## Children's Ministry

The Children's Department is excited to announce "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss" as the curriculum for Wonderful Wednesday this fall! "The stories of one of the world's most beloved children's authors are both imaginative and entertaining. But a closer look at Dr. Seuss's stories reveals that many are also inspirational. In this accessible and immensely enjoyable resource, Kemp finds parallels between the actions of cats in hats, Grinches, Snitches, Sneetchas and other "creachas" with the lessons found in Scripture."

We have received a grant from Community Aid to lower the registration cost, therefore, we expect a higher enrollment in the program this fall. There are many short-term opportunities to serve, so please consider sharing your time and talents with the children. All the curriculum and materials are provided. If you have questions or want to sign up to help, please contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).





## Library

August has long been called the dog days of summer. I always thought that referred to the heat, but I decided I better check and was surprised to find out it is from Ancient Greece and the stars. The dog star Sirius would rise late in July and early August just before the sun and since it was the hottest time of the year it was thought to signal sickness, war, and catastrophe. But I think I like the phrase better as my grandparents used it as “just too hot for even the dog to move”. In keeping with the dog theme, I have a few new series for you to try with a the central characters as dogs.

Dan Walsh has always been know as a writer with a heart for people and now I have found he also loves animals. His new series is A Forever Home and kicks off with Rescuing Finley. When the book opens, Finley and his owner Chas are best friends. When Chas joins the military, his mother agrees to take Finley even though she isn’t really a dog person. But when Chas is killed in a helicopter accident, she knows she can’t continue to keep Finley. It breaks her heart because she feels like she is giving the last part of her son away. Fortunately she takes him to a shelter that provides dog to incarcerated women to train as service dogs for disabled vets. Read this book to find out how Finley and his big heart rescue three people.

Finding Riley is about the Mitchell family who lose their beloved pet during their vacation. Riley is wanders in to a homeless camp and fortunately one of the homeless people know about how animals can be identified with the chip system. Meanwhile the dog trainer from the first book, Kim Harper, has been approached to train more rescue dogs for homeless people. Find out Riley is reunited with his family and how more rescued animals rescue people.

If your children love animal books, the library is offering a new series called simply Animal Rescue. Each book focuses on a different animal from horses, cats and dogs.

We would like to thank everyone who donated books or bought books at our annual sale. This has helped us with supplying out new children’s area and also keeping the best of Christian fiction on our shelves.

See you in the library!

Pam and Donna

## Health and Wellness

### August Blood Drives

August 5	9 am to 12 pm	Grace UMC, 216 S. Market St., 17055
August 8	3 pm to 7 pm	Denny’s on the Carlisle Pike
August 11	8 am to 7 pm	Fox Center, 120 S. Filbert St., 17055
August 12	10 am to 2 pm	Zimmerman’s Automotive, 2234 S. Market St., 17055
August 17	3 pm to 7 pm	Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike
August 19	2 pm to 6 pm	Appalachian Harley Davidson, 6695 Carlisle Pike, 17050
August 22	10 am to 2 pm	One Sterling Place, 100 Sterling Parkway, Suite 302 (Modjeski & Masters), 17050
August 25	5 pm to 9 pm	Williams Grove Speedway, 1 Speedway Dr., 17055 (you do not need to attend the races to attend the blood drive)
August 25	3 pm to 7 pm	Rita’s Italian Ice, 5204 Simpson Ferry Rd., 17055

## Congregational Care

### Share the Harvest

How's your summer garden growing? If you have any extra you would like to share, please bring your flowers, fruits or vegetables to the counter area (near the coffee prep area, right hand turn at end of Main Entrance hallway) anytime this summer. If you do not have access to a garden, but would enjoy some fresh produce, please feel free to help yourself! "Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless." Isaiah 58:7. If you have questions, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 766-4611, ext. 112.



### Senior Fellowship ~ August 15, 1-3 pm

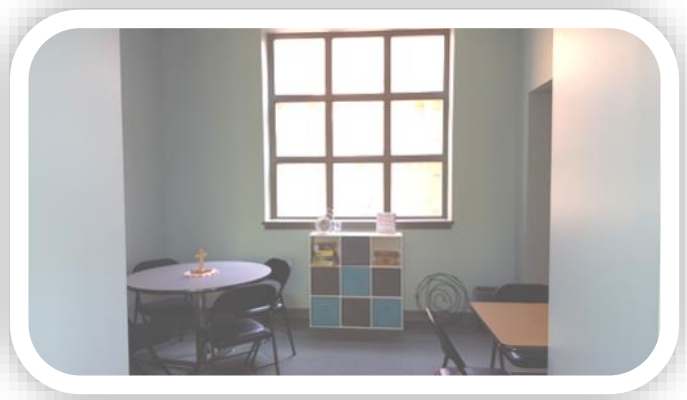
All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Jeff Hoffnagle, will join us, along with some youth from our Confirmation Class, to visit and share in a game of Jeopardy!

Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) for more information.



### First Connections: Open House - Thursday afternoon, September 14

We are very excited to welcome you into the newly renovated gathering place we are creating here at First Church in the 'Tower Meeting Room!' If you find yourself feeling cooped-up at home, perhaps feeling lonely and wishing for the company of others, then we invite you to check out First Connections! The intention is to offer a comfortable place to simply spend time visiting, while some activities will also be available for those who are interested (puzzles, cards, service projects, adult coloring, etc.) Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611 x 112.





## **New MOPS Group Begins This Fall!**

Raising children is both beautiful and challenging, and having a network of other moms to lean on is a life-giving part of God's plan! That's why Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) connects moms to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together.

A new MOPS group will begin meeting monthly at First United Methodist Church on Friday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 – 11:15 am. MOPS provides a welcoming and open environment where every mom can grow through mentoring and leadership development. Here are the basic elements of every group meeting:

- Fellowship time over a light breakfast
- Valuable teachings/lesson time
- Small group discussion time
- Encouragement and support from mentor moms
- Christian devotions to take away and apply to everyday life
- Safe, secure and loving care for children with experienced childcare providers

Greeters will be on-hand that morning to welcome moms and assist them in getting children to their classroom for childcare. Please contact Tina Eaton by September 10<sup>th</sup> if you plan to come so that adequate childcare can be pre-arranged. You can contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611, extension 104.

The local fee for this group is just \$20.00 per semester (fall/spring) to help cover childcare and other miscellaneous expenses, and the MOPS registration fee is \$31.95 for the entire 2017/18 school year. Scholarships are available. Registration gives you access to:

- Any MOPS group (4000 worldwide!)
- A guidebook/personal journal to help transform your year
- A beautiful beaded bracelet that reflects the annual MOPS theme
- An annual subscription to MOPS Magazine, delivered to your doorstep each quarter
- Weekly emails on what moms are talking about – parenting, womanhood, marriage and so much more
- Exclusive downloads from MOPS favorite musical artists, authors, working moms, and culture influencers
- Plenty of other surprises that'll cause spontaneous smiles!

In between monthly meetings, fun outings/play-dates, creative projects and/or service opportunities will be organized for those who are interested.

If you are the mother of a young child, you won't want to miss this special opportunity so join today!

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## FUM Circles

*New Members are always welcome!*

### **DEBORAH CIRCLE**

Sandy Walton ~ 790-9131 or [swalton54@comcast.net](mailto:swalton54@comcast.net)  
meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

### **MARTHA CIRCLE**

Marley Ann Schmick ~ 697-2233  
meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

### **MARY CIRCLE**

Janice Bowen ~ 796-0809 or [jjgbowen@yahoo.com](mailto:jjgbowen@yahoo.com)  
meets the 4th Monday of the month

### **RUTH CIRCLE**

Joan Mains ~ 697- 8235  
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Hoss's in  
Mechanicsburg

### **COVERED IN LOVE**

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

### **SQUARES AND PRAYERS**

Tammy Snyder ~ 439-0355 or [tamsnyde@gmail.com](mailto:tamsnyde@gmail.com)  
meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

### **KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME**

Mary Helm ~ [mthelm4@yahoo.com](mailto:mthelm4@yahoo.com)  
meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in Room B002

### **2017 Events:**

- August 19** UMW Yard, Book and Bake Sale to benefit local missions
- October 7** First Church hosts the Harrisburg District UMW Annual Day
- October 14** Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Camp Hill UMC
- November 19** World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

Contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430 with questions about any of these above UMW events

### **Annual Yard/Bake/Book Sale**

We are still looking for your donated items to sell at the UMW Yard Sale! Drop off your treasures to Room 105 the week of the sale (August 14 to 18). If you have questions about what to donate, please contact Donna Nichols at [djnichols43@hotmail.com](mailto:djnichols43@hotmail.com). All proceeds benefit women, children and youth.

We are still collecting school supplies for the sale. Drop off pencils, glue sticks, crayons, blunt scissors and erasers in the marked box outside the multipurpose room.

Do you like to bake? If so, we would love your baked goods to sell at the Yard Sale. Some people come to the Yard Sale just to buy the home made baked goods! If you want to donate, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

Little Friends Nursery School

# Playground Resurfacing Project



Chris Sims, LFNS Director  
Renee Thomas

717-766-4611  
rthomas816@gmail.com

Meet Roland. This is my smiling, blond hair and blue-eyed youngest son. He is the loudest, happiest three-year-old kid in his class; he also happens to have Cerebral Palsy and is a wheelchair user. Roland is the most determined little dude! In our family we say, "Roland will do everything his brother Niles does, it just may look a little different." As a family, we've golfed, skied, hiked, and vacationed.

As the weather warmed up last summer, I realized Roland would not be able to play on his preschool playground with his wheelchair because the surface is currently covered in wood chips, the least accessible ADA compliant material.

My family and I, in partnership with the Little Friends Nursery School and the Mechanicsburg First United Methodist Church ask for your support in our fund-raising efforts to replace the current surface with poured in place rubber. Our goal is to make the playground accessible for Roland by September 2017 and all kiddos with a disability who will attend Little Friends in the future. We are seeking to raise \$20,000 through corporate and community sponsorships and online and in person community fundraising.

Roland is known all over school and town for his green light up wheels. Let's get those wheels lighting up the playground!

Let 'em Roll!  
Roland's mom – Renee Thomas

To donate online:  
<https://www.youcaring.com/littlefriendsplayground>

Make Checks Payable to:  
Little Friends Nursery School  
% Playground Project  
135 West Simpson St  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



SO WE'RE HOPING YOU'LL HELP US LET 'EM ROLL

## Church News and Notes

### *Love & sympathy...*

to the family upon the death of Nicholas Vogl on June 24.  
to the family upon the death of Luis Gabela on June 25.

### *Thank yous...*

Dear Friends at First Church,

Diane, Philip, and I want to thank you all for the very wonderful retirement reception on June 25! It was a wonderful morning and the fellowship and kind words were much appreciated. The beautiful spread of pies was a site to behold!

Thanks to everyone, too, for all the notes, cards, the gift certificate to a fine restaurant, and the monetary gift from the congregation and others as well. All the cards, notes, and well wishes were very gracious and overwhelming.

First Church is a wonderful place because you all are so thoughtful and generous. You have great leadership and congregation full of devoted members. So, keep up the good work and may God fill you to overflowing with his love.

Pastor Dave (now retired!)

### **Special Birthdays**

Grace Koser .....	August 2	Bill Neumyer .....	September 4
Jane Heller .....	August 3	Emma Whitcomb ....	September 8
Helen Kelly.....	August 10	Ken Nelson .....	September 13
Doris Sweger .....	August 11	George Rehfluss.....	September 16
Pauline Trace.....	August 12	Lil Thomas.....	September 22
Jo Barth.....	August 27	Ralph Harkins .....	September 25
Victor Norris.....	August 29	Bill Seig .....	September 27
		Peggy Shenberger ...	September 28

### **Special Anniversaries**

- ♥ Don & Barb Shover married 59 years on August 2
  - ♥ Tom & Jeanne Mullikin married 51 years on August 6
  - ♥ Fred & Doris Junkins married 51 years on August 9
  - ♥ John & Dolores Shell married 63 years on August 15
  - ♥ Harry & Joyce Woods married 64 years on August 23
  - ♥ Jerry & Patricia Sheely married 59 years on August 24
  - ♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 54 years on September 1
  - ♥ Richard & Alberta Knause married 67 years on September 2
  - ♥ Ed & Ginny Johnson married 53 years on September 3
  - ♥ Darrell & Barbara Sill married 50 years on September 16
  - ♥ Milt & Dolly Dougherty married 67 years on September 23
  - ♥ George & Mary Beth Snoke married 51 years on September 24
  - ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 53 years on September 26
  - ♥ Paul & Lorraine Strock married 64 years on September 27
-

## Church Staff

### SENIOR PASTOR

**Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller**  
766-4611 ext. 103  
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

### ASSISTANT TO SENIOR PASTOR\*\*

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### YOUTH PASTOR

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**Jody Brinley**  
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### ORGANISTS\*

**Gail Leinhos**  
**Tom Mullikin**  
**Seth Wickenheiser**

### YOUTH CHOIR/SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR\*

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### PRAISE TEAM\*

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ometz@msn.com    traceintune80@gmail.com

### INTERIM JUNIOR CHOIR\*

**GERI NUSS**

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS\*

**Lorette Cale**  
lorettecale@gmail.com

### DIRECTOR OF LITTLE FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL\*

**Chris Sims**  
lfns@fumchurch.com

\*PART-TIME

\*\* JOINING US LATER THIS YEAR

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
Editor: Kristin Brown

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

**August 15**

Early submissions always  
appreciated!

