



First News First

December 2016

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

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

Be Near Me, Lord Jesus

The first two verses of the beloved Christmas carol, "Away in a Manger," depict an idyllic scene surrounding our Savior's birth. The little Lord Jesus is asleep in a feeding trough. His sweet head rests comfortably on a soft bed of hay. The stars in the sky look down on the whole scene. Lowing cattle awaken the baby, but he doesn't make a sound. This treasured carol makes for a nice lullaby in the nursery, but we know that, in the real world everything was not so quiet, so neat, so tidy.

However, before we simply put this carol aside, I want to take a look at the third stanza, which was not included until seven years after the original song was printed. This stanza conveys to us both a gift and a task.

*"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there"*

First, the gift. The title of this carol emphasizes the place of Jesus' birth and the fact that it was *away* from the comfort of an inn, but this stanza, or prayer, begins by asking Jesus to be *near* us. And, of course, God is drawing near to us by taking on human flesh — not in the comfort of a hospital or even by skipping the whole baby thing, but as a helpless newborn child born in the muck of a manger.

And even though that baby grew up, was crucified, then resurrected, and eventually ascended into heaven, he is still with us. As Jesus says in Matthew 28:20, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." And in John 14:16, as his earthly ministry is about to end, Jesus says, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever." This carol reminds us that Jesus is close by us forever, and he loves us no matter what. What a wonderful gift!

Second, the task. The third line asks Jesus to bless all his dear children. The songwriter is probably referring to "bless" in the sense of conferring well-being or prosperity on someone. However, the word "bless" also conveys a sense of sacrifice. The baby in the manger will bring peace and reconciliation with God and our fellow human beings through the cross.

The songwriter asks Jesus to bless *all* his dear children — even the ones born in the muck of today's "mangers." Even the ones who are different from us. He reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's love as revealed to us in Christ. When we ask Jesus to bless *all* the dear children we are taking up the task of joining with Jesus in bringing peace and reconciliation in this world. This is a task we carry out in our day to day relationships within our families and among our friends and neighbors. We also extend Christ's blessing through giving to support missions locally and beyond.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

This Christmas remember that the One who was born "away in a manger" is forever near to you. May his loving Spirit so dwell in you, that you join in his great mission. What is your part in blessing *all* the dear children in his tender care?

I love you and there's nothing you can do about it!

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

Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00 December 24 Loaves and Chalice

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

Advent & Christmas Service and Event Schedule

December 4 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Holiday Harmony Concert 7:00 pm

Holiday Harmony ~ The music department invites you and your family to Holiday Harmony on Sunday evening, December 4, at 7:00. The various choirs and musicians of First Church are excited to bring you a Christmas program of beautiful and meaningful music. We look forward to seeing you there!

December 11 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Service of Hope and Remembrance 7 pm

Service of Remembrance and Hope ~ We would like to invite those who are missing their loved ones this holiday season to join us for a special Sunday evening service during which we will gather to remember and honor the memory of our cherished family and friends. Light refreshments will be served following the service. Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.

December 15 Little Friend's Nursery School Christmas Program 9:15 am

December 18 4th Sunday in Advent Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Christmas Caroling 5 pm

Christmas Caroling ~ Calling Christmas Carolers of all ages! We invite you to enjoy a covered dish dinner (5 pm) before heading out in groups (5:45 pm) to share Christmas carols with members of our homebound community. No singing experience or talent necessary, just a desire to spread Christmas cheer! Treat yourself to cookies and hot cocoa in Fellowship Hall upon your return.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 pm ~ *Family Service* ~ Designed for families of all ages, but especially sensitive to families with young children. Will conclude with candle lighting.

8 pm ~ *Service of Christmas Eve Simplicity* ~ Designed as a quiet, prayerful service for individuals and families. Simplicity marks this service with instrumental music, Communion, Prayer Time and a brief candle lighting service.

11 pm ~ *Festival Service of Light and Wonder* ~ Includes Holy Communion, lessons and carols, music by our choirs, and candle-lighting.



December 25	Christmas Day	Worship 10 am
January 1	New Year's Day	Worship 10 am

Cookie Donations Welcome!

In the mood to bake? Have a favorite cookie recipe to share? We welcome your cookie donations to serve at our special events planned for Sunday evenings in December (Holiday Harmony, Service of Remembrance, and Christmas Caroling). Donations may be placed in the church kitchen at your convenience. Questions? Janice Bowen – wecare@fumchurch.com or 766-4611 x112.

Be Renewed by The Word

*Your Word I have treasured in my heart,
that I may not sin against You.”*
– Psalm 119:11

There is no better way to begin our year than in rededicating ourselves to the Word of the Lord and to treasure it in our hearts.



When the Book of the Law was found in the rubble of the temple, King Josiah gathered all the Israelites to hear the reading of this forgotten Word (2 Chronicles 34:30). Similarly, Nehemiah read the Word after rebuilding the wall and in celebration of their resurrected city (Nehemiah 8:2-3). Ezra did the same:

“Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God.” –Nehemiah 8:18

Just as the people in the Biblical time gathered to hear the reading of God's Word from start to finish so can we! On average the Word of God, from beginning to end, can be read aloud in 70 hours. So let's do just that! Sign up to help read through the Bible at the start of 2017.

Sign up in the main lobby to help us read during December 26 - January 6

Come Read.

Come listen.

Come.

Finance

Financial Report—through October 31, 2016

83% of year

General Fund

2016 budget	\$ 890,000	
Expected income	\$ 741,667	
Actual income	\$ 746,799	(84% of budget)
Surplus	\$ 5,132	
Actual expenses	\$ 699,324	
Building Fund	\$ 13,846	
Legacy Campaign	\$ 3,230	

Work has already started on the 2017 budget. The Finance Committee will take the results of Consecration Sunday into account when finalizing the 2017 budget for adoption at the December 19 Administrative Board meeting.

Endowment

For many, Advent is a joyous season as we prepare for the Christmas holiday and anticipate the coming of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas is also a popular time to give and receive gifts with our families, friends and others. But as exciting as it can be to receive gifts, here's something to think about: Can you remember three Christmas presents that you received last year? If not, you are not alone. The truth is, most of the presents we receive, though liked and appreciated, are forgotten over time.

This Christmas, why not give a more meaningful, lasting gift that will always be remembered and continue to give well into the future?

Gifts to the First Church Endowment Fund last forever. That's because contributions to it are never spent. They are invested to generate income for future use.

Why not celebrate Christmas by giving a gift to the Endowment Fund? You can make a cash donation now, or a planned gift (e.g., bequest in a will) for the future. All gifts are tax deductible.

If you would like more information on the Endowment Fund, please call or approach Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee Chairperson, or either of First Church's pastors.

Fellowship

Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, December 20th, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to enjoy a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Kathie Bittenbender will join us as we ring in the season with Hand Chimes!



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

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 December 21 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@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 Penny 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 1,902 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,713.60.



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

Neighborhood Center Christmas Tree

It is that time of year again!!! If you do not know the drill--here goes: You will notice a tree somewhere in the coffee area with paper ornaments on it. Take an ornament of your choice, purchase that item and bring it back to place in the box beside the tree-UNWRAPPED. These gifts will bless the those whom the Neighborhood Center serves in the Harrisburg Area. **Return gifts by December 5th**--as that is when they need to be transported to the Center. Thanks for considering this tradition-- the United Methodist Women are proud to offer this program and are always delighted to see its results. Give a gift to someone in need - knowing your Lord so honors that gesture!



New Hope Ministry's Christmas Blessings Express

Again this year, New Hope Ministries is offering Christmas Blessings Express for their families. This is where our guests are able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family. You cannot imagine the difference you can make in these families lives by your willingness to help make their Christmas a special one, full of wonderful memories. Please choose a ornament off the Christmas tree in the Narthex and return the gift to the same area. Thank you for your generosity and love to our neighbors in need. With your support, we can make this Christmas Season filled with Hope and Love. Thanks again...Serving Him together, Debbie



CRU News

Please continue to keep our 4 CRU Missionaries, Matt & LeeAnn Herring, Jenna Mengle and Bethany Robinson, in your prayer. Copies of their current newsletters are located in the literature stand in the narthex and on the following pages.



First United Methodist Church,

One of my favorite things about Cru is how strategic the organization is in reaching lost people with the good news about Jesus.

Our goal is for every student at WCU to know someone who authentically follows Jesus. One of the toughest groups for us to reach are the top leaders on campus. These students are overloaded with work and are striving for success, so most don't feel they have time to have conversations about Jesus with people like Matt and I. We want to reach student leaders on campus so that they might use their platforms to become shining beacons for the gospel in their circle of influence. This is where Cru's strategic planning comes into play.

This semester I've been working with the Cru Mid-Atlantic Regional Office team to put on a two-part strategic outreach called the Executive and Entrepreneurial Leadership Forum (EII Forum), which happened last Wednesday night. We invited three successful Christian businessmen from the Chester County area to speak to the students. The three men were Paul Hunter (CEO of Arvina Marketing), Dave Rivell (Founder of Element Risk Management & Swayne Real Estate), and Todd Pline (Vice President of National Accounts for Allstate Benefits).

The first part of the forum was an invite-only dinner for 30 of the most influential student leaders on campus. The students had the opportunity to network with these businessmen and hear how Jesus has impacted their stories of success. The second part of the forum took place during our large group weekly meeting. Here, the same three men shared real life examples of how to walk with Jesus in the workplace. Afterwards, several students reacted to what had been said:

"Tonight gave me peace about pursuing law school/business career - often I feel (especially as a Christian woman) faith and career are mutually exclusive. I am ecstatic to see how the Lord will use me in the legal profession."

-Junior, Political Science Major

"It was really inspiring to see that it is possible to live out your faith in the business world and that God can use that as a ministry."

- Senior, Business Management Major

"It was amazing to see followers of Jesus fit missionary work into their businesses and keep strong in their faith."

- Junior, Microbiology Major

We are grateful that these men were able to encourage our students to live as missionaries in the workplace.

Thank you for your generous partnership that enables us to help fulfill the great commission here in West Chester.

LeeAnn & Matt

JENNA.MENGLE@CRU.ORG

OCTOBER 2016



| Jenna Mengle | Miami University Cru |

Praises:

We have 60 senior women, 62 junior women, and 120 sophomore women in small group bible studies!

Our Montenegro team has a lot of Montenegrin students taking leadership in their movement.

Our friend Jamie has continued to meet with us and is getting more and more excited about finding God in college.

I was asked to co-lead a group of 20+ students to Montenegro for a summer mission for 5 weeks!

Prayer Requests:

Women on campus would continue to lead and grow in bible studies as the second half of the semester picks up.

IndyCC, our Christmas conference.

Two staff members who have on-going health issues.

Freshman students to be making authentic friendships.

Women I meet with who have eating disorders.



Towards the beginning of the year, a new freshman on campus came to my spinning class. Over the past 2 months, I've run into her several times on campus, through Cru events and had a chance to meet with her over lunch. Please pray Chloe would continue to be curious about Cru, and the different lifestyle our students lead. Spinning has been one of my favorite hours of the week, and I'm so thankful I get to teach!

Sarah is a senior woman who is involved in my bible study and also in color guard. In response to what have you been learning this semester, Sarah said, "I've been learning about the goodness of the Lord in his provisions. For me that is shown in the gift of friendships and fellowships, as I become more bold in talking about my faith, relationship and reliance on the Lord." Sarah is also experience a lot of anxiety about the unknown of the future, what her purpose is post-grad and common pressures of being a senior. Please join me in praying that Sarah would continue to experience deep friendships, peace about her job search and continue to be bold on her color guard team!

Claudia is a sophomore who is learning a lot about taking care of herself as well as leadership. She reached out to me because she was feeling overwhelmed by the bad influences in her sorority and dorm. She is running for a leadership position in her sorority in hopes to be a positive role model. She is also prayerfully considering a spring break with Cru. Please pray with me that Claudia would lead by example, walk out her faith, find Christians to live life with and for her decision for spring break!

Thank you so much for your continued faithful giving, and prayers for our ministry at Miami! Seeing growth in students and future leaders is incredible to be a part of!

gratefully, Jenna





Bethany Robinson
Missionary in the Susquehanna Valley

Mailing address:
1035 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

There has been a ton that the Lord has been revealing to me in my life as an intern for Cru. He is stretching and bending me in ways that I haven't even realized I needed.

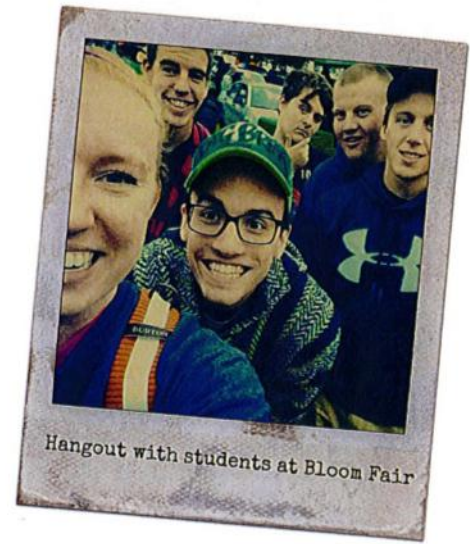
I am very blessed to have such a wonderful team that isn't afraid to point things out that I could use some work on. These areas include listening, being open with students and spending quality time with God.

The way that God created each and every one of us is just beautiful. We are all better at some things and need to work on others. Caleb (fellow intern) does a great job at seeing students needs and being able to direct them to God right away. Dan (fellow intern) does an amazing job at talking to God and giving undivided attention to Him so that he can properly pour into students.

I have been able to learn a lot from them and the gifts that God has given them.

I am quite the talker myself and listening doesn't always come easily. I find silence awkward, so I usually fill the time with talking. God has given me so many opportunities to just listen to students. It hasn't been easy though. Although, I have been so rewarded by this. I have been able to build deeper relationships with students by listening to them more intently.

My prayer life has even been deeper because of these relationships. When the students open up more and more, my prayers for them become more intentional. I love being direct with God and ask Him for big things. He is a powerful God and loves when His children come before Him.



Prayers for being willing to pick up my cross daily and die to myself over and over again for Christ.

Prayers for the strike that is happening at a lot of state schools throughout PA.

Prayers for opportunities to open up to evangelize to people and that I would go when prompted.

Blessings,
Bethany Robinson
Bethany Robinson

Music

November Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

December 4—Sanctuary Choir & Handbells (8:15); Invocation (10:45)

December 11—Sounds of Worship & Handbells (8:15); Sanctuary Choir & Children’s Choir (10:45)

December 18—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Invocation & Youth Choir (10:45)

Ring in the News

We want to thank you for your support of our Thanksgiving pie sale. We made 340 pies! Hope yours were as yummy as ours! Remember in February we’ll be making Cherry and Apple. Look for the order sheets in January!

Now – for the holidays – the bells are participating in the Holiday Harmony Concert here at First Church Sunday, December 4, as well as ringing at several services this month.

Our 12th annual bell concert at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill is Monday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. This year Jon and the harpist are arranging a couple pieces we can play together! There is always a big crowd for this free concert, so come early for a seat!

Remember, we are honored to be led this year by Jon Snyder as he is finishing up his Masters degree in Church Music. Make sure you mark February 19th on your calendars! This is earlier than normal, but you won’t want to miss our annual Bell Concert and the program Jon has put together!

Men’s Winter Retreat February 17-19, 2017

Complete the bottom portion of this form and put in the Bowen church mailbox **before December 21st** and enjoy a great time away for **only \$75**. Registration **after 12/21** will require check for **\$90** made payable to FUMC, with "Men's Retreat" on memo line.* More information regarding directions, carpooling, and what to bring will be sent to you in due course. Contact John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com with any questions.



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

*Deadline for registration will be February 10th

Access Ministry

SAVE THE DATES

January 22, 2017 ~ DisAbility Awareness Sunday. Mark your calendar now to join us in the multi-purpose room during the Sunday School hour when guest speaker, Sib Charles, from the organization Joanie and Friends comes to share about ministry to the disAbleD community. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired to share God's love with all His children.

February 25, 2017 ~ Day of Pampering. Please mark your calendar and prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this amazing ministry. First Church will be turned into a beautiful spa to provide a day of spiritual renewal, gourmet lunch, spa services, and time to connect with other female caregivers. Volunteers are needed for decorating, tea room, cooking, nail painting, and so much more. If you have a few hours to give, please contact Karin McHale at 766-0351.



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton ~ 790-9131 or 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
meets the 4th Monday of the month

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan ~ 697-3554
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month

COVERED IN LOVE

Sandy Bennetch ~ 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
meets Tuesday mornings, 9:00 in Fellowship Hall

KNIT AT NIGHT

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

2017 Events:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 3-5 | Women's Retreat |
| February 12 | Women at Risk presentation during Sunday School |
| April 29 | UMW Baby Shower |

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

Squares & Prayers

The Squares and Prayers Circle will be taking a break during the Christmas holidays beginning December 20 continuing through January. We will be resuming in February on the 1st and 3rd MONDAYS, 9-11 am. We will continue to have quilt tops to sew. We will continue to collect fabric and linens. We appreciate everyone who has donated their time, talent, fabric and linens.



Marketplace of Miracles & Cookie Walk

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

Shop, Learn and Support Great Causes!

Saturday, December 17

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

WAR (Women at Risk) and **She's Somebody's Daughter** will have beautifully handcrafted jewelry for sale.

Change Purse will be selling new or gently used purses, some starting at just \$1.00!

These organizations are dedicated to the education and prevention of human trafficking.

Ten Thousand Villages will have Fair Trade items for sale.

All proceeds benefit the organizations.



First Church **Youth** invite you to purchase and customize your own box of delicious homemade cookies

at the annual **Cookie Walk**. Boxes provided.

Supervised children's activities available!



Your Heart, God's Home

2017 Women's Retreat ~ February 3-5

Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon.

Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals included.

Please make checks payable to **FUMC** with 'women's retreat' in the memo section. Registrations may be mailed to Patti Herring at 613 Lavina Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055 or can be place in the **Scrip Box** near the coffee area. (Please do not place checks in her mailbox). Questions, call Patti Herring at 795-9721 or email at familyzeke@verizon.net. Details will be sent closer to the retreat

Return this portion with your payment

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Allergies or diet restrictions _____

Medications _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Early Bird Registration by 12/31/16 is \$110. After that date, the fee will be \$125. Fees include two-night stay (3 to 4 per room) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. All registrations are due by 1/15/2017.

_____ \$110 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/16)

_____ \$125 registration enclosed (if paying after 12/31/16)

Is this your first retreat? Yes _____ No _____ Special Concerns _____

Library

Most of this fall has been unseasonably warm, but today is chilly and cloudy. Looking at the sky I can envision snow clouds. The sky has inspired me to write the Christmas library article. So I found my 2015 Christmas playlist, lighted the peppermint candle and I am ready—are you? Well, I guess I should admit the only thing I am ready for is writing this newsletter. Like most of you, the mere thought of Christmas on the horizon is scarier than Halloween. So I am going to shepherd you far away in the pages of books.

Every year many of my favorite authors write small novels about Christmas, with heartfelt messages. In this busy time it is so nice to slip away for a bit to replenish your Christmas spirit. Rachel Hauck's **Royal Christmas Wedding** has rated five stars on Amazon as a romantic Christmas story. It is filled with all the elements that made her *Royal Wedding series* so popular--fantasy, family traditions, and of course, fairy tale endings. Avery Truitt and Prince Colin's romance did not have a fairy tale ending. Colin realized as a college student he was too young to have a serious romance, so he broke up with Avery and went home to Brighton Kingdom. Five years later her sister's pregnancy has brought Avery to the Kingdom just in time for Christmas. She knows she can't avoid Colin, but she doesn't know Colin is hoping to win her back. The end is a little inevitable, but it is a lot of fun getting there. Don't miss this wonderful romance. And if you missed the rest of the series, it is waiting on the shelf for you.

Many of you are fans of Karen Kingsbury, the reigning queen of Christian fiction. **A Baxter Family Christmas** is this year's Christmas book. Two years have passed since a terrible car accident took the life of John Baxter's daughter Erin and her husband and three of their four daughters. Now her father wants his family to come together on Christmas Eve to meet Kendra Bryant, the recipient of Erin's heart. Although other members of the family are against the "reunion" and fear Erin's surviving ten-year-old daughter will be upset during Christmas, John believes meeting Kendra is something his deceased daughter would want. Meanwhile Kendra, who has struggled to cope with her second chance at life, believes the invitation to meet the Baxters can instill peace and happiness into her life. This family Christmas story has hope and love that arrive in unexpected ways. Don't miss this incredible read. Oh, and if you have not heard, the Baxter Family is coming to TV as a series. Roma Downey is producing the series but no date has been set.

If neither of these Christmas books interests you, stop in the library and let us help you find a book that is perfect for you.

Merry Christmas!

See you in the library,

Pam & Donna

Youth

Calling All Cookie Bakers!

We are still looking for more bakers and more cookies for the Cookie Walk! Maybe you want to try out a new cookie or stick to grandma's secret recipe. Anything will do! If you are interested in baking, please fill out the form below and place it in cookie jar in the main lobby or give to Lynn Rapp.

2016 Cookie Walk Cookie Baker Sign Up:

Baker's Name: _____

Email: _____ **Best Contact Number:** _____

Cookie Option #1 _____ **Cookie Option #2** _____

Health & Wellness

December Blood Drives

December 1, 10am to 4pm	Technology Park 2020 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg
December 2, 8am to 7pm	Fox Center 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg
December 3, 9am to 12pm	Grace UMC 216 S. Market St. Mechanicsburg
December 4, 8am to 11am	Mechanicsburg VFW 4907 Carlisle Pike Mechanicsburg
December 6, 3pm to 7pm	Denny’s Carlisle Pike
December 7, 5pm to 8pm	Silver Spring Township Holiday Drive at the Silver Spring Township Fire Company 6475 Carlisle Pike Mechanicsburg
December 10, 9am to 1:30pm	New Cumberland First Church of God 323 Reno Ave New Cumberland
December 15, 3pm to 7pm	Buffalo Wild Wings Carlisle Pike
December 20, 3pm to 7pm	The Vitamin Shoppe Carlisle Pike
December 21, 3pm to 7pm	Century 21 Realty Services 3315 Market St. Camp Hill
December 28, 9am to 1pm	Turnpaugh Health & Wellness 310 Lambs Gap Rd. Mechanicsburg

December and January are two of the four critical months for the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank in terms of blood donation and the need for blood. They tend to see lower donor participation during the months of January and December due to things like the holidays and winter weather. Unfortunately, they also tend to see a higher need for blood during these months because there are more incidences that occur. Therefore, they need all the help they can get! If the dates above don’t work for you check their website, www.cpbb.org, for a listing of all community drives by county.



Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the death of Lois Coover on November 9, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of Larry Buddenbaum’s mother, Evelyn Bostic, on November 8, 2016.
- to the family upon the death of Bernadine Florey on November 20, 2016.

Special Birthdays

Joyce WoodsDecember 1	Bill Henschke January 1
Jo NyeDecember 13	Pat Hutter January 3
Helen RitterDecember 13	Winnie Prowell January 7
Dolores ShellDecember 13	Richard Reed January 15
Joan BuechelDecember 17	David Coover January 16
Elaine O’HaraDecember 26	Charles Glessner January 16
Dolly DoughertyDecember 27	Ida Bardell January 21
Sandy CooverDecember 28	Leta Rohlmeier January 23
	Dot Souder January 27
	Margaret Baker January 30

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 56 years on December 10
- ♥ Joe & Carol Moomaw married 51 years on December 24

Church News and Notes

Thank you...

to our church family for all your "gifts" and support. We appreciate it more than words can express. ~
Cathy, Mike & Collin Lehman

To Lois' Church Family,

How can we put into words the feelings that dwell in our hearts. As you know, the past months were a long and arduous journey for Lois. However, her faith never waived and much of her strength came from the love, support, prayers, phone calls, visits and cards that filled her days with peace and hope.

First Church was a very real and constant presence in her life. She looked forward to the visits and prayers of Rev. Keller and Rev. Reed and receiving communion from everyone who ministered to her so faithfully. Each week she eagerly awaited reading the bulletin, prayer concerns, newsletter, and any other information she could find about her church family. Each and everyone of you were special to her in so many ways.

We thank you all for your help, concern and prayers. Your friendship with Lois, and with us, was a treasured gift. We truly appreciate your kindness through this difficult journey. May God's blessings fill your life each day and guide your footsteps as you continue to minister to His children.

Most sincerely,
Howard, Beverly, Brenda
and Family



Church Staff

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller

766-4611 ext. 103

pastordenny@fumchurch.com

ASSISTANT PASTOR*

Rev. Dr. David Reed

766-4611 ext. 117

pastordave@fumchurch.com

YOUTH PASTOR

Lisa Aronson

766-4611 ext. 113

uthrock@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF ADULT MINISTRIES*

Tina Eaton

766-4611 ext. 104

adultministry@fumchurch.com

DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY*

Dawn Fisher

George Canonizado

766-4611 ext. 102

kidscount@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE*

Janice Bowen

766-4611 ext. 112

wecare@fumchurch.com

OFFICE MANAGER/FINANCE SECRETARY

766-4611 ext. 101

Kristin Brown

office@fumchurch.com

INTERIM FACILITIES COORDINATOR*

766-4611 ext. 105

James Paris

facilities@fumchurch.com

CUSTODIANS*

George Canonizado

Matthew Miller

766-4611 ext. 109

maintenance@fumchurch.com

FINANCE DIRECTOR*

Nancy Robinson

766-4611 ext. 115

nrobinson@fumchurch.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/SANCTUARY CHOIR*

Jody Brinley

Brynleawesties@comcast.net

ORGANIST*

Nicholas Werner

nickthoven@yahoo.com

ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR*

Gail Leinhos

leinhosdav@verizon.net

BELL CHOIRS*

Kathie Bittenbender

rbittenben@verizon.net

Jon Snyder

jonsnyde@aol.com

INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR*

Allison Ometz

ometz@msn.com

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS*

Lorette Cale

lorettecale@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF LITTLE FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL*

Chris Sims

lfns@fumchurch.com

**PART-TIME*

FIRST NEWS FIRST

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