



First News First

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors

“Christ in Culture”

It’s mid-November as I write this. Christmas decorations are already going up in the stores and on our neighbors’ houses. Radio stations are playing the old familiar Christmas songs, along with some new ones. Advertisers are promoting Black Friday sales, marketing toys, gadgets and winter fashions. Yes, the Hallmark channel is already broadcasting beloved Christmas movies, filled with romance and ending with the long-awaited kiss. Christmas programs, concerts, parades and movie premieres are popping up everywhere.

Surrounded by all of the cultural traditions, Christians often talk about “keeping Christ in Christmas.” We express our concern about how Jesus gets lost in all the commercialism. And, of course, there is a lot of truth to that. Living in this world, we can be like babies at their first Christmas: we get so fascinated with the shiny wrappings that we put specially chosen gift aside and play with the paper instead. Yet, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we discover that Emmanuel, God is with us, even in this “secular” culture.

This year, in preparing for our sermon series, “Christmas at the Movies,” I’ve come to appreciate how we can experience Christ in Christmas in surprising ways. I recently came across an article entitled, “The 70 Best Christmas Movies.” Of course, not all 70 of them convey a positive Christmas message. Many of them are downright inappropriate. Some of them are not fit for anyone’s eyes to see! But there is a remarkable number of popular Christmas movies, like the four in our series, that feature great spiritual lessons. God can speak to us through different instruments. Sometimes we may think we’re just enjoying mindless entertainment, when, in fact, we can learn valuable lessons about one of the most meaningful holidays of the year.

My prayer is that our “Christmas at the Movies” series will help deepen your understanding of who Jesus is and what His coming means for all people, including you and me. I also pray that as you enjoy all the celebrations of Christmas this year, including your favorite Christmas movies, you will keep your eyes and ears open to what God has to show you. Christ still “comes to us and abides with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”

Rejoicing with you in all the ways we experience Christ at Christmas,

Pastor Denny

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CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

“Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!”

**Invite your friends and family!
Join us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Special music, singing of Christmas carols, the Christmas story.**

**Saturday, Dec. 24
Family Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.
Traditional Candlelight Service, 10 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 25
Informal Worship, 10 a.m.**

**Sunday, Jan. 1
Foundation Service, 8:30 a.m.
The Gathering, 11 a.m.**

Lifelong Learner



Discipleship Opportunities

Whether you are just beginning to explore faith, growing as a disciple or becoming a fully devoted follower, we can always learn something new our journey with Jesus. First Church is here to help by providing a variety of offerings for your next faithful step:

• **Daily Bible Reading Plan**

God speaks to us through His Word, and our daily Bible reading plan is customized to go along with our weekly sermons! You can find the plan in our weekly worship bulletin and on our website (fumchurch.com).

• **Sunday School | Sundays, 9:45 a.m.**

Looking for learning and relationship-building while you are at church for worship on Sundays? Here’s a list of active studies going on during the month of December – new participants are welcome to join any class at any time!

- **Book of Romans** – Walk chapter by chapter through Paul’s letter to the church in Rome and watch videos filmed on location in areas critical to the early church. This class is great for adults of all ages and stages of faith and meets in Fellowship Hall. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) with questions.

- **You Were Made for This Moment** – Journey through the book of Esther and be reminded that God is active, even when he appears distant. This class is great for adults of all ages and stages of faith and meets in Room B003. Contact Wayde Leister (waydeleister@outlook.com) for more details.
- **Power & Love** – Based on the United Methodist quarterly curriculum, learn that vulnerability is not weakness, suffering is not defeat, and sacrifice is not losing when we submit to Christ’s reign in our lives. Choose from two different classes:
 - ◆ **Helping Hands** – Primarily adults age 60+, located in Room B004. Contact Bob Wertz, Sr. (robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com) for more information.
 - ◆ **Guyer Class** – Primarily senior adults age 70+, located in Room 123. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) with questions.
- **Adult Growth Groups** – We encourage everyone to build long-term, Christ-centered relationships with one another through small groups. While we have several different kinds of groups at First Church, here are a few that meet for the purpose of learning and spiritual growth:
 - **Men’s Bible Study | Mondays on Zoom, 6:45-8:15 p.m.**
Currently studying the book of Matthew. Learn about the character and lifestyle of those who are a part of God’s kingdom. If interested, contact Ken Guise (guiseken100@gmail.com).
 - **Wednesday Men’s Group | Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m.**
Currently studying Know What You're FOR, by Jeff Henderson. We often tell people what we are against, but this book presents a better strategy for life by helping you reflect on what you are for. Meets at the home of Barry Eaton on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Contact Barry (theeaton5@verizon.net) for more details.
 - **Women’s Book Study Group | Wednesdays, January 11, 18 & 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**
All women are invited for tea in the church library and discussion of the book, God’s Guest List, by best-selling fiction writer Debbie Macomber. In her first nonfiction book, Debbie opens our eyes to how God uses “guests” in our lives to support, teach, lead and love us. Contact Tina Eaton (adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more information.

From the Library

Here I am writing about December, and it’s not December yet! That’s what I am saying to myself as I write this newsletter. Like every woman I know, December brings a mountain of to-do lists and a calendar full of events, not to mention decorating, baking and wrapping presents (but only if you already shopped!). I need a nap just thinking about it. A wise person once told me to keep it simple, and you will be happier. I’m working on that, I think. But, I also know that even Christian writers understand the December hurricane. Each and every December, our favorite authors offer small Christmas books that we can fit into the nooks and crannies of our lives. The library has several of these books that point us to the true meaning of Christmas, and we always get a couple of new ones each year. Let me tell you about the latest.

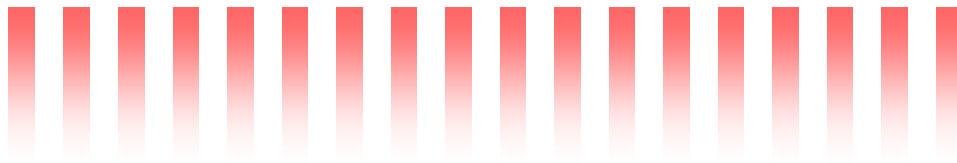
Melody Carlson publishes a yearly Christmas book. This year she has not only featured Christmas, but also quilting. (If you know me, I love sewing, so a book about quilting is almost as good as a book about my other love – coffee.) The main character, Vera Swanson, is recently widowed and has moved into a small condo. Her life is lonely until her neighbor, Fiona, asks her for help finish a quilt for Fiona's seriously ill mother. Christmas is coming soon, so Vera collects a group of women from the condos around her to help with the project. Each woman brings a back story to the group and they soon build a solid friendship. But, can they finish this special quilt? You won't need cocoa to warm your heart while reading *A Quilt for Christmas*.

Christy Barritt adds a bit of mystery to Christmas with her novella, *Silent Night*, that is an extra in the *Lantern Beach series*. Police Chief Cassidy Chamber is set to start her maternity leave on December 23. But, she is abducted before she arrives home. With her husband out of town, the townspeople and the Blackout Security team come together to find Cassidy, especially before her baby arrives. Cassidy is praying for a Christmas miracle, but as a police officer, she knows too well what can happen. I won't spoil the plot, but I will warn you that one reviewer said she couldn't stop reading to clean her house until the book was finished. So, plan carefully!

If neither of these books is your genre, stop in and let our volunteers help you find just the right book. Also, the library will be closed Christmas day, so you might want to pick up an extra book or two the week before.

Merry Christmas!

~Pam, Mary, Debra, Susan, Marge and Donna



Reverse Advent Calendar

For Advent this year, we are participating in a Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of receiving a gift each day of advent, we are looking to collect food for the Little Free Pantry. If you would like a copy of the reverse advent calendar (plus other advent activities), please contact Katie at (kidscount@fumchurch.com).

Family Movie Night | Saturday, Dec.10, 4 p.m.

Join us for a free family movie night! Invite your friends to join us for some sweet treats and hot cocoa, and get ready to watch The Grinch (2018) to learn how “a mean one” who’s as “cuddly as a cactus” and “as charming as an eel” can teach us how to be a better Christian. Registration is not required, but is highly suggested. You can register on Church Center or by emailing Katie at (kidscount@fumchurch.com).



Christmas Happenings

We would love to see you and your family on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! We will have a 5 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve and one service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. We will not be offering child care or Wee Worship or Kids Worship on Christmas Day because we want your family to worship together on that special day. This year, we invite your family to join us on Christmas Day in your pajamas!

- **The 30th Annual Sleep Out for the Homeless was a great success! We hit our goal of \$5,000. 00 and are so grateful for all the support**
- **The Youth Cookie Walk is December 17th and we are so thankful to our bakers that make this event possible.**
- **The youth are away the first weekend in December at Kenbrook Retreat Center for their winter retreat.**
- **The next upcoming large event will be for high schoolers called Zeteo. It is a weekend conference with worship, speakers, and a mega-drama called "Storymakers".**



Youth Ministry Snap Shot

*Collecting for the Sleep Out
Nov 2022*



Summer Camp and Retreat Options 2022 and beyond!

2022 was an eventful year for our Camp and Retreat Ministry. Although not all camps or retreats were able to take place due to low registrations, we take heart that many individuals participated and experienced God at our wonderful sites!

So far this year:

- 31 people from First Church have attended a camp, retreat or other event. (Many others from First Church attended separate women's and men's retreats).
- 16 people from First Church volunteered as a camp dean, nurse, counselor or junior counselor and four others went as staff support.
- All First Church attendees had at least one prayer partner.
- Many individuals provided financial assistance to support a camper or camp program.

We're so grateful for all the ways you've supported the Camp and Retreat Ministry in 2022. Beyond attending programs, here are some ways that you can continue to help this ministry thrive in 2023:

- Pray for the site directors, summer staff, retreat staff, volunteers, campers and families who will experience this ministry in the coming year.
- Donate money to offset costs for a camper or to help the program expand and improve (visit the Camp and Retreat Ministry website to learn about current donation matching opportunities).
- Help at a camp site workday.

Thinking about going to camp as a participant or volunteer in summer 2023? Now is the time to start planning! Visit susumcamps.org to explore what camps will be offered at each site. If you have any questions about the Camp and Retreat Ministry, please contact Deb Noss (sdppp@msn.com) or (717-697-5982) or Amy Ortiz (amy.ogden7@gmail.com). Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support!

Praying Follower



December Prayer Challenge – Advent Devotions

As you decorate, wrap gifts and prepare for Christmas celebrations, don't forget to take time each day during Advent to *pray, reflect and prepare your heart!* Visit our Staff Picks display in the gathering area to discover some Advent books and devotionals to focus your mind and heart on the coming King. Experience true joy this season as you use these tools to sweeten your time with God and adore Jesus above all!

We also invite everyone to pick up a copy of **“The Star: A Journey to Christmas”**. This devotional booklet has been specially selected by the staff as a perfect gift for give to a friend, family member or neighbor! Not only will they enjoy the scripture, beautiful devotions and questions for reflection and prayer, but they will also find ideas for special activities to celebrate the true meaning of the season! We have placed our Christmas Eve service information and a link to our church website on the inside front cover so that those who receive your gift will feel invited to join us this Christmas and into the new year!



Weekly Prayer Letter

If you haven't already done so, we invite you to sign up for First Church's FirstLink Prayer Letter to receive weekly updates on prayer requests and praises from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) to share joys and requests or to sign up for the Prayer Letter email.

Passionate Worshipper



Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Search for First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled *Where Words Fail, Music Speaks*. For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYEFHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>



Christmas Caroling 2022 | Sunday, Dec. 18, 4

p.m.

Caroling means “to sing in a joyful manner!” Experience this Christmas tradition with us as we make a joyful noise in the parking lot near the green space! (In the event of poor weather, we will gather in the sanctuary.) Hot cocoa will be provided. If your family or small group is interested in Christmas caroling door to door to some of our church members at home, we will have suggested lists of caroling routes and music sheets available at the outdoor Christmas Caroling gathering on Dec. 18! Pick up a list and continue singing following the outdoor caroling, or find another day that suits your group! For more information, contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112.

Holiday Harmony | Sunday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Celebrate Christmas through beautiful and meaningful music. This concert features the sounds of the season from First Church's vocal ensembles, handbell choirs, soloists and more. Don't forget to invite your friends and family to this free event!



Ring in the Season | Monday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

The Hand Bell Choir will perform again this year at the Fredrickson Library in Camp Hill. Come early to get a seat!

Dedicated Missionary



Isaiah 61 Homeless Ministry | Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life Groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland (tholland1967@gmail.com).

Volunteers In Mission

Are you thinking of going on a mission trip or would like to plan a trip? If so, the Volunteers in Mission team will be happy to support you and provide free training! United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is the short-term mission agency of the United Methodist Church. UMVIM volunteers engage in outreach as a member of a United Methodist Church to serve their neighbors near and far. For more information on upcoming trainings or mission trips in the Susquehanna Conference, visit the UMVIM website: <https://www.susmb.org/vim/>.

Relationship Builder



December Hospitality Tip – ‘Tis the Season for Radical Hospitality!

As we approach the Christmas season, let us remember that our special church Advent activities provide a perfect opportunity for us to show radical hospitality to our guests and neighbors who visit! Stay outwardly focused and show an extra-welcoming, joyful spirit as you interact with others at the Holiday Harmony concert, Cookie Walk, Family Christmas Movie Night, Christmas Caroling outside in the

green space, and our Christmas Eve services! And let's take it even one step further and continue to express that warm, welcoming, joyful spirit into the new year!

Christmas Card Greetings

We encourage you to reach out to one another this holiday season by sending Christmas card greetings! Please help yourself to a supply of Christmas cards found at the card display across from the church mailboxes. If you're sending a card to someone from First Church, save a stamp and deliver your cards using the church mailboxes. If you'd like to send cards to some of our members at home, a suggested list is available by the Christmas card display.

Joy in the Morning | Monday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m.

If you live with chronic pain or ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join in sharing discussion and supportive friendship with this spiritually-focused small group. We meet Monday afternoons once a month. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings and devotionals. For more information, contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611, ext. 112.

Health and Wellness Presentation: Decluttering and Organizational Strategies | Sunday, Dec. 4, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Is your home too F.A.T. (Full of Acquired Things)? Learn tips and tricks from an expert on the process of organizing. Carolyn Doerr, a Certified Relocation and Transition Specialist and owner and president of *Caring Transitions*, will teach you how to effectively sort, arrange, allocate and purge excess possessions. With a step by step "diet" plan for the home, you can tackle even the most difficult home organization projects with confidence! Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4611, ext. 112 with questions.



Mount Asbury Christmas Light Show

This December, Mount Asbury Retreat Center (1310 Centerville Rd., Newville) will host its Third Annual Drive-Thru Christmas Light Show! See the angels as they talk to Mary, Joseph and shepherds and follow the star to the manger as you drive through thousands of lights in the forest and on the grounds of Mount Asbury. There's no need to register – just stop by on a **Friday, Saturday or Sunday, Dec. 2 through Dec. 18 between 6 and 9 p.m.** Mount Asbury requests a \$10 per car donation and will have hot chocolate and cookies available for purchase. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

Follow the Facebook page for event news and updates here:

facebook.com/MountAsburyChristmasLightShow. Mount Asbury is also looking for **volunteers** to help make this an incredible experience! Find more information here: tsu.me/sbca4z. Patti Herring is on the planning committee and would love to see groups from First Church show their support!

First Saturday Men's Breakfast | Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 a.m.

An open invitation is extended to all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month at Brothers Restaurant (705 Gettysburg Pike). Please contact Barry Eaton at (theeaton5@verizon.net) if you are interested in attending – it's sure to be a good time!



Women's Retreat | February 3-5, Mount Asbury Retreat Center

Preparations are underway for the 2023 Women's Retreat at Mount Asbury Retreat Center! New for this year, we have a One-Day option for those who wish to attend just on Saturday. This year's theme, "Anxious for Nothing," is based on Max Lucado's bestselling book and will be led by church members. If you need some peace in your life, join us in finding God in the chaos and reframing the way we see our fears. Register now with a paper form outside the church library, on the Church Center app or at fumchurch.com/womensretreat. Contact Patti Herring (familyzeke@verizon.net) with any questions.

Covered in Love Knitting Group | Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

The Covered in Love Knitting Group has returned to in-person meetings in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to join if you love to knit, crochet or do some other kind of crafty work. Questions? Contact Judi Buddenbaum (717-697-2524) or (ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net) with questions.

Widows and Widowers Fellowship | Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m.

The widows/widowers Christmas fellowship luncheon will take place at Hickory Ridge restaurant in Carlisle. Please contact Bonnie Guyer (717-766-0145) if you plan on attending. Transportation will be provided upon request.

Squares and Prayers

Prayers and Squares met this November for a planning session, as well as to put kits together for future quilts and pillowcases for charity. This year, the group has pieced and quilted over 100 lap quilts, along with quilts for veterans. The ladies also greeted fidget mats, pencil bags, chapstick holders and playing card holders to benefit the community. Want to get involved? Pick up a kit and or drop off at the donation bin at the alley entrance!



Generous Giver



FINANCIAL REPORT

Through Oct. 31, 2022 **83% of year**

General Fund

2022 budget	\$ 925,985	
Expected income-YTD	\$ 771,653	(83% of budget)
Actual income -YTD	\$ 740,318	(80% of budget)
Actual expenses-YTD	\$ 742,434	(80% of budget)

Receipts year-to-date through the end of October about are about -\$31,000 short of our year-to-date estimate. This is an improvement from last month, and as expected, the fall/winter months have helped us “catch-up” as our congregation returns to regular services at the church. We are looking forward to serving the Lord and continuing the mission of First Church, opening doors to celebrate the Christmas season and spreading God’s Word. With your gifts, we are updating and improving our facilities in the service of our Lord.

Expenses year-to-date are favorable to the budget, and almost exactly matching our giving for the year. The staff at First Church and its volunteers continue to be mindful stewards of the gifts of our congregation and are continuing their work to lead our congregation in opening doors to others for the glory of God.

The Endowment Fund Update

Our Church’s Endowment Fund was in a position to help in 3 areas that were not anticipated in this year’s annual church budget. Endowment funds were made available for the stained glass window restoration fund, the community green space initiative constructed in our parking lot and in painting the Sanctuary ceiling after the plastering was completed. It is such a blessing for our Church to have these Endowment Fund’s available to help support unanticipated expenses. All gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested in Vanguard socially responsible fund and a Vanguard money market fund. The Principle (gifts) are held in perpetuity and a portion of the annual earnings are used each year to support unantic-

ipated needs for our Churches Ministry. The Endowment Fund consists of an Endowment Committee and this committee received and evaluates Endowment Requests from our Church Leaders for approval. Endowment Fund contribution are always appreciated and that gift will grow through our investment strategy and financially help with our responsibility to maintain and spread the Word of God When and Where ever needed. If you should have any questions on the Endowment Fund and gifts to the Endowment Fund, please feel free to approach any member of the Committee, Pastor Denny, Barry Eaton, Judi Buddenbaum, Pam Murdoch, Patti Vogl, Mark Rouch, Rick Herring, Katie Hammaker, Ken Rapp, Bob Wertz to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration in supporting our Church's Endowment Fund. Blessing, Bob Wertz

Handbell Pie Fundraiser

Thank you for supporting our Handbell Choir! We hope you enjoyed your sweet treats. We will bake cherry and apple pies again in February.

Change for Water!

Water is the foundation of our very lives. Yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support the **Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone** by dropping your loose change (or even paper bills) into the blue Change for Water bucket located on the Sierra Leone mission table in the Main Entrance hallway. Donations from November totaled **\$51.45**. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

Little Free Pantry Collection

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

First Church Mission Moments...

“For I was hungry and you gavę mę food, I was thirsty and you gavę mę drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed mę.”

~Matthew 25:35

After seeing a need for food in our community, First Church decided to place a Little Free Pantry on the property in 2018. It's been four years since church member Bill Richie first built the pantry. At first, the pantry only needed to be filled a few days each week. But, between the pandemic, unemployment, the worsening economy, homelessness and food insecurity, church volunteers fill the pantry on a daily basis... and it's almost always empty within 24 hours.

The need persists in our community and probably will for some time. If you are interested in helping to keep the pantry stocked, we'd love your support! Most needed items include soup; pasta and sauce cereal; granola bars and protein bars; cans of tuna, chicken and Spam; canned fruits and vegetables; snacks for children's lunches; peanut butter and jelly; rice; and nonperishable ready-made meals such as Beefaroni and SpaghettiOs. Donations can be placed directly in the pantry, or large quantities can be brought into

LITTLE FREE PANTRY COLLECTION



TAKE WHAT
YOU NEED.
GIVE WHAT
YOU CAN.



FUMCHURCH.COM // LITTLEFREEPANTRY.ORG

the church for future use. Please do not donate perishable or expired food items.

Today, our dedicated team of volunteers — Lori Hoffnagle, Sandy Walton, Kathy Lucas and Pam Van Kirk — take turns faithfully filling the pantry. Mission Central, Bethesda Mission, local food drives, others from First Church and neighborhood friends also help ensure we have food to give. New volunteers are always welcome to join the team! Contact Lori Hoffnagle (l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com) for more information. Thanks for your continued support!



ADVENT CALENDAR

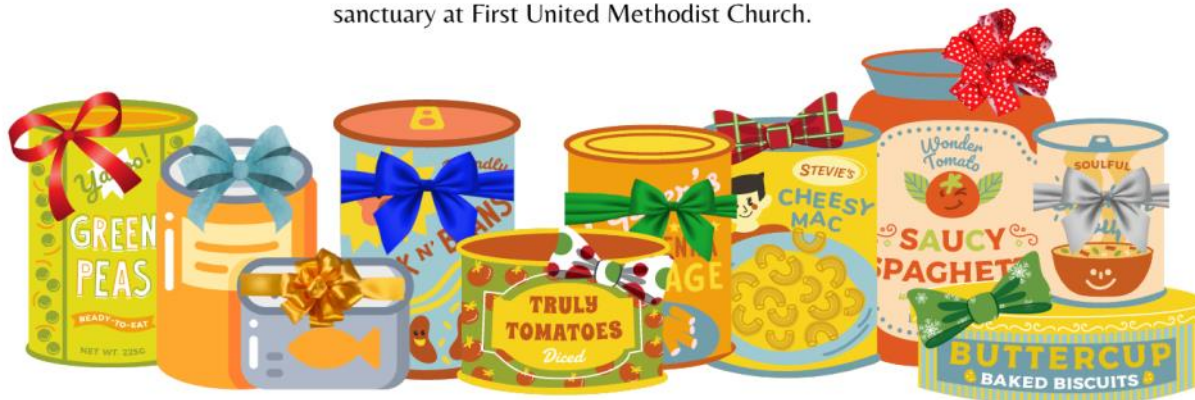
EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX AND
HELP SUPPORT THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY
THIS CHRISTMAS.

NO GLASS OR PERISHABLE ITEMS PLEASE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 1 - box of cereal | <input type="checkbox"/> December 14 - packaged pasta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 2 - peanut butter | <input type="checkbox"/> December 15 - dessert mix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 3 - canned fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> December 16 - jelly/jam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 4 - cup of noodles | <input type="checkbox"/> December 17 - coffee/tea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 5 - canned beans | <input type="checkbox"/> December 18 - macaroni & cheese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 6 - canned chicken soup | <input type="checkbox"/> December 19 - canned tomatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 7 - packaged oatmeal | <input type="checkbox"/> December 20 - canned vegetable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 8 - crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> December 21 - tomato soup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 9 - canned corn/peas | <input type="checkbox"/> December 22 - granola bar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 10 - packaged tuna | <input type="checkbox"/> December 23 - apple sauce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 11 - spaghetti sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> December 24 - pudding cups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 12 - stuffing mix | <input type="checkbox"/> December 25 - your choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 13 - packaged rice | |

Thanks for helping to provide for the Little Free Pantry! Fill your bag with items each day in December.

When finished, return your filled bag to the display in the back of the green chair section of the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church.





Daily Bible Readings December 2022

Thursday, December 1	Matthew 3:1-12
Friday, December 2	Isaiah 9:2-7
Saturday, December 3	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 4	Worship "It's A Wonderful Life"
Monday, December 5	Isaiah 35:1-10
Tuesday, December 6	Luke 1:46b-55
Wednesday, December 7	James 5:7-10
Thursday, December 8	Matthew 11:2-11
Friday, December 9	Matthew 1:18-25
Saturday, December 10	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 11	Worship "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
Monday, December 12	Isaiah 7:10-16
Tuesday, December 13	Psalms 80
Wednesday, December 14	Romans 1:1-7
Thursday, December 15	Colossians 1:11-20
Friday, December 16	Luke 2:1-7
Saturday, December 17	Rest and Reflect
Sunday, December 18	Worship "Elf"
Monday, December 19	Psalms 96
Tuesday, December 20	Titus 2:11-14
Wednesday, December 21	Isaiah 52:7-10
Thursday, December 22	Luke 2:8-20
Friday, December 23	John 1:1-14
Saturday, December 24	Worship Christmas Eve 5 and 10 p.m.
Sunday, December 25	Worship Christmas Day 10 a.m.
Monday, December 26	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Tuesday, December 27	Psalms 8
Wednesday, December 28	Revelation 21:1-6a
Thursday, December 29	Matthew 25:31-46
Friday, December 30	Psalms 148
Saturday, December 31	Rest and Reflect New Year's Eve

We wish to thank our FUM church family for the cards and words of comfort at the passing of husband/father, Joe Moomaw. We have been blessed by you.

~Carol Moomaw, Karin McHale & Leigh McBride

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Steve Noss, Eric King, Matt Ortiz, Bob and Patti Taylor and John and Heather Bowen. They came to my house to rake up my leaves and clean up along the back of my yard since I cannot do this myself right now. They are wonderful examples of the people at First Church.

~ Marilyn Seig



Special Birthdays



- Joyce Woods.....December 1
- Jo Nye.....December 13
- Dolores Shell.....December 13
- Darlis Aumiller.....December 21
- Joan Mains.....December 23
- Elaine O’Hara.....December 26
- Sandra Coover.....December 28



Special Anniversaries

♥ Mr. & Mrs. Roy Miller married 55 years on December 9, 1967.



<i>FIRST NEWS FIRST</i>	The deadline for submitting articles for the January 2023 issue is December 15	Early submissions <u>always</u> appreciated!
Editors: Dawn Fisher		
Jennifer Myers		