



# First News First

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

From Pastor Denny's Desk...

## "Love Is the Way"

In forty years as a preacher I've officiated more than a few weddings. When I meet with couples as they prepare for their marriage, I ask them to select scripture passages to be read in the service. Many couples choose I Corinthians 13, St. Paul's great picture of love.

For our wedding, my Betsy and I asked her Uncle Bob, a United Methodist pastor, to preach. We can still remember every word of his sermon. He said, "Dennis and Betsy asked me to offer a few words of wisdom for their marriage today. I can't say it any better than the Apostle Paul did!" Then he read I Corinthians 13, including these beautiful words,

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

1 Corinthians 13 offers great advice for couples entering into marriage, but when Paul wrote what we now call, "the love chapter," he wasn't at a wedding. He wrote them in a letter to a church he had founded upon the teachings of Jesus. Now, he had heard some bad news out of Corinth. Its members had forgotten all those values that had brought them together. Arrogant, rude, insisting on our own way, irritable, resentful, rejoicing in wrongdoing? They had lost the love, you might say.

In his book, *Love Is the Way*, Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, notes that while in English we have only one word, *love*, the Koine Greek of the New Testament uses three words: *eros*, *philia*, and *agape*. He writes:

*Eros* is romantic love; it's what Valentine's Day is all about. *Philia* is fraternal or brotherly love, which is why the city of Philadelphia is called the City of Brotherly Love. *Agape* is love for the other-sacrificial love that seeks the good and well-being of others, of society, of the world. (Curry, p. 14)

Bishop Curry goes on to explain that *agape*, love that looks outward, love that is a gift of the self to others, is what Paul is concerned about. For Paul, as for the disciples of Jesus, love was not just a nice feeling that rises up inside of us. This love was an action, with force and follow-through. "Love was rules for living." (Curry, p.18)

When people ask me about you, I always tell them, "First Church is such a loving congregation." I am not just being sentimental. On a daily basis I have the privilege of witnessing your love in action, how you look outward, giving of yourselves to others. You sacrifice for your loved ones. You lift each other up with your care, your prayers, your acts of kindness, and your giving. You serve your neighbors near and far. I rejoice in this, and so much more, because "love is the way."

As we enter the third year of a pandemic, I invite you to cling to these eloquent words of Paul on love. They are remarkably relevant. We do not know the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for us as a church, but we do know this. "Love is the way." Looking outward, giving of ourselves, we experience "the more excellent way." The way that unites us and inspires us to greater things. May we discover in our life together the joy of knowing that "Love never ends."

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## Adult Discipleship

Have you taken the time to assess where you are in your journey with Jesus? Maybe you are just beginning to explore faith or you are growing into a more mature disciple? Maybe you are becoming a fully devoted follower? No matter what, there is always something new to learn, and 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, which is posted on our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com).
- **Next Step - New Member Class:** If you are ready to take your next faithful step by exploring church membership, our next 4-week new member class will be held in Fellowship Hall from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. beginning February 6. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you have questions or are interested in attending.
- **Steps Beyond:** New participants are invited to join any of these discipleship groups or classes at any time!
  - **Sunday Morning Enrichment — Meets at 9:45 a.m.**
    - ◆ **Faith in Everyday Life**  
**Target:** 30-50something  
**Location:** Room 207  
**Contact:** Jenell Paris at [jparis@messiah.edu](mailto:jparis@messiah.edu)  
 This small group enjoys being out in our community, and focuses on fellowship and friendship/mutual support. Class members share in leading reflections and discussions based on Scripture.
    - ◆ **Growing in Christ**  
**Target:** Adults all ages/stages of faith  
**Location:** Hybrid Class, meets on Zoom and in-person in room 105  
**Contact:** Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)  
 Currently studying the book of 1 Peter. Join us as we walk through this short letter and discover the importance of our witness in this imperfect world.
    - ◆ **Christian Fellowship**  
**Target:** Adults all ages/stages of faith  
**Location:** Room B003  
**Contact:** Wayde Leister at [waydeleister@outlook.com](mailto:waydeleister@outlook.com)  
 A friendly, caring group, eager to apply God's Word to life's challenges. Enjoys short-term Bible studies that challenge and inspire.
    - ◆ **Faithful Families**  
**Target:** Parents  
**Location:** Room B005  
**Contact:** Bob and Tracy Wertz at [wertzfive@gmail.com](mailto:wertzfive@gmail.com)  
 An active group of parents with older school-aged and young adult children who study Scripture, encourage one another, and celebrate life together in and out of the classroom.
    - ◆ **Helping Hands**  
**Target:** Primarily 60+  
**Location:** Room B004  
**Contact:** Bob Wertz, Sr. at [robert\\_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com](mailto:robert_wertz@plantsitelogistics.com)

A group of active seniors who focus on studies which provide encouragement and instruction on faithful living, and who enjoy fellowship activities together outside of class.

◆ **Guyer Class**

**Target:** Primarily 70+

**Location:** Room 123

**Contact:** Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)

This lecture-based class, taught by a variety of pastors and church leaders, is comprised of a group of elders in the church who use the United Methodist quarterly adult Bible lessons.

- **Mid-Week ReFuel** — Current mid-week learning and fellowship opportunities for adults include:
  - ◆ **Wednesday Men's Group** – Through the winter, this group will meet on Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. A new study will begin in February. Contact Barry at [1785eaton@gmail.com](mailto:1785eaton@gmail.com) if interested.
  - ◆ **MOPS** – Connects moms with young children to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together. Meets once a month from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the church. Meetings begin with fellowship over dinner, followed by a speaker/discussion time and end with a devotion/prayer. Additional outings with kids are also scheduled all through the year! Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details and to register today!
  - ◆ **Draw the Circle** – Ash Wednesday is March 2, and Pastor Denny has a special sermon series planned for Lent that is based on the book, "Circle Maker", by Pastor Mark Batterson (from National Community Church in Washington, DC). As a part of this sermon series, a 5-session study called "Draw the Circle" will be offered, but we need small group hosts! All groups will begin meeting the week of March 6, and together we will dedicate ourselves to a special 40-day prayer challenge, designed to grow us and help us to experience God in new and exciting ways! Please prayerfully consider gathering a few friends to host a group and let Tina Eaton know so she can get materials out to you in February. Contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) for more details and resources that will make this both an easy and meaningful experience!
- **Bible Studies**
  - ◆ **Monday Men's Bible Study** – Led by Ken Guise, meets on Monday evenings at 6:45 p.m. on Zoom. Currently working on "The Key to Living by Faith", a study of the book of Hebrews. Newcomers are welcome anytime! Contact Ken Guise at [guiseken100@gmail.com](mailto:guiseken100@gmail.com) for more details, the Zoom link and a study guide (just \$9.00, scholarships available).
  - ◆ **Thursday Bible Study** – "Free from Bondage God's Way" is a 6-week in depth study of Galatians and Ephesians. This is a Precept© study, written by Kay Arthur, and facilitated by Juanita Guise. Come to discover the only way to freedom - knowing God's truth. Class started on Thursday, January 27, but latecomers are welcome! Meets on zoom from 7:00- 8:30 pm. Colored pencils are recommended, but not required. The workbook can be obtained either online or through Juanita. Please contact Juanita at [kguise@comcast.net](mailto:kguise@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like to join this study.
  - ◆ **Study Gateway** – Don't have time to meet in a group right now, but want to stay in the Word with a guided study that you can do on your own? Study Gateway, an online streaming library, provides a vast number of video-based studies for adults, youth and children. To set up your FREE account, please contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com).

## From the Library

Most of the country considers February a month for romance, and here in the library we have the same idea. While flowers, chocolate, or a special dinner out are wonderful gifts, there is nothing like a good book. You knew I was going to say that, didn't you? And if you should accidently mention coffee, I can expound on it way too long. I guess it won't be a surprise to learn we have the second book in the *Maple*

*Falls Romance series*, which is set in a coffee shop. The first book, **Hooked on You**, is followed by **Much Ado About a Latte**. When Anita Bedford decides that her dream to be more than friends with Tanner Castillo will never be realized, she decides to open a coffee shop and pour her energy into that. When a store front becomes available, it is right next to Tanner's diner. Not realizing who is opening the café, Tanner decides to ramp up his coffee selections to compete with this new threat to his diner. As a full-bodied coffee war begins, the whole town wonders when Tanner and Anita will figure out what is obvious to everyone in town — not only should they unite their diner and café, but also their lives.

I was recently at the movie theater when I was surprised by the preview of a new movie, **Redeeming Love**. The book of the same title was written by Francine Rivers in 1997. Though it is fiction, it is based on the biblical book of Hosea. If you haven't read Hosea for a while, God instructs the prophet Hosea to marry the prostitute Gomer, and even though he follows God's orders and showers her with unconditional love, Gomer is again unfaithful to him. The book is said to be a metaphor of the relationship of Israel and God at the time of the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel. Ms. Rivers has taken this story and set it in California in the 1850s. Her leading lady is not called Gomer but Angel and the leading man is Michael Hosea. I don't know how Hollywood will handle this Christian romance, but if you would like to read the book, **Redeeming Love** is on the library shelf. There will also be a Bible study in conjunction with the release of the movie, and maybe some small group will tackle that, too. But the premise of Hosea, **Redeeming Love**, and the movie is there is no brokenness that can't be healed with the power of God's love. I invite you to read this mighty retelling of God's unconditional love.

As always, we look forward to seeing you in the library on Sundays between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and after the early service, and we will help you find just the right book!

~ Pam and Donna

## Praying Follower



### February Prayer Challenge: SOAPY!

Prayer unlocks our intimacy with God, but it's not always easy because prayer requires practice and discipline. The good news is that, the more we practice prayer, the easier our conversation with God will be. Here at First Church, we have been practicing a different method of praying each month in order to stretch ourselves and find new ways of connecting with and listening for the voice of God! This month, try using the SOAPY method for your daily prayer. What is this, you ask? SOAPY stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer and Yield. Here is how it works:

- **Scripture:** Open your Bible and select a piece of scripture to read. One suggestion: Use our daily Bible reading plan, which goes along with our sermon series. Use a journal to write down the scripture reference for what you are reading. Take your time and allow God to speak to you as you read the words. When you are done, look for a word or phrase that particularly spoke to you, and write it in your journal.
- **Observation:** Why do you think that word or phrase spoke to you? Is God saying something to you personally in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you. Write your thoughts down.
- **Application:** Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.
- **Prayer:** This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, it may be a greater insight into what He may be revealing to you, or it may be a prompting to do/pray something for someone else. Write down your thoughts.
- **Yield:** Yield your heart to God... give him authority over your words, your actions and your thoughts. This requires sacrifice on our part and submission to God's will, but it also means we get to contribute to God's glory!

You can pick up a blank journal at the prayer display under the balcony at church, or contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) to receive one. Happy praying!

### Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, sign up for our weekly prayer email so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

## Passionate Worshipper



### Current Sermon Series: “You Are the Body”

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, “*Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.*” They see something of significance in the baby in Bethlehem, even when many of those closest don’t see it. Like the wise men, we who have seen the light of Christ are called to reflect it so that others see Christ through our loving presence.

As 2022 continues, you are invited to journey with us through our daily Bible readings and Sunday worship services. We will be guided by Paul’s instructions in 1 Corinthians 12-15 to let the light of Christ shine around us and in us, and then through us to a world yearning for the love that “*never ends.*” (1 Corinthians 13:8). **You** are the Body of Christ.

- February 6 - “**You** Are the Body: Knit Together” (1 Corinthians 12:12-31a)
- February 13 - “**You** Are the Body: A More Excellent Way” (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)
- February 20 - “**You** Are the Body: Holding On to the Message” (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)
- February 27 - “**You** Are the Body: Christ Alone” (2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2)

### Disability Awareness Sunday

DisAbility Awareness Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, April 24th. Did you know the United Methodist Book of Discipline requires a Sunday to observe DisAbility Awareness Sunday? Join us for morning worship at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., or during the 4 p.m. Rejoicing Spirits service as we praise God that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

### Rejoicing Spirits

Rejoicing Spirits continues to meet the 4th Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. in the green chair section of the Sanctuary. Mark your calendar now for February 27th and March 27th. Rejoicing Spirits is a worship experience designed for individuals and families with intellectual challenges to worship together in a no judgement zone. A special part of this service is the participation of the congregation throughout the worship. The service is open to anyone and is full of joy! If you need more information about Rejoicing Spirits, please contact Karin McHale at [karinmch@comcast.net](mailto:karinmch@comcast.net) or 717-379-8329.

Access Ministries is looking for a few more team members. If you are interested in serving on the team or helping with a specific event, please contact Karin McHale to discuss ways you can help build the Kingdom.

### New Sound System 2022-2023

As we continue to enter into new territories with our worship and livestream ministries, we are pleased to share that First Church will be making upgrades to our sanctuary sound and media systems! Through God’s provision of generous designated giving and professional expertise in our congregation, we are eager and ready to continue aligning ourselves with God’s timing to grow our worship ministries.

From a new digital board to new microphones, the conversion to a digital





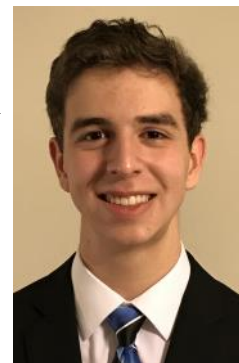
system in Phase 1 (of 3) will enable us to more precisely control sound, music, and media in our sanctuaries. While you may not see and hear a new system right away, installation of the first phase will begin at the end of January 2022. Our hopes are to continue installation through March, all while providing full training to our current and future sound and media teams. A complete switchover to the new system is slated for late April of 2022.

Phases 2 and 3 of the entire project are anticipated for summer of 2022 through early 2023.

We invite you to join us in prayer as we begin this project. We believe this opportunity will be an investment to strengthen the present and future ministries at First Church, and continue to support our mission of opening doors to Christ, one another, and our neighbors.

### Sound and Media Intern

For his spring 2022 semester, First Church is blessed to welcome Zachary Garner as our sound and media intern! Hailing from Mechanicsburg PA, Zac is a current senior at Lebanon Valley College, and is working towards a degree in Audio and Music Production. He graduated from Cumberland Valley High School in 2018 and is a member of Grace United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg. Additionally, music is a big part of his life — Zac is the principal violist of the Lebanon Valley College Orchestra with over twelve years of experience playing the viola. He is very excited to work with the community here at First United Methodist Church over these upcoming months!



### 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>

*Dedicated Missionary*



### Isaiah 61 Returns in Harrisburg!

First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. New safety protocols have been established, such as wearing a mask, gloves and physical distancing. If you would like to carpool or have any questions, please contact Tiffany Holland at [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### Change (or Paper) for Water!

Water is the foundation of our very lives; yet, according to CDC estimates, only 2% of the population in Sierra Leone has access to clean, readily available drinking water! Help us to support the **Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone** by dropping your loose change, or even paper bills, into the blue "Change for Water" bucket located back on the Sierra Leone mission table in the Main Entrance hallway. Donations from December totaled \$14.56. 100% of your donations will be used to provide training and dig wells for schools and communities in need.

### Get Connected With Service Opportunities

If you have not already done so, sign up to receive our periodic “Service Opportunities” email. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) to share opportunities and to sign up.

## Relationship Builder



### Extravagant Hospitality

As we continue to journey through these challenging winter months of colds, flu, Covid and its variants, let us not forget the importance of extravagant hospitality! We must continue to focus on RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. Make personal phone calls to people you haven't seen for a few weeks in worship. Keep in tune with the Holy Spirit's promptings to build relationships with new people. YOU may be the only Jesus they see!

### Trinity's Closet on Main, February 12

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding a Clothing Closet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. They have a variety of gently used clothes (in all sizes) for men and women to choose from. Breakfast to go is provided for each person - including a cup of coffee! The Closet is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. every 2nd Saturday. Trinity is located at 132 E. Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The next Clothing Closet will be held on Saturday, **February 12**. They are asking for donations of winter jackets or new socks and underwear for the upcoming winter season. Questions, contact Vanessa Storlie at [trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:trinityburgoutreach@gmail.com).

### Day of Pampering 2022

Access Ministries and staff have decided the safest way to provide a Day of Pampering event in 2022 is to plan for a virtual service on Saturday, February 26, 2022. You may remember that a virtual DOP was held in 2021. We are in the planning stages at this time and hoping to have a speaker lined up soon. When everything is a go, a link will be available to watch and participate in the service. The link will be provided in the church bulletin, the church's Facebook page, and emailed to past participants. Once a link is available, feel free to share it with others you think would be interested.

### Joy in the Morning - a small group invitation!

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 will meet next on Monday, February 28 at 1:00 pm on Zoom. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, taking inspiration from the book, [With the Dawn Rejoicing](#). For more information and the Zoom link, contact Janice Bowen at [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611) or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

### Soupy Saturday: Home Edition!

If you enjoy cooking, please join us in uniting our home kitchens this winter to stock the church freezer with a variety of soups! These soups will be shared with church members recovering at home this winter, as well as with Homeland Hospice. (Containers are available at the welcome kiosk in the main lobby outside the gym.) Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611).

### Covered in Love Knitting Group

At this time, the Covered in Love group will try to meet in person again beginning Wednesday, March 2. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. and knit, crochet, or just say hello until 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. At that time we will discuss future dates, times, and projects. A meeting place will be determined before then, but if you are interested in coming, or joining for the first time, please contact Judi Buddenbaum at [717-697-2524](tel:717-697-2524), [717-805-2296](tel:717-805-2296), or [ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:ljbuddenbaum@verizon.net).

### Meals on Wheels Seeking Volunteers!

The Mechanicsburg Area Meals On Wheels program is in need of volunteers heading into the winter season. Since it was founded in March 1969, the program has served over 750,000 meals to the elderly and infirmed. Now the nonprofit needs the community's help in return. See volunteer needs and

descriptions [here](#). If you have questions about volunteering, contact Harvey Bilger at [717-766-6083](tel:717-766-6083). Thanks for helping our neighbors!

### Faith-Based Life Coaching Now Available at First Church

First Church is pleased to announce that Timeless Connections, a life coaching practice with a focus on faith and hope, is now available at our Mechanicsburg building.

Timeless Connections is operated by First Church member Patti Vogl, a Licensed Master Social Worker, Certified Care Manager, and Certified Celebrant. Patti has over 30 years of experience with individual and family counseling, as well as in hospice management. She brings her personal and professional experience, as well as her empathy, into her Life Coaching practice.

Master’s level Social Workers are specially trained to help people deal with life’s struggles and to move forward with hope. Life coaching involves helping people to identify barriers, goals, and strengths and then working toward an action-oriented plan in order to live to their fullest potential. While Patti’s social work background allows her to incorporate therapeutic techniques, life coaching focuses on encouragement, hope, and positive steps toward wellness.

Timeless Connections will specialize in grief and loss issues, relationship issues, pre-marital preparation, anxiety and depression issues, and elder care issues and resources. This program is open to those of all faith backgrounds and walks of life.

For more information, call or email the church office at [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) or [office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com). To learn more about Timeless Connections visit the website at: <https://www.timelessconnections.org/>.

*Generous Giver*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31, 2021 — Final Year End

General Fund — December giving:

Actual giving in the month of December	\$84,728
Average month per 2021 budget	\$75,416

General Fund — Year-to-date

2021 budget	\$ 905,000
Actual giving (full year)	\$ 935,927
Actual expenses (full year)	\$ 935,882

We are thankful for His helping hand as our ministry of Opening Doors for the Lord continues to move at First Church. We are so grateful for the prayers and support our congregation has provided throughout 2021. As noted above, despite the difficulties of the pandemic, our church family continued supporting ministries and programs of our church throughout the year. Furthermore, our church members, staff and volunteers came together in 2021 to help us hold the line on costs.

In addition to in-person services and events, our church now reaches the family of God in new ways with a “virtual” ministry on Sundays, and for other events throughout the week. In addition, here are just a few of the ways our resources were put to use during this unusual time: We upgraded some of our heating and air conditioning units, repaired the roof and outside areas of building, and are working on sound and sanctuary improvements. We were also able set aside funding for other longer term projects which will be required for the maintenance of our building and to enhance outdoor worship.

The full year financial results for 2021 are enclosed, along with our budget for 2022 (later in this newsletter). We all look forward to seeing how God continues to grow our faith and family during this New Year, in line with His will. Thank you for your commitment to the ministry of First Church.



### **UMW Collection for Afghan Refugees Continues**

The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church is working with the International Service Center to support Afghan families that are coming to our area. It has been decided they will settle in Carlisle, and they are looking for homes in that area. The International Service Center in Harrisburg is working with the families to get them settled and provide basic essentials for them.

In response to the needs of these families, the United Methodist Women at First Church will be collecting items to support the women. We will be collecting the following items during the month of January: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products (such as maxi pads, panty shields, etc.). Collection boxes are located at the Alley Entrance and outside the Multi-Purpose Room. Thanks for helping our ‘sisters in Christ!’ Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle, UMW president, at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### **Christmas Light Drive-Thru Update**

The 2nd Annual Christmas Light Drive Thru fundraiser at Mt. Asbury was a great success! The event included a drive through the woods and the telling of the Christmas story with lights and beautifully crafted scenes. Treats and drinks were also available for purchase. Per Patty Weidman at Mt. Asbury: “We had 409 cars (23 free cars) with about 1296 guests. We sold 137 Hot Chocolates, 234 cookies, 28 Ornaments and 33 glowsticks. We brought in over \$5,000.00. And about 90 volunteers in total for all the nights, including the amazing volunteers from 1st Mechanicsburg:).” Thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success!

### **Preschool Substitutes Needed**

Little Friends Preschool is looking for classroom substitutes. Substitutes work for 2.5 hours and are compensated at \$30 per day. Clearances, Covid-19 vaccination, and masks required when working with the children. If you are interested in this position, please contact Jemma Church, Preschool Director at [lfns@fumchurch.com](mailto:lfns@fumchurch.com) or 717-796-0723. Little Friends is a non-profit, Christian-based preschool that offers classes for children from 2 years and 7 months to pre-kindergarten. All students receive quality instruction led by caring teachers in a safe, nurturing environment. Little Friends is a ministry of First Church. Visit their website at: <https://www.littlefriendspreschool.org/>.

### **Little Free Pantry Update**

Thanks for your support of the **Little Free Pantry** on our property. Please consider helping to stock our pantry during this difficult time for families. Please be sure to place items that are not expired or near expiration. If you or your group would like to sign up, see the available months [here](#). A simpler list of suggestions can be found [here](#). **Feel free to sign up for just one week, if that works better for you!** If you would like to choose a week or would like to make a financial donation to the pantry, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).



### **February Bible Reading Plan**

Tuesday, February 1      Isaiah 6:9-13  
Wednesday, February 2      Psalm 138  
Thursday, February 3      Luke 5:1-11  
Friday, February 4      1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Saturday, February 5      Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, February 6***      ***“You Are the Body: Holding On to the Message”***  
Monday, February 7      Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Tuesday, February 8      Psalm 1  
Wednesday, February 9      Luke 6:17-19  
Thursday, February 10      Luke 6:20-26  
Friday, February 11      1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Saturday, February 12      Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, February 13***      ***“You Are the Body: Christ Our Hope”***  
Monday, February 14      Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Tuesday, February 15      Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Wednesday, February 16      Luke 6:27-36  
Thursday, February 17      Luke 6:37-38  
Friday, February 18      1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Saturday, February 19      Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, February 20***      ***“You Are the Body: Raised in Glory”***  
Monday, February 21      Exodus 34:29-35  
Tuesday, February 22      Psalm 99  
Wednesday, February 23      Luke 9:28-36  
Thursday, February 24      Luke 9:37-43a  
Friday, February 25      2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Saturday, February 26      Rest and Reflect

***Sunday, February 27***      ***“You Are the Body: Christ Alone” (Transfiguration)***  
Monday, February 28      2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Tuesday, March 1      Matthew 6:1-6  
Wednesday, March 2      Matthew 6:16-21 (Ash Wednesday)

**First United Methodist Church**  
**General Fund**  
**Budget 2022**

Account Number	Account Name	2021 Budget	November Year to Date	2022 Budget Requests	Adjustments	2022 Proposed Budget
<b>100 Income</b>						
101	Envelope Giving		614,980.57			
102	W/O Envelopes		233,824.96			
103	Loose Offering		2,014.74			
104	Building Use Rent		20.00			
105	Interest Income		358.87			
106	Other Receipts		0.00			
107	PPP Grant					
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 905,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 851,199.14</b>			<b>925,985.00</b>
<b>200 Salaries and Benefits</b>						
201	Pastor's Salary	\$ 88,304.00	80,945.26	90,079.00		90,079.00
202	Soc. Sec. Offset - Pastor	\$ 6,755.00	6,192.34	6,890.00		6,890.00
203	Pension- Pastor	\$ 9,315.00	8,538.53	9,386.00		9,386.00
204	Health Care - Pastor	\$ 14,700.00	13,475.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
206	Account Reimbursable Plan- Pastor	\$ 2,000.00	722.28	2,000.00		2,000.00
207	Continuing Ed - Pastor	\$ 750.00		750.00		750.00
210	Assistant Pastor	\$ 38,278.00	10,366.98	39,044.00	-39044	0.00
211	Continuing Ed - Asst. Past	\$ 600.00		600.00	-600	0.00
212	Soc. Sec. Offset - Asst Past	\$ 2,928.00	793.00	2,987.00	-2987	0.00
214	Account Reimbursable Plan- Assist Pastor	\$ 2,000.00		2,000.00	-2000	0.00
229	Director of Outreach	\$ 20,696.00	18,971.26	21,110.00		21,110.00
230	Office Manager	\$ 33,454.00	30,666.24	34,123.00		34,123.00
231	Admin Assistant	\$ -				0.00
232	Director of Child Ministries	\$ 39,408.00	26,477.45	40,196.00	-15073	25,123.00
233	Youth Pastor	\$ 41,837.00	38,350.62	42,674.00		42,674.00
234	Youth Pastor Benefits	\$ 6,091.00	5,583.60	6,213.00		6,213.00
235	Director of Adult Ministries	\$ 26,604.00	24,387.00	27,136.00		27,136.00
236	Facilities Coordinator	\$ 17,577.00	16,112.36	17,929.00		17,929.00
237	Custodians	\$ 31,845.00	28,533.15	32,479.00		32,479.00
238	Finance Director	\$ 9,471.00	8,681.86	9,660.00		9,660.00
239	Congregational Care Coord	\$ 21,233.00	19,463.62	21,658.00		21,658.00
255	Worship Arts Director	\$ 39,727.00	36,416.38	40,522.00		40,522.00
256	Worship Arts Director - Benefits	\$ 6,091.00	5,583.60	6,213.00		6,213.00
240	Music Director	\$ -				0.00
241	Organist/Assistants	\$ 13,081.00	9,796.88	13,343.00		13,343.00
242	Sounds of Worship Choir Dir	\$3,620.00	3,318.26	3,692.00		3,692.00
243	Sanctuary Choir Director	\$ -				0.00
244	Youth Choir Director	\$ -	2,912.00		3394	3,394.00
246	Children's Choir Director					0.00
247	Adult Bell Choir Director	\$ 7,343.00	6,731.12	7,490.00		7,490.00
248	Children's Bell Choir Director	\$ -	0.00			0.00
249	Worship Leaders	\$ 6,656.00		6,789.00	-3395	3,394.00
250	Additional Musicians (Wshp)	\$ 500.00	100.00	500.00		500.00
251	Travel - Lay Staff	\$ 500.00		500.00		500.00
252	Continuing Ed - Lay Staff	\$ 600.00	235.29	600.00		600.00
253	Soc. Sec. - Lay Staff	\$ 23,911.00	22,669.53	24,388.00	-1152	23,236.00
254	Office Manager Benefits	\$ 6,091.00	5,583.60	6,213.00		6,213.00
257	Unanticipated Savings	\$ (10,384.00)				
	<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 511,582.00</b>	<b>\$ 431,607.21</b>	<b>532,164.00</b>	<b>-60,857.00</b>	<b>471,307.00</b>
<b>300 Conference Shares of Ministry</b>						
301	Connectional Support	\$ 41,604.00	38,137.00	45,764.00		45,764.00
302	Clergy Support	\$ 44,795.00	41,063.00	49,275.00		49,275.00
	<b>Total Shares of Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 86,399.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,200.00</b>	<b>95,039.00</b>		<b>95,039.00</b>



**First United Methodist Church  
General Fund  
Budget 2022**

Account Number	Account Name	2021 Budget	November Year to Date	2022 Budget Requests	Adjustments	2022 Proposed Budget
<b>400 Missions</b>						
401	Africa University	\$ -				0.00
402	Benevolences	\$ 27,955.00	25,630.00	30,751.00		30,751.00
403	Benevolent Homes	\$ -				0.00
404	Bethany Village	\$ -				0.00
405	Bethany Village Aux.	\$ -				0.00
406	Bethesda Mission	\$ -				0.00
407	Daron Shelter	\$ -				0.00
408	Daystar	\$ -				0.00
409	District Advance	\$ -				0.00
410	FUMC Backyard Ministries	\$ -				0.00
411	Habitat for Humanity	\$ -				0.00
412	Mech Council of Churches	\$ 200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
413	Mech Meals on Wheels	\$ -				0.00
414	Mission Central	\$ -	2,000.00			0.00
415	Mission Ed & Awareness	\$ -				0.00
416	Mission Scholarships	\$ -				0.00
417	Missionaries - Denominational	\$ -				0.00
418	Neighborhood Center	\$ -	2,000.00			0.00
419	New Hope Ministries	\$ -	2,000.00			0.00
420	S. Central Food Bank	\$ -				0.00
421	Salt & Light Ministry	\$ -	2,000.00			0.00
422	Sierra Leone	\$ -				0.00
423	UM Children's Home	\$ -				0.00
424	UM Women	\$ -	2,000.00			0.00
425	UMCOR	\$ -				0.00
426	Undesignated Missions	\$ 63,630.00		69,049.00		69,049.00
427	Uptown Ministries	\$ -				0.00
428	World Communion	\$ -				0.00
429	Youth Mission Trip	\$ -				0.00
430	Youth Service Fund	\$ -				0.00
431	Human Relations Day	\$ -	400.00			0.00
432	Youth/Children Offering	\$ -	400.00			0.00
433	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ -	400.00			0.00
434	Native American Awareness	\$ -	400.00			0.00
435	Mental Health Sunday	\$ -	400.00			0.00
436	Peace With Justice Sunday	\$ -	400.00			0.00
437	Rural Life Sunday	\$ -	400.00			0.00
438	Volunteer in Mission Sunday	\$ -	400.00			0.00
439	Christian Education Sunday	\$ -	400.00			0.00
440	World Communion Offering	\$ -	400.00			0.00
441	World Hunger/Harvest Home	\$ -				0.00
442	United Methodist Student Day	\$ -				0.00
443	CRU - Jenna Mengle	\$ -	4,125.00			0.00
444	CRU - Bethany Robinson	\$ -				0.00
445	CRU - Matt & Leann Herring	\$ -	16,170.00			0.00
446	Volunteers in Mission	\$ -	200.00			0.00
447	Calvary Church, Sierra Leone Missionaries - Congregational	\$ -				0.00
448	CRU - Graham Bowen	0.00	4,125.00			
449	Disciple Makers - Josh Herring	0.00	9,075.00			
450	Golden Cross Sunday	0.00	400.00			
451	Camping Program					
Total Missions and Projects		\$ 91,785.00	\$ 73,925.00	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
<b>500 Program</b>						
501	Access Ministry	\$ 500.00	100.00	250.00		250.00
502	Adult Department	\$ 6,800.00	3,213.54	6,300.00		6,300.00
503	Bank Fees	\$ 4,000.00	3,683.44	4,000.00		4,000.00

**First United Methodist Church  
General Fund  
Budget 2022**

Account Number	Account Name	2021 Budget	November Year to Date	2022 Budget Requests	Adjustments	2022 Proposed Budget
504	Camping	\$ 10,000.00	1,419.20	10,000.00	-3000	7,000.00
505	Children's Department	\$ 10,000.00	4,812.04	15,200.00	-3000	12,200.00
506	Choir Music	\$ 2,500.00	-144.02	1,500.00		1,500.00
507	Communications	\$ 1,946.00	1,192.38	1,946.00		1,946.00
508	Confirmation	\$ -				0.00
509	Devotional Literature	\$ 849.00	664.75	798.00		798.00
510	Endowment Fund Comm	\$ -				0.00
511	Evangelism	\$ 1,500.00				0.00
512	Fellowship Committee	\$ -				0.00
513	FUMC Website	\$ -				0.00
514	Hospitality Task Force	\$ -				0.00
515	Health & Wellness	\$ 200.00		350.00		350.00
516	Library	\$ 200.00	625.88	200.00		200.00
517	MOPS	\$ 2,000.00	1,506.76	2,500.00		2,500.00
518	Offering Envelopes	\$ 1,200.00	808.54	750.00		750.00
519	Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	1,929.98	2,000.00		2,000.00
520	Paper & Printing	\$ 2,500.00	819.53	1,500.00		1,500.00
521	Postage	\$ 2,000.00	1,478.55	1,500.00		1,500.00
522	Small Group Babysitting	\$ -				0.00
523	Staff Parish Rel Comm.	\$ 500.00	2,456.60	500.00		500.00
524	Stewardship Committee	\$ -				0.00
525	Sunday School Curriculum	\$ -				0.00
526	Vacation Bible School	\$ -				0.00
527	Women's Retreat	\$ 600.00		775.00		775.00
528	Wonderful Wednesday	\$ -				0.00
529	Worship Committee	\$ 1,000.00	1,781.74	1,500.00		1,500.00
530	Youth Department	\$ 16,000.00	13,289.27	16,000.00		16,000.00
532	Computer Support	\$ 6,129.00	5,939.66	6,300.00		6,300.00
531	Safe Sanctuary	\$ 450.00	139.55	200.00		200.00
534	Pastor Discretionary Account	\$ -				0.00
533	History/Anniversary	\$ -				0.00
535	Congregational Care Ministries	\$ 300.00	113.87	350.00		350.00
536	Coffee Supplies	\$ 300.00				0.00
538	Outreach	\$ 850.00	0.00	2,150.00	-1500	650.00
539	Men's Ministries	\$ 500.00		500.00		500.00
540	Welcoming Ministry	\$ 2,300.00	227.39	2,000.00		2,000.00
540	Operating Reserve	\$ (45,864.00)				
	<b>Total Program</b>	\$ 32,260.00	\$ 46,058.65	79,069.00	-7,500.00	71,569.00
	<b>600 Facilities</b>					
601	Building Use	\$ -				0.00
602	Van Ministry	\$ 2,300.00	1,216.97	2,300.00		2,300.00
603	Facility Reserve	\$ 40,000.00	36,663.00	40,000.00		40,000.00
604	Fuel	\$ 19,500.00	14,956.68	19,500.00		19,500.00
605	Janitorial Supplies	\$ 4,500.00	4,976.63	5,000.00		5,000.00
607	Maintenance	\$ 14,000.00	12,494.26	14,000.00		14,000.00
608	Property Insurance	\$ 24,780.00	22,715.00	26,020.00		26,020.00
609	Property Tax	\$ 3,100.00	3,142.25	3,200.00		3,200.00
610	Service Contracts	\$ 17,450.00	14,370.77	17,450.00		17,450.00
615	Service Contracts - Office	\$ 5,844.00	4,822.00	9,800.00		9,800.00
611	Snow Removal	\$ 3,400.00	1,610.00	3,400.00		3,400.00
612	Telephone- Church	\$ 4,000.00	2,955.02	4,000.00		4,000.00
613	Utilities Church	\$ 31,000.00	29,504.36	31,000.00		31,000.00
614	Wireless Project	\$ -				0.00
616	Utilities - Parsonage	\$ 4,700.00	4,453.74	4,700.00		4,700.00
617	Project Reserve	\$ -				0.00
618	Maintenance - Parsonage	\$ 900.00	1,711.33	900.00		900.00
	<b>Total Facilities</b>	\$ 175,474.00	\$ 155,592.01	181,270.00	0.00	181,270.00



**First United Methodist Church  
General Fund  
Budget 2022**

Account Number	Account Name	2021 Budget	November Year to Date	2022 Budget Requests	Adjustments	2022 Proposed Budget
<b>700 Capital Expenses</b>						
701	Debt Reduction - Interest	\$ 2,500.00	2,692.56	1,800.00		1,800.00
702	Debt Reduction - Principal	\$ 5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
						0.00
	Total Capital Expenses	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,692.56	6,800.00	0.00	6,800.00
	Total Expense	\$ 905,000.00	\$ 794,075.43	994,342.00	0.00	925,985.00
	<b>Income Over Spending</b>	\$ -	\$ 57,123.71	-994,342.00	0.00	0.00

# Church News and Notes

## Our love & sympathy...

- to the family and friends of Milton Dougherty, who passed away on January 4
- to the community of Mechanicsburg's First Church of God in the sudden loss of their pastor, Tracy Conner, who passed away on Tuesday, January 11
- to the family and friends of Alberta Knause, who passed away on January 14
- to the family and friends of Jack Koser, who passed away on January 17
- to the Smithmyer family in the death of Jody's father, Larry Gibney, on January 25



## Special Birthdays

Paul Rynard .....	February 3	Sara Meck .....	March 15
Joanne Ciampa.....	February 6	Marge Robinson .....	March 15
Janie Stover.....	February 6	Gail Siemons .....	March 15
Joyce Parfet.....	February 12	Bob Wertz.....	March 17
Dottie Zimmerman.....	February 26	Mabel Strock .....	March 28
Gerry Aumiller.....	February 27	Bob Erikson.....	March 29
Pat Gavlak.....	March 9	Buddy Miller .....	March 29
Ben Miller .....	March 12	Dave Scholl .....	March 31

## Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Larry & Linda Hall married 61 years on February 4
- ♥ Denny & Sally Kauffman married 62 years on February 14
- ♥ Winslow & Caroline Brown married 67 years on February 19



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
**Editor:** Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
 for the **March 2022** issue is  
**February 15**

**Early submissions always**  
**appreciated!**