



First News First

January 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

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

"The Big Reveal"

Several weeks ago one of our daughters and sons-in-law got an invitation to a "Big Reveal" party from an expectant couple they are close to. The couple had just been told the gender of their baby and they were having a party to share the news. At the party, the couple served cupcakes. When the big moment arrived, everyone bit into their cupcake to reveal bright blue frosting! It's a boy!

"Big reveals" are popular these days. I think I first heard the word "reveal" used as a noun years ago on the television show "Home Improvement." The climax of the show was the reveal, or the tour by the homeowners of the finished space after the renovation was completed. Everything that happened in the show before this moment helped the viewer anticipate, but not quite envision, the full picture of the finished space.

Since then, dozens of programs have "big reveals." Brides-to-be try on countless wedding dresses in search of the perfect one. When they find it, they gather their wedding parties for "the big reveal." On daytime talk shows, women are invited backstage to get a complete makeover. At "the big reveal" they look stunning! Contestants on weight-loss programs come out after weeks of training for "the big reveal" of their slimmer selves.

On January 6 we begin the season in the church year when we celebrate "The Big Reveal" for us as Christians known as Epiphany. Beginning with the story of the magi who follow the star to pay homage to the child Jesus, the Scripture readings for each Sunday of this season make another "big reveal" of who Jesus is and what that means for us.

As we begin 2017, I invite you to come to worship every Sunday for a series of sermons entitled, "The Big Reveal." (See the next page). Each week in January and February we will *open doors with Christ* as we focus on another "big reveal" of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Whether it's a special announcement at a party with loved ones or a makeover program on television, big reveals are always exciting. How much greater is the joy we find when the Lord Jesus is made manifest in our lives!

Serving with you as we open doors with Christ, one another, and our neighbors,

Pastor Denny

"The Big Reveal"

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

January 1 (Epiphany)	"Jesus: God's Messiah"	Matthew 2:1-12	Pastor Denny
January 8	"Jesus: God's Beloved Son"	Matthew 3:13-17	Pastor Denny
January 15	"Jesus: God's Truth"	Matthew 4:12-22	Lisa Aronson
January 22	"Jesus: Healer of Brokenness"	Matthew 4:23-25	Pastor Denny
January 29	"Jesus: Fount of Every Blessing"	Matthew 5:1-12	Pastor Denny
February 5	"Jesus: Salt and Light"	Matthew 5:13-20	Pastor Denny
February 12	"Jesus: Our Guide"	Matthew 5:21-37	Pastor Denny
February 19	"Jesus: Our Peace"	Matthew 5:38-48	Pastor Dave
February 26	"Jesus: Lord of All"	Matthew 17:1-9	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.

Music

November Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

- January 1—Jody Brinley (10:00)
- January 8—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir (10:45)
- January 15—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Invocation, Youth Choir & Junior Choir (10:45)
- January 22—Sounds of Worship (8:15); Sanctuary Choir (10:45)
- January 29—Sounds of Worship & Joy Ringers (8:15); Sanctuary Choir & Joy Ringers (10:45)

Finance

Financial Report—through October 30, 2016 92% of year

General Fund		
2016 budget	\$ 890,000	
Expected income	\$ 818,800	
Actual income	\$ 811,452	(91% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 7,348	
Actual expenses	\$ 763,152	
Building Fund	\$ 14,144	
Legacy Campaign	\$ 3,485	

The Finance Committee has recommended to the Administrative Board a 2017 budget of \$935,000. This is an increase over the current year and is possible because of the great success of the New Consecration Sunday program we undertook this year. We appreciate those who completed an estimate of giving card and who pledged increased amounts.

The complete 2017 budget will be included in the next newsletter.

Fellowship



Soupy Saturday – Saturday, January 28, beginning at 9 am

If you enjoy cooking soup, please join us in the church kitchen to cook-up some delicious soup and muffins to share with a friend, neighbor, or church member at home.

Questions? Contact - Janice Bowen wecare@fumchurch.com - 766-4611 x112

Don't Miss a "Great Date Night"!

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a "Great Date Night" on February 10 from 7 - 9 pm in our Fellowship Hall. This special event requires tickets, which are \$25.00 per couple. Childcare is being provided at the church by our youth (and donations for this service will be gratefully accepted to help raise funds for the youth mission trip to Alaska).

What is "Great Date Night"? It's a fun and effective relationship-building event which gives couples a fun night out to enjoy comedy and music provided by Mark Cable. Mark has been performing these kinds of events for 15 years. His insightful, everyday-life songs, along with his off the wall sense of humor make him an instant hit. There will be two sets of music and comedy with a relaxed 30-minute break in between for fellowship and refreshments.

Come to laugh, unwind and be encouraged to keep your relationship a top priority. To purchase tickets please contact Tina Eaton by email at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611 extension 104.

Senior Fellowship – Tuesday, February 21st, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship, BINGO, and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library.

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 January 18 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 1,216 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,725.76.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!



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.



November is always a month of reflecting on all the things I have to be thankful for. On the top of my list, is my team of supporters. So **thank you** for partnering with me, and joining me on mission at Miami. I have a hard time explaining the **gratitude** I have for your financial gifts and prayers. I hope this update finds you doing well, and leaves you feeling **encouraged**.

The privilege of being a part of the Miami staff team continues, and although some days I can long for a 'traditional' 9-5 job, I feel incredibly lucky to have the chance to share the love & hope God offers with students daily. It's no secret that the world can feel overwhelming around us, which often reminds me just how important it is to develop students with **character** who will become leaders, doctors, teachers, researchers, politicians, missionaries and parents. Again, what a privilege it is.



Our bible study got to decorate candied apples. Each girl brought a different topping while we enjoyed the fall weather. We also got to invite friends who don't typically come to bible study! We just finished studying

Things you can be praying for:

- IndyCC is our Christmas conference, where over 2,000 students from our region gather to learn and grow. Pray for Miami students to go, staff to have energy to pour into them, and softened hearts to hear God's word!
- College students' typically have a hard time going home after a semester of their own schedule and space at school. Praying for our students to continue to grow and find routine at home for our 6 week winter break.
- Safety on campus is becoming a more frequent prayer for us. Prayers for our team & campus to remain safe from violence.
- Prayer for our senior students who are beginning to think through the legacy they desire to leave at Miami, and their future jobs.

Praises:

- Staff got to be refreshed at fall staff conference where all staff from our region got together
- Alex & Julia who trusted Christ as their savior
- Many people have expressed interest in spring break and summer mission trips
- God has been reminding me of his faithfulness on campus & in life.
- Time at home with my family for the holidays

fear, and now we are excited for the Advent season.

Another highlight of the month was our freshman retreat. Many students said it was a turning point from 'knowing people' on campus, and making real friends! It makes me so excited to see freshman developing friendships that could last a life-time!

Finally I loved getting to add 3 sweet girls to my discipleship chain this month (women I spiritually mentor on a weekly basis). I meet with 12 girls regularly ranging in age and place in their spiritual journey! In discipleship, we are studying time in the bible, leadership, repentance and communicating our faith!

The opportunity to partner with you is such an honor.

*Blessings,
Jenna*



Bethany Robinson
Missionary in the Susquehanna Valley

Mailing address:
1035 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701



Three different campuses coming together to one place for a whole weekend. That's what we call Fall Retreat. For the first time ever, we got students from Lycoming College to come to the Fall Retreat. There were lots of laughs, connecting with new and old friends and learning about the Lord during that weekend!

I had the unique opportunity to just be part of the retreat this year. As a student leader in years past I was always in charge of something, but this year my role was to connect and bond with students. I was able to dig deep with students and just intentionally get to know them better and hear their stories.

This year was the 3rd annual Fall Retreat in the Susquehanna Valley. We always have encouragement baggies for each person that attended the retreat. It is a great way to end the retreat by reading all the little notes that people wrote to you to remind you the gifts that God has given you.

Referring back to Lycoming College..... This campus is the smallest of all the movements in the Susquehanna Valley. It is growing slowly but surely. This photo above shows a wonderful time that we had at a Lycoming Cru movie/game night. We had students from Penn College join us. These campus's are only five minutes away from each other, so it is really nice to see them bonding.

Out of everything that happened this month, I am so thankful for the continual uniting of Penn College and Lycoming College. It is beautiful to see the excitement that God is putting in these student's hearts! I think sometimes I am looking for God only in the big things and tend to forget about the small things. These letters really let me reflect on the big and small works God is doing here.

Thank you so much for your continual prayers and/ or financial support to furthering the kingdom! It is because of you all that I am able to do what I do in reaching each and every one of these students. I hope that you were able to spend quality time with family and friends over Thanksgiving this year!

Pray for the two women that have accepted Christ at Lycoming College and Bloomsburg University.

Pray for my ability to continue to love on students by allowing God's timing to work.

Pray for students as they are near the end of the semester with classes. Stress is usually a lot higher at the end.

Blessings,
Bethany Robinson
Bethany Robinson

Cell: (717) 462-2422

E-mail: bethany.robinson@cru.org

Issue: November 2016

LAY LEADERSHIP 2017
2017 Ballot : Administration

Church Council (Para. 252.5)

Chair	Barry Eaton
Assistant Chair	Rick Herring
Lay Leader	Lynn Rapp
Staff Parish Committee Chair	Dave Florey
Finance Committee Chair	Bob Bittenbender
Board of Trustees Chair	Amy Erno
Church Treasurer	Darlis Aumiller
Assistant Church Treasurer	Marilyn Seig
Secretary	Deb Canonizado
Lay Member	
President of UMW	Lori Hoffnagle
Young Adult Representative	
Youth Representative	Alex Clark
Pastors	Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller, Rev. Dr. David Reed
Members at Large (Quarterly)	Dave Bennetch Lora Bourgeois Sandy Carley Rob Filson Jim LaPointe Geoff Manderewicz Mark Mengle John Rickards John Stauffer Amy Yatsky

Administrative Committees

Staff Parish Committee (3 yr term, 2nd Tues.)

Dave Florey, Chair	2018	Tom Helm	2017
Amy Ogden	2017	Bob Wertz, Sr	2017
Bill Richie	2018	Jenny Dose	2019
Kelly King	2019	Denise Kurtz	2019

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Finance Committee

Bob Bittenbender, Chair			
Ed Blum	John Kurtz	Ken Hammaker	Mark Rouch
Mike Ogden	Gerry Aumiller	Rob Filson	Nancy Robinson, Finance Director
Church Council Chair		Lay Leader	Staff Parish representative
Trustee representative		Treasurer	Assistant Treasurer
Lay Member to Annual Conference			

Board of Trustees (3 yr term, 2nd Mon.)

Bob Wertz, Jr - 2017	Amy Erno - 2017	Cheryl Mengle - 2017
Ken Rapp - 2018	Judi Buddenbaum - 2018	Steve Solon - 2018
James Paris - 2019	Eric King - 2019	James Murdoch - 2019

Committee on Lay Leadership (3 yr. term, 5-9 people)

Pastor, Chair		
Patti Herring - 2017	Derrick Ometz - 2017	
Kathryn Solon - 2018	Judy Wertz - 2018	
Denise Swank - 2019	Wayde Leister - 2019	Mike Erno - 2019

Endowment Committee

Katie Hammaker, convener
Gerry Aumiller Tom Helm Eric DeWalt Ken Rapp
Board of Trustees representative Church Council representative
Finance Committee representative Church Treasurer Pastor(s)

2017 Ministry Area Teams

*Persons are ALWAYS welcome to join ministry area teams throughout the year.
Listen to where God is calling you and connect with one of our Ministry Area Teams~!*

CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Church Sound and Media Team

Roger Walton, **Chair**
Steve Almond Bob Bittenbender Fred Espenshade Michael Garman Holly Kurten
Jim Murdoch Ron Nichols Ken Rapp Kristin Brown, *Staff Liaison*

I.T. Support

Ron Nichols Wayde Leister Kristin Brown, *Staff Liaison*

CHURCH OUTREACH

Hospitality Team

Patti Herring, **Chair**
Judi Buddenbaum - Trustees Representative
Larry Buddenbaum - Head Usher 10:45
Eric King - Head Usher 8:45
Vicki Coover & Karen Smith - Coordinator "Redcoat" Greeters
Betsy Keller Steve Noss Nicole Van Order
Tina Eaton, *Staff Liaison*

Little Friends Nursery School Board of Directors

Devon Betz (*President*) Don Karns (*Treasurer*) Barb Heckard (*Secretary*)

Missions Committee (1ST Tuesday)

David Mengle, Co-Convener	Deb Karns, Co-Covener
Sarah Jones - Secretary	Mike Ogden - Treasurer
John Bowen- <i>Back Yard Ministries</i>	Don & Debbie Karns – <i>New Hope</i>
Krissy Marshall	Mike and Karen McCauliff
Jeannie Eakin-Miller & Buddy Miller – <i>Volunteers in Mission</i>	Amy Ogden – <i>Camping</i>
David & Margie Mengle – <i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	Tiffany Holland – <i>Sierra Leone Initiative</i>
Mike Ogden – <i>Mission Central</i>	Debbie Karns – <i>United Methodist Women-</i>
Nadine Ogden - <i>Neighborhood Center</i>	Eric King — <i>Food Distribution (Bethesda)</i>
Lynn McKinney- <i>UMHC & FUMC Missionaries</i>	Lynn Rapp – <i>Lay Leader</i>
<i>Children Representative</i>	<i>Youth Representative</i>
Denny Keller/Tina Eaton, <i>Staff Liaisons</i>	

Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches Representative

Al Robinson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Access Ministries

Karin McHale, **Chair**

Janet Almond*	Norma Bingham	Jody Brinley	George Canonizado	Brenda Eckert
Patti Herring*	Amy Hiler	Brenda Kateluzos	Eric King	Phoebe Noss
Steve Noss	Shannon O'Leary	Marcia Peterman	Judy Strayer	

David Reed & Nancy Robinson, *Staff Liaisons*

**Leaders for Rejoicing Spirits or Day of Pampering only.*

Congregational Care Team

Janice Bowen, Coordinator *and Staff Liaison*

Janet Almond	Devon Betz	Gary Betz	Lora Bourgeois	Jerry Brown
Jeanne Eakin-Miller	Alex Eckman	Marcia Espenshade	Melissa Felty	Shirley Friese
Vicki Glatfelter	Bonnie Guyer	Roxann Guyer	Sadie Heim	Jeff Hoffnagle
Lori Hoffnagle	Anne Horton	Sarah Jones	Debbie Karns	Joan Mains
Buddy Miller	Deb Noss	Steve Noss	Allison Ometz	Tracy Rainelli
Ken Rapp	Mary Jo Skoglund	Mary Beth Snoke	Janie Stover	Mary Ann Swartley
Pam Van Kirk	Judy Wertz	Lela Zimmerman	Murph Zimmerman	

(names that are in bold serve as Communion Stewards.)

Funeral Meal Team

Caroline Brown, coordinator

Jean Adams	Jeanette Behel	Jeanne Eakin-Miller	Barb Eckert	Dawn Fisher
Bonnie Guyer	Roxann Guyer	Tammy Ingraham	Mary Beth Snoke	Pam Van Kirk

Kristin Brown, *Staff Liaison*

Meal Ministry

Patti Herring, Coordinator

Janet Almond	Marcia Espenshade	Dawn Fisher	Lisa Hoover	Tammy Ingraham
Heidi Mays	Karin McHale	Pam Murdoch	Rhonda Neidig	Nadine Ogden
Karen Philp	Denise Swank	Marge Snyder	Sandy Walton	Judy Wertz
Tracy Wertz	Lisa Wickenheiser	Janice Bowen, <i>Staff Liaison</i>		

Health and Wellness Committee

Nancy Routch, coordinator

Brenda Eckert	Carol Erno	Deb Heisey	Patti Herring
Doris Junkins	Deb Karns	Margie Kohr	Stephanie Koontz
Kim LaPointe	Sandy Leister	Flossie Ryder	Janice Bowen, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

Prayer Team

Deb Karns, convener

Steve Almond	Lisa Aronson	Jo Barth	Jeannette Behel	Lorette Cale
Dan DeLong	Leslee DeLong	Juanita Guise	Ken Guise	Adina Higgins
Bruce Higgins	Sue Higgins	Melissa Hiler	Deb Lehmer	Vicki Marsh
Karen McAuliffe	Mike McAuliffe	Dave Mengle	Margie Mengle	Deb Noss
Nadine Ogden	Shannon O'Leary	Alison Ometz	Flossie Ryder	Trudy Saraiva
Gary Shuey	Linda Shuey	Jerry Smith	Rev. Dr. Marlin Snider	
Marge Snyder	Paige Snyder	Lisa Wickenheiser	Jill Yother	

Tina Eaton/Janice Bowen, *Staff Liaison*

Funeral Coordinator

Debbie Karns	Kristin Brown, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
--------------	-------------------------------------

Memorials Coordinator

Judi Buddenbaum Kristin Brown, *Staff Liaison*

College Ministry Team

To Be Determined Co-Chair

Lisa Aronson, *Staff Liaison*

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Evangelism/Outreach Communications Committee**

Rick Kauffman, **Chair**

Mike Erno Juanita Guise Lori Hoffnagle Marilyn Knott Christina Leister

Ian Leister Krissy Marshall Bill Richie Al Robinson Taylor Sariva

Denny Keller/Tina Eaton, *Staff Liaisons*

Fellowship Team

Patti Herring, **Chair**

Susanna Brill Jenn Gross Jeff Hoffnagle Betsy Keller Holly Kurten

Lori McKenney Melody Small Dan Wertz Brandy Zimmerman

Tina Eaton/Janice Bowen, *Staff Liaisons*

History Committee

Tom Mullikin, **Chair** Carvel Markley John Behel Pastors, *Staff Liaisons*

Librarians

Donna Nichols, **Co-Chair** Pam Van Kirk, **Co-chair** Tina Eaton, *Staff Liaison*

United Methodist Women Officers

Lori Hoffnagle - President Deb Karns - Co-President

Pam Van Kirk - Baby/Memorial Card Administrator

Sandy Walton - Deborah Circle

Janice Bowen - Mary Circle and *Staff Liaison*

Beryl Morgan - Ruth Circle

Marley Ann Schmick - Martha Circle

Sandy Bennetch - Covered in Love

Tammy Snyder - Squares and Prayers

Lora Bourgeois - Knit at Night

Men's Ministry

John Bowen, Co-Chair Bob Wertz, Jr., Co-Chair Tina Eaton, *Staff Liaison*

WORSHIP**Acolyte Coordinator**

Colin Knott

Altar Flower Ministry

Mary Beth Snoke, Coordinator

Sue Chilton Joanne Ciampa Don Coldren Kay Coldren Vicki Glatfelter

Dean Otto Flossie Ryder Judy Wertz Janice Bowen, *Staff Liaison*

Altar Guild

Pam Van Kirk, Coordinator

Jean Adams Jeannette Behel Annabelle Elder Sandy Walton Janice Bowen, *Staff Liaison*

Access Ministry

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - DisAbility Awareness Sunday

As Christians we are to make disciples of all nations. In Luke 14:13-14 Jesus instructed us "...when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed..." In the Parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14:15-24 we read "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'" Have you ever wondered how we at First Church can reach out to the DisAbled community???

On Sunday, January 22, 2017, we welcome guest speaker Sib Charles from the Joni and Friends International Disability Center organization. During the Sunday School hour she will share with us how the Church and the DisAbled community can work together for God's Glory. Sib is the Community and Church Relations Manager for the local Joni and Friends Eastern PA. www.joniandfriends.org.

Please come and join your First Church family as we focus on including all God's children in making disciples of the nations. We will be meeting in the multi-purpose room and the program will begin at 9:30 am. Don't miss this "family" meeting! Our time together will be a wonderful addition to our morning worship services. We hope you won't miss the "Clan" gathering.

Who's Ready for Some Pampering??

That's right! Delicious refreshments, meaningful worship, a blessing of the hands, an elegant luncheon, a new hair style, a fresh manicure, makeup, a soothing massage, handwaxing, a luxurious foot soak, relaxation techniques, a visit to the tea room, a quiet moment in the prayer room, networking, and much more! *At First Church, this is what awaits nearly one hundred caregivers from the surrounding communities each February.* These caregivers dedicate their lives in support of loved ones who are affected by disAbility. Many hands and hearts are needed as there is much to be done in preparation.

Won't you please consider what your role in this year's Day of Pampering will be?

If you've helped in the past: Contact Lisa with your commitment to help again.

If you have never helped: Contact Lisa to explore the opportunities.

If you need to know more about Day of Pampering: Contact Lisa to learn more about this outreach.

If you are willing to pray for Day of Pampering; our church as we host this event; the many volunteers who will fill the necessary roles; the local service providers who will share their time and skills; the local businesses which will donate toward the day; the caregivers who will attend; the families and loved ones represented by those caregivers; the greater disAbility community; and the ways in which the church can work toward becoming co-laborers with these families: Begin now. And, thank you!

Day of Pampering: Saturday, February 25, 2017; 8:45 – 4:00.

Volunteers are needed for the day (part of the day OR the entire day), but also in the weeks and days leading up to the event. **Contact Lisa Wickenheiser** at 717-649-0993 or the7wicks@verizon.net to confirm your availability and your commitment to this amazing opportunity. Not only will the caregivers be blessed, but you will be too!

Library

"Another new year." "A chance to be brand new." "A chance to change." These are many of the slogans that are headlines in the newspaper and even more online in January. A chance to purchase a whole new you or new products are standard advertising practices. But as Christians we know we can be made new in Christ for free. A lot of times people begin the "new" process by forgiving or being forgiven. And that brings me to the topic of one of our new books.

Forgiven: the Amish School Shooting by Terri Roberts is the heartfelt true story of the mother of the

Nickel Mine School shooter. Back in 2006 Charles Roberts shot ten young Amish girls in what he said was retribution for “God allowing his infant daughter to be born dead”. If you are like me, you wondered if he had a troubled childhood or what made him into this monster. Ten years later Terri Roberts has written a book about her son, the shooting, and the long journey back for her family from that tragic day. I was surprised to find the family was a close knit and deeply spiritual family. None of the family knows what happened to make Charles commit this terrible deed. You will sometimes need tissues when you read this remarkable woman’s story of love—love from her neighbors, and more importantly, love of the Father. This book was brought to our attention by a church member, and we know you will be glad it wasn’t overlooked. The library also has **Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy**.

Speaking of church members, many of you know Michele Brymesser who had breast cancer. She has written a book about her journey and how she got through it one day at a time. Along with the full time job of wife and mother of three, Michele is also a first grade teacher. As Michele began treatment and more people became aware of her diagnosis, she wanted to scream at the helpful people who said she would be a better person after going through her journey with cancer. While trying to ignore those “helpful” opinions, she struggled with pain, sickness, sadness and the help of more than one jelly donut. But she said what really pulled her through this difficult time was faith, family, friends, a wonderful medical team and her sister’s wonderful advice to take everything just “one day at a time”. Stop in the library for this incredible and inspiring book titled **Jelly Donut Days: Fighting Breast Cancer, One Day at a Time**.

I will end this newsletter with the classic New Years’ resolution—Read more uplifting books, visit the church library more and read more books!! If you would like to copy and paste that to your resolution list, you have my permission.

See you in the library!

Pam & Donna

Adult Ministries

Bible Studies

We have several Bible studies that you are welcome to join this winter. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact the person listed below:

Men’s Inductive Bible Study – Colossians and Ephesians

Do you long to immerse yourself in God's Word, but need a study that matches your busy lifestyle? This class is for you! Class begins meeting in January ~ Sunday evenings 6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Ken Guise for more details at kguise@knouse.com

Women’s/Men’s Inductive Bible Study - Ephesians

Are you ready for an in-depth study using an easy-to-follow format that helps you to discover God's truth for yourself? Then you are ready for this class! Classes begin meeting January 12 ~ Thursday mornings 9:00 – 11:00 am OR Thursday evenings 6:45 – 8:45 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Juanita Guise for more details at kguise@comcast.net

Men’s Small Group

Did you know we have a men’s group that meets at 8:00 pm every other Wednesday evening in room B005? The group is called “Men of First Church” and together they actively pursue a relationship with God, His Word, and other men for the purposes of growing together in Christ. Contact John Bowen at bowen-home720@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.

Disciple Groups

We will start “Disciple Fast Track” New Testament study groups in January and everyone is encouraged to participate! Since 1987, Disciple Bible Study has offered a full, grand sweep of Scripture in a 34-week format.

Now, "Disciple Fast Track" has been modified to better meet the needs of a hectic world. You will still benefit from the integrity and principles of the full Disciple Bible Study, but classes will meet for only 12 weeks for just about an hour each week.

There are three groups to choose from:

Wednesdays beginning January 18, 6:45 – 8:00 pm in room B004 with Pastor Denny

Sundays beginning January 22, 9:30 – 10:30 am in room B004 with Tina Eaton

Wednesdays beginning January 25, 12:30 – 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall with Tina Eaton

Please go to the display in the main lobby more details and to sign up for a group. Cost of the study manual is \$14.99. Contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611 or email adultministry@fumchurch.com for more information.

Reflections for Lent – 2017

It's that time of the year again! That's right... time to start writing your personal devotion for our "Reflections for Lent" booklet. We welcome your participation with gratitude! Sharing your story will strengthen both your faith and the faith of others, plus it will bring glory to God! Please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call her at 766-4611 to sign up today You can also write your name on the sign-up sheet located in the main lobby on the Adult Ministries table.

The format of your personal devotion should be:

- Brief title
- Scripture – just a short passage
- 2 or 3 sentences about what the scripture means to you
- About 5 or so sentences that apply that scripture to your life
- A brief prayer
- Your name

If you think you cannot do it, you can! If you would like assistance, please contact Tina for ideas or help with editing. *Your devotion is due by Sunday, February 5, 2017.* Please email your document to adultministry@fumchurch.com. If you do not have access to email, please place a hard copy in an envelope marked "Reflection for Lent" and place it in Tina's mailbox.

2017 Women's Retreat ~ February 3-5

Mt. Asbury Retreat Center, Newville



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

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 date.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Allergies or diet restrictions _____

Medications _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Registration fee is \$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.** _____ \$125 registration enclosed

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



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 1st & 3rd Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

KNIT AT NIGHT ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

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

Thanks to everyone who donated items to the Neighborhood Center Christmas Wish List! The items were delivered on December 12 and were valued at over \$1,600! Thank you again for making Christmas special for families in Harrisburg. (photo attached). - if you don't like the photo, you don't need to add it :)

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring the human trafficking awareness presentation on Sunday, February 12 in the Multi Purpose room during the Sunday School hour. DeFord Davis, local Women at Risk representative, will help us to understand the difference between smuggling and trafficking, how girls in the US are duped by the older boyfriend trafficker and why it's a growing problem in suburbia and everywhere in the United States. She will help us to become more aware of these hidden captives in our society. Don't miss this informative presentation!

Men’s Winter Retreat - February 17-19, 2017

Complete the bottom portion of this form and put in the Bowen church mailbox. Registration 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 bowen-home720@gmail.com with any questions.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

*Deadline for registration will be February 10th



Health & Wellness

December Blood Drives

January 3 rd	3pm to 7pm	Denny's on the Carlisle Pike
January 4 th	3pm to 7:30pm	Carlisle Church of Christ, 971 Walnut Bottom Rd. Carlisle 17015
January 5 th	1pm to 4pm	Claremont Nursing Home, 1000 Claremont Rd., Carlisle 17013
January 6 th	8am to 7pm	Fox Center, 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg 17055
January 7 th	8am to 12pm	Liberty Tax, 28 South Hanover St. Carlisle 17013
January 9 th	12pm to 5pm	Bob Ruth Ford, 11/15 near Dillsburg
January 13 th	8am to 12pm	REMCO, Inc., 195 Hempt Rd., Mechanicsburg, 17050
January 13 th	10am to 2pm	Apicella Lorei Orthodontics, 21 State Ave, Carlisle 17013
January 15 th	7:30am to 12:30pm	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 310 Hertzler Rd., Mechanicsburg 17055
January 18 th	12pm to 4pm	West Shore Hospital/Pinnacle Health Fredericksen, 2015 Technology Center, Mechanicsburg 17050
January 19 th	3pm to 7pm	Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike
January 27 th	10am to 4pm	Bethany Village, 5225 Wilson Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055
January 29 th	12:30pm to 3pm	Otterbein UMC, 647 Forge Rd., Carlisle 17015
January 30 th	9am to 4pm	Messiah College, Hostetter Chapel

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

Special Birthdays

Bill Henschke January 1
Pat Hutter January 3
Winnie Prowell January 7
Richard Reed January 15
David Coover January 16
Charles Glessner January 16
Ida Bardell January 21
Leta Rohlmeier January 23
Dot Souder January 27
Margaret Baker January 30

Joanne Ciampa February 6
Dottie Zimmerman .. February 26
Gerry Aumiller February 27

Special Anniversaries

♥ Larry & Linda Hall married 56 years on February 4
♥ Denny & Sally Kauffman married 57 years on February 14
♥ Winslow & Caroline Brown married 62 years on February 19

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the loss of Norma Bingham’s mother, Lois, on November 30.
- to the family upon the loss of Margie and Dave Mengle’s son, Jared Wilkins, on November 29
- to the family of Jerry Holler who passed away on December 15
- to the family of Les Reed who passed away on December 24

Thank you

Dear First Church Family,
 Thank you for the delicious meals you provided me while I was recovering,
 God Bless, Helen Ritter

~~~~~

To My First Church Family,  
 Thank you all so much for your prayers, care, meals, flowers, calls, cards and visits after my recent surgery. Words cannot fully express how blessed both Barry and I feel to be part of such a special family!  
 Thank you gain, Tina Eaton

~~~~~

Funeral & Hospitality Committees,
 During a time like this we realize how much our friends and family really mean to us... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.
 Oh my goodness. How did you do it and have it appear effortlessly! In a rather short amount of time, there appeared enough cakes & cookies to feed Jared’s Battalion of over 400 men!!
 Please accept our deepest gratitude to all of you for handling the fellowship time following Jared’s memorial service. Many of us were emotionally drained by then and it was very welcoming to see everything set up and ready for us.
 I had no idea how efficient these committees are... all we said to Pastor Denny was that we just wanted desserts... and there they were... and more... and more 😊 We are still in awe at the vast amounts of desserts and the vast variety of them. What you do truly shines the light of God to everyone there!!

♥ David & Margie Mengle

~~~~~

Dear Hospitality & Funeral Committees,  
 Thank you for the wonderful spread of hospitality for Jared’s memorial service. Everything was coordinated beautifully, and quite a bounty of refreshments. Please know how grateful we are for your gift during our time of loss,  
 Sincerely, The Family of Jared Wilkins

~~~~~

I was comforted and blessed by so many of our church family expressing condolences with many cards, hugs and prayers when my mother, Jean Ritter, passed away last month. Thank you so much!!
 Vickie Coover

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

FACILITIES COORDINATOR*

766-4611 ext. 105
Tom Ziegler
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*

Allison Ometz
ometz@msn.com

JUNIOR CHOIR*

Melissa Felty
melissafelty@hotmail.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

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting articles
for the **February** issue is
January 15

Early submissions always
appreciated