



*First News First*

January 2020

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

**2020 Vision**

Have you had your vision tested lately? You know the test, where you sit in a dark room and the doctor instructs you to cover one eye and read the smallest print you can see on the eye chart. Near the bottom of the chart, where the letter are quite small, is the 20/20 line. Being able to read that line is the standard for "normal" vision. If you have extraordinary eyesight, you can read even smaller letters, but most of us need corrective lenses even to read the 20/20 line. I'm so thankful for those corrective lenses! I've worn glasses since the 9th Grade!

Have you had your vision tested lately? Vision can also mean how you look at life. One of my favorite novels is *Joshua* by Joseph F. Girzone. It depicts Jesus as a contemporary wood artist with the Hebrew name of Joshua. Joshua has moved to a small house on the edge of a fictional town called Auburn. He lives very simply, very openly, and with kindness and generosity toward everyone. Suspicious at first because he is a stranger with ways unlike their own, the townspeople eventually come to like and admire Joshua.

One day a Jewish factory owner, Aaron Fahn, admiring Joshua's life, asks him how he came to be that way. "I can't understand how anyone could develop the vision for life that you have," Aaron says. "It is so foreign to my way of thinking, and so different from the thinking of everybody I know."

"Each person," says Joshua, "looks at life through a different vision. Three men can look at a tree. One man will see so many board feet of valuable lumber worth so much money. The second man will see it as so much firewood to be burned, to keep his family warm in the winter. The third man will see it as a masterpiece of God's creative art, given to a man as an expression of God's love and enduring strength, with a value far beyond its worth in money or firewood. What we live for determines what we see in life and gives clear focus to our inner vision."

Aaron asks, "Who taught you to think this way?"

"It is what I see," say Joshua. "You could see it, too, if you could detach yourself from the things that you were taught to value. They do not give you peace, nor do they give you lasting satisfaction. They leave you empty, and filled with a longing for something more."

Aaron admits that is true, but wants to know how Joshua knows it.

"I know how God made us," says Joshua, "and understand what we really need if we are to grow and find peace" (New York: Macmillan Co., 1987, p. 67).

Reading *Joshua* not only prodded my thinking about Jesus if he lived in the modern world; it also helped me realize the radical difference between Jesus' vision for life and the things the world values.

We're beginning this new year with a series of messages on the vision of Jesus for living a life of joy and fulfillment entitled, "The Beatitudes: Keys to a Blessed Life." We will explore each of the eight keys Jesus gives us in Matthew 5:3-12, as we dig into what many have called the greatest sermon ever preached.

Excited to live the blessed life in Jesus with you,

Pastor Denny

*(continued on p. 2)*

*(continued from p. 1)***"The Beatitudes: Keys to a Blessed Life"**

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|             |                                    |   |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| January 5   | "It Depends On Who You Depend On"  | Blessed are the poor in spirit,<br>for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.                   |
| January 12  | "How God Blesses Broken Hearts"    | Blessed are those who mourn,<br>for they will be comforted.                               |
| January 19  | "The Strength of Gentleness"       | Blessed are the meek,<br>for they will inherit the earth.                                 |
| January 26  | Youth Sunday                       |   |
| February 2  | "Why You Need to Stay Hungry"      | Blessed are those who hunger and thirst<br>for righteousness,<br>for they will be filled. |
| February 9  | "Your Ministry of Mercy"           | Blessed are the merciful,<br>for they will receive mercy.                                 |
| February 16 | "God Blesses A Heart of Integrity" | Blessed are the pure in heart,<br>for they will see God.                                  |
| February 23 | "How To Reconcile a Relationship"  | Blessed are the peacemakers,<br>for they will be called children of God.                  |

*Lifelong Learner***Bible Reading Plan**

Looking for new ways to grow closer to Christ in 2020? Pick up your copy of our Bible reading plan today at the Welcome Center display and start reading on your own. To study with others, consider joining one of the new Bible studies being offered this winter. And if you are in need of a new Bible, simply pick one up at the display. Large-print versions are available.

**Winter Studies**

We have several new studies being offered this winter and all are invited to come for fellowship and learning!

- Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection – The long-awaited Messiah finally arrived, only to be betrayed and sentenced to death. Why would Jesus knowingly do this for us? Come to discover afresh the good news of the gospel in this study of Mark, chapters 14-16. This 6-week, no homework study, led by Juanita and Ken Guise, begins January 26 and will be held on Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 am in room B006. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display. Cost of workbook is just \$5.00.
- Alpha – The world is looking for real love, real hope, real friendship and the real message of Jesus. And this all starts with us... we must equip ourselves as leaders with the real truth in order to effectively reach outside of our church and offer ourselves as a welcoming community to those who

need to know Jesus. Gear up for this by participating in Alpha this winter! Each week over the 10-week course we will look at the big questions of life and faith, talk about the real answers and prepare to share this truth with others. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display. There is no cost for this study. Three class times are being offered:

- ◊ Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 am in B004. Begins January 26. Led by Tina Eaton
- ◊ Wednesday mid-day 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Begins January 29. Led by Pastor John Shellenberger (plus dutch-treat lunch to follow for those who are interested.)
- ◊ Wednesday evening 6:45-8:00 pm. Begins January 29. Led by Pastor Dennis Keller
- The Savior of Sinners - How did Jesus spend his final days? And just what happened when Jesus died and rose from the dead? Come to find the answers for yourself in this study of Luke, chapters 17-24. This 7-week study, led by Juanita Guise, will begin in early February. Thursday morning and evening classes will be available. Workbook cost is \$15.75. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display.

## Praying Follower



### Moms in Prayer

Did you know that we have several First Church women engaged in praying with a **Moms in Prayer** group? What a blessing is it to join other mothers and grandmothers in lifting our children in prayer! If you are interested in joining them, here's what you need to know:

- **Monday Night Group:** Prays for children at any age/stage of life. Meets here at First Church from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Prayer Room (2nd floor elevator landing). Contact Deb Noss for information.
- **Thursday Morning Group:** Prays for students at the Kindergarten Academy, Northside Elementary, Elmwood Elementary and Mechanicsburg Middle School. In-home meeting in Shiremanstown from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Contact Anna Harris for more information.
- **Tuesday Morning Group:** Prays for College/Career children. In-home meeting in Mechanicsburg begins at 8:15 am. Contact Nadine Ogden for more information.
- **Wednesday Morning Grandmothers Group:** Prays for grandchildren. In-home meeting in Enola begins at 8:45 am. Contact Nadine Ogden for more information.

All mothers and grandmothers are invited and no prayer experience is required. What is prayed in the group stays in the group, so don't worry – your prayer requests will remain private within the group.

### From the Library

I know you will be reading this in January, and if you are like me, January can be a time of calm and regrouping. But as I write this in early December, I feel like my body is trying to get me out of my chair and back to December business, and my soul is yearning for my sewing room. So if there are any run-on sentences or incoherent thoughts, you will understand. Begin by thinking about books as I really do have some great reads!

If you liked the December books with short stories and quick reads, I have just the book for you. **Amish Front Porch Stories: 18 Short Tales of Simple Faith and Wisdom** is written by the Brunstetter women, Wanda, her daughter-in-law Jean, and her granddaughter, Richelle. If you like the Amish genre, this book fills the bill and more. It's a book written by women for women about problems any woman might face—cranky neighbors, infertility, or simply a lack of patience. Each story handles journeys of faith, love and joy in Amish Country. It is easy to read in small chunks of time.

If Amish fiction isn't your genre, Lynette Eason has recently released **Protecting Tanner Hollow**, four novellas in her usual plot line of romantic suspense. Enjoy these nail-biting stories in one book, almost a late Christmas present. Each short book has the word lethal in its title, and in each story someone's life is in danger, and it is a race to save that person's life. Great books—easy to read in small chunks of time and

they won't keep you up late!

Finally there is news about the conclusion of *Marshall Family Series* by Susan May Warren. Many of you have enjoyed the stories of Tate, Knox, Ford, and Wyatt, but Ms. Warren is wrapping up the series with their sister, Ruby Jane. Set in Russia (and yes, you read that right), Ruby Jane is running from the police with Mack Jones a man she loved and lost when he was supposedly killed in a car crash. When she sees him on the news as a hero in a small town, she seeks him out. But he doesn't remember her or his earlier life. He has felt a sense of foreboding, but he has been living a quiet life in a small town. All that is over after his face appears on national news, and now they are on the run. Will he remember Ruby Jane or just fall in love all over again? This is the final book in this series and reviewers have said it is going out with a bang. If you have overlooked this series, you might want to get started on book one as they are best read in order.

If none of these books appeals to you, stop in the library and someone will introduce you to new authors or new books by your favorite author.

See you in the library.

Pam & Donna

## Passionate Worshipper



### Worship

Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:15 am Foundation Service

10:45 am Convergent Service

Sunday School 9:30 am



**The 4th Sunday at 4:00...** an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disAbilities, their families, friends and care givers.

### Holy Communion

|                               |             |                        |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Covenant Communion            | January 5   | Pew Service            |
|                               | February 2  | Loaves and Chalices    |
| Ash Wednesday                 | February 26 | Loaves and Chalices    |
| First Sunday in Lent          | March 1     | Pew Service            |
| Palm Sunday                   | April 5     | Loaves and Chalices    |
| Maundy Thursday               | April 9     | At Tables              |
| Easter Sunrise                | April 12    | Mechanicsburg Cemetery |
|                               | May 3       | Pew Service            |
|                               | June 7      | Loaves and Chalices    |
|                               | July 5      | Pew Service            |
|                               | August 2    | Loaves and Chalices    |
|                               | September 6 | Pew Service            |
| World Communion               | October 4   | Loaves and Chalices    |
|                               | November 1  | Loaves and Chalices    |
| First Sunday of Advent        | December 6  | Pew Service            |
| Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00 | December 24 | Loaves and Chalices    |

## New Sanctuary Space

Access Ministry Team has helped to add a sensory space in the sanctuary. It can be found behind the green chairs section in the corner. This sensory space is intended for individuals affected with sensory needs and should not be viewed or used as toys or as a play area. We ask all church members to help convey this message and to help explain this space to our children.

Sensory tools can help to calm or to stimulate individuals with unique and specific sensory needs. For example, a rocking chair can provide a calming rhythm, or a small tent can provide a sense of safety. Providing this space means the entire family of a person with sensory needs can have an opportunity to be actively engaged in the life of the church. The Body of Christ is made stronger and more beautiful when everyone can participate.

In addition to the sensory space there are also noise cancelling headphones available at the sound booth and in the sensory space. Noise cancelling headphones can help individuals participate that otherwise feel overwhelmed by the sounds in the sanctuary. Have you ever seen small children cover their ears in church? Now multiple the sound and you can get just a small sense of what sensory overload might feel like.

We continue to try to meet the needs of all God's children. If you have a family member, friend or neighbor that chooses not to attend church because of the needs of their family member, share this news with them. This might just be an answer to prayers.

## Acolyte Information

Did you know that acolytes have a very important job? The word acolyte comes from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning follower, a helper or assistant and they have been part of the church in one form or another for nearly 2,000 years. Did you ever wonder why the acolyte lights candles at the beginning of each service and carries it out at the end? "Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world'" (John 8:12). Light in the form of a flame is carried into the church sanctuary to symbolize the entrance of Christ's light into the place of worship. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. Would you like to help carry on this important tradition of the church? Please contact Gavin Smith at [KarenSLP925@gmail.com](mailto:KarenSLP925@gmail.com) or 717-579-2557 for more information.

## Dedicated Missionary



### Monthly Mission Opportunities:

**Mission Meeting** ~ The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. If you are planning to go on a short-term mission trip, please feel free to complete the application for financial assistance found on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), under the Missions tab. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

**Isaiah 61 Ministries** ~ 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, **January 15 at 6:30 p.m.** A carpool leaves from First Church at 6:00 p.m. for those who are interested. To volunteer, contact Tiffany Holland at [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

### Change for Water ~ Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway

This past month 2,260 "pennies" (\$22.60) were contributed to the Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone. 54,050 "pennies" (\$540.50) total were contributed in 2019 to the Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone. Thank you to everyone!! Every penny helps so keep dropping your loose change into the **Change for Water** Bucket. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. ***You can even throw in "paper" change ~ they're the best!!***

## Upcoming VIM Mission Trip

Next VIM Trip: January 14 to 23, 2020: Costa Rica. Cost is \$1,600, type of work is construction.

Contact Ron Lucas at ronkar1976@comcast.net.

*What is United Methodist Volunteers in Mission?* UMVIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action” through short-term mission service locally, nationally and internationally. *How long has UMVIM been in existence?* The UMVIM movement began in 1976 and is organized by jurisdiction. The General Board of Global Ministries networks with the jurisdictional UMVIM offices, which in turn, coordinate with annual conference offices. *What is the ministry of UMVIM?* UMVIM teams work together to fulfill ongoing missional needs domestically and abroad usually serving for several days to several weeks. Their work includes construction and renewing of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, holding Bible studies or Bible School, and serving in disaster relieve and recovery efforts around the world. For more details: visit the website at susmb.org, **Contact Michelle Schwartzman, Susquehanna Conference Director of Volunteers in Mission, vim@susumc.org 717-766-7441 ext. 3105.**



## Relationship Builder

### Hospitality Tip

Hospitality is an every day event, not just in church, but wherever you go. It’s a new year and maybe this can be one of your New Year’s resolutions. Let’s all try to show hospitality to everyone. You can show hospitality in so many ways. Give someone a compliment just because you can. Smile at everyone and see if they smile back. January is usually a quiet month, but remember to show love to one and all. Hope your holidays were happy ones, let’s remember that Christmas Spirit all year long.

### Veterans Honor Wall

First Church needs your help in honoring our Veterans! We are looking for information to complete our First Church Honor Wall (located at the Frederick Street entrance). During the next few months , we are asking for all **past and present Veterans to visit the display outside the multipurpose room and enter the following information in our Ledger: Name, Dates of Service, and Branch of Military.** Feel free to complete the information for a family member. Thank you for helping us to give our Veterans the honor they so deserve! If you have questions or have a Veteran picture to share, please contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or 717-766-4166, ext. 112.

### Community Dinner, February 16

The next Community Dinner served to the downtown Mechanicsburg residents will be on Sunday, February 16 at 5:00 p.m. The location will be in the new Buhrig’s Gathering Place, 25 E. Main Street. The dinner is a collaborative event to bless the downtown community with a free meal. The concept comes from the book ‘Welcome to Dinner, Church,’ which encourages churches to share a meal with their neighbors. We will be serving baked ziti for this meal. If you would like to help in any way, such as providing food or serving on that Sunday, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

### Broad Street Dinner, March 5

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 5, as we will be providing the hamburger BBQ for the spring community dinner at Broad Street Elementary. We will need close to 60 pounds of BBQ for the dinner. If you would like to make a batch for the families at Broad Street, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. Thanks for caring for your community!

### BEYOND Suffering

BEYOND Suffering, a groundbreaking course created to transform the way we view God’s plan for disability and suffering, will be held at First Church under the balcony on Monday evenings from 6:15-7:45 pm beginning January 13. This 8-week course is designed to fully equip participants for ministry with the disability community, and has been designed by the Christian Institute on Disability and Join & Friends. Lisa Wickenheiser, M.Ed., will be our teacher for this course. Lisa will also coordinate a trip to

the “Finding the Forgotten” exhibit in Mountville, PA as a part of this course. Cost for workbook is just \$35. Contact Tina Eaton at 717-766-4611 or email her at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you have questions or would like to participate in this study.

### Joy in the Midst

If you live with ongoing health challenges, we invite you to a new, spiritually-grounded support group. The group will meet at FUMC (room 105) on the second Monday of each month in the afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 beginning January 13th. All participants will receive the book, *With the Dawn Rejoicing*. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen will co-facilitate. For more information, contact Janice (717-766-4611 x112 or [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com))

### Soupy Saturday

**What?** Soupy Saturday. **When?** Saturday, January 25th - 9 a.m. **Where?** FUMC Kitchen. **Who?** You!

If you enjoy cooking, please join us in the church kitchen to cook-up some delicious soup and muffins to share with a friend, neighbor, or homebound church member! Questions? Contact - Janice Bowen [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) - 717-766-4611 x112

### Great Night Out

Mark your calendars... **Mark Cable** is returning to First Church for a **Great Night Out** on Friday evening, March 13! Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a café for the evening, and ALL adults (not just couples) are invited to come for 2 hours of fun as we relax and enjoy a time of fellowship filled with great stories and songs (and of course... those tasty desserts!) Keep your eye out for more details as the time gets closer.

### Clearance Updates Required

As per state law and our churches Safe Sanctuary requirements, clearances for those 18 years of age and older who serve alongside children and youth MUST be updated every 5 years. Because a bulk of First Church partners in ministry (those serving in any capacity within the children and youth departments) updated their clearances at the same time, most are approaching their 5 year renewal with the start of 2020. Therefore, it is very likely your clearances need to be updated. This includes Child Abuse Clearance, PA Police Background Check, FBI fingerprinting or notarized affidavit, and your Safe Sanctuary training. To begin the process please verify with Dawn Fisher or Anna Harris as to when your 5 year renewal must be completed. On **January 12 and 19** after services and during the Sunday school hour there will be opportunities to get your affidavit notarized. Notaries will be available for those that qualify for a signed affidavit instead of FBI fingerprinting. (Affidavit are available for only those who are non-paid staff and who have lived consecutively in the state of Pennsylvania for at least 10 years. Out of state college is not an exception). We will provide the notary form, just come with a valid form of ID to the main lobby on either **January 12 or 19**. Watch your email for an invitation to participate in a Safe Sanctuary training. Training has moved to an online platform and links are issued per person (please do not share the link for the training). Complete the remaining clearances on-line by following the instructions located under the “Safe Sanctuary” tab of the Children’s Ministry page at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)

**Link:** <https://fumchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SafeSanctuaries2019.pdf>

### Generous Giver



### FINANCIAL REPORT

Through November 30, 2019 91 % of year

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| General Fund 2019 budget | \$ 970,000 |
| Actual income            | \$ 889,200 |
| Projected income         | \$ 839,732 |
| Actual expenses          | \$ 804,084 |

The Finance Committee and the Administrative Board have approved a 2020 budget of \$955,000. This is an increase over the current year expected actual income and is possible because of the faithfulness of the Lord and your commitment during the Consecration Sunday program. We appreciate those who completed an estimate of giving card and those who pledged increased amounts. The complete 2020 budget will be included in the next newsletter.

### **Neighborhood Center Angel Tree**

Thanks to everyone who purchased gifts and wrapping paper for the families at Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church in Harrisburg. We were able to provide a wonderful Christmas to three families, with a total of eight children. Thanks for taking the time to purchase the specific gifts that were listed, as I'm sure the children will be delighted! *Lori Hoffnagle, UMW President*

### **Women's Retreat and the SCRIP Program**

Need a gift idea? Think of the SCRIP gift card program and benefit the Women's Retreat! For the month of January, proceeds from specific gift card purchases will benefit the 2020 Women's Retreat. The gift cards include: Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, and TGI Friday's. The SCRIP box and order forms are located near the coffee prep area (Main entrance hallway, turn right, immediate left on the wall, near the stairwell). Any questions, contact Patti Herring at [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net). Thanks for supporting the Women's Retreat!

### **Feminine Hygiene Kits**

Just a reminder about the sewing day Deborah Circle is sponsoring to make feminine hygiene kits for Mission Central. If you have not heard about these kits, it is an eye opener to know what women and girls do in poor countries to take care of their menstrual period. Sometimes they use dirt or weeds or worse during this time and if nothing works, they must stay home from school or work one week a month. This adds to their poverty and lack of education. To get a fuller look at this project go to Mission Central and look under ways to contribute and there is a larger explanation, patterns, and directions. You can help with this project even if you don't sew. There is a lot of cutting out of materials and if you do sew simple sewing. A serger sewing machine is very helpful but not mandatory. We will start at 8:30 on January 12th (January 19th if we need a snow day) and sew until the fabric is used up, we are done, or you just need to leave. We will be setting up in Fellowship Hall. Pack a lunch if you care too. Coffee and muffins will be provided in the morning. UMW is providing the first \$100. worth of fabric including the all-important water proof fabric needed. If you can bring flannel or cottons for the project great. All fabrics must be washed in unscented soap and no fabric softener used. If the fabric is preshrunk and the kit made properly the kit will last 3 years. The fabric dos and don'ts are listed on the Mission Central website (and there are several). If you can bring your sewing machine-great. Other sewing supplies such as sharp scissors, rotor cutters, quilting rulers, and cutting mats will be needed. Dark thread is always used. In order to have enough fabric and patterns, please call or email me, Donna Nichols at [djnichols43@hotmail.com](mailto:djnichols43@hotmail.com). Tanya Weaver who presented this project Mission Central and actually went to Africa and distributed these kits said it was just like Christmas- the girls and women were so happy to have the kits. It was also mentioned that this kits maybe distributed poor areas in our country

### **Day of Pampering**

Day of Pampering is scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020 here at First Church. That answers the what, when and where. Why do we do Day of Pampering? The answer is simple. We LOVE our Lord. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matt. 25:40). God has led us to share His love with a group of women caregivers who give their love every single day in ways we may not understand. Being a caregiver is a never-ending task. Day of Pampering provides a respite time for these women to step away, renew their spirits, and make new connections. How can you help? Please add Day of Pampering to your prayer list. Pray for the planning and preparations. Pray that community providers and volunteers will commit their time and talents to help with this special day. Pray for the women who will attend this event. How can you be involved? Consider if you can be the hands of Jesus delivering love to this special group of women. We need help in many areas including moving furniture, decorating, packing gift bags, painting nails, helping with hand waxing, and so much more. What can you do right now? Share the name and

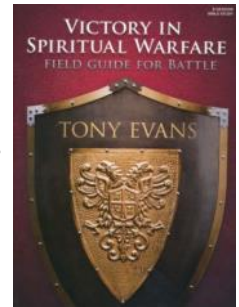


email address of any woman you know that is the caregiver for a loved one. Guests of Day of Pampering are invited and must be confirmed for attendance. We would love to add new names to our list. Please contact Karin McHale, 717-379-8329 or [karinmch@comcast.net](mailto:karinmch@comcast.net), to sign up, ask questions, share a provider name or share a guest name.



### IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE - Men's Small Group Video Series

Since the first Wednesday of January will be New Years Day, **we will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in January ONLY.** We are now watching and discussing "Victory in Spiritual Warfare" by Dr. Tony Evans - you don't need to have seen any videos so far to join us as each lesson stands on its own. **January dates are 1/8 and 1/22, from 8-9:30pm.** In February we will again start meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Contact Barry Eaton ([theeaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theeaton5@verizon.net)) or John Bowen ([bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com)) if you have questions or would like more information.



### Men's Retreat:

Think back on your life up to this point and remember how many men have played a role in teaching you something that has helped you become better at something. If you are as fortunate as we have been, there were many names you can recall. And how about those you have mentored along the way and taught something they appreciated, no matter how trivial or significant? The theme for this year's men's retreat will focus on the role each of us plays as leaders even when we don't consider ourselves to be one. With the guidance of Kevin Witt, presently the Director of Camp/Retreat and Discipleship Ministries for the Susquehanna Conference Camp Director, we will discover how we are already influencing those around us and how we can develop those skills by seeking others who may be just ahead of us on the journey. We are very pleased to offer this timely subject since it fits with whatever stage of life you may find yourself in this year. Join us at Wesley Forest the weekend of March 6-8, 2020 to enjoy good fellowship, food, and programming that will greatly enhance your overall social, spiritual, and emotional health. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT THROUGH JANUARY 19!** The small investment of registration fee will come back to you in great returns that will continue to serve you the rest of your days. If you have plans that make it difficult to join us for the entire weekend, don't let that deter you from coming - this year we are offering a Saturday-only option for a reduced rate. Look for information outside the multi-purpose room, and seek out Barry Eaton or John Bowen (email addresses listed under the video announcement above) with any questions or a desire to be a part of this annual tradition.



### Men's Breakfast

An open invitation is extended to any and all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month. Please come join us at Brother's Restaurant, located at 705 Gettysburg Pike in Mechanicsburg. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, January 4 at 7:30 am. We usually sit over to the right and in the back. Hope to see you there!

### Tool Pool

A directory for any hand or power tools that you may need to borrow for one-time use. Contact Don Karns at [dekarns0107@gmail.com](mailto:dekarns0107@gmail.com).

# Women's Ministry

Any and all women are invited to participate in upcoming events and activities. This page gives you an overview of all the ways to connect. More information can be conveniently found in other parts of the newsletter or feel free to contact the person involved with the event. The Women's Ministry Facebook page has been created! Look for it on our FB page titled "First Church Women's Ministry" and feel free to join!

| United Methodist Women   | Other Opportunities to Connect  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>DEBORAH CIRCLE</b><br/>Sandy Walton ~ swalton54@comcast.net<br/>Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month</p>   | <p><b>DAY OF PAMPERING</b><br/><b>February 29, 2020</b><br/>Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net</p>   |
| <p><b>MARTHA CIRCLE</b><br/>Marley Ann Schmick ~ marleyannrichard@gmail.com<br/>Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month</p>                                     | <p><b>LADIES' SEPTEMBER TEA</b><br/>Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com</p>   |
| <p><b>RUTH CIRCLE</b><br/>Joan Mains ~ mains.joan@yahoo.com<br/>Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Hoss's in Mechanicsburg</p>                        | <p><b>MOMS IN PRAYER</b><br/>Deb Noss ~ sdppp@msn.com<br/>Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room</p>   |
| <p><b>COVERED IN LOVE</b><br/>Sandy Bennetch ~ dsebennetch@comcast.net<br/>Meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 in Fellowship Hall</p>                  | <p><b>MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)</b><br/><b>January 24, February 21, March 27, April 24, May 22 (9:15 a.m.)</b><br/>Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com</p>  |
| <p><b>SQUARES AND PRAYERS</b><br/>Nancy Eddy ~ naeddy3@aol.com<br/>Meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall</p>   | <p><b>WOMEN'S RETREAT</b><br/><b>February 7 to 9, 2020:</b> Mt. Asbury Retreat Center<br/>Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net</p>  |
| <p><b>KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME</b><br/>Mary Helm ~ mthelm4@yahoo.com<br/>Meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Tower Meeting Room</p> | <p><b>ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)</b><br/>Multipurpose Room<br/>Tuesday at 1:00p.m. ~<br/>Mary Stine: freddlz@comcast.net<br/>Thursday at 1:00 p.m. ~<br/>Lisa Lynch: lisaloveszumba@gmail.com</p> |

## Upcoming Events:

**Registration is now open for our annual Women's Retreat** to be held February 7 to 9, 2020 at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center, Newville. This year's theme is Becoming a Woman of Excellence which will be led by church members. All women are invited for a time of fellowship, faith and fun, set in a beautiful retreat center with hotel-like accommodations. The registration form can be found in the newsletter, at the Display Table outside the multipurpose room, at the Women's Display Window and on the church website. Scholarships are available upon request. For more information, contact Patti Herring at 717-796-9721 or familyzeke@verizon.net

**UMW Sewing Day, January 18:** Join us on Saturday, January 18 in Fellowship Hall to make feminine hygiene kits for women in underdeveloped countries. These kits are life changing for the women, as they don't have to miss school or work because of their menstrual period. See details in this newsletter. Learn more about these kits here: <https://www.daysforgirls.org/dfg-kits>. Thanks for supporting our sisters in Christ around the globe!



## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

to the Bomboy family in the death of Nancy Bomboy, on December 3rd.

### Special Thanks...

*To my First Church Family: I would like to thank you for the may get well cards, visits, meals, flowers, and prayers you have provided during my recent hospitalization and recovery period. You're the best! ~ Sue Higgins*



### Special Birthdays

Pat Hutter.....January 3  
Richard Reed.....January 15  
Leta Rohlmeier.....January 23  
Dorothy Souder.....January 27  
Margaret Baker.....January 30

Paul Rynard.....February 3  
Joanne Ciampa.....February 6  
Joyce Parfet.....February 12  
Dottie Zimmerman.....February 26  
Gerald Aumiller.....February 27

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Larry & Lina Hall married 59 years on February 4
- ♥ Denny & Sally Kauffman married 60 years on February 14
- ♥ Winslow & Caroline Brown married 65 years on February 19



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
Editor: Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
for the **February 2020** issue is  
**January 15**

**Early submissions always  
appreciated!**