



First News First

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2016

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

From the Pastor

"How Do You Know I'm A Christian?"

Perhaps you've heard the story of the Quaker innkeeper. One day someone asked him the old evangelical question, "Are you saved?" He replied, "Am I saved? Why do you ask *me* such a thing? I'll give you the names of my doctor and my banker and my grocer and my neighbor.

Go and ask *them* if I'm saved."

The Quaker had an excellent point. If I am saved—if I have surrendered my life to Jesus Christ,

if my sins have been forgiven, if I have received the assurance of salvation that Christ died for me, even me—it should be evident to those who know me. It should be evident not just to those who know me in church, but also to those who know me at home and at work, at school and in the neighborhood.

I am reminded of the Quaker innkeeper when I read Psalm 116. If you were to go and ask the friends and neighbors of the writer of this psalm, they would surely testify to his love for God.

God has moved in a powerful way in his life and in this psalm he praises God publically and joyfully,

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me,

therefore I will call on him as long as I live (Verses 1-2).

This psalm was written by someone who was once close to death:

The snares of death encompassed me, the pangs of Sheol (which, in Hebrew, means *Grave* with a capital G!) *laid hold on me. I suffered distress and anguish* (Verse 3).

Can you imagine what kind of medical treatment might have been available when this psalm was written 2500 years ago? No local clinics. No antibiotics, except for herbal remedies. The psalmist suffered and waited and hoped and prayed for so long that he thought the end was near!

Interestingly, he doesn't give the specifics of his distress. He assumes that we will understand, and we do. Few of us have been so close to death, but we have all experienced times of trouble. Notice, however, that the focus of this psalm is not on the suffering of the psalmist; it's on the faithfulness of God, who heard his cries, saw his pain, and saved him: *Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful* (Verse 5).

All of us can point to some painful experiences, but we can also testify that

(Continued on page 2)

Dates to Remember

- Mar 4-6.....Men's Retreat
- Mar 6.....LFNS Craft Show
- Mar 6.....Health Lecture
- Mar 12.....Ham Loaf Dinner
- Mar 13.....Meet & Greet
- Mar 16.....Grocery Bagging
- Mar 20.....Palm Sunday
- Mar 23.....Passion Play
- Mar 24.....Maundy Thursday
- Mar 25.....Good Friday
- Mar 27.....Easter

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we have received grace upon grace! At the end of March we celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We witness again to the gift of salvation offered to all through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. As I prepare for this glorious time in the life of the church, I'm thinking about the old Quaker innkeeper and the Psalmist. I pray that in my life people will see that "I love the Lord!" I pray the same for you.

Rejoicing in God's marvelous grace with you,
Pastor Denny

Finance

Financial Report Through December 31, 2015

General Fund

2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 875,000	
Actual income	\$ 865,205	(99% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 9,795	
Actual expenses	\$ 865,202	

Building Fund \$ 10,202

Legacy Campaign \$ 5,165

First Church had a very successful financial year. With outstanding offerings in December we made up our earlier shortfall to reach 99% of the budgeted income. Following our policy of using all unspent balances of individual line items to pay on the principal, we applied \$55,000 from the General Fund to reduce our debt. The debt summary is included in this newsletter.

Using General Fund and designated funds, we paid about \$156,000 to a wide variety of missions, another great success.

The December 31, 2015, financial report and the 2016 approved budget are included in this newsletter.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Debt Status ~ December 31, 2015

We started 2015 with a debt on the church building of \$33,400. During the year additional borrowing of \$259,000 was made by the trustees for the purchase of a parsonage.

During 2015, we paid \$75,400 on the principal, leaving a balance on December 31 of \$217,000. Of the principal payments, \$55,000 was paid from the General Fund, \$10,400 was paid from Building Fund donations and \$10,000 was returned from the Parsonage Escrow Account. The original loan for our major building expansion and renovation as well as the electrical renovation has been retired. The remaining balance is for the parsonage purchase. During 2015, we paid \$6,900 in interest on the debt.

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the **April** issue is **March 15**

Wanted:

Editor for the monthly edition of First News First. Only qualification is knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher. Contact Kristin Brown if interested.

**First United Methodist Church
General Fund
2015 Year End**

Account Number	Account Name	2015 Budget	Actual	2016 Budget
100	Income			
101	Envelope Giving		695,495.22	
102	W/O Envelopes		156,434.98	
103	Loose Offering		11,281.30	
104	Building Use Rent		621.00	
105	Interest Income		727.79	
106	Other Receipts		20.00	
	Total Income	875,000.00	864,580.29	890,000.00
200	Salaries and Benefits			
201	Pastor's Salary	76,150.00	76,150.08	77,673.00
202	Soc. Sec. Offset - Pastor	5,826.00	5,825.52	5,942.00
203	Pension- Pastor	8,380.00	8,982.60	8,886.00
204	Health Care - Pastor	11,669.00	10,067.80	13,123.00
205	Housing- Pastor	14,400.00	7,200.00	0.00
206	Travel _ Pastor	4,000.00	2,573.15	4,000.00
207	Continuing Ed - Pastor	750.00	750.00	750.00
210	Assistant Pastor	24,977.00	24,977.00	33,523.00
211	Continuing Ed - Asst. Past	600.00	600.00	600.00
212	Soc. Sec. Offset - Asst Past	1911	1,911.00	2565.00
213	Health Care - Assist Past	9,023.00	9,274.80	1,157.00
214	Travel - Assist Past	2,000.00	1,979.52	2,000.00
220	Assoc Pastor Visitation	0.00		0.00
221	Travel - Assoc Past Visit	0.00		0.00
230	Office Manager	32,045.00	32,045.00	32,686.00
231	Admin Assistant	0.00		0.00
232	Director of Child Ministries	36,258.00	33,783.75	35,006.00
233	Youth Pastor	36,432.00	36,432.00	37,161.00
234	Youth Pastor Benefits	5,279.00	5,279.00	5,384.00
235	Director of Adult Ministries	19,302.00	19,302.00	19,688.00
236	Facilities Coordinator	10,031.00	10,570.07	10,231.00
237	Custodians	39,785.00	27,674.25	40,198.00
238	Finance Director	8,247.00	8,247.00	8,412.00
239	Congregational Care Coord	12,608.00	12,608.00	12,860.00
240	Music Director	6,316.00	6,316.00	6,442.00
241	Organist/Assistants	14,880.00	14,880.00	15,177.00
242	Sounds of Worship Choir Dir	3,153.00	3,153.00	3,216.00
243	Sanctuary Choir Director	4,881.00	4,881.00	4,979.00
244	Youth Choir Director	2,604.00	2,604.00	2,656.00
245	Junior Choir Director	2,274.00	2,274.00	2,319.00
246	Children's Choir Director	2,604.00	2,604.00	2,656.00
247	Adult Bell Choir Director	4,797.00	3,825.69	4,893.00
248	Children's Bell Choir Director	1,599.00	1,599.00	1,631.00
249	Invocation Director	2,956.00	2,956.00	3,015.00
250	Additional Musicians (Wshp)	850.00	500.00	900.00
251	Travel - Lay Staff	500.00		500.00
252	Continuing Ed - Lay Staff	600.00	306.20	600.00
253	Soc. Sec. - Lay Staff	20,373.00	18,250.28	18,694.00
254	Office Manager Benefits	5,279.00	5,279.00	5,384.00
	Total Salaries & Benefits	433,339.00	405,660.71	424,907.00

**First United Methodist Church
General Fund
2015 Year End**

Account Number	Account Name	2015 Budget	Actual	2016 Budget
300 Conference Shares of Ministry				
301	Connectional Support	36,072.00	36,072.00	37,199.00
302	Clergy Support	46,059.00	46,059.00	44,997.00
	Total Shares of Ministry	82,131.00	82,131.00	82,196.00
400 Missions				
401	Africa University	0.00		0.00
402	Benevolences	27158.00	27,158.00	27,014.00
403	Benevolent Homes	0.00		0.00
404	Bethany Village	0.00		0.00
405	Bethany Village Aux.	260.00	260.00	260.00
406	Bethesda Mission	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
407	Daron Shelter	0.00		0.00
408	Daystar	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
409	District Advance	0.00		0.00
410	FUMC Backyard Ministries	0.00		0.00
411	Habitat for Humanity	0.00		0.00
412	Mech Council of Churches	200.00	200.00	200.00
413	Mech Meals on Wheels	0.00	500.00	0.00
414	Mission Central	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
415	Mission Ed & Awareness	0.00		0.00
416	Mission Scholarships	0.00	2,602.00	0.00
417	Missionaries - Denominational	0.00	13,501.00	0.00
418	Neighborhood Center	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
419	New Hope Ministries	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
420	S. Central Food Bank	0.00		0.00
421	Salt & Light Ministry	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
422	Sierra Leone	1200.00		1,200.00
423	UM Children's Home	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
424	UM Women	2000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
425	UMCOR	0.00		0.00
426	Undesignated Missions	63000.00	-2,761.00	61,695.00
427	Uptown Ministries	0.00		0.00
428	World Communion	0.00		0.00
429	Youth Mission Trip	0.00		0.00
430	Youth Service Fund	0.00		0.00
431	Human Relations Day	0.00	500.00	0.00
432	Youth/Children Offering	0.00	500.00	0.00
433	One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	500.00	0.00
434	Native American Awareness	0.00	500.00	0.00
435	Mental Health Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
436	Peace With Justice Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
437	Rural Life Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
438	Volunteer in Mission Sunday	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
439	Christian Education Sunday	0.00	500.00	0.00
440	World Communion Offering	0.00	500.00	0.00
441	World Hunger/Harvest Home		500.00	0.00
442	United Methodist Student Day		500.00	
	Missionaries - Congregational	0.00		
	Total Missions and Projects	93,818.00	90,460.00	92,369.00

**First United Methodist Church
General Fund
2015 Year End**

Account Number	Account Name	2015 Budget	Actual	2016 Budget
500 Program				
501	Access Ministry	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,500.00
502	Adult Department	3,000.00	2,472.46	3,000.00
503	Bank Fees	1,300.00	1,159.94	1,300.00
504	Camping	8,000.00	8,167.50	8,000.00
505	Children's Department	12,000.00	8,829.82	11,000.00
506	Choir Music	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
507	Communications	1,825.00	1,876.69	2,400.00
508	Confirmation	0.00		0.00
509	Devotional Literature	1,270.00	1,069.20	1,130.00
510	Endowment Fund Comm	0.00		0.00
511	Evangelism	600.00	109.80	600.00
512	Fellowship Committee	900.00	948.15	1,500.00
513	FUMC Website	0.00		0.00
514	Hospitality Task Force	550.00	561.56	400.00
515	Health & Wellness	250.00	282.70	250.00
516	Library	900.00	900.00	900.00
517	Mom Connection	0.00		0.00
518	Offering Envelopes	1,500.00	1,169.03	1,500.00
519	Office Supplies	4,000.00	3,160.82	4,000.00
520	Paper & Printing	4,850.00	2,760.89	3,925.00
521	Postage	4,500.00	2,050.23	4,500.00
522	Small Group Babysitting	0.00		0.00
523	Staff Parish Rel Comm.	500.00	794.84	500.00
524	Stewardship Committee	500.00		500.00
525	Sunday School Curriculum	0.00		0.00
526	Vacation Bible School	0.00		0.00
527	Women's Retreat	500.00		500.00
528	Wonderful Wednesday	0.00		0.00
529	Worship Committee	1,000.00	813.87	1,000.00
530	Youth Department	19,500.00	17,164.32	20,240.00
532	Computer Support	4,900.00	2,592.89	6,861.00
531	Safe Sanctuary	517.00	408.50	450.00
534	Pastor Discretionary Account	0.00		0.00
533	History/Anniversary	0.00		0.00
535	Congregational Care Ministries	300.00	307.74	350.00
	Coffee Supplies	0.00		500.00
	Total Program	78,662.00	63,100.95	79,806.00

First United Methodist Church
General Fund
2015 Year End

Account Number	Account Name	2015 Budget	Actual	2016 Budget
600 Facilities				
601	Building Use			
602	Van Ministry	2,750.00	3,077.36	2,750.00
603	Facility Reserve	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
604	Fuel	22,500.00	20,682.76	22,000.00
605	Janitorial Supplies	4,400.00	4,595.00	4,400.00
607	Maintenance	15,250.00	12,864.18	15,000.00
608	Property Insurance	16,850.00	15,364.65	17,050.00
609	Property Tax	0.00	2,183.20	2,900.00
610	Service Contracts	17,500.00	15,447.68	17,450.00
615	Service Contracts - Office	12,000.00	11,106.65	12,822.00
611	Snow Removal	3,300.00	1,710.00	3,300.00
612	Telephone- Church	4,000.00	3,068.48	3,900.00
613	Utilities Church	32,500.00	27,927.12	31,000.00
614	Wireless Project	0.00		0.00
615	New Pastor Additional Exp	5,000.00	3,921.74	6,150.00
	Total Facilities	176,050.00	161,948.82	178,722.00
700 Capital Expenses				
701	Debt Reduction - Interest	1,000.00	6,900.11	12,000.00
702	Debt Reduction - Principal	10,000.00	55,000.00	20,000.00
	Total Capital Expenses	11,000.00	61,900.11	32,000.00
	Total Expense	875,000.00	865,201.59	890,000.00
	Income Over Spending	0.00	-621.30	0.00

Worship

Sunday Morning
Worship Services
8:15 am &
10:45 am

Sunday School
9:30 am



The 4th Sunday at 4:00...

an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disAbilities, their families, friends and care givers.

Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday	March 24	Pew Service w/ Motzo and Grape Juice
	April 3	Loaves and Chalice
	May 1	Pew Service
	June 5	Loaves and Chalice
	July 3	Pew Service
	August 7	Loaves and Chalice
	September 4	Pew Service
World Communion	October 2	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Advent	November 27	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

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

Holy Week & Easter

March 20

Palm Sunday Worship
8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

March 23

Passion Play (Family Friendly)
6:30 p.m.

March 24

Maundy Thursday Service
Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.

March 27

Sunrise Service, 6:50 a.m.
Mechanicsburg Cemetery

Easter Sunday Worship
8:15 and 10:45 a.m.



Music

Ringling In the News

The Bell Choirs of our church are busy preparing music for your pleasure. No doubt you have heard one or all of the choirs on a Sunday morning. We have several special events occurring over the next two months. March 12th finds a group of 11 ringers playing with several other local choirs in the Lancaster-Lebanon Handbell Festival. The public concert is at 3:00. Likewise, on April 2nd another group will be in State College for a day of ringing at the Nittany Valley Handbell Festival. Our FUM Bell Choirs will also present a concert in our own sanctuary for your enjoyment on Sunday April 17th at 7pm.

To help us defray the costs of attending these Festivals as well as the International Symposium in Vancouver this summer, we continue to fundraise. In March we are selling subs and pretzel sandwiches to be delivered on Palm Sunday morning, March 20th. You may see any choir member or go to the fundraising notebook in the Narthex to place your order. On April 30th we will be serving our annual spaghetti dinner. Tickets will be available after Easter.

Thank you for your generous support of the Bell Choirs by purchasing pies and going to the restaurant outings being held every month. Every outside event attended improves ringing ability. You are the reason we are able to attend these events. We're proud to say we think we have some of the best bell ringers in the area!

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 March 16 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.

Penny Report

Help supported the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any loose change, into the Penny Bucket in the narthex. 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 3,450 pennies contributed Since September for a total to date of \$12,572.63.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

Fellowship



Saturday, April 9 ~ Game Time 7:00 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee invites all church members to a Hershey Bears ice hockey game. Join us for a night of fellowship, fun and fantastic hockey!

Cheer on the Hershey Bears as they take on their archrival, the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins. It's Auto Racing Night—all fans will receive a ticket to the ARCA Series NASCAR race at Pocono Raceway on July 29! Tickets are \$22.50. Seats are all together in Section 125, the end where the Bears shoot twice! Only 30 seats available. Parking is \$9.00, carpooling encouraged. Sign ups and questions, contact Jeff Hoffnagle at 717-732-6430 or Jeffrey.hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

Adult Ministry

"Meet & Greet" Luncheon

Have you noticed any new faces in the church during worship on Sunday mornings? If so, please invite them to a "Meet & Greet" Luncheon! The purpose of these luncheons is to show hospitality to our guests by treating them to a meal and allowing them to ask questions/get to know the Pastors and our church better.

The next "Meet & Greet" luncheon is coming up on March 13th immediately following the late service in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for reaching out to our newcomers and helping them to feel like they're a part of our First Church family!

If you have questions, please contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at adult-ministry@fumchurch.com.

Spring All-Church Small Group Study and Sermon Series

Your group won't want to miss being part of the upcoming 4-week study and sermon series, "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels.

How did you become a committed Christ-follower? Most likely, your story involves someone, somewhere who took a risk to approach you and point you toward faith. Maybe they extended a hand of friendship or engaged you in conversation.

This study and sermon series will equip and inspire you to follow Jesus' lead to simply walk across the room and extend care, compassion and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love.

Groups will begin meeting after the first sermon on April 3. Keep your eye out for sign up sheets in the main lobby. Participant guides are just \$8.50. Please contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at adultministry@fumchurch.com if you would like more information or have questions.

Come and learn a new way to walk!

Adult Sunday School

Ham Loaf Dinner ~ Saturday, March 12, 4:00-6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Adults - \$10, Age 4-12 - \$4, 3 and under free. Take-out dinners will be available. Tickets can be purchased from any Helping Hands class member or by contacting Marley Ann Schmick @ 697-2233. A sign-up sheet is at the information desk to request tickets to be held at the door.

Christian Fellowship Sunday School Class Peanut Butter Easter Egg Fundraiser

Orders are being taken for peanut butter Easter eggs. The cost is \$6.00 for a bag of 6 eggs. Order your eggs by signing up on the sheet at the information desk, by calling Nancy at 258-8954, or by emailing mwrner@aol.com. Eggs will be ready for pick up in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 19, after 2:00 pm, and on Sunday, March 20, after Sunday school and each of the morning worship services. Please place your orders by Sunday, March 13th. Thank you in advance for your support.

Library

I am writing this on a beautiful February day and thinking about the upcoming Valentine's holiday. Since last month's newsletter was combined with January, I didn't do the usual review of romance books. I hope you are still in the mood for romance. And I am really hoping you haven't given up reading for Lent.

A new book in the library written by some of your favorite authors is titled **With This Ring: A Novella Collection of Proposals Go Wry**. This is my kind of romance because there is a lot of comedy and light entertaining reading.

Karen Witmeyer leads with *The Husband Maneuver*. Marietta Hawkins decides she must grab the reins on her relationship with ranch foreman Daniel Barrett, as it seems to be going nowhere with him in charge. But trying to maneuver him into a proposal could just backfire.

Reginna Jennings has her main characters Katie Ellen Watson and Josiah Huckabee pretending to be newlyweds to save their reputations when stranded alone during a flood in *Her Dearly Unintended*. But can pretending lead to real love?

Next up is Mary Connealy's *Runaway Bride*. Big John Conroy, a Texas ranger, is hired to help Carrie Halsey escape from a dangerous man who has decided Carrie will be his wife, even over her objections. But can Big John keep their relationship strictly business? And does he want to?

Melissa Jagears (a new author in the library) finishes the book with *Engaging the Competition*. Harrison Gray and tomboy Charlotte Andrews have been adversaries for years. When Charlotte accidentally breaks Harrison's glasses, she must help him with his teaching position. Working closely together they find maybe they have more feelings than just rivalry.

With four novellas in this book it is perfect for stop and go reading, but the real question is will you be able to stop?

Although I like light hearted romance, my actual favorite is romantic suspense. I find that author Lynette Eason never fails to deliver both. Her latest page turner, **Always Watching**, is the first in the series of *Elite Guardians*. Olivia Edwards owns a company of bodyguards called the Elite Guardians Agency. Unlike most bodyguard agencies, Olivia's agency is one of all women. When popular radio host and psychiatrist Wade Savage is stalked, his father secretly hires Elite Guardians to protect his son. When Wade's first bodyguard is almost killed, Olivia decides this should be her job. Soon she realizes she is in the crosshairs of the stalker, too. With the situation escalating, Olivia's skills are tested to the limits. She also realizes her heart may be in danger. Never get involved with a client has always been her rule to keep her focus on the job. She needs to find Wade's stalker so she can assess her own feelings and see if Wade feels the same.

If neither of these books are right for you, come in and let us help you find just the right book. If you would like to enrich your Lenten experience with devotionals or books of faith, the library has some excellent offerings.

See you in the library.

Pam & Donna



Health & Wellness

Health Lecture ~ March 6

Are you experiencing chronic pain and wonder how you can get through each day? Does a loved one have limited mobility due to back pain or shoulder pain? Come to the next health lecture on **Sunday, March 6 at 9:30 am** in the Multipurpose Room. Maureen Asper, RN, MS, from Holy Spirit, will be speaking about **Chronic Pain**. She will give us tips on pain management and where to seek help.

CRP/AED Training

Are you interested in learning CPR and how to use an AED? The Health & Wellness committee will be offering CPR training on **Sunday, May 15, 12:15 – 4:15 pm** in Room 216 of the church. This 4-hour training will prepare participants to recognize life-threatening emergencies and how to relieve choking for persons of all ages (adult, child, infant). You will learn the links in the Chain of Survival, learn the common life-threatening emergencies in adult, children and infants and be able to describe and demonstrate the skills of CPR, AED use and relief of choking. Cost will be \$10 to reserve your spot for this important training. Contact Janice Bowen at 766-4611 X112 to register. Mail the \$10 fee to the church, Attention: Janice Bowen, place in her church narthex mailbox or place in an envelope in the church offering plate. For more information, contact Carol Erno at cernorn@aol.com or call 379-0937. Space is limited so don't wait to call to sign up.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the Sanctuary, you may do so by purchasing your own flowers and placing them in the Sanctuary by NOON ON SATURDAY, MARCH 26. If you would like to be included in the memorial insert in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by NOON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22.



Please circle whichever is appropriate: *In Memory of* OR *In Honor of*

Person's Name _____

Placed by _____

Will you be picking up the flowers? Yes _____ No _____

Flowers may be picked up after the 10:45 am Easter Sunday worship service.



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

What is the United Methodist Women

We are women with Purpose! "United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Women in the church are organized in small group settings called 'Circles' that pledge to missions giving, learn about missions through study, speakers, and programs and involve themselves in mission actions. Each Circle meets approximately once per month and has a different focus. All women are welcome to join at any time!

2016 Events:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 9 | UMW Baby Shower |
| April 17 | Spiritual Enrichment Day, Mt. Olivet UM Church, Mechanicsburg - 2:00 pm
<i>In attending please bring the following items for Neighborhood Center: paper cups, plastic 7 oz. cups, paper/plastic bowls, 100% fruit juice, paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, dish soap, tissues.</i> |
| May 7 | Bike Extravaganza |
| July 7-9 | MissionU, Bucknell University |
| July 16 | MissionU Sampler Day at Chambers Hill UM Church, Chambers Hill |
| August 20 | Bake Sale and Yard Sale |
| November 20 | World Thank Offering |

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

Surprise Blessing

On December 2, 2015 Ruth Circle gathered at Hoss' Restaurant for lunch and our meeting. At this meeting we decide to make our annual donations to New Life for Girls and Domestic Violence, from our small treasury. When it was time to pay our bill for lunch, we were told that some generous person informed them that our bill would be paid, as well as the waitress tip. On hearing this, our members decided to add our lunch money to the treasury. As a result of this, New Life for Girls and Domestic Violence would benefit from a much larger donation.

The 15 members present at this meeting wish to express a huge thank you to this very generous person. This is the third time Ruth Circle has been blessed with this special gift.

Sadie Heim, for Ruth Circle

UMW (continued)

Mission Meal

The Deborah Circle invites you to join us for our annual Mission Meal of chili, cornbread and brownies on Sunday, March 6 after the late service in Fellowship Hall. This meal is a great opportunity for fellowship, raise funds for local ministries and eat wonderful food! Takeout will be available after Sunday School. We hope to see you there!

UMW Baby Shower – Saturday, April 9th – 10 am to noon

All women are invited to join us for a fun morning of snacks, games, prizes and short program at the annual UMW Baby Shower. This year, we will be supporting the Capital Area Pregnancy Center, whose mission is to "provide a warm and safe environment to everyone, regardless of age, race, income nationality, religious affiliation or circumstance." The Executive Director, Rev. John Schaffer, will be our guest speaker. Once again, we will be collecting baby items, which will be blessed, and then donated to the Center. The following items are needed.

Sleepers/clothing - Newborn - 12 month (fall and winter)

Infant gowns

Infant sacks

Snow suits - Newborn - 12 month

Long sleeved onesies with mittens - Newborn - 3 month

Regular onesies - Newborn - 12 month

Hooded towels

Crib Sheets

Baby wash

Baby lotion

Wipes (not bulk boxes)

Diapers - Newborn, size 1, 2, 3, & 4

Newborn toys

If you have questions, please contact Janice Bowen (wecare@fumchurch.com or 766-4611 x112) or Dawn Fisher (kidscount@fumc.com or 766-4611 x102)

Bicycle Bonanza! – Saturday, May 7 Save the Date and Save Your Bikes

The Mary Circle is making plans for a fun morning to promote biking joyfully and safely!

- *Learn more about LifeCycle in Carlisle.
- *Donate unwanted bikes in any condition to LifeCycle.
- *Bring your bike to decorate!
- *Learn simple bike repairs, and bring your bike along if it needs minor repairs.
- *Find information on local bike trails.
- *And More to Come!



Don't forget to drop your unwanted clothing and shoes in the Community Aid bin.

Money raised from your donations helps local schools, churches and other non profit charitable organizations, as well as FUMC's UMW.

Facilities

The surprisingly warm days of December and early January gave us a false sense that we were going to survive the winter of 2016 without incident. Weather forecasters predicted 6-12 inches of snow the weekend of January 22nd and 23rd for our first major storm of the season, a good amount for our area but certainly a manageable number. Little did we know that Winter Storm Jonas would end up dumping 30 inches of snow on Mechanicsburg and all of southcentral Pennsylvania, prompting a state of emergency across the midstate and forcing us to cancel worship services on January 24th for the first time in my recollection. Just like at your homes, cleaning up after a storm like that is a massive task around our building with parking lots to be plowed, sidewalks/entranceways to be shoveled, and heat pump units to be dug out. Looks like we may have the hills of snow in the gravel area of our parking lots for a while, but we have done our best to maximize available parking for our members, visitors and neighbors around the church. Only the Lord knows what the rest of the winter will bring, but I wouldn't be surprised if we see a few more snow storms before spring arrives (early this year per the ground-hogs).

All of that snow on our roof did cause us a couple other maintenance issues. We had a recurrence of a persistent roof leak near the hatch access to the roof, and I've had to wade through some deep snow to twice reset one of the rooftop HVAC units that supplies heat to the second floor of the office wing. For the most part, though, the massive snow hasn't caused us any major facilities problems.

Inside the building, we've focused our attention on two primary projects: (1) wall and ceiling plaster repairs in the Frederick Street balcony, combined with fresh paint once each section of the repairs is completed. This effort required us to cordon off the Frederick Street stairwell from the first floor up to the balcony since we have scaffolding erected in order to reach the affected areas. I expect all of these repairs to be completed by the middle of March; and (2) renovations to the small restroom near where the Guyer Sunday School Class meets to make that restroom more "senior friendly". We removed the carpeting, installed a new "comfort height" commode and ADA-compliant grab bars, and gave the walls, door and trim a fresh coat of paint. Thank you to the Guyer Class for their financial support of these renovations, and to Judi & Larry Buddenbaum, Eric King, and Jim Van Kirk for their help in making the project a reality. While we were at it, we relocated the commode that was in that restroom to the small restroom between two of the classrooms on the first floor of the education wing to replace a unit that was not very water efficient and had been causing us issues. Thanks to Eric King and Bill Seig for their efforts to make that happen.

There are still plenty of items on my "to do" list. Those spotlights above the choir loft still need to be replaced. I haven't made nearly enough progress on finalizing the requirements statement that will lead to the replacement of the control system for our rooftop HVAC units, with the potential also for replacing the pneumatic controls for our boiler system. We're looking to replace our video surveillance system to improve our security measures around the building, and we're also looking to make some video upgrades in the sanctuary and Sunday School auditorium to enhance our worship services. Every time I walk through the building, I see one or two more things to add to that "to do" list, some with easy fixes and others not so much. This may only be a part-time position, but it carries with it a 24/7 responsibility to everyone who passes through the doors. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of our efforts to be faithful stewards of the First Church facility.

Roger Walton
Facilities Manager

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Bob Taylor's mother, Jean Taylor, on January 21, 2016.
 to the family upon the death of Tom Helm's father, Richard Helm, on January 21, 2016.
 to the family upon the death of Diane Reed's mother, Helen Hinson, on January 25, 2016.
 to the family upon the death of Judy Wertz's sister, Jacqueline Baker, on February 13, 2016
 to the family upon the death of June Henschke on February 15, 2016
 to the family upon the death of Sue Brunner's mother, Nancy Blosser, on February 15, 2016
 to the family upon the death of Norma Bingham's aunt, June Evans, on February 25, 2016.

Thank you...

Thanks so much to First Church and everyone for your prayers, cards, food, flowers and visitations. It was very much appreciated.

Janet Baker

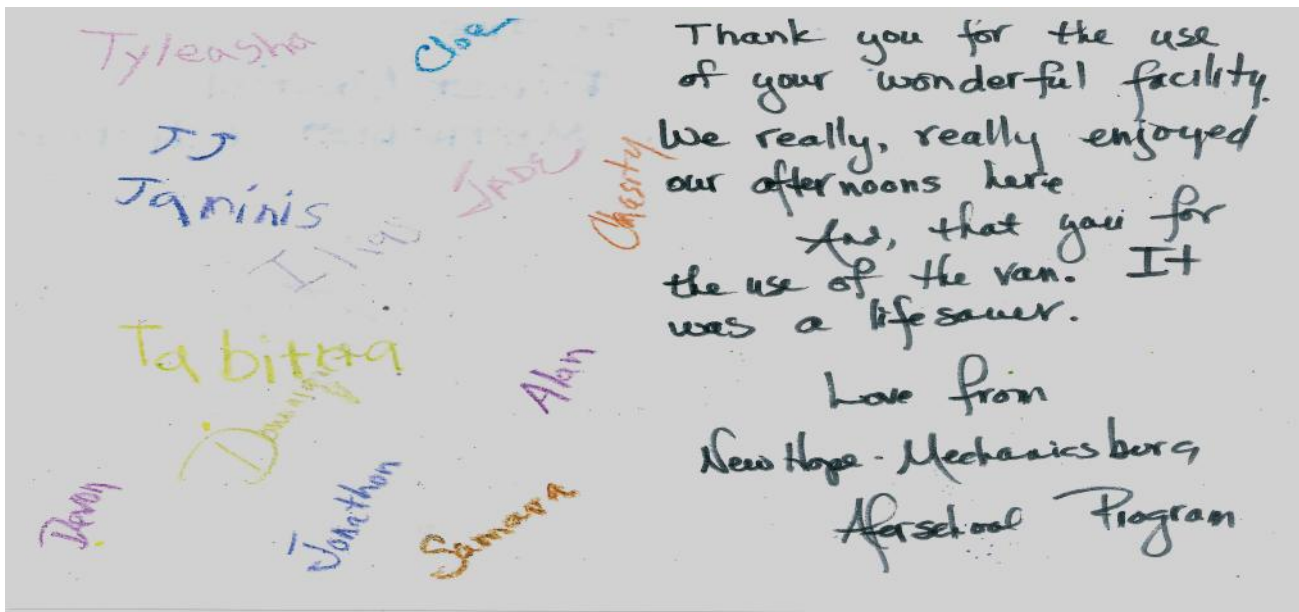
Garret Fischer would like to thank the church for their prayers and help during his recent surgery and recovery time.

I would like to sincerely thank you for all the generous donations to New Hope Ministries through the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We gathered 327 pounds of sweet potatoes plus 243 pounds of miscellaneous food items. For Christmas Blessings Express, the church donated 298 pounds of various gifts. These donations have made a huge difference in the lives of many of our neighbors who are less fortunate than us. Thanks again,

Debbie Karns

I want to express a special thank you to all of the members of the FUMC family for their prayers for my family and me. A special thank you to everyone who visited me in the hospital, rehab hospital and at my home. I also want to thank our ministers who visited me in the hospital and to Pastor Keller who visited me at home. I am blessed to have so many people surrounding me with cards and prayers during my recovery.

Patti Taylor



Church News and Notes

Special Birthdays

Janet Fertenbaugh.....	March 6	Paul Fertenbaugh	April 6
Sara Meck.....	March 15	Alberta Knause.....	April 15
Art Murray	March 16	Ron Handwerk	April 18
Mabel Strock.....	March 28	Lois Coover.....	April 21
Dave Scholl.....	March 31	Richard Knause	April 21
Robert Meck.....	April 2	Charles Cramer.....	April 22
Marilyn Seig	April 2	Janet Baker	April 25
Dolores Farr	April 3	Grace Brandt.....	April 25

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Jim & Gail Siemons married 52 years on March 21
- ♥ Dick & Marge Scott married 50 years on April 2
- ♥ Elvin & Charlotte Hess married 56 years on April 10
- ♥ Bill & June Henschke married 74 years on April 21
- ♥ Dean & Marty Otto married 53 years on April 21
- ♥ Don & Kay Heiges married 58 years on April 26

Addresses of these members can be found in the Church Directory.

Church Staff

PASTOR	OFFICE MANAGER	ORGANIST/YOUTH CHOIR/ SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR*
Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller	Kristin Brown	Gail Leinhos
ASSOCIATE PASTOR*	FACILITIES COORDINATOR*	BELL CHOIRS*
Rev. Dr. David Reed	Roger Walton	Kathie Bittenbender
YOUTH PASTOR	CUSTODIANS*	INVOCATION/JUNIOR CHOIR*
Lisa Aronson	George Canonizado	Allison Ometz
ADULT MINISTRIES*	Matthew Miller	CHILDREN'S CHOIRS*
Tina Eaton	FINANCE DIRECTOR*	Lorette Cale
DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY*	Nancy Robinson	<small>*PART-TIME</small>
Dawn Fisher	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ SANCTUARYCHOIR*	
George Canonizado	Jody Brinley	
CONGREGATIONAL CARE*	ORGANIST*	
Janice Bowen	Nicholas Werner	