



First News First

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

Dates to Remember

- Nov 1..... All Saints Sunday
Nov 5..... Applebee's
Fundraiser
Nov 15..... Consecration
Sunday
Ministry & Missions
Fair
Newsletter deadline
Nov 18..... Bagging for
Bethesda Mission
Nov 22..... World Thank
Offering
Rejoicing Spirits
Nov 24..... Church Conference
Nov 25..... Sleep out for the
Homeless
Nov 29..... 1st Sunday in
Advent
Nov 30..... Poinsettia/Gift
forms due

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From the Pastor

"I Am Grateful"

Inspiration often comes in the most unexpected places. Recently, for me, it came on the side of a paper cup. While filling my soda cup at a local restaurant I spied the words, "Two-Minute Ode to Chocolate." It was written by Laura Hillenbrand, bestselling author of Seabiscuit and Unbroken. She wrote about her simple noonday ritual: "A square of dark chocolate, little larger than a postage stamp. For its minuteness, I savor it all the more, closing my eyes as it melts gently, generously, in my mouth."

She continues:

Always, I think, I am grateful. In my mind, I follow my chocolate to its beginnings. I see a drop of rain touching red soil, and beneath, a seed waking. Leaves reaching for sifted sunlight. Careful, sure hands unclasping fruit from limbs. A kind donkey pulling a laden wagon. Wise faces bent over an ocean of seeds, summoning sweet from bitter. Roads and rivers and cunning machines that bear the chocolate to me. Someone built that wagon; someone cut that road; someone labored under a beaded brow; someone beeded an inspiration; someone offered love. How wondrous is a world that brings such gifts.

Hillenbrand concludes her ode:

*We are none of us bereft, ever. We slumber in seas of gifts. To wake up to them, to follow their tributaries, is to traverse in every direction, yet always arrive at the same place: Gratitude. Awakening from my chocolate, I look around and wonder whose hands made this? To whom do I owe thanks for the song of the wren? For the warmth of a sweater, the cool grass under bare feet, the joy of dogs, playing, laughter, a whispered **I love you**, the scent of bread? I am grateful. I am grateful. I am grateful.*

Looking up from my soda cup, I realized that even in that moment I was immersed in a sea of gifts. The delicious burrito and refreshing soda, the loved ones at the table with me, the smiling staff that prepared and served my food, the sunshine beaming through the window. I savored the moment and could only respond, "I am grateful. I am grateful. I am grateful."

Some look at life and feel that what they have is not enough. Thinking they deserve more, they grumble; they complain; they hold on tight to what they have. Others look at life and see that every moment is laden with gifts from God. Knowing they have been given far more than they could ever ask or imagine, they praise; they find contentment; they give generously. Hillenbrand has her daily ritual of chocolate. What rituals do you (or could you) build into your life that help you to be awake to God's good gifts and to say, "I am grateful. I am grateful. I am grateful?"

Grateful for you, I am,

Pastor Denny

All Saints Sunday

For more than a thousand years the Church has observed All Saints' Day as a time to remember those of the community of faith who have died, moving from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. Outside of the Church, All Saints' Day is better known for the eve of All Saints, commonly called Halloween. But within the Church, we continue to observe All Saints' Day by designating a Sunday each year as All Saints' Sunday.

This year, All Saint's Sunday will be observed at both the 8:15 and 10:45 worship services on November 1. Please join us as we endeavor to honor the saints of our fellowship who have died in the past year.

It's Coming... November 15

By now you have seen the posters all around the church –

“It's time for Spiritual Growth”

“Are you Ready to Make the Commitment?”

“How Can we Give Thanks?”

“It's One of our Greatest Privileges as Christians”

What does it all mean? We hope you will plan to attend either of our church's worship services (8:15 or 10:45) on Consecration Sunday, November 15 to learn more. In addition, be sure to stop by the Ministry and Missions Fair in the Multi-Purpose Room between services (9:30) that same day to experience the many, many ways our church prays for, serves and shares God's love with people in our congregation, the local community and all around the world.

Finance

Through September 30, 2015
75% of year

General Fund

2015 budget	\$ 875,000	
Expected income	\$ 656,250	
Actual income	\$ 630,286	(72% of budget)
Deficit	\$ 25,964	
Actual expenses	\$ 612,488	

Building Fund \$ 5,657

Legacy Campaign \$ 3,010

In all likelihood, our 2015 income will be significantly below what we planned to spend on ministry programs. All increased giving during the remaining months of the year will help close that gap.

The Finance Committee has started work on the 2016 budget. Watch the bulletin for the date of a planned open meeting to discuss the budget and the amounts requested. This will be in early to mid-November. The early December date when the committee will finalize the recommended budget will also be announced in the bulletin. All are invited to attend these two meetings.

Stewardship

GROUNDING IN FAITH -- GROWING TO SERVE

We are entering the final 6 weeks of the Stewardship program for 2015. My thanks go out to all the church leaders who have presented Stewardship Seconds in the church services throughout the year. I hope you have enjoyed the Stewardship Seconds. Please take the time to look at the budget tree and notice all the flowers (budget areas) where our offerings are put to use. The budget tree has increased in color, as we've added the flowers representing the life of our many church ministries. Each week, the Stewardship Seconds provide an opportunity to hear about some aspect of the life and ministry of First Church using the resources that we provide in our regular offerings to the unified budget. As you will continue to hear each Sunday, FUMC

has great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond your "regular" giving levels. Over the last couple of months, we have continued to "pick away" at our budget deficit. The congregation's response has been both positive and reassuring. I hope all of you have considered adding some incremental offerings to support all of these important ministries and missions. We still have time to make up the unified budget deficit.

When God gave David the vision that his son Solomon was going to build the temple, I can imagine that David's first thought was, "How will we get the finances to build this important place?" But as we read the story in 1 Chronicles 29, we find out that the people somehow provided what was necessary to complete the temple. David had a vision and the people (with God's help) provided the gifts. They did not all provide the same amounts of money, but they all provided the same amount of sacrifice. It's not about equal gifts – it's about equal sacrifice. And it's not a sacrifice unless it is personal. Stewardship is not everyone providing the same amount of money. Stewardship is about everyone making an equal and personal sacrifice for the glory of God, and for the missions and ministries of First Church.

During part of November's and December's "Stewardship Seconds", our emphasis will be on the Youth Department's ministry. FUMC's youth ministry has always been an important part of the church's overall financial support. After all, these young men and women will become future church leaders, and important contributors to Christ's witness and mission through out the world. During these Stewardship Seconds, you will hear from the youth and their leaders concerning topics such as weekend retreats, the "sleep out" for the homeless, the 4G youth ministry, the youth Sunday school program, and the confirmation process.

During November and December, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the "Youth Department Ministries Root". If we have our roots "**Grounded in Faith**", we will be able to "**Grow to Serve**".



Church Conference

Church Conference will be held November 24 at 7:00 pm here at First Church in Fellowship Hall. Harrisburg District Superintendent Rev. Barry Robison will be presiding. All church members are encouraged to attend.

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

First Sunday in Advent
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00

11/29/15
12/24/15

Pew Service
Loaves and Chalice

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

Music

Ring in the News

The bell choir wants to thank the congregation for its participation in its 14th annual chicken barbeque. The choir sold ALL of its 320 chicken dinners on Oct 10!

The children have begun handchime rehearsals in preparation for the Advent season. The first time they will play is in December, so no, it is not too late to join!

The bell choir has scheduled its “eat out” fund raisers for November and December. The choir invites you to come to Applebee’s at 6055 Carlisle Pike for its all day “dining for dollars” on Thursday, November 5. The voucher will be in the church bulletin on Sunday, November 1. Then save Tuesday, December 15, for “funds for friends” at Arooga’s, 4713 Carlisle Pike. Vouchers for both restaurants will also be at the information desk in the narthex. Remember, you must have a voucher with you before going to the restaurants for the choir to get its donations!

We have registered for the 15th International Handbell Symposium to be held in Vancouver, Canada next July. We have 11 ringers going. We thank you in advance for all your support this year with our fundraisers.

Don’t have time to bake before Thanksgiving! Let the bell choir do it for you. Order your pumpkin, apple or mincemeat pies from a bell choir member or on the order form at the information desk. The cost is \$9.00 per pie.

Save the date: Monday, December 14, 7:00 pm. Come hear the bell choir at the Frederickson Library, 100 N. 19th St. in Camp Hill. This is our 12th year playing for the holidays! The choir will play some traditional carols and some secular music for the Christmas Season. Get there early!

“Darkness Into Light” To Be Presented in December

Be sure to mark your calendars for the music department’s presentation of “Darkness Into Light” on December 20 at both Worship services. This beautiful cantata, written by Mary McDonald, details Jesus’ coming to earth to bring life and light to all. There are beloved carols, expressive new melodies and scripture-based narrative which powerfully convey the Christmas story. The cantata will be presented with orchestra and there will be some opportunity for congregational participation.

God sent His Son to offer us hope, peace, joy, love and LIGHT! Let us share the good news that His light has overcome the darkness. Please join us on December 20.

Advent | Christmas

November 29 1st Sunday in Advent:

Worship, Holy Communion 8:15 & 10:45 am

December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent:

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am

Dealing with Holiday Stress Lecture 9:30am

Service of Remembrance 7 pm

December 10

Little Friend's Nursery School

Christmas Program 9:15 am

December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am

Night in Bethlehem 5:15 pm

December 20 4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Cantata 8:15 am & 10:45 am

Christmas Caroling 5pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

5 pm

Family Service

Designed for families of all ages, but especially sensitive to families with young children. Will conclude with candle lighting.

8 pm

Service of Christmas Eve Simplicity

Designed as a quiet, prayerful service for individuals and families. Simplicity marks this service with instrumental music, Communion, Prayer Time and a brief candle lighting service.

11 pm

Festival Service of Light and Wonder

Includes Holy Communion, lessons and carols, music by our choirs, and candle-lighting.



POINSETTIAS will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 13 and 20. You have the option of purchasing a poinsettia for \$7.50 or giving a monetary gift in memory/honor of your loved one. Gift donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Please complete the form indicating the number of "plants" or "gifts" and place it in the offering plate or send it to Kristin Brown in the church office by November 30.

Plants may be taken after any Christmas Eve Service that you attend. If you order a poinsettia, please be sure to pick it up. Plants not claimed by December 31 will be disposed of.

POINSETTIA OR GIFT ORDER FORM

Please indicate below, in the correct section, the number of plants and/or gifts that you are giving and who they are being given in memory/honor of.

1. Number of plants _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

2. Number of Gifts _____

Please circle whichever is appropriate: In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Placed by: _____

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 November 18 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eeking@verizon.net for more information.



Christmas Blessings Express

Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is the time of the year when New Hope Ministries starts to plan for the upcoming holiday season. The basic "life needs" which New Hope Ministries provides to their guests is dependent on the support that churches like First Church can provide.

Last year, New Hope Ministries held their fourth, "Christmas Blessings Express," where the guests were able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family. We cannot imagine the difference made in these families' lives by our willingness to help make their Christmas a special one, full of wonderful memories.

In early November, you will once again see the gift - suggestion ornaments on a mini Christmas tree located on the Mission table in the narthex. If you are able to make a donation, please take one of the ornaments and return the gift unwrapped to the same area.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and love to our neighbors in need. With your support, we can make this Christmas filled with Hope and Love.

Also, if you would like to volunteer during the Christmas season to help share HIS love with others, please give me a call at 717-697-1253.

Thank you again, Debbie Karns



Neighborhood Center

Dear Christian Friend:

Thank you for the gift of labels for education!

Campbell's offers so many wonderful products that your gift of labels will save us thousands of dollars on products for the children.

We are well on our way to saving for a new van in the next ten years. We can't do it without you. We currently have 386,000 labels in the bank. Please keep those labels coming!

On behalf of all the staff of the Neighborhood Center, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Peters

Acting Executive Director



Congregational Care

Surviving the Holidays – November 8, 2015 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Daybreak Church

No matter how long it has been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there's hope. Join us for an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new reasons to enjoy them again.

\$10 Registration fee includes Book and Holiday Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Childcare provided: Pre-registration requested; Register at <http://tinyurl.com/sth-daybreak>

Call Daybreak Church at 717-791-1200 with any questions.

Holy Communion – Stewards who give in order that we may receive!

"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." ~ I Cor. 10:17

The United Methodist Church proclaims that the table of Holy Communion is Christ's table. Each time we share in Communion, we are blessed by the 'behind the scenes' team of our partners in ministry known as Communion Stewards.

Stewards who are members of the 'Altar Guild' are responsible for preparing the elements (bread and grape juice) as well as preparing the altar for Holy Communion. Initial preparations begin on Saturday when they arrange the elements for Sunday's 8:15 service, as well as preparing requested Home Communion Kits to be shared with homebound members. Following the early service, members of the Altar Guild clear the table and replenish the elements for the late service. The Altar Guild's responsibilities are complete once they clean-up the altar following the 10:45 service. Another group of Communion Stewards is then responsible for taking the Home Communion Kits from church to share with church members who are unable to partake of communion in the sanctuary due to health issues, etc. Each of us who partake in Holy Communion at First Church is blessed by the time and care given by our Communion Stewards!

The Communion Steward Team invites new members to join them! If you would like more information to consider being part of the team to prepare elements with the Altar Guild and/or to share Home Communion with some of our homebound community, please contact Lois Coover (766-4627) or Janice Bowen (766-4611 or wecare@fumchurch.com).

Prayers from the Pews

God loves when we take time to be with Him in prayer! As a church, we want to be responsive to the prayer needs of everyone who worships with us. The Prayer Team would like to explain some ways in which we are hoping to best meet the prayer needs of our faith family.

For starters, you may notice we have enlarged the *Green Prayer Cards* which are available in the pew card holders, tucked in the black sign-in tablets on the green chairs, and stacked by the baskets at the sanctuary exits. When completing these during worship, you may either hand your card to an usher, place it in the offering tray, or leave it in the basket at the exit following worship.

If you desire to have someone pray with you on a Sunday morning, we would like to introduce you to the *Prayer Corner*, tucked in the back corner space of the green chair area, under the balcony. A member of the Prayer Team will be happy to meet you there, after either the early or late service, to pray with you. And certainly, all are welcome to visit the Prayer Corner anytime you may be seeking a quiet space for prayer.

"all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." ~ Acts 1:14 (CEB)

If you have any questions or other suggestions with regard to prayer, please contact Debbie Karns (dekarns@verizon.net or 697-1253).

Adult Ministry

Reflections for Lent—2016

If you have been studying “A Disciple’s Path” with your Sunday School class or small group you have encountered the SOAP (also called SOAPY) method of scripture study and prayer. In 2016 we are going to apply this method to our annual “Reflections for Lent” devotional booklet. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer (in which you Yield to God’s will). Here’s how it works:

- Scripture: Write down the scripture you have chosen to reflect on for the day.
- Observation: Write down what you believe the scripture says to you. What has the Lord impressed on you as a lesson?
- Application: Reflect on your observation and write what God has revealed to you personally about how this lesson applies to your life.
- Prayer: Write a prayer to God concerning this lesson and your life. Also write what you must yield in your life for this lesson to take hold in your life.

Here is an example (taken from “A Disciple’s Path” workbook):

- Scripture: Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Luke 11:34
- Observation: What I read determines the kind of light or darkness which will fill my mind and my body. I become what I think.
- Application: As I read this I became more aware that starting each day with scripture is important for me. If I begin my day with reading God’s Word then my life will be changed to become more like Jesus as the readings shape my heart. If I miss a morning I feel a loss and a small amount of darkness comes into my life. The Word of God brings light into my life and makes me more useful to God.
- Prayer: Father, thank you for the gift of your Word. Thank you also for the light it brings into my mind and body as you teach and encourage me each day. I will not skip a day of this discipline because I need your light in my heart, mind and body. Amen.

We welcome your participation with gratitude! Your reflection will strengthen 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. 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 devotional should be:

1. Brief Title
2. Scripture – Just a short passage
3. Observation – 2 or 3 sentences
4. Application – about 5 sentences
5. Prayer – 2 or 3 sentences
6. Your Name

Reflections are due by Sunday, January 10, 2016. Please email your document to adultministry@fumchurch.com. If you do not have access to email, please place a hard copy of your reflection in an envelope marked “Reflection for Lent” and place it in Tina Eaton’s mailbox.

Youth

Fall Sleepout

Fall brings colored leaves, pumpkin pie and crisp cool evenings but to the youth department it means it's sleep out time, this year is no different. 2015 marks our 23rd year of the Sleepout for the homeless. On Thanksgiving eve participants gather boxes, bundle up and hit the streets to collect donations from the community. This year we are trying to build more awareness to the event by inviting local youth groups to join in on our endeavors. What better way to show God's love than partnering with other brothers and sisters in Christ by spreading the awareness of homelessness. Money collected that evening will go to New Hope, Family Promise, Bethesda mobile mission and other local community support agencies. Please consider stopping by and helping those in need by giving a donation. Donations to this event may also be given through the church website. Homemade soup donations for our soup kitchen that night are greatly appreciated. Sign up on timetosignup.com/kidscount. Help us help others.



The **Youth** of First Church will hold their annual **Cookie Walk December 19** where shoppers can walk around a table of delicious homemade cookies and customize a box for just \$10.

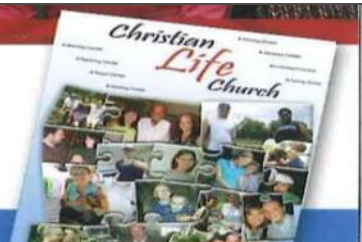
Proceeds benefit Youth Mission Trips.

Bring your children to the Cookie Decorating Station!



Church Directory

**It's time for a
new *directory*!**



Photography Dates/Times are

Thursday, November 19, 2-8:30 pm

Friday, November 20, 2-8:30 pm

Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am—5pm

Thursday, December 17, 2-8:30 pm

Friday, December 18, 2-8:30 pm

Saturday, December 19, 10:30 am—5pm

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **pa658** in the Church Code field and enter **first** the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. **If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots.** The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

Online scheduling is encouraged. However if you are unable to schedule online someone will be available Sunday mornings from 9:15 - 10:45 to assist with scheduling.

Library

If you are like me, November is the beginning of the whirlwind of holiday and family. Without family to celebrate with and God the reason for our celebration, the holidays would be meaningless.

All of you, who read Amish literature, know God and family are the center of their lives and not just during the holidays. Cindy Woodsmall is starting a new trilogy called *The Amish of Summer Grove*. **The Ties that Bind** is the lead book and in it she explores more of the Amish ways. Five years ago Arianna Brenneman was betrayed by friends Quill Schlabach and Frieda when they ran away together and left their Amish ways behind. During that five years Quill has helped others to leave the Order. Along with a burning desire to open a café in Summer Grove to help support her family, Arianna wants to preserve her community by preventing others from leaving with help from Quill. Even though Quill has left, he still wants to help Arianna with her café while protecting her from a secret that could further unravel her life. This is an Amish mystery that you won't want to miss.

Even though most of us desire a strong family, sometimes that doesn't happen. Beth Vogt's romance novel of love found, lost and rediscovered is sometimes a roadmap in this world. Aptly called **A Crazy Little Thing Called Love**, this story asks the question, "What if what you thought was your biggest mistake was actually the right choice?" Vanessa and Logan Hollister eloped at eighteen and divorced a short two years later. Eight years later Vanessa is in Florida planning her second wedding, when she runs into Logan again on what was their "favorite beach". When a hurricane forces the two of them into the same storm shelter, they discover they still have feelings for each other. Should they give their love a second chance? I won't ruin the end of this lighthearted romance. You'll have to give Ms. Vogt a chance to charm you in this first book of the *Destination Wedding* series.

We hope you will attend the Little Friend's Fall Festival on November 14th from 10:00-1:00 and stop in at the library for our mini book sale. Stock your book shelves for winter and support the library.

See you in the library!

Pam and Donna

Little Friends Nursery School

Mark your calendar for our Annual Fall Festival/Silent Auction on Saturday, November 14th from 10-1. We will have a silent auction with the first tables closing at 11:00, a bake sale, a book sale, games, balloon twisting and story time for the kids and lunch to purchase. If you have any items that you would like to donate or know of a business that would like to donate, please let me know. Look in an upcoming church bulletin for specific items that will be in the auction. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps Little Friends help children by providing scholarships, classroom supplies, field trips and all of the "extra" things little children need.

If you supported our school last year, there is no need to re-register. Just log onto your online account with Giant to confirm your school's ID's.

If you are a new supporter of our school, here is what you do:

- Visit GiantFoodStores.com/register and create an account
- Go to the A+ page found under the BONUSCARD in the purple bar. Follow the instructions to designate our school. Our school ID# is 22317.
- Start shopping to earn money for our school

Please have your friends and family do the same.

Thank you for your support,

Chris Sims, Director

Women's Ministry

2016 Women's Retreat February 5-7

“Come to Our Senses: Fully Engaged
in Our Pursuit of Christ”

Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship,
fun, food and faith!
Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on
Sunday at noon.
Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals included.
Facilitators include Juanita Guise and Lisa Aronson



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 placed 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 _____

Early Bird Registration by **12/31/15** is \$110. After that date, the fee will be \$125. Fees include two-night stay (3 to 4 per room) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. **All registrations are due by 1/17/2016.**

_____ \$110 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/15)

_____ \$125 registration enclosed (if paying after 12/31/15)

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

Have you tried the SCRIP program yet? Would you also like to support the Women's Ministries of First Church and the Women's Retreat? From October through January some of the proceeds from the SCRIP program will go to support the 2016 Women's Retreat. If you purchase gift cards from Applebee's, Carrabba's/Outback Steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Dunkin Donuts, Olive Garden/Red Lobster/Longhorn Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Red Robin, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, or TGI Friday's, the proceeds will directly benefit the Women's Retreat. Please check out all of the great restaurants, retail stores, hotels, etc that SCRIP offers. The SCRIP box and order forms are located at the end of the main entrance hallway, to the right. Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at 795-9721 or familyzeke@verizon.net.



FUM Circles

New Members are always welcome!

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton
790-9131 or
swalton54@comcast.net

MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick
697-2233

MARY CIRCLE

Janice Bowen
796-0809 or
jjgbowen@yahoo.com

RUTH CIRCLE

Beryl Morgan
697-3554

Upcoming Events:

November 22 World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

“The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried on through United Methodist Women's national office in the United States and around the world.”

Ladies – don't forget the [Footprint Challenge](#) and bring your donation of 25 cents for every pair of shoes!

Join us in Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 am Worship Service for a delicious barbeque **Mission Meal**. The Mission Meal is free, but we ask for a donation and that money will be used for local ministries, including New Hope Ministries and Mission Central.



Marketplace of Miracles

A Shopping Event Like No Other!
Shop, Learn and Support Great Causes

Saturday, December 19

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women



Your purchases really can make a difference!

WAR (Women at Risk) and **She's Somebody's Daughter**
will have beautifully handcrafted jewelry for sale.

Change Purse will have new or gently-used
purses for sale, starting at just \$1!

*These organizations are dedicated to the education and
prevention of human trafficking. All proceeds benefit the organizations.*

Ten Thousand Villages will also have Fair Trade items for sale.



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

It's hard to believe, but there are only two months left in 2015. Time just seems to fly when I'm running around like a wild man trying to solve the latest emergency around the building. George Canonizado's daily presence and willingness to tackle just about any project is such a blessing to me and a huge benefit to everyone here at First Church. If we can catch problems when they first occur, we can oftentimes preclude the need to call in the professionals to fix the issues and return things to normal operations. Thank you, George, for all you do to further God's kingdom in this little piece of the world.

I hope by now everyone has noticed how bright the sanctuary is for worship services. Judi Buddenbaum, Brad Cornelius, Fred Espenshade, Ken Rapp, Steve Solon and I were the team that lowered the 4 large light fixtures in the sanctuary from above the ceiling to the ground where the fixtures were cleaned and the bulbs were replaced. A combination of 150 watt equivalent compact fluorescents and 120 watt equivalent LED floodlights was used for the relamping. Thank you to the above named persons, and also to Dean Otto and Bob Hamsher for their wise counsel in preparing for the relamping project.



Thanks to the generosity of the Merle W. Guyer Sunday School Class, we now have a new 48 cubic foot refrigerator in the church kitchen. The old refrigerator was more than 25 years old and, while running okay right now, was always a breakdown away from a major disaster. Our recent kitchen renovations created enough space for the new unit, and now we're ready for the start of meal preparation for our Wonderful Wednesday program.

Repairs were completed in the area under the balcony on the Frederick Street side of the Sunday School auditorium, and we were able to open that area back up for worship seating. Thank you to Eric King (with an assist from Matt Miller) for the wall repairs, to Jim Van Kirk for his efforts in securing the heating units to the repaired wall and in helping to hang the heating unit covers, and to Judi Buddenbaum and Marcia Espenshade for their wonderful painting efforts. There are still wall repairs to be made in the area above the balcony, so that area remains cordoned off for now.

We're still waiting on the really large curbside tree at the parsonage on Colony Road to be taken down. The tree removal company we contracted with for this project advised that it should happen soon.

Charlie Ryder's recent medical issues have delayed the completion of Matthew Canonizado's Eagle Scout project of a prayer garden on the east side of the church near King Alley. Charlie had offered to assist Matthew in constructing the wooden cross that will be a focal point of the prayer garden. Matthew still hopes to complete his project this fall before cold weather sets in.

There has been no change to the "faux sinkhole" that appeared in the south parking lot. Uncertainty about that area has prompted the Trustees to delay their plans for paving, sealing and restriping of the parking lots until the spring.

As I'm writing this in mid-October, we just discovered a plumbing issue (what appears to be a clogged drain line) on the lower level of the building. We're hoping it's not serious, but it is beyond our skill level so we have called in a professional plumber. I'm hoping that I can report next month that it was just something minor, but one never knows. It is a great example, nonetheless, of how important it is to alert me if you see something broken or in need of our attention around the building. Your eyes really help us in our efforts to be faithful stewards of this wonderful facility. Thank you.

Roger Walton

Facilities Manager

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

to the Minnix family upon the death of Wendy's mother on September 25.
to the family upon the death of Art Farr on October 3
to the family upon the death of Ike Bomboy on October 3.
to the family upon the death of Tammy Ingraham's brother on October 8.

Thank you...

Dear Ladies of 1st Church UMW,

"We thank you for remembering our mother and for helping to support hurting peoples through the ministries of the United Methodist Church".

Nancy Sprenkle and family of Betty Stambach

"I want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls and prayers. We appreciate your kindness and caring".

Ruth and Less Reed

"Thank you to our wonderful FUMC Family and Pastors, following the unexpected death of our son Jim. The overwhelming numbers of card, the amt. of delicious meals and the outpouring of love by the attendance at his service, was far more than we ever imagined! We are blessed to be a part of such a vital community of FAITH! The meal following the service was such a comfort, since there were so many people from out of town. God Bless All of You! God Loves You and So Do We"

Charlie and Flossie Ryder

"I want to express my thanks to all of the First Church members for the prayers, cards, and messages of support after the recent death of my mom in Florida. She lived almost 7 years in a nursing home and was very ready to let go of this life and move on to eternal life. During the years Mike and I were at First Church, I made many trips to Florida to spend time with and assist my mom, and I was grateful for the support from First Church friends then as well. Your concern and support is most appreciated and Mike and I continue in our prayers for all of you and your ministries through First UMC Mechanicsburg!"

Wendy Minnix

Polly Blum is very thankful for the visits from Pastors Keller and Reed while she was in Holy Spirit Hospital. She also appreciates the all the prayers, wonderful soup, and prayer shawl that she received. Thank you First Church.

Special Birthdays

Sadie Heim.....	November 1	Jo Nye.....	December 13
Liz Nesmith.....	November 4	Helen Ritter.....	December 13
Doris Zimmerman.....	November 7	Dolores Shell.....	December 13
Nancy Bomboy	November 12	Joan Buechel.....	December 17
Donald Adams	November 15	Elaine O'Hara.....	December 26
Patricia Marr	November 23	Dolly Dougherty	December 27
Joyce Woods.....	December 1	Jim Parfet.....	December 30

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

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Richard & Joanne Reed married 62 years on November 4
- ♥ Lincoln & Veloice Washburn married 64 years on November 9
- ♥ Dave & Dolly Scholl married 64 years on November 22
- ♥ Robert & Sara Meck married 63 years on November 25
- ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 55 years on December 10

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/ SANCTUARY CHOIR*	
George Canonizado	Jody Brinley	
CONGREGATIONAL CARE*	ORGANIST*	
Janice Bowen	Nicholas Werner	

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **December** newsletter deadline is
November 15

All submissions should be received in the
church office on or **before** this date.

Early submissions are always welcome!

Looking Ahead

The **January and February** issues of
First News First will be combined.

The **deadline** for submitting articles for this
combined issue is **December 11**.

