



First News First

November 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church
of Mechanicsburg

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

"Gratitude"

One beautiful autumn Sunday morning, when I was serving First UMC, Hanover, Betsy's parents came to worship. After church, her Dad rode home with me. As we were enjoying the magnificent fall colors along the tree lined streets, Dad looked at me and said, "Dennis, your lines have fallen in pleasant places." Dad was right. I looked at our neighborhood and our congregation and our family and I realized how very blessed I was.

The verse Dad quoted to me in the car that day has been important to me ever since:

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in
pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.* (Psalm 16:5-6)

The Hebrews that first sang this psalm were called to remember God's faithfulness to their ancestors. After forty years in the desert, they had moved into the land the Lord their God had given them. Elders cast lots and apportioned the land among the twelve tribes, setting up "boundary lines" to designate the portion given to each tribe.

We can only imagine the joy of those who first settled in this new land as each moved into the portion allotted to them. They were the children and grandchildren of Egyptian slaves. They had spent their entire lives up until then living in tents in the desert. Now they had the freedom to build homes, raise families and establish communities. On their land they could enjoy meaningful work, graze sheep, goats, and cattle, and plant and harvest food. To them, every plot of land must have seemed a most "pleasant place." Their leaders reminded them to **be grateful**. It was all a gift from God.

Remembering their story, this psalm invites us to take time every day to survey the landscape of our lives, to see all that God has so abundantly bestowed upon us, and to **be grateful**. Your lines have fallen in pleasant places.

Of course, the "pleasant places" that have fallen within the "boundary lines" of our lives are more than property and possessions. The psalmist declares, "The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup." In addition to the material blessings he has received, his "goodly heritage" is filled with spiritual blessings. He might have written, with the apostle John:

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:9)

Life is not always pleasant and yet what my father-in-law said of me all those years ago could be said of you, too. Your lines have fallen in pleasant places. What spiritual blessings have you found along your path? How have you experienced God's grace? **Be grateful!**

I cannot thank God enough for you!

Pastor Denny

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.

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart!

November 5, **All Saints Sunday**, we will light candles and celebrate the gift of dear ones that have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year.

November 12, **Consecration Sunday**, we will recall God's generosity toward us, and consecrate our time, our talent, and our treasure as we join in God's great mission in 2018.

November 19, **Thanksgiving Sunday**, we will celebrate Baptism and Reception of New Members, rejoicing in the blessings of our church family.

November 26, **Reign of Christ Sunday**, we celebrate that from him we have all received grace upon grace.

Holy Communion

First Sunday in Advent	November 5	Loaves and Chalice
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 3	Pew Service
Covenant Communion	December 24	Loaves and Chalice
Ash Wednesday*	January 7, 2018	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday in Lent	February 14	Loaves and Chalice
Palm Sunday	February 18	Pew Service
Maundy Thursday	March 25	Loaves and Chalice
Easter Sunrise	March 29	At Tables
	April 1	Mechanicsburg Cemetery
	May 6	Pew Service
	June 3	Loaves and Chalice
	July 1	Pew Service
	August 5	Loaves and Chalice
	September 2	Pew Service
World Communion	October 7	Loaves and Chalice
	November 4	Pew Service
First Sunday of Advent	December 2	Loaves and Chalice
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

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

November 12, 2017 is First UMC's Consecration Sunday.

Please begin planning now so that you are able to attend two important events on that day: Sunday morning worship (either 8:15am or 10:45am) and the Ministries and Missions Fair, which will be held in the Multi-Purpose room between worship services (9:15-10:45am) that same day. This spiritual-growth-oriented experience is designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship, and will also be a great opportunity for everyone to see and learn more about the many, many ways that our church opens doors with Christ, one another and our neighbors through our ministries and missions.

Finance

Financial Report—through September 30, 2017
75% of year

General Fund

2017 budget	\$ 935,000	
Expected income	\$ 701,250	
Actual income	\$ 686,432	(73% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 14,818	
Actual expenses	\$ 652,714	

The Finance Committee has started work on the 2018 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.

Endowment

Endowment Support: The Gift That Never Stops Giving!

For many, Advent is a joyous season as we prepare for the Christmas holiday and anticipate the coming of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas is also a popular time to give and receive gifts. This Christmas, why not give a meaningful, lasting gift that will continue to give well into the future?

Gifts to the First Church Endowment Fund, now in its 10th year, last forever. That's because contributions to it are never spent. They are invested to generate income for future use.

Endowment support can be provided in many ways.

- Cash contributions
- Gift annuities
- Bequest in a will
- Life insurance policy (First Church as beneficiary)
- Contributions in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones

If you would like to learn more about the Endowment Fund, please call or approach Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee Chairperson, or either of First Church's pastors.

Church Conference

This year Church Conference will be held November 19 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall here at First Church. This is also the date of the UMW Mission Meal. So come have lunch and stay for this important meeting. All church members are encouraged to attend.

Music

Ring in the News

Yep, it's almost Thanksgiving. The bell choirs are again making pies for you! On Saturday, November 18th, there will be a pie aroma in the air! Make sure you've ordered your pies from a bell choir member, or in the book at the Welcome Center. Pumpkin, Mincemeat, Apple Crumb topping, and Apple Double Crust are being made. And remember, you can order them baked, or frozen for you to bake at your leisure.

Our 13th annual Holiday Bell Concert at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill is Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. We share the spotlight with a delightful harpist. This is always a fun time for all of us, come early for a seat!

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 15 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at eking@verizon.net for more information.



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



Help support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project! Drop 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!***

There were **1,617** (\$16.17) pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of **\$12,869.63**.

Did you know that up to 60% of the human body is water? Humans must consume a certain amount of water to survive, depending on age, gender and where they live. Most of us don't think about how much water we consume, and we don't have to give a second thought to whether or not the water is clean. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many parts of the world, like Sierra Leone.

Please don't let the well run dry.

Sierra Leone Mission Trip Update

Thank you to all of you for your wonderful letters, cards, photos and donations to our “Connecting to Calvary” project. As you know, we will be taking the mail with us to Calvary in Taiama, Sierra Leone on our November 2 –11 mission trip. We are sure your smiling faces and wonderful words of encouragement and faith will be a most welcomed part of sharing our faith and making the miles between us seem smaller.

Again - thank you to the Covered in Love ministry and other wonderful UMW members who donated their time and talents to knitting cute hats and sewing t-shirt dresses for the boys and girls at Calvary.

Once the mission team returns, we will have a presentation about our mission trip during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 10th. Hope to see you there!

Last, but certainly not least, thank you for your continued prayers for traveling mercies, and for all the lives we will touch, and will touch us, along the way.

Peace and Prayers, Tiffany and Sarah

Ministry & Missions Fair

A Ministry & Missions Fair is scheduled for Consecration Sunday, November 12, from 9:15 – 10:45 am in the Multipurpose Room. Please plan to attend this wonderful event and find new ways to give, not only of your money, but also of your time and God-given gifts and talents! With your participation, this fair will be a joyful celebration of all the ways that First Church is bearing fruit and bringing glory to God!

If you have questions or would like to reserve a table for your specific ministry/mission, please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call 717-766-4611, extension 104.

New Hope Ministries

Since Thanksgiving is just around the corner, it is that time of the year again for collecting sweet potatoes for New Hope Ministries. Please shop for the canned sweet potatoes and leave them at the New Hope Ministries locations at the main entrance. New Hope will serve over 500 families in need this Thanksgiving and your donation will help tremendously. *Thank you in advance, Debbie and Don Karns*

Neighborhood Center Christmas Tree

I will be putting out the Neighborhood Christmas Tree mid November. Please grab an ornament and enrich a child's life. The tree will be in the usual place in the children's educational wing. More information will be in the bulletin. Thank you , Donna Nichols



September: arrival in Rome, Italy

Every student. Every campus. Every nation.

This last month has been packed with change, transition, and so many good things. I'm excited to share, and so thankful for your partnership!

Where do I start? This month: I landed in Italy, I've lived in 3 apartments, I am building a home in a new country, I'm learning a new language, I spend time with students on campus, I live 4,500 miles from my parents, I moved in with new roommates, I'm learning a different way of life and culture, and I live in Italy! **It's all been so crazy.** A few things are for sure: Italy and America are a lot different, and I am very American. God is sovereign, good and totally providing for me in the biggest ways. I'm learning a lot. I am so thankful you're in this with me. **I'm convinced your prayers changed this month to go better than it would have otherwise.**

Overall, staff life in Italy is very multi-faceted. Mainly, I focus on campus and human resources. For campus, we have 2 campus teams and are praying that students would lead these teams on their respective campuses. La Sapienza is the largest university in Europe, and Roma Tre is our secondary campus due to the contact we have there with a few professors. Overall, we want to find students that love Jesus, and coach and encourage them to multiply their lives. We have huge dreams for Rome.

One of my favorite things so far about Rome has been the local church: San Lorenzo

San Lorenzo is a body of mainly Italian believing and seeking people to see what following Jesus means, and to worship if they choose to do so. It is a beautiful body of believers. It is SO ENCOURAGING as a missionary to have a church body where I can see natives who love Jesus and want to make Him known. While its encouraging, it also shows how much Jesus is needed in this place. We have around 120 attendees in our church, and I now see that what a friend of mine has said for a long time is true: **If an Italian comes to know and love Jesus, they will tell everyone they know. Ministry here is very strategic.**

As we go on campus, we spark spiritual conversations using various tools, in response to "How would describe God right now in your life?" students responded:

**These are paraphrased, because they are translated from Italian to English*

One picture to describe my life is an airplane, I want to escape it, I don't have a purpose and I would leave, even this moment. - Roma Tre student

I think there is a higher power, but I'd rather die, and let where I'm going be a mystery. -La Sap Student

I want to encounter God, but then I have doubts and I'm just not sure. There is something holding me back - Roma Tre student

These students have varying replies, but other than the students we already knew from campus, we have yet to meet another Christian. To us, this is such a foreign concept. God is doing a lot here, which creates a clear tension of also acknowledging the reality that few people know Jesus or have ever heard what He's done for them.

Vision for Rome:

At the beginning of September, we met with campus staff from throughout Italy. It is such a privilege to be in a room with Italians working for Agape, and foreigners being called here to do the same. We've met several other people through the community that have moved to Rome with the same vision as Agape, and it confirms that God is doing huge things here. Would you pray with me that we would take advantage of this time, where Romans are fighting for the gospel, churches are partnering and there is momentum in student leadership in a way that hasn't happened recently here in ministry.

Thank you for praying & being in partnership with me for how God is at work in Rome!



Italian staff member, Matteo, coaching student leaders at La Sapienza in a time of vision casting and prayer

Prayer requests

- Team unity and transition: It is still a lot of adjustment living with new people, in a new place. Everything here is more difficult. Things I can do in America with ease may not even be possible here.
- Students here to come to know Jesus; to know He wants to know them; to have hope that this culture can experience God, even though they've turned so far from him in general.
- Continued Cultural specific prayers: Friends, Praying to feel like an insider, and find a sense of belonging
- Language learning. It is harder than I could imagine to live in a place where my communication is about as much as a 2-3 year old. Hardly anyone around me speaks English. Prayers for language learning and acquisition
- Our team is multicultural, and we are learning that communication, trust, and expression are so different. Would you pray we'd understand each other in a way that unifies us further?
- Believing students at Roma Tre or students that come to believe, so they can begin the movement with us

Praises

- My days have some normalcy and I can see the Lord stringing together life here, verses chaos! Our home is coming together slowly but surely...
- Students at La Sapienza have taken ownership and the beginnings of a movement is starting. Its beautiful, and allows us to dream about going to a new campus part time.
- God has given us ease into so many things that logistically could have gone so differently

*in love,
Jenna*

New Date for the Sleep Out!

Every Thanksgiving eve for over 25 years the First United Methodist youth department has held its annual Sleep-out to support the homeless in the Mechanicsburg area. While this event has shifted and transformed its look over the years, the impact has continued to be unmeasurable! Our students become aware of the realities that surround homelessness, they grow in their gratitude for what they have, a new sense of purpose is instilled in them regarding what they personally can do to help others, and our local agencies helping those experiencing homelessness are the benefactors of the money we raise.

As we approach the Sleep Out for the Homeless this year, we are once again making a change. Over the past several years we have struggled with the primary task of the students attending the Sleep Out: money collection on the street. The street is still there and money slowly trickles in, but traffic has slowly dissipated. We have tried starting early, we have tried to advertise online giving, but with many schools now off on Thanksgiving eve, the holiday traffic has already passed by Simpson Street. In hopes to re-engage our event with traffic flow we are shifting the Sleep Out to the weekend before Thanksgiving. We are excited to be once again a traffic stopping presence to the drivers along Simpson street and allow so many more to participate in giving to the Homeless.



A great perk of this change is that other churches are able to join us! The involvement of additional youth ministries has waned over the years and many have explained that having an event the night before a holiday is just “not in the DNA of their church members.” By shifting the date, other students who previously missed the event due to holiday travels are now able to experience a night out in our cardboard community. This year we will see Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ and Shephardstown UMC join us. The addition of participants also means we have the ability to expand collection on some of the other main thoroughways in town like York and Market Streets. And who isn't excited to know that their child will not fall asleep into their plate of mashed potatoes because they were not up all night the day before Thanksgiving?

We are excited to continue in this tradition and are grateful for the opportunities to make needed changes so as to allow this event to carry on for many more years to come! Please help us in spreading the word that the Sleep Out is happening on a new day! Please stop by and share your love and support to the youth sleeping out in cardboard boxes on Friday November 17- Saturday November 18, 2017.

What is the Sleep-out?

- A night for youth to experience the realities of homelessness
- An educational opportunity to shed light on homelessness
- A chance to financially benefit local help agencies (like New Hope, Family Promise, Bethesda Mobile Mission, etc) through street collections

How can you be involved as an adult?

- Adult supervision is needed throughout all hours of the Sleep Out. We need help on the street, at registration, in the soup kitchen, and as extra eyes keeping our students safe. (Clearances are needed in order to help).
- We always need soup, crackers, and hot chocolate to feed the participants in our soup kitchen.
- Sign ups can be found online at www.timetosignup.com/kidscount



Advent & Christmas Services and Event Schedule

December 3 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i>	Worship, Holy Communion 8:15 & 10:45 am Service of Hope and Remembrance 7 pm
December 10 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am Night in Bethlehem 4 - 7:00 pm
December 17 <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i>	Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am Christmas Caroling 5 pm
December 21	Little Friend's Nursery School Christmas Program 9:15 am
December 24 <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am

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.

Service of Remembrance and Hope – Sunday, December 3rd at 7 pm

We invite those who are grieving this holiday season....missing your loved ones and experiencing the hollowness of loss....to please join us for a special Sunday evening service during which we will gather to remember and honor the memory of cherished family and friends.

Please contact Janice Bowen (766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com) for more information.



POINSETTIAS will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 17 and 24. 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 26.

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 _____ **Circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

2. Number of Gifts _____ **Circle whichever is appropriate:** In Memory of / In Honor of

Name(s): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Placed by: _____

From the Director of Outreach

Community Dinner Thanks

Thank you to everyone who provided items and helped to serve or clean up at the Broad Street Community Dinner on Thursday, October 5. The Community Dinner is a partnership with other local churches and the school to show love and support to the students and families at Broad Street. There was an estimated 300 people at the dinner and the fresh fruit that we provided was a big hit! Watch for more information regarding the next Community Dinner on February 15.



FUMC Tee Shirts Available!

We have a new FUMC tee shirt and would love for you to wear it when volunteering in the community. See the display outside the multipurpose room. If you would like a tee shirt, contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com. We will provide you with the tee shirt, but if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the shirt, they are \$8.

CALLING ALL MEN!



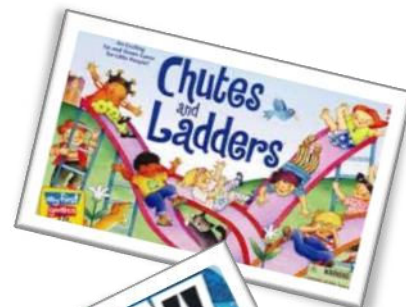
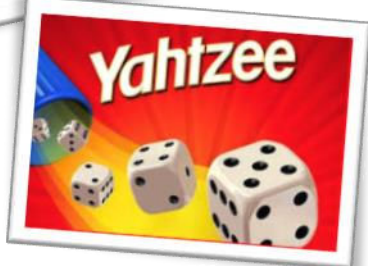
We are looking for your feedback. If you are an adult male who attends FUM Church, we would like your input as we seek to create more opportunities for men of our church to get together in a variety of settings. A brief survey has been placed in your church mailbox – completed surveys can then be returned in the toolbox on the display table outside the gym. Extra copies of the survey will be available at the welcome desk. Your feedback and suggestions are appreciated.

You are also invited to join us at our upcoming fellowship breakfast on **Saturday, November 4th at 7:30 am**. We will be meeting at **Brothers Restaurant**, located at 705 Gettysburg Pike in Mechanicsburg – hope to see you there!

Any questions please contact Barry Eaton at theaton5@verizon.net, or John Bowen at bowenhome720@gmail.com.

Family Fun Night ~ November 10, 6-9 pm

Enjoy family fellowship including chicken & waffles, games, a movie and popcorn.



Library

We are now in what I call the “wind tunnel season”. But not even the weather channel has heard of it because I made it up. And actually you may not know this, but we all have been in this season since the middle of October. I began to feel the wind picking up when stores started to display their Christmas decorations right after Labor Day. You will know you are in this season too, if you feel blown in every direction and more work keeps blowing into your hands. Because I know about this phenomenon, I am reviewing Christmas novellas this month, because by December it will be impossible to sit down and read anything. And these books are too good to miss. I hope that explained my thought process.

The Beloved Christmas Quilt: Three Stories of Families, Romance and Amish Faith is very unique in that it is written by three generations of women from the Brunstetter family. Each story centers around an heirloom quilt with the scripture of Psalms 31:3 embroidered on its back - *For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.* Wanda Brunstetter, a longtime favorite in our library, writes the first story **Luella's Promise**. When Luella is caring for a dying woman, she is given this beautiful quilt, but must promise to one day pass it down to a daughter. Unmarried Luella isn't sure she will ever meet the right man. Jean Brunstetter, Wanda's daughter-in-law, carries the theme into **Karen's Gift**. Karen Allgyer and her husband have moved away from her family and Karen misses them. With three little girls and another child on the way, Karen doesn't know how she can manage without the help of her mother and sisters. Find out how the heirloom quilt finds its way into Karen's life. Richelle Brunstetter, granddaughter of Wanda, finishes the book with the story **Rosanna's Groom**. Rosanna Allgyer has the unexpected disaster on her wedding day. How can she go on? This heartwarming story trilogy will take you out of the wind tunnel into the valley of tranquility.

Another Christmas book is **An Amish Christmas Love: Four Novellas**. These four romances are written by some of your favorite authors—Beth Wiseman, Ruth Reid, Kelly Irvin, and Amy Clipston. If you like Christmas Amish love stories, this is the perfect holiday read. Short enough to be read in small bursts of time, but with enough holiday charm to keep you smiling all day.

But if you are like me, you need more adrenalin in your books. Don't worry. The library has all the latest mysteries on the shelf to compete with that wind tunnel feeling. We also have Advent books to deepen your devotional life and get you set for the true meaning of Christmas. Come in and let us help you find just the right book.

See you in the library.

Pam and Donna

P.S. Don't forget the library is open 6:15 to 7:15 during Wonderful Wednesday. A peaceful place to read, meditate or just get out of the wind.

First Connections!

Thursdays 1-3 pm in the Tower Meeting Room
(2nd floor Children's Sunday School wing)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” ~Acts 2:42 (NIV)

First Connections meets every week so that you can come when you have a free afternoon on a Thursday! We welcome you to simply enjoy this opportunity for a hot cup of coffee/tea and a chance to relax and fellowship. Simple activities are available for those who are interested (puzzles, cards, service projects, adult coloring, etc.) Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at wecare@fumchurch.com or call 766-4611 x 112.

Access Ministry

WHAT IS ACCESS MINISTRY?

I am so glad you asked! Sometimes we forget that not everyone knows what the Access Ministry Team does. We are a team of individuals focused on making the church accessible to all God's children, making First Church accessible to all individuals, and reaching out to the disAbled community and their families. This is a lofty goal that is often reached in small steps.

In a perfect world, all God's children would worship together. There would be no division in the body of Christ. In the real world, we know that a disability or a special need can cause separation and/or isolation. According to some data from the Irresistible Church series, up to 90% of individuals with a significant disability are not connected to a church. And in most cases their family isn't connected either. Access Ministry has sponsored two programs specifically aimed for the disAbled community.

Monthly we host a Rejoicing Spirits worship service on the 4th Sunday at 4 pm. This service is designed to be inclusive for all abilities! It is open to all faiths and is a wonderful complement to anyone's spiritual life. Our Rejoicers have many opportunities to use their abilities to participate, get involved and praise the Lord. Come and join us whenever you can. A disability is not required to attend! You will find Rejoicers reading the Word, coming up front to sing in our choir, using a shaker to make a joyful noise, sharing a prayer, and offering our praises and concerns. Afterwards, we have a short time together for food and fellowship.

Once a year Access Ministry and First Church have hosted a Day of Pampering (DOP) event. This program reaches out to female caregivers who spend endless hours being the loving hands of Jesus on a daily basis as they care for their loved ones. DOP provides our guests an opportunity to spend the day focusing on worship, renewal, networking and being spoiled. Spoiling includes a beautiful sit down lunch (a luxury) and an afternoon of spa services including massage, nail painting, hair styling, makeup, relaxation techniques and so much more. These services are provided by many volunteers and local business people. DOP is a day to remind the women how special they are to God and for First Church to be the loving hands of Christ reaching out to his daughters. One of the highlights of the day is when each woman is invited to have her hands blessed so she may continue the hard work. When you ask a volunteer about their experience at DOP, be ready to catch the fever of serving God by serving these precious women!

In addition to our outreach focus, much time is spent making us more aware of accessibility. Most important is the planning and preparation of how to meet the needs of members who deal with a disAbility. This can include having hand rails installed in a bathroom or providing a plan so a child can attend Sunday School class. Access Ministry works to resolve the issues keeping anyone from being a part of the Church family. We work to open all the doors for God's children. Together we can plan, prepare and worship God.

Karin McHale

karinmch@comcast.net.

Health and Wellness

Health Lecture - Minimally Invasive Valve Surgery

Interested in learning more about the latest treatments for valve diseases as well as advanced cardiovascular surgical techniques? Attend a health lecture on Sunday, November 5th, from 9:30 - 10:30 am in the multi-purpose room. Our special speaker will be Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, FACC, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at UPMC Pinnacle, PinnacleHealth CardioVascular Institute.

Tailor Made: God's Masterpiece
2018 Women's Retreat
February 2-4, 2018

Mt. Asbury Retreat Center
Newville, PA

Join us for a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, food and faith! Program starts on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday before noon. Hotel-like accommodations and 4 meals included.

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.

Return this portion with your payment

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____
 Allergies or diet restrictions _____
 _____ Medications _____
 Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Early Bird Registration by **12/31/17** is **\$120**. After that date, the fee will be **\$130**. Fees include two-night stay (**3 to 4 per room**) and 4 meals. Handicapped accessible rooms. **All registrations are due by 1/14/2018.**

_____ \$120 Early Bird registration enclosed (due by 12/31/17)
 _____ \$130 registration enclosed (if paying **after** 12/31/17)

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

Women's Retreat Fundraiser

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 2018 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 familyzeke@verizon.net.



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

Joan Mains ~ 697- 8235
meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at Hoss's in
Mechanicsburg

COVERED IN LOVE

Sandy Bennetch ~ dsebennetch@comcast.net
meets Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 in
Fellowship Hall

SQUARES AND PRAYERS

Tammy Snyder ~ 439-0355 or tamsnyde@gmail.com
meets Mondays, 9-11 am in Fellowship Hall

KNIT@NITE ~ ALL LEVELS OF KNITTERS WELCOME

Mary Helm ~ mthelm4@yahoo.com
meets the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Tower
Meeting Room

2017 Events:

November 19 World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

December 16 Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk

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

Mission Meal to Support Hurricane Relief Efforts, November 19.

The annual UMW World Thank Offering, taken at both worship services, will be held on Sunday, November 19. 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.

The Mission Meal will be held in Fellowship Hall, following the late service. **This year's entire collection from the Mission Meal will go directly to hurricane relief efforts.** In the past, the proceeds benefitted women, children and youth locally, but due to the recent disasters, we want to help our neighbors in Texas and Florida. Join us for the delicious meal of barbeque, chips, veggies and dip and dessert! Take out will be available after the Sunday School hour. If you can't stay for the meal, feel free to stop in to make a donation or contact Lori Hoffnagle at l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com or 717-732-6430. Thanks for helping us to help others!

A Note for Squares and Prayers

Squares and Prayers Circle will be taking a winter break from December 4-March 5, on Monday's. We would appreciate your continued support of completing the quilt tops located in the main lobby, (look for the Squares and Prayers fabric tote). Also, if you are cleaning out this winter, please consider donating any fabric or bedding, by putting it in the bin in the Hallway. Thanks for your support and hope to see many of you on Monday mornings in March 2018!

Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk, December 16, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

No time to shop or bake, no problem! Come to the annual Marketplace of Miracles to purchase items that support great causes and pick up homemade cookies at the Cookie Walk to support the Youth Mission Trips! The Marketplace vendors include WAR (Women at Risk), Change Purse and Ten Thousand Villages. Watch for more information and details.

Marketplace & of Miracles **Cookie** Walk

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

Shop, Learn and Support Great Causes!
Saturday, December 16
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church



WAR (Women at Risk)
will have beautifully handcrafted jewelry for sale.
Change Purse will be selling new or gently used purses,
some starting at just \$1.00!

These organizations are dedicated to the education and prevention of human trafficking.

Ten Thousand Villages will have Fair Trade items for sale.

All proceeds benefit the organizations.



First Church **Youth** invite you to purchase and customize your own box of delicious homemade cookies at the annual **Cookie Walk** Boxes provided.

First United Methodist Church
135 W. Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
www.fumchurch.com • 717-766-4611



Calling all Bakers!!

Who likes baking cookies? You do!



The youth are asking for assistance from the cookie bakers among us to help us keep the "Cookie Walk" an ongoing, memorable and effective fund raising tradition. We are so excited to continue in partnering with the Market Place of Miracles and offering this one stop Christmas shop available to our community!

Please supply us with 4 batches of cookies (8-10 dozen) of the same variety, or more, of homemade cookies.

Have a family favorite? Great we'll take it. Want to try out a new recipe? That will do too. Fill in the bottom slip with your name and your top two cookie options you would be willing to make.

Because we want to have a large variety of types of cookies we will notify you of your cookie option that has been chosen upon reviewing your slip. Slips should be returned no later than November 19th.

Any questions please contact the youth department at uthrock@fumchurch.com

Cookie walk benefits youth mission trips.

(All youth are requested to help in this fundraiser because of the ongoing nature of fundraising that benefits both current and future trips.

Please help us in this endeavor and take a slip and make some cookies.)

2017 Cookie Walk Cookie Baker Sign Up:

Baker's Name: _____

Email: _____

Best Contact Number: _____

Cookie Option #1

Cookie Option #2

Yes, I would like to provide 4 batches (8-10) dozen of each option listed above.

Please return this form to Lynn Rapp or place in the Cookie Jar
(in Main Lobby) no later than November 19th, 2017

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the death of Jim O'Leary's, James O'Leary, father on October 7.
- to the family upon the death of Glenn Heller on October 16.
- to the family upon the death of Amy Yatsky's father, Ed Killian, on October 17.
- to the family upon the death of Lily Thomas on October 19.

Thank yous...

Thank you to everyone for the kind thoughts and cards, and especially for the prayers during Glenn's final days and the continued thoughts and prayers for our family.

Jane Heller

Special Birthdays

Sadie Heim.....	November 1	Joyce Woods.....	December 1
Liz Nesmith	November 4	Jo Nye	December 13
Doris Zimmerman.....	November 7	Helen Ritter.....	December 13
Nancy Bomboy	November 12	Dolores Shell.....	December 13
Don Adams	November 15	Joan Buechel.....	December 17
Patricia Marr	November 23	Elaine O'Hara	December 26
Marlin Lehmer	November 24	Doris Dougherty	December 27
		Sandra Coover.....	December 28

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Richard & Joanne Reed married 64 years on November 4
 - ♥ Lincoln & Veloice Washburn married 66 years on November 9
 - ♥ Dave & Dolly Scholl married 66 years on November 22
 - ♥ Don & Kay Coldren married 55 years on November 24
 - ♥ Robert & Sara Meck married 65 years on November 25
 - ♥ Roy & Ginnie Miller married 50 years on December 9
 - ♥ Ken & Helen Love married 57 years on December 10
 - ♥ Harriet & Douglas Steuart married 50 years on December 16
 - ♥ Joe & Carol Moomaw married 52 years on December 24
-

Church Staff

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Glenn Covert

FIRST NEWS FIRST
Editor: Kristin Brown

The **deadline** for submitting
articles for the **December** issue is

November 15

Early submissions always
appreciated!