

# First News First

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

## "Consecrated, Lord, to Thee"

Each year in the fall we celebrate how God is at work in and through the Ministry and Mission of our church. We also invite our members and friends to **consecrate** a portion of their income for the Lord's work in the coming year. This year **Consecration Sunday is November 15**.

**"Consecration"** is not a word that we commonly use in our everyday language. However, it is still filled with meaning for us as followers of Jesus. To **consecrate** means, "to make or declare something sacred," or "to dedicate somebody or something to God."

Long ago, our mothers and fathers in the faith **consecrated** our church building as a sacred space. They declared that the sanctuary was to be set apart to glorify God in worship. The classrooms and fellowship hall, the offices and multi-purpose room, even the parking lots were **consecrated** as sacred spaces where each generation could grow in faith and fellowship and service for Christ.

Whenever we celebrate Holy Communion, we say a prayer to **consecrate** the elements. **This** bread and **this** cup do not just nourish our bodies and quench our thirsts. They are sacred gifts that convey the grace of God freely given to all in Jesus Christ. As we partake of the **consecrated** elements, we experience the love of Christ, whose body was broken and blood was shed for our salvation.

This year, with the pandemic, we have experienced firsthand that the church is not a building; it's a people. The apostle Paul reminds us that, as followers of Jesus, we, too, have been **consecrated**. **"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect."** (Romans 12:2). We are set apart in this world. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our lives are transformed to reflect the love of Jesus.

A great hymn of our faith expresses the same message, "Take my life and let it be, **consecrated**, Lord, to thee." The hymn continues, "Take my moments and my days...take my hands...take my feet...take my voice...take my lips...take my silver and my gold...take my intellect...take my will...take my heart...take my love...take myself..." To ask God to **consecrate** our lives is to dedicate all that we are and all that we have in ways that honor God.

So, on **Consecration Sunday**, November 15, each of us is asked to consider, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to **consecrate**?" Some of us may worship in person, either at 8:15 a.m. in the sanctuary or 4:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Others may worship online from home. All of us will be invited to **consecrate** an amount, with 10% as our goal, to support God's work of "Opening Doors with Christ, one another, and our neighbors" in 2021. We offer not just our money, but our whole lives, trusting that God will **consecrate** what we give and, in God's faithful hands, use it to produce abundantly!

I cannot thank God enough for your generous giving, and look forward to all that God has in store for us as we continue in ministry together in 2021!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Denny

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### Bible Reading Plan

Use our Bible reading plan to remain in God's word daily. This reading plan is available on our church website at [www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com), and on page 13 of this newsletter.

### Connect Using The Bible App

Check out the YouVersion Bible app, available for both android and iOS smartphones/tablets, or on your laptop at bible.com. There are many wonderful devotional studies, plus you can create groups to study, chat with friends and share prayer requests!

### Small Groups, Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies

As you know, our building remains closed right now (with the exception of Sunday worship). For that reason, we are asking small groups, Sunday School classes and Bible study groups to continue meeting on Zoom, outside if the weather allows, or in homes in small groups. For a listing of both ongoing and new groups meeting, please see the weekly bulletin announcements (available on our church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com)).

Our Reopening Task Force and staff are prayerfully considering what our next steps will be as we move into 2021 and the Lent/Easter season. Thank you so much for your creativity in starting new groups, your flexibility and your patience with this process! *Wishing you Many Blessings - Tina Eaton*

### The Upper Room Devotional

The November/December 2020 issue of The Upper Room is available! To download the free digital version, use this [link](#)! Or, if you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

### Email and Text Scam-Alert

In response to receiving an email or text message from someone you know and trust from First Church (including recent incidents involving Pastor Denny's list of contacts), our first reaction is to open the text or email and respond. We would like to caution you, however, to be alert for a message that seems 'suspicious' or does not sound like something the sender would typically say, or ask you to do.

- If you receive emails, text messages, or Facebook posts from First Church staff or friends asking you for money, or asking you to purchase Walmart or Amazon gift cards etc., this is most certainly a scam.
- There is no way to stop this kind of scammer, so we caution you to look twice to check the email address or phone contact, which typically will be different from the email or number you have in your personal contacts.
- When in doubt, please do not respond by replying to the text/email that you received.
- Try calling or emailing the individual directly from your contact list to determine if they are truly trying to reach you.

For more information on how to protect yourself from scams and fraud, please visit the AARP web site: <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>.

### From the Library

With fall in full swing now, it's time to hunker down with a good book and a hot latte. And as always, I have some great books to escape into and ignore the outside world.

Irene Hannon, a perennial favorite here in the library, has started a new series. Book one of her new *Triple Threat series* is **Point of Danger**. Eve Rielly is a controversial talk radio show host and while many of her listeners don't always agree with her point of view, up until now all they have thrown at her are verbal jabs. All of a sudden someone has taken it to the next level by leaving a fake bomb accompanied by a threatening note to be silent or ELSE. Brent Lange is the detective on the case, and he becomes increasingly concerned about Eve as the threats and harassment escalate. A sub plot in the book exposes a talk show

want-to-be who would like Eve's job. Could she be the instigator of the harassment or is it someone more sinister? Ms. Hannon is known for great character development, and again she fleshes out Eve's character by introducing her two sisters and getting the family back story. Play close attention to the two sisters as I am guessing they will be the main characters of the next two books in the series. This is a very twisty and suspenseful novel that will keep you up way past your bedtime. You won't need another latte to stay awake for this book.

Another favorite, Denise Hunter, is wrapping up her *Bluebell Inn series* and the saga of the Bennett family with book number three, **Autumn Skies**. The last of the Bennett siblings, Grace, has longed to strike out on her own while still helping the family run the inn. She decides to open an outfitters business that will not only cater to the inn's guests but other tourists as well. Her plan is coming to fruition, but she is feeling a little lonely with the departure of her siblings. That is until tall, dark, and handsome Wyatt Jennings walks into the lobby. Wyatt comes with more baggage than his suitcase can hold. He is on mandatory leave from the Secret Service due a slowly healing gunshot wound. With work not consuming his thoughts and actions, Wyatt realizes he has to come to grips with the tragedy he endured fourteen years ago. After the political world, Grace is like a breath of fresh air to Wyatt, and they soon bond and begin to share their stories with each other. But will the past pull them together or push them apart? (I'll give you a hint. Ms. Hunter says she always likes to end her books with a sigh of contentment. Let's see if she does that this time.)

With each month that passes, I keep hoping I will soon see all your smiling faces in the library. Fingers crossed for this month. Or you can contact Donna or Pam if you want to visit the library privately.

~ Donna and Pam

### Health and Wellness Ministry Presents: Eating a Gluten-Free Diet

Please join us, Tuesday November 10th at 7 pm on Zoom for a virtual presentation focused on the topic of a gluten-free diet. We will hear from Giant Foods nutritionist, Kilene Knitter, MS RD LDN, as well as from a Panel of FUMC members who eat gluten-free. To register and receive the Zoom link for the presentation, please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112.

## Praying Follower



### Moms in Prayer

This year has been unique, and more than ever, we need to bring all of our students, their teachers, school staff and others involved in education to the Lord's throne and ask for God's blessing upon them! Please visit <https://momsinprayer.org/> for resources, such as prayer guides and prayer calendars, to use in your personal prayer time. In addition, you may send prayer requests for specific schools, students, teachers and staff to Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com), and these requests will be prayed over by our Moms in Prayer Group that meets on Monday evenings. If you are interested in joining a local Moms in Prayer group, you may contact any of the following leaders:

- Monday Morning Group – Meets via conference call. Time to be determined. Focus: Grandchildren. Contact Nadine Ogden or Merri Shellenberger
- Monday Evening Group – Meets on zoom at 7:00 pm. Focus: Any school/any age child. Contact Deb Noss
- Tuesday Morning Group – Meets via conference call at 8:15 am. Focus: College/career-aged children. Contact Patti Herring
- Mechanicsburg Group – Meeting day and time to be determined. Focus: Northside, Upper Allen, MMS, MASH and Commonwealth Cyber Academy. Contact Anna Harris

There are many other groups meeting in the area either by zoom or safely in person. For more information, contact Nadine Ogden at [PaRoster@momsinprayer.org](mailto:PaRoster@momsinprayer.org) or go to the [momsinprayer.org](https://momsinprayer.org) website and put in a request.

## Weekly Prayer Letter

If you have not already done so, sign up for our weekly prayer email so that you can receive a list of praises and requests from our church family. Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) to share requests and to sign up for this once-a-week list.

## Passionate Worshipper



### Save the Date — Service of Remembrance

A Service of Remembrance is being planned for Sunday, December 6th.

### Ring in the News

The bell choir is so excited to be able to bring you some of our music again this fall – although we're playing a bit differently! It's hard to not share bells like we always do! We want to thank all of you who supported our 19th annual Chicken BBQ last month. For the first time in a long time, we were turning people away. We hope you weren't one of those folks!

Thanksgiving is on its way – can you believe it! We will again be making pies for you! On **Saturday, November 21st**, there will be a pie aroma in the air! Make sure you've ordered your pies from a bell choir member, or by calling (717-697-6257) or emailing Kathie ([rbittenben@verizon.net](mailto:rbittenben@verizon.net)). Pumpkin, Mincemeat, and Apple (Crumb Topping or Double Crust) are your choices, and remember to order them baked, or frozen for you to bake at your leisure. **Pick up time is noon to 2 pm that Saturday.** That's very important this year as we can't hold them till Sunday at this time. Cost is \$10 a pie.

And – we are practicing for Christmas! Although it will be very different, we hope to have some type of virtual concert for you to enjoy. Look for that news in communication from the church. Happy Holidays everyone!

### The Gathering

Our outdoor worship experience, *the Gathering*, will continue the first four Sundays in November, but *please note the time change* - this time of praise and worship will run from 4:00 – 4:45 pm in the church parking lot and is designed to be a casual, “come as you are” experience for all ages. Rest assured in the knowledge that all appropriate safety measures will be observed, including:

- Physical distancing at least 6 feet apart (unless you are with members of your family/daily social circle).
- Mask wearing any time physical distancing is difficult or as you are walking around (masks will not be required once you are seated).
- Children will remain with their parents (and a fun activity will be provided!)
- Greeters will be on hand to welcome all, take attendance and assist with spacing.
- Singing will be allowed in this outdoor venue! (proper physical distancing required)
- A clean restroom will be made available for anyone in need.

So dress for the weather (but we will move inside if the weather conditions are extreme), bring your mask, bring your lawn chair and plan to arrive a little early (to allow for physical distancing while finding your spot). We can't wait to share in this relaxing, Spirit-filled time of togetherness! Questions? Contact Lisa Aronson at [uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com).



### Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 13 and 20. You have the option of purchasing a poinsettia for \$9.50 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 below indicating the number of “plants” or “gifts” and return it to Ellen Hill in the church office by November 25. If you plan to

worship in-person on Sunday, December 27, plants may be picked up after the service. If you are unable to attend worship in-person, other arrangements to pick up your plant can be made by contacting the church office. Plants not claimed by December 31 will be disposed of. If you are not planning on taking your poinsettia please consider a monetary gift instead.

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Livestream Team — New Ministry

Livestream worship is underway! This new group forming has exciting potential to reach beyond the walls of our church. *Because of the higher demand for more volunteers to livestream, we are looking for more individuals to help grow our livestream team.* No prior experience is needed, and training is provided. If you would like to meet the challenge of modern church and advance the kingdom into a digital era, please contact Sarah Pugh at [worship@fumchurch.com](mailto:worship@fumchurch.com).

#### Spotify Playlist

On the first Wednesday of each month, we will release a new monthly playlist on Spotify. Each song-- hand-picked by staff, musicians, and volunteers-- has been on our hearts, and prayed over for a holy and meaningful connection with our congregation. For Spotify users, search for the user First UMC of Mechanicsburg, and click on the playlist titled “*Where Words Fail, Music Speaks*”. For non-Spotify users, click this link to listen to the playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5rbHEYEfHei97cUI8rjwNJ?si=qzOB7cTVRg6iAU1L4BY2hA>

#### Worship DVDs Available

If you or someone you know are unable to access the online church worship services, we have DVD copies of worship available upon request! Please contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112 for more information.

*Dedicated Missionary*



#### Help Us Feed Those In Need

We are asking all who can to help us fill our Little Free Pantry – the food is going fast and your donations are needed. Go to our church website for information on what you can donate and contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) if you have questions.

#### Get Connected With Service Opportunities

If you have not already done so, sign up to receive our periodic “Service Opportunities” email. Contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com) to share opportunities and to sign up.



### **Hospitality Tip**

As we continue to worship in smaller groups or online, we have learned a very new normal. With the holidays approaching, things will still look different. In these times of uncertainty, we really need to show our hospitality in so many ways. One suggestion is to wave at anyone you see, even if you don't know them. You will be surprised at how many will wave back or if not, maybe you made their day anyway. As someone else said, share a smile, a prayer, or just a "Hello!" Let them know that God is still here with us. Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

### **It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!**

New for 2020, Mt. Asbury will be offering a Christian Christmas Light Drive Thru, starting November 27! Mt. Asbury Retreat Center is located at 1310 Centerville Road, Newville. There is a \$10 per vehicle suggested donation for the drive thru. They will be offering the drive thru on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. through December 27 (closed Christmas Day). See more information on their Facebook page at Mt. Asbury Christmas Light Show. Also, they are looking for volunteers to help out with the event! If you would like to volunteer, contact Patty Weidman at [pweidman@susumc.org](mailto:pweidman@susumc.org). Some of the duties include: taking admissions, answering questions, selling refreshments, etc., fun!

### **Women's Retreat**

After much prayer, thought and discussion, we have made the decision to cancel our in-person retreat at Mt Asbury (scheduled for February, 2021) due to Covid and the uncertainty surrounding it. Our deposit will be applied toward our 2022 retreat, already scheduled for February 4-6, 2022!

Our plans for 2021 include the possibility of FUMC hosting a Lifeway Women's Ministry simulcast entitled "Pursuing Christ Together" on Saturday, April 17! This day will be filled with practical Bible teachings from some of your favorite authors, where women unshakeable in their pursuit of Christ, can come together to know Him more. Whether you watch with a group of friends at church or view at home on your own, you'll be joining others from around the world for a full day of worship and God's Word. Please stay tuned for further details as they unfold!

In addition, Patty Weidman, Mt Asbury's site director, has asked for our help. They are creating a Drive-Thru Christmas Light Show, beginning Thanksgiving weekend and running through the Sunday after Christmas. The goal is to show the true meaning of Christmas with the story of Jesus' birth. They want to celebrate Christmas joy in a family friendly, physically-distanced way, and are looking for volunteers to help with taking admissions, answering questions, selling some refreshments, etc. Hot beverages, water, hand warmers and snacks will be provided to volunteers. Groups or individuals that volunteer 3 nights or more will receive a certificate to use for an evening campfire at Mt Asbury! Please contact Patti Herring at [familyzeke@verizon.net](mailto:familyzeke@verizon.net) for dates and times if you are interested.

### **Lenten Devotional**

2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least, and it has not been easy for us to connect while keeping our distance and staying at home due to Covid. We are hoping to prepare a First Church devotional booklet for Lent in 2021 as one way to help keep us connected to one another this winter and stay connected to God as we share our personal God moments!

Why on earth are we talking about this NOW?? Well, Ash Wednesday is on February 17th in 2021, so the deadline for submissions is January 10th. December gets busy so maybe November is the right time to reflect and think about how you have seen God at work in your life this past year? Yes, 2020 has been a year like no other, but thankfully, we have a God who is ever-present and unchanging!

Please contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) if you are willing to share a story or would like some help/more details.

### Joy in the Morning - On Zoom!

If you live with ongoing health challenges, we invite you to join us for discussion and friendship in our spiritually-grounded support group! We meet on designated Mondays, every 3-4 weeks from 3:30-4:30 on Zoom. Terry Ketrow and Janice Bowen co-facilitate, drawing upon readings from the book, [With the Dawn Rejoicing](#). For more information, contact Janice Bowen at [717-766-4611 x112](tel:717-766-4611) or [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com).

### “First Church Forum”

If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our private Facebook Group, First Church Forum! As a private group, the ‘First Church Forum’ is a great space to support and connect with one another during this season of sheltering at home. The First Church Forum is a "space for sharing information, encouragement, discussion, and fellowship among members and friends of First Church." Let us know how we can support you or your local business during these challenging times. Please 'Like' our page, First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg, PA and then feel free to join the First Church Forum private group. If you have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

*Generous Giver*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through September 30, 2020 — 75% of year

### General Fund

2020 budget	\$ 955,098	
Projected giving	\$ 716,324	75%
Actual giving	\$ 691,468	72%
Actual expenses	\$ 657,531	69%

Our year to date actual expenses continue to be less than planned as the church staff is working hard to reduce discretionary spending to help keep our financial position in good shape. We are grateful to be holding in-person services with the appropriate safeguards in place according to guidelines. We are also continuing our Sunday services online. In September, giving continues to run behind an average weekly budget by \$1,000-\$2,000 per week. We appreciate all the support for our church during this difficult time and are thankful for those who have been able to continue in prayer and financial support of our ministry. If you cannot join us for in-person services, we hope you will consider mailing your contributions to the church office or utilizing electronic giving. Please be sure to visit the church website, [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), for regular updates and services online.

### Crop Walk Update

The annual Mechanicsburg Crop Walk is still happening, just looking a little different. At this time, we do not have any 'walkers' participating, but the Boomerang kids (our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders) will be learning more about Church World Service and how they are working to end hunger and poverty with hands-on lessons and activities. If you would like to make a contribution to the CROP Walk and Church World Service, please find the donation page here:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa/FirstWalkers?tab=MyPage>. Reminder, the funds raised at this walk support Church World Service and also local organizations which include Mechanicsburg Meals on Wheels and New Hope Ministries!

### Ministries & Missions Fair

Unfortunately, we will not be holding our Ministries & Missions Fair this year, but during this season of thankfulness, we can still joyfully celebrate all the ways that First Church is bearing fruit and bringing glory to God! Instead of a fair this year, you will find a booklet, listing many of our First Church ministries and missions, enclosed with Pastor Denny's letter that is being mailed to your home in early

November. As you and your family prepare for Consecration Sunday, take some time to consider how you cheerfully give, not only of our money, but also of your time and God-given talents in response to God's extravagant love. As you think about this question, the information provided in the brochure will help you find ways to connect your gifts with a need. If you have questions about a specific ministry/mission, the proper person to contact will be listed in the brochure. Additionally, you can contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call the church office [717-766-4611](tel:717-766-4611) for more information.

### **Annual Sleep Out For The Homeless**

If there was to be a motto for this fall within the youth ministry it might be "let's not cancel it, let's reimagine it." The Covid realities of the world have made doing our ministry events in a typical fashion a bit of a challenge and the annual Sleep Out for the Homeless is no exception.

As we reimagined the Sleep Out our three main goals were to: One, raise money for the agencies that serve those in homeless situations. Two, equip students with an awareness of the realities of homelessness. Three, create a fun and engaging space for our students to gathering in a safe way. So what has become of this years Sleep Out?

In partnership with McBic we are taking our fundraising online (cash and check donations will still be accepted) and moving an in person gathering to their property. Students will be challenge to extend homeless awareness online and share the donation link for our online fundraising (which will be made available in early November). Money raised will not only help agencies like New Hope, Family Promise, and Bethesda Mission, but also unlock different features to our in person student event. \$200 might unlock the campfire, \$1000 might unlock the soup kitchen, and \$5000 might unlock some crazy, fun and exciting event for the evening.

This collaborate effort of collecting will unlock an evening of fun and learning. In addition, participants' individual entry to the event will be much needed pantry items. The items they will be challenged to bring will correspond to pre-event education mailings that offer each participant a persona, life challenges, and needed items for someone encountering situations surrounding homelessness.

If you wish to contribute please watch our church's social media platforms or feel free to submit donations to First Church through the office. Please label cash or memo checks as being for the 2020 Sleep Out. (There is also a drop down option for designating money to the Sleep Out donations through the donate button on our church's web site). Thank you for helping us carry on this important and meaningful event.

### **The Cookie Walk**

We can't offer the walk this year, but we still hope to offer the cookies. In mid November we will make available an order form to order your cookie box. You won't be able to walk our tables but we promise to safely pre-fill your box with a tasty variety of holiday cookies. Order forms will share the details of how, when, and where your box(es) can be picked up. Stay tuned!

### **Sweet Potatoes for New Hope!**

We will continue to collect sweet potatoes/yams for New Hope Ministries into November. Bring your cans of sweet potatoes to the collection boxes at each entrance (office and alley). Let's continue this tradition of supporting our neighbors at New Hope! Questions, contact Debbie Karns at [deborahkarns1@gmail.com](mailto:deborahkarns1@gmail.com).

### **Scrip Orders**

We are still able to order gift cards with our church's Scrip Program! Make a list of what you want (using the form included on pages 10 and 11), and include a check made out to FUM Scrip. You may send your order directly to the church, or mail it to Kathie Bittenbender, [292 Founders Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050](mailto:kathie@fumchurch.com). We will get your orders for you as soon as possible. So, start thinking about Christmas or birthdays – or any day really! Gift cards are quick and easy to use, and you help raise money for the church and several of its outreaches. Thank you! Questions, or don't see what you want? Call Kathie at [717-697-6257](tel:717-697-6257).



## New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessing Express and Scrip Program

New for this year, we are making the shopping easy for you! In lieu of purchasing a specific item for Christmas Blessings Express at New Hope, you can support the program with gift cards from Wal-Mart or Target through the First Church Scrip program! Just choose the \$25 amount from Wal-Mart or Target or both (using the form included on pages 10 and 11) and send to Kathie Bittenbender, [292 Founders Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050](#). Please indicate the cards are for New Hope Ministries on the form, along with your check and she will take care of it! The gift cards will be taken to New Hope in time for Christmas Blessings Express on December 8, 9 and 10. Questions? Feel free to contact Kathie Bittenbender about the **Scrip Program** at [717-697-6257](#) or Debbie Karns about **Christmas Blessings Express** at [717-697-1253](#). Thanks for your support!

## Operation Christmas Child

We are excited to partner with Operation Christmas Child (OCC) again to fill shoeboxes for children around the globe! New for this year, you can pick up your box safely in our parking lot! OCC shoe boxes for you to fill, along with info on filling the boxes and the labels, will be available in the First Church parking lot at the following times (*please note, you may use your own shoe boxes*):

- Sunday – before and after both services: November 1; November 8.
- Wednesday, October 28 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 30 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The next step is to fill your boxes with lots of wonderful goodies. See 'How to Pack a Shoebox' on their website here: <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>. Then bring your filled shoe boxes, along with the suggested donation of \$9.00 (*cash or check written to Samaritan's Purse and placed inside your box*) to the church parking lot at the following times (*look for the **Operation Christmas Child** banner*):

- Sunday – before and after both services: November 15; November 22
- Wednesday, November 18 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 20 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Not able to shop for items this year? No worries! There is another way to send a shoebox of hope to a child! You can have the local Shoebox Supply House in Shippensburg send one for you for just \$15.50 including the shipping! See the Shoebox Supply House website: <https://shooboxsupplyhouse.com/>. Questions? Contact David Mengle at [717-319-8582](#). Thanks for sharing the Love of Christ through a shoebox!

## Grab-n-Go Update

In September and October, First Church partnered with the downtown churches to hand out free lunches on the square in Mechanicsburg on Wednesdays at noon. The sandwiches and lunch bags were assembled in our kitchen and then taken to corner of Mechanicsburg First Church of God. Anyone was able to pick up a free lunch when they passed by. It was a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and show the love of Christ with a free bagged lunch. Thanks for all the helpers who made the lunches, you brought smiles to many people every Wednesday!



# FUM Scrip Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Include cash or check made payable to FUM Scrip. Scrip Orders will be collected each Sunday of the month from the mailbox at the Scrip Center near the coffee area. For delivery dates and new scrip available check the Scrip Center.

Retail Stores		Qty	Cost
Aeropostale	\$25	10%	
American Eagle Outfitters	\$25	10%	
Barnes & NobleBookstore/ B. Dalton Bookseller	\$10	8%	
Bass Pro Shops	\$25	10%	
	\$100	10%	
Bath & Body Works	\$10	13%	
	\$25	13%	
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25	8%	
	\$100	8%	
Best Buy	\$25	4%	
	\$100	4%	
Boscov's	\$25	8%	
Brooks Brothers	\$25	16%	
Build-a-Bear Workshop	\$25	8%	
Cabela's	\$25	8%	
	\$100	8%	
Children's Place	\$25	12%	
Christmas Tree Shops	\$25	7%	
Claire's	\$10	8%	
Crate and Barrel	\$25	8%	
CVS Pharmacy	\$25	6%	
Dick's Sporting Goods			
Field & Stream	\$25	8%	
Disney	\$25	3%	
	\$100	3%	
Dress Barn	\$25	8%	
Finish Line	\$25	10%	
Footlocker	\$25	8%	
GameStop	\$25	3%	
Gap/Old Navy/ Banana Republic	\$25	14%	
Gymboree	\$25	13%	
Hallmark	\$25	4%	
Harry and David	\$50	12%	
Home Depot	\$25	4%	
	\$100	4%	
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$</b>

		Qty	Cost
JC Penney	\$25	5%	
	\$100	5%	
JoAnn Fabrics	\$25	6%	
J. Crew	\$25	13%	
Jos. A. Banks	\$25	10%	
Kohl's Department Store	\$25	4%	
	\$100	4%	
L. L. Bean	\$25	16%	
	\$100	16%	
Land's End	\$25	15%	
	\$100	15%	
Lane Bryant	\$25	8%	
Lowe's Home Improvement	\$25	4%	
	\$100	4%	
Macy's	\$25	10%	
Marshall's/TJ Maxx	\$25	7%	
Home Goods	\$100	7%	
Michaels Arts & Crafts	\$25	4%	
Motherhood Maternity	\$25	7%	
Oshkosh B'gosh	\$25	10%	
Payless Shoes	\$20	13%	
PetSmart	\$25	5%	
Pier 1 Imports	\$25	9%	
Pottery Barn/Pottery Barn for Kids/Williams Sonoma	\$25	8%	
	\$100	8%	
Rite Aid	\$25	4%	
Ross Dress for Less	\$25	8%	
Staples	\$25	5%	
	\$100	5%	
Stein Mart	\$25	7%	
Talbot's	\$25	13%	
Target	\$25	2.5%	
	\$100	2.5%	
Ulta Beauty	\$25	4%	
Walgreens	\$25	5%	
Walmart/Sam'sClub	\$25	2.5%	
	\$100	2.5%	
Wayfair	\$100	6.0%	
<b>Totals</b>			
<b>Totals from this page</b>			<b>\$</b>

# FUM Scrip Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Order Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Include cash or check made payable to FUM Scrip. Scrip Orders will be collected each Sunday of the month from the mailbox at the Scrip Center near the coffee area. For delivery dates and new scrip available check the Scrip Center.

Restaurants		Qty	Cost
Applebee's	\$25 8%		
	\$50 8%		
Arby's	\$10 8%		
Bob Evans	\$10 10%		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10 8%		
	\$25 8%		
Burger King	\$10 4%		
Carrabba's Italian Grill/ Outback Steakhouse/ Bonefish Grill	\$25 10%		
	\$50 10%		
Chili's	\$25 11%		
Chipotle	\$25 10%		
Chuck E. Cheese	\$10 8%		
Cracker Barrel	\$10 8%		
	\$25 8%		
Dairy Queen	\$10 3%		
Denny's	\$10 7%		
Domino's Pizza	\$10 8%		
Dunkin' Donuts	\$10 2.5%		
Fudruckers	\$25 8%		
Hardees	\$10 5%		
Honey Baked Ham	\$25 12%		
IHOP	\$25 8%		
Little Caesar's Pizza	\$20 8%		
Long John Silvers	\$10 8%		
Noodles & Company	\$10 8%		
Olive Garden/ Longhorn Steakhouse	\$25 8%		
Papa John's	\$10 9%		
Panera Bread	\$10 8%		
	\$25 8%		
Pizza Hut	\$10 8%		
Red Lobster	\$25 8%		
Red Robin	\$25 8%		
Ruby Tuesday's	\$25 8%		
Starbucks	\$10 7%		
	\$25 7%		
Subway	\$10 6%		
	\$50 6%		
Sweet Frogs	\$10 10%		
Taco Bell	\$10 5%		
Texas Roadhouse	\$25 8%		
TGI Friday's	\$25 9%		
Wendy's	\$10 6.5%		
<b>Totals</b>		\$	

Hotels		Qty	Cost
Best Western	\$25 12%		
	\$100 12%		
Comfort Inn/Suites/ Clarion/	\$50 3%		
Quality Inn/ Sleep Inn	\$100 3%		
Six Flag Theme Parks	\$30 8%		

Online Purchases			
1-800 Flowers	\$25	12%	
Amazon.com	\$25	2.25%	
	\$100	2.25%	
Overstock.com	\$25	8.00%	
Shutterfly	\$25	9%	

Automotive			
Advanced Auto Parts	\$25	7%	
Auto Zone	\$25	8%	
BP	\$50	1.5%	
Jiffy Lube	\$30	8%	
Mobil/Exxon	\$50	1%	
Sheetz	\$25	3%	
	\$100	3%	
Shell	\$50	1.5%	
Sunoco	\$50	1%	

Miscellaneous			
AMC Theaters	\$10	8%	
GNC	\$25	8%	
Giant Foods	\$25	5%	
	\$50	5%	
	\$100	5%	
Wells Markets	\$25	5%	
	\$100	5%	
Great Clips	\$25	8%	
Holiday Hair	\$25	8%	
Oriental Trading Company	\$25	9%	

<b>Totals</b>		\$	
<b>Others</b>			
<b>Totals this side</b>		\$	
<b>Totals from other side</b>		\$	
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$	



To Our Beloved FUMC Camp & Retreat Families and Supporters,

**Good news!** The Susquehanna Conference's Camp & Retreat has now moved into the **Fall Retreat** season. Check the Camp website for the latest news!

**COMING SOON!!!**

**Christmas Light Drive-Thru**  
Beginning November 27, 2020  
Mount Asbury Retreat Center – Newville

**Please pray and ask how you can participate in camp or a camp-like experience.**

Let's covenant together to go on a hike or a walk and take time off from everything and go somewhere near where you live and immerse ourselves in beauty. Let's take the time to walk slow miles or some steps with God and diminish every other distraction. Take time to truly walk with God and listen to His words about our hearts, lives and futures and the future of camp. This "holy time" will cement the community together and launch us into the remainder of the camp year in very unexpected and profound ways. It's amazing what setting aside one simple day to walk with God can do.

**We hope that you will share your experiences with us!**

Funding is still required to sustain leadership, facilities, and programs critical to fulfilling the on-going mission of the Camp & Retreat ministries – not just for this year, but for years to come.

There will be opportunities for generosity in financial giving as part of the "Camp Comeback Campaign". Your generosity can be the way God provides "streams in the wilderness."

**Donate through the conference website - [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org).**

Please let us know if you have any registrations questions or need financial assistance. Let us know if you plan on attending a retreat so as to provide a prayer partner.

With Hope and in Christ's Service,

*The FUMC Camping & Retreat Ministry Team*

**Questions? Contact:** Deb Noss ([sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com)) or Amy Ortiz ([amy.ogden7@gmail.com](mailto:amy.ogden7@gmail.com))


 The logo for 'uncommon' features the word 'un' in a lowercase, orange, cursive font, followed by 'common' in a lowercase, yellow, sans-serif font. The background is a blue, textured, abstract pattern.

### November Bible Reading Plan

#### **Sunday, November 1**

Monday, November 2

Tuesday, November 3

Wednesday, November 4

Thursday, November 5

Friday, November 6

Saturday, November 7

#### **“Uncommon Joy”**

Psalm 78:1-7

Joshua 24:1-13

Joshua 24:14-25

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Rest and Reflect

#### **Sunday, November 8**

Monday, November 9

Tuesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 11

Thursday, November 12

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14

#### **“Uncommon Wisdom”**

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 100

Psalm 123

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Rest and Reflect

#### **Sunday, November 15**

Monday, November 16

Tuesday, November 17

Wednesday, November 18

Thursday, November 19

Friday, November 20

Saturday, November 21

#### **“Uncommon Generosity”**

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Luke 17:11-19

Rest and Reflect

#### **Sunday, November 22**

Monday, November 23

Tuesday, November 24

Wednesday, November 25

Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27

Saturday, November 28

#### **“Uncommon Gratitude”**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Luke 1:5-20

Rest and Reflect

#### **Sunday, November 29**

**LifeSong: Zechariah**

**(First Sunday in Advent)**

## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

- to Norma Bingham and family in the death of her beloved cousin, Dorothy Browne, who passed away on September 1st
- to Dottie Zimmerman's daughter and son-in-law, Stephanie and Kim Hughey and family in the loss of Kim's brother, Gregory Hughey, who passed away suddenly on September 4th
- to the family and friends of Grace Gensler who passed away on September 14th
- to the friends and family of Rev. Dr. Bradley Brown, a close friend of Pastor Denny's for several years
- to the family and friends of Carvel Markley who passed away on October 7th
- to the family and friends of Bonnie Jeona who passed away on October 21st



### Special Birthdays

Sadie Heim .....	November 1st	Helen Ritter .....	December 13th
Liz Nesmith .....	November 4th	Dolores Shell.....	December 13th
Elvin Hess .....	November 6th	Darlis Aumiller .....	December 21st
Pat Marr.....	November 23rd	Joan Mains .....	December 23rd
Marlin Lehmer.....	November 24th	Elaine O'Hara .....	December 26th
Joyce Woods .....	December 1st	Sandra Coover.....	December 28th
Jo Nye.....	December 13th		

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Dick & Joanne Reed married 67 years on November 4th
- ♥ Lincoln & Veloice Washburn married 69 years on November 9th
- ♥ Leon & Pat Bricker married 60 years on November 19th
- ♥ Dave & Dolly School married 69 years on November 22nd
- ♥ Don & Kay Coldren married 58 years on November 24th
- ♥ Robert & Sara Meck married 67 years on November 25th



*FIRST NEWS FIRST*

**Editor:** Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles for the **December 2020** issue is **November 15th**

**Early submissions always appreciated!**