



First News First

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2015

First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg

Dates to Remember

- Oct 4 World Communion
New Member Class
begins
- Oct 10 Chicken BBQ
- Oct 11 Worship Arts
Reception
Flu Shots
- Oct. 15 Newsletter deadline
- Oct. 18 CROP Walk
- Oct. 20 Senior Fellowship
- Oct 21 Bagging for
Bethesda Mission
- Oct 22 Isaac's Fundraiser
- Oct 25 Rejoicing Spirits
- Oct 31 Missions in Motion

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From the Pastor

"Consecrated, Lord, to Thee"

At its August meeting, the Administrative Board of First Church approved the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our congregation this fall. I am excited about this program because its focus is not merely on the need of the church to receive, but on our need as disciples of Jesus to give as an important part of our spiritual growth.

On Consecration Sunday, November 15, we will ask our attendees and members to make financial commitments to support the church's mission and ministry. In addition, we will have a Ministry and Mission Fair to celebrate the many ways God is at work in and through our life together. You will hear more about this in the weeks to come. I want to thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events!

As we plan for this program, I have been thinking about the word "*consecration*." It is not commonly used in our everyday language, but 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 dedicated as sacred spaces where each generation could grow in faith and fellowship and service for Christ.

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, as we gather at the Lord's Table, Pastor Dave and I will say a prayer to *consecrate* the elements. We will remember that Jesus took the bread and the cup and made them sacred. *This* bread and *this* cup do not just nourish our bodies and quench our thirsts. The gift of God's grace, freely given to all in Jesus Christ, cannot be fully described in words. But as we partake of the *consecrated* elements, we experience the love of Christ, whose body was broken and blood was shed for our salvation.

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 formed to resemble the life 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

(Continued on page 2)

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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**, we will be asked, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to **consecrate**?" As our prayerful response, we will set apart an amount for the weekly offering and dedicate it to God's purposes. We trust that God will **consecrate** what we give and, in God's faithful hands, use it to produce abundantly!

Pastor Denny

Finance

| Through August 31, 2015 | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 67% of year | | | |
| General Fund | | Building Fund | \$ 5,376 |
| 2015 budget | \$ 875,000 | Legacy Campaign | \$ 2,670 |
| Expected income | \$ 586,250 | | |
| Actual income | \$ 558,216 (64% of budget) | | |
| Deficit | \$ 28,034 | | |
| Actual expenses | \$ 548,673 | | |

Please prayerfully consider all the ministry programs of First Church highlighted by the "Grounded in Faith...Growing to Serve" stewardship program when making your gifts to the church.

Endowment

Miller Estate Gift Designated to Endowment Fund

In July, First Church was the recipient of an estate gift from the late Janet Miller, a long-time congregation member.

The gift was designated to the Endowment Fund by the Administrative Board to support First Church's missions and ministries for generations to come.

Janet was born and raised in First Church, and a dedicated member. "We had good times together," said First Church member Lois Coover. Lois's late husband, Bill, was Janet's brother.

Rev. Don Ciampa, Pastor Emeritus, described Janet as a very cultured and intelligent woman. "We had wonderful conversations. She was a friend."

"She loved beauty, and the art of music," Pastor Ciampa said. "She loved things that were pleasing to the ear and eye."

As an adult, Janet left First Church to join a congregation in Colonial Park, then returned to this area and First Church almost a decade ago.

Janet was a graduate of Mechanicsburg Area High School, and Lebanon Valley College. She worked as an elementary school teacher and reading consultant with Central Dauphin School District until her retirement.

If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund and possibly supporting it in the future, please see Katie Hammaker, Endowment Committee chair, or either of First Church's pastors.

Stewardship

GROUNDING IN FAITH -- GROWING TO SERVE

Our Stewardship program is now entering its 7th month in October. I hope you are enjoying the Stewardship Seconds each week, as presented by various church leaders/members. Take the time to look at the budget tree and notice all the flowers (budget areas) where our offerings are put to use. As the weeks go by, the tree becomes much more colorful, and begins to show the life of our varied 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 started to “pick away” at our budget deficit. The congregation’s response has been both positive and reassuring. Our total year estimated unified budget shortfall for 2015 has now been reduced to about \$30-35,000. If we can make-up this deficit during 2015, we can continue to provide (or expand) these important church ministries and missions. If we cannot make up this deficit, we may be forced to eliminate or reduce some of these important programs, ministries, missions, and/or staffing that we have heard about each week in the Stewardship Seconds.

In the last few months’ articles, we discussed 3 important aspects of giving. In order to be *rich with God*, we need to:

- Give to God Cheerfully**
- Give to God Regularly**
- Give to God Sacrificially**

As you consider making an additional contribution to our unified budget to support these important ministries and programs, just remember these statements.

God doesn’t need our money - he just wants our heart.

Regular giving strengthens your generosity muscle.

It’s not a sacrifice unless you feel it.

And, sacrifice fills our lives with faith – and moves the heart of God.

During October’s “Stewardship Seconds”, our emphasis will be on the Adult Ministries’ budget. You will hear more about how, thanks to your generous giving, this ministry is able to reach out, invite and provide a welcoming environment to the seekers in our community. We are also able to offer opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship to all, no matter where they are in their spiritual journey, through Bible studies and small groups. An additional focus during October's "Stewardship Seconds" will be on the Health & Wellness Committee. Through your annual giving, First Church's Health & Wellness committee is blessed to be able to provide many different programs (i.e. health lectures) which improve the physical, spiritual and emotional health of both our congregation and the community. During October, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Adult Ministries Root”. If we have roots “**Grounded in Faith**”, we will be able to “**Grow to Serve**”.

**Grounded
in
Faith** **Growing
to
Serve**



First United Methodist Church

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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| World Communion | 10/4/15 | Loaves and Chalice |
| First Sunday in Advent | 11/29/15 | Pew Service |
| Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00 | 12/24/15 | Loaves and Chalice |

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

Music

Ringling in the News

With Fall now here, the bell ringers, like all other groups in the church, are getting back to their regular activities. The Monday and Wednesday night bell choirs have begun rehearsals and the Monday night bell choir will have already rung in a worship service when you read this. However, it is not too late to join the bell choirs. Give Kathie a call at 697-6257. Like all good choirs, the bell choirs are rushing the season with rehearsals already including Christmas music. The Monday night choir particularly needs to be rehearsing as their annual bell concert at the Frederickson Library in Camp Hill is Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p. m.

Handchimes will begin in October for interested children in grades one through six. Ringers and their parents will have an organizational meeting after the second service on October 4. Practices will begin on October 11. We invite our young ringers to be part of this exciting learning activity as we praise God through ringing. There is still time to sign up – see the form below!

We continue our fund raising activities with our annual chicken BBQ on October 10. Please see a bell choir member for a ticket. We are dining out at Isaac's in Rossmoyne on October 22, from 5 to 9 p.m. and at Applebee's on the Carlisle Pike on November 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Make sure you pick up a voucher for each restaurant before going so that the choir receives the proceeds for these events. Orders for the Sub & Sandwich Sale are due October 21 with deliver November 1. Please order from any bell choir member or use the form located in the notebook at the Information Desk. And don't forget our annual thanksgiving pies! Orders will be taken beginning October 10.

SIGN UP TO PLAY HANDCHIMES!!

Grades 1 – 6
No Experience Needed!
Practices begin October 4

Name _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email (?) _____

Questions?? Call Kathie Bittenbender 697-6257
Please return form to "Bittenbender" mailbox!

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 October 21 at 6 pm. Contact Eric King at 697-0933 or eking@verizon.net for more information.



Mission Central's first annual **Missions in Motion 5K Race/Walk** will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 9:00 am. Registration begins at 7:30 am. The cost is \$25 if registered before October 1 and \$30 after October 1 and on the day of the event. Mission Central has 3 points of focus: disaster response, mission outreach and mission education. The proceeds from this event will help those in need who are helped by Mission Central.. By opening its doors each day, Mission Central was able to reach 2 million people last year alone, with 59% of the warehouse output remaining in PA! To register, please go to www.missioncentral.org. If you are not interested in running/walking, please contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net to be a volunteer on the morning of the event!



Pink Hands of Hope located at 5325 E Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg is presenting their Second Annual **"I'm Bald and Beautiful"** Fashion Show on October 3rd at Noon at the Church of God Center, 201 E. Green Street, Mechanicsburg. Proceeds from this show and the store go to benefit area cancer survivors. Tickets are \$25 each (lunch included) and are available at the store or by calling 717-620-8264. You can also be a Pink Sponsor for a \$100 donation which includes a free ticket to the fashion show.

More information can be found on their Facebook page.

Sierra Leone Partners Conference

In 2008 an idea was born to unite as many organizations working in Sierra Leone as possible into a day or two of making connections. There are individuals representing a variety of ministries, several annual conferences, organizations that handle shipping, provide equipment and much more. This year the conference was held on August 20 & 21 in Plainfield, IN. Also in attendance were Bishop John Yambasu from the Sierra Leone Annual Conference and several other Sierra Leone delegates representing the 3 main areas of focus for the conference—Medical, Education and Agriculture.

Of particular interest to the Sierra Leone Initiative partner churches, of which First Church is one, is Bishop Yambasu's vision for moving toward self-sustainability through agriculture. The Sierra Leone Conference has established the Community Empowerment for Livelihood and Development Project for the purpose of joining Conference, local church and community leaders in partnership and as the drivers of the program. Together these leaders agree on what the community really needs. The Conference will provide training to local community members as well as money to get started, some of which will come from partner churches. The Sierra Leone Conference hopes to employ a professional agriculturalist to aid with education and training of local communities. Committees consisting of members of the local community will report back to the Conference.

Several members of First Church plan to journey to Sierra Leone in 2016 and we are hoping to participate in a community meeting in Taiama, where our sister church is located and return to share with you how we can help Taiama move toward self-sustainability.

Scholarships

Eleven members of First Church were recently awarded scholarships totaling \$2,500 for the 2015-2016 academic year by the Board of Trustees. Students receiving scholarships are attending the University of Alabama, Geneva College, Harrisburg Area Community College, Immaculata University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Lebanon Valley College, Messiah College, Miami University of Ohio, and West Chester University. Thank yous received from scholarship recipients included the following comments:

I'm glad I was chosen for this honor, and I hope to make you and the Board proud of my progress in college.

I really appreciate it and I will definitely be putting it to good use.

Thank you very much for providing financial support towards reaching my personal and professional goals with the loving support from God.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship awardees and best wishes for continued educational success. We are proud of you and will be praying for you throughout this school year.

Congregational Care

Senior Fellowship October 20, 1-3 p.m.

All senior members are invited to come for a casual time of fellowship and light refreshments in the Guyer class space just beyond the church library. Brian Roche from the WGAL News 8 team will present "Scam School."



Contact Janice Bowen at 766-4611 x112 or wecare@fumchurch.com for more information.

Notes for Communion Stewards

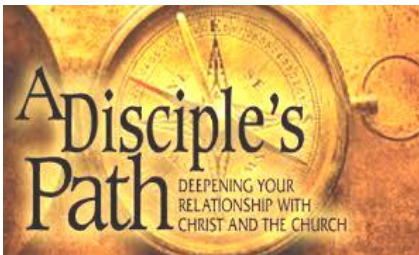
- * The pastor will invite you to come forward when it is time to prepare for Communion.
- * We will offer 4 communion stations spread across the front of the sanctuary –
 1. green chairs
 2. near the steps
 3. front and center of altar
 4. over by choir loft
- * There should be hand-cleaner available for you to use by the altar– gives the congregation peace of mind, especially during cold and flu season.
- * When distributing the bread, you should be the one to break off pieces of bread to avoid having multiple hands reaching into the bread. (Ideally the parent or older youth member shares the bread and the younger helper shares the cup.)
- * Upon receiving folks at your station, speaking their name in sharing communion is a wonderful thing if you know them by name ☺
 - For those with the bread: "The body of Christ, broken for you."
 - For those with the cup: "The blood of Christ, shed for you."
- * When your station has served everyone coming forward, then you may return to the altar, share communion with one another, and return the elements to the altar.
- * Thank you ever so much in serving your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Adult Ministry

New Member Classes

Are you interested in becoming a First Church member?

If so, you are invited to a new member orientation on Sunday, October 4 from 9:30 – 10:30 am in Pastor Denny's office (room 201). On that day you will get to know the pastors and each other better, plus receive materials for the 6-week new member study, which begins Sunday, October 11 from 9:30 - 10:30 in the same location. This study, "A Disciples Path" looks at the vows that you will make when you become a new member. Materials for this study are located at the display in the main lobby if you would like to take a look. If you have questions please contact Tina Eaton at adultministry@fumchurch.com or call 766-4611, extension 104.



"A Disciple's Path", a new sermon series and church-wide small group study is set to begin on October 11. You won't want to miss this opportunity, along with your First Church family, to take the next step in your personal discipleship to become a more dynamic, engaged follower of Jesus Christ!

See the display in the main lobby to view the study materials, get more details and sign up for a small group today! Don't see a small group that suits your schedule? Please create your own with some friends and enjoy growing in your faith together. A third option, studying together through a Facebook Group, is also being offered!

Questions? Contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at adultministry@fumchurch.com.

Children's Department

Did you know that the largest fund-raising events for Church World Service are CROP Hunger Walks (Christian Rural Overseas Program). The first CROP Hunger Walk was in the 1960s. Now more than 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in CROP Hunger Walks each year. A unique aspect of CROP Hunger Walks is that Church World Service doesn't receive all of the money raised. Up to 25% of the money donated is given to local hunger fighting agencies which include food banks and community gardens. Additionally, those sponsoring a walker can specify whether Church World Service or an alternative global hunger-fighting agency will receive the remaining 75% of the donation.

The CROP Walk this year is on October 18. The proceeds go towards providing food, water, and shelter to those in need in this country and around the world.

The BLT's (Believing, Loving Tweens) are walking as a group along with several others from our church who have volunteered to walk. You can sponsor them by making a donation. There is a donation sheet at the CROP Walk display on the Missions Table located in the Narthex. And each CROP Walk Participant has their own Donation Envelope. Donations can be cash or check made payable to CROP Walk. There will also be a basket located at the Missions Table for CROP Walk Donations each Sunday up to and including October 18!!!!

If you have any questions or would like to walk please contact Sarah Jones 717-919-6657 or George Canonizado 717-497-8173.

Peace Friends,
George Canonizado

Youth

3G Has Been Upgraded!

This year the youth department went through some revamping. Pop into the youth lounge to see the fresh coat of paint and the new feel of our youth space. Nick LaPointe worked long and hard with the help of many others to provide new life to our space as part of his Eagle Project. Not only did the room get a face-lift but 3G also upgraded to 4G.

What is 4G - it's the mission statement and name for the happenings in the youth department. And this years we have added a new "G"!

Students' time spent in the youth department revolve around 4 important a "G"s:

GATHER

*"On arriving there, they **gathered** the church together and reported all that God had done." -Acts 14:27*

From the very beginning of time we see that we were not meant to live alone; we are created for community. At 4G we gather together just like the early church and share witness to the work God is doing in and through us.

GAIN

*"By standing firm you will **gain** life" -Luke 21:19*

In Christ we are promised that we will gain life! Because of God's Spirit living in us we have gained access into the grace and presence of God! But not only do we gain from our relationship with Christ, we also gain from our interactions with each other. At 4G we gain wisdom and understanding that help us live in such a way that we can gain for God the glory He deserves because of how we act, think, and speak.

GROW

*"...**growing** in every way more and more like Christ" - Ephesians 4:15*

Through Christ we are capable of growing in extraordinary ways! We want to partner with each other to spur one another onward to new growth. At 4G we desire to help each other through our seasons of growing pains, develop as faithful disciples of Christ, and to encourage each other to use our growth and potential in the here and now.

GIVE

*"O Lord, I **give** my life to you" - Psalm 25:1*

When we become disciples of Christ, God asks us to give our lives fully over to Him and to His kingdom purposes. At 4G we strive to look beyond ourselves and to give of our time, energy, and gifts for God to use to spread His love and to share His Good News.

More Children/Youth

Looking for information about the happenings of the youth department? Don't miss out on all that is going on. Make sure to send an email to uthrock@fumchurch.com to be included on our email distribution list. Also, check the weekly bulletin announcements for the most up-to-date information.

Children's Department Newsletter- Are you receiving the Children's Department Newsletter by email? If not, contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado to provide your email address so you can receive this information packed Newsletter!

Access Ministry

Day of Pampering 2016 ~ Saturday, February 27

A day to honor and serve primary caregivers....mothers of children with disAbilities and wives of husbands with disAbilities.....and we need **you** in order to make this outreach a success!

"Save the Date" cards are at the Welcome Desk in the narthex. If shared now with area service providers, they are much more likely to be available for Day of Pampering in February. These cards are intended for hair stylists, nail techs, massage therapists, makeup specialists, and specialty bakers.

Volunteers from previous years: Please contact Lisa regarding your intentions for DOP '16.

New Volunteers: *Welcome!* We are always in need of help with set-up & clean-up; decorating (no experience needed....just willingness); and painting nails. Other roles need to be filled, too. Please contact Lisa to express interest and to discover opportunities to serve.

Do you know a caregiver who would be blessed by Day of Pampering? Please share contact information with Lisa. Invitations will be extended in January.

Thank you for your prayerful and practical support of this amazing outreach! Lisa Wickenheiser 975-0225 or 640-0993 or the7wicks@verizon.net

First Church Receives Grant for Day of Pampering

Special thanks to CommunityAid for providing a \$2,000 grant for the 2016 Day of Pampering!

CommunityAid is a locally based non-profit organization whose mission is to raise funds for distribution to local churches, schools and other charitable organizations. CommunityAid collects donations of gently used clothing, then sells it at affordable prices at their local retail centers. The retail centers also enable CommunityAid to create good paying jobs with on-site coaching for employees.

First Church hosts a CommunityAid clothing donation box on our property.

The grant will help offset the costs of holding the Day of Pampering.

Rejoicing Spirits ~ Celebrating *ALL* Abilities

Rather than gathering to worship at 4:00 on Sunday, August 23, our Rejoicing Spirits worship service was held during the Sunday school hour. This was an opportunity to embrace, value, and celebrate *ALL ABILITIES* coming together.....as one body.....to praise and worship our God. Many of you, having no previous notion of what Rejoicing Spirits was all about, attended that morning and appreciated the meaningful, inclusive, and expressive environment. *This service is intended for every-one!* Please.....

- ☆ join us on **Sunday, October 25** at 4:00 for the next Rejoicing Spirits worship service. We meet in the green chair section of the sanctuary.
- ☆ tell others about our service and invite them to come. Information cards and printed materials are available upon request.
- ☆ join our team. Your help is needed in order for Rejoicing Spirits to remain a vital and growing ministry.
- ☆ contact Lisa Wickenheiser for more information at the7wicks@verizon.net or 975-0225 or 649-0993.

"So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should all have equal concern for one another."
1 Corinthians 12:25

Health & Wellness

FLU SHOTS

Winter is coming and once again your Health & Wellness committee is offering Flu Shots for your convenience on two upcoming Sunday mornings.

The dates are: **OCTOBER 11th and NOVEMBER 15th**; 9:00 AM -11:00 AM;

LOCATION: Southeast corner of the All Purpose Room.

Many insurances accepted. Please bring your insurance card with you to verify coverage. The Visiting Nurse Association of Central PA will complete the billing by submitting your information to your insurance company. Otherwise, the cost of the flu shot is \$33.00. Cash or checks accepted.

Flu shots are available for anyone over 18 years of age. Pneumonia shots will also be available. Contact Sandy Leister @ 319-6666 if you have any questions.

Library

As I sit at the computer this morning, I wonder what I can write that would make you come into the library and check out a book. I have told you how I love to read when it is cold, and I have my steaming cup of joe at my side. I have told you how summer prompts me to bring my book pool side with an icy glass of tea. Have I inspired you to follow my example? I have told you that we have dedicated volunteers to help you find the perfect read. And best yet, I have told you that thanks to your support, the library has the newest Christian bestsellers the moment they are out. So what more is there to say—except stop in and let us show you. Meanwhile, let me just mention what has recently arrived.

I am sure you know that I love a good mystery, and in the library October is “mystery month”. I rarely read Amish fiction (but I sure know that many of you do!) so I may have to give Vanetta Chapman a try. She has written three books called the *Amish Village Mysteries*. **Murder Simply Brewed**, **Murder Tightly Knit**, and **Murder Freshly Baked** are all set in the Amish Artisan Village of Middlebury, Indiana. Amber Wright, an Englisher, and Hannah Troyer, a young Amish woman, team up to solve these murders in their town before anyone else can get hurt. Reviewers applaud Ms. Chapman for her vivid descriptions of the town and the colorful characters. They also mention a bit of romance has been thrown into these light mysteries. I personally think books centered on caffeine, crafts, and pie can’t go far wrong. Give them a try and see if you agree with me!

I have noticed a recent reality TV show is specializing in cold cases. Where one media succeeds, books will follow. Janice Cantore’s *Cold Case Justice Series* has started off with **Drawing Fire**. Abbey Hart and PI Luke Murphy have joined forces to find a serial killer preying on the elderly in Long Beach, California. While working the case together, they find they also have a mutual interest in the fire that killed Abbey’s parents years ago, a case that has never been solved. Totally centered on the case, the two can’t deny they are attracted to each other. I won’t spoil the plot or the ending. I will let you find the clues that solve the mysteries in this book.

The library will have a mini book sale on November 14th in conjunction with Little Friends Fall Festival. If you missed donating your gently used books, CDs, DVDs, or puzzles to our summer sale, you have another opportunity. Just bring your donations into the library or leave them in the bin outside the library. Thank you for your continual support!!

See you in the library,

Pam & Donna

Book Club

FUMC Book Club Gathering - Please Join Us!

When? Thursday, November 5th at 7 p.m.
 What? All the Light We Cannot See
 Where? Lori Hoffnagle's Home -
 10 West Circle, Camp Hill PA 17011 (732-6430)



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

What is United Methodist Women:

“The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

United Methodist Women is not a club or Bible study. It's a place to come together with other women to learn about the local, national and global needs, to understand what it means to be a follower of Christ and to be in fellowship with each other. Regular attendance at meetings is not necessary, but certainly is a blessing. Events sponsored by UMW are open to all women and you do not need to be involved with a Circle to attend an event. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at 732-6430 or l_hoffnagle@yahoo.com.

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.



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.

Women's Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2016 Women's Retreat will be held at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center on February 5-7, 2016. Our theme for this year will be "Come to Our Senses Fully Engaged in Our Pursuit of Christ." Stay tuned for further information in November! Any questions, please contact Patti Herring at familyzeke@verizon.net.

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.

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 and activities 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.

Also, sign up your Giant bonus card with us. Last year Giant paid us over \$1600 just for shopping with them. Look for the signup sheet on the Little Friends bulletin board or email me your bonus card number at lfns@fumchurch.com

Thank you for your support,
Chris Sims, Director

Educational Opportunity

Strengthening Families Program for parents and youth 10-14

The teen years can be challenging for all families... SFP 10-14 can help parents and teens tackle the challenges together!

What to expect?

A seven week program that meets one night each week

Each session begins with a free family meal; Free childcare is provided for younger siblings

During the first hour parents and youth meet separately but work on similar skills. During the second hour youth and parents have fun together as they play games and do family projects.

This program is free for all families with a child between the ages of 10—14.

Fall session: Tuesdays, 5:30-8:00 pm starting October 20 at Grace United Methodist Church, 216 Market Street, Mechanicsburg. For more information or to register, contact Marla Reichart at 766-7652 Ext. 250 or mreichart@umhcservices.com

Facilities

There is one thing that I can state, unequivocally, about the First Church facility: it never ceases to challenge us to keep things running in peak operating condition. Whether it be roof leaks that require patching, weeds in the flower beds that need pulled, burnt out light bulbs that need replaced, depressions in the parking lot that need filled, rooms that need painted, or leaking plumbing fixtures that need attention, there is always something that needs done in or around the building and that doesn't count the improvements we are always looking to make.

I am excited to report that Bill Seig and Eric King installed a base cabinet, double bowl sink, and two single lever faucets in the women's restroom on the second floor of the Education wing. We now have two hot and cold water running sinks in each of the Education wing restrooms, which has already proven to be a huge hit with the teachers from Little Friends Nursery School when they take all of their students to the restrooms for hand washing. I am especially grateful for Bill Seig's assistance on these restroom renovations, especially since Bill was fighting his own medical battles during this process.

By the time you read this, we should have completed a relamping of the large hanging light fixtures in the church sanctuary. This is a multiperson effort, as it requires lowering those fixtures from above the sanctuary ceiling. Thank you to all who helped in this project, and I hope you can tell the difference when you are in the sanctuary for worship services.

Matthew Canonizado's Eagle Scout project of a prayer garden on the east side of the church near King Alley is still in process. Charlie Ryder has offered to assist Matthew in constructing the wooden cross that will be a focal point of the prayer garden. Thank you to Charlie for your willingness to help.

I wish I could report that our efforts for repairing the Frederick Street wall in and underneath the balcony were complete but, unfortunately, that is not the case yet. There are still some wall repairs to be made up in the balcony, and the heating pipe covers still need to be reinstalled. Every time I think I will have time to work on that project, something else comes up that demands my attention. I do hope to complete the repairs before the end of October. Thank you for your continued patience during this process.

Over at the church parsonage on Colony Road, we are readying to have a really large tree professionally cut down in front. The tree is right along the street, and continues to lose large branches in every storm which create a hazard for passing motorists. Removing the tree should also help the front lawn since it won't be competing with tree roots for sustaining water.

Last month I addressed a "faux sinkhole" that appeared in the south parking lot. We recently experienced a little more settling in that area, which Mike Neidig was quick to fill with crushed stone. Thank you Mike. We feel it is safe to drive in that section of the lot, but are keeping a close eye on it in case the hole reappears.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to alert me if you see something broken or in need of our attention around the church. Your eyes really help us in our efforts to be faithful stewards of this wonderful facility. Thank you.

Roger Walton, Facilities Manager

Building Use

As activities within the church start to pick up it becomes even more important to submit building use forms in a timely manner. This will ensure you have the space needed for your activity and allow for adjustments if space is already booked. Building use forms can be found at the end of the first floor office hallway before entering the narthex. Submit forms to the church office.

Also, if your activity is offsite but you would like it to appear on the weekly calendar just submit a building use form. It's a great way to let everyone know about all of the wonderful activities.

Church News and Notes

Love & sympathy...

- to the family upon the death of Mary Ellen Rienecker on August 23, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Tracy Wertz's mother, Alice Wright, on August 26, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Bill Higgins on August 27, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Bob Buxton on September 5, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Nick Werner's mother-in-law, Susan Schell, on September 7, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Flossie & Charlie Ryder's son, Jim Mariano, September 14, 2015.
- to the family upon the death of Betty Stambach on September 21, 2015.

Thank you...

First Church Family,

Thank you for your prayer and support during my mom's illness and her passing. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Tracy & Bob Wertz and family

UM Church Women,

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the family of Mary Ellen Rienecker

Marge Robinson & Family

Ida Bardell would like to thank everyone for her cards and visits during her hospital stay. Thanks again!

Special Birthdays

Betty Fribance October 4
 Peg Hassinger October 8
 Skip Hutter October 13
 Catherine Mader October 19
 Carol Moomaw October 21
 Winslow Brown October 23
 Paul Strock October 31
 Sadie Heim November 1
 Liz Nesmith November 4
 Doris Zimmerman November 7
 Nancy Bomboy November 12
 Donald Adams November 15
 Patricia Marr November 23

Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Leroy & Pam Weaver married 53 years on October 7
- ♥ Skip & Pat Hutter married 60 years on October 8
- ♥ Ralph & Gwendolyn Harkins married 53 years on October 20
- ♥ Paul & Vesta Rynard married 51 years on October 24
- ♥ 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

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

Save the Date

Ministry & Mission Fair

Sunday, November 15 9:15—10:45 am

More details to come!

FIRST NEWS FIRST

Editor: Kristin Brown

The **November** newsletter deadline is
October 15

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

Early submissions are always welcome!