



# First News First

September 2017

Monthly News of First United Methodist Church  
of Mechanicsburg

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

**Fall Sermon Series, Movie and Study - *The Case for Christ***



This fall, we have a unique and powerful opportunity to come together as a congregation and dig deeper into the evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God. On Sunday, September 10, we will begin a four-week series of sermons based on Scripture and take a fresh look at who Jesus is and what that means for us. This series is accessible for people whether they are looking for faith, have lost faith along the way, or simply desire to trust God more deeply. This is an excellent opportunity to **invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers.**

We will journey to seek the truth about Jesus together with atheist-turned-Christian, Lee Strobel, former award-winning legal editor of The Chicago Tribune and best-selling author of the book, The Case for Christ. Earlier this year, the story of his powerful transformation in Christ was made into a movie. You are encouraged to join in this inspirational series in several ways:

- **TAKE A BOOK TO READ NOW** at the display in the main lobby. Books are just \$5.00.
- **SIGN UP NOW FOR A STUDY GROUP** at the display in the main lobby if you would like to participate in the 4-week study that goes along with the sermon series and movie.
- **COME AND SEE THE MOVIE** for free at First Church on either August 30th at 5:30 pm or September 8th at 7:00 pm. This movie is rated PG and the runtime is 112 minutes. Snacks will be provided.
- **ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE** to attend worship every Sunday for the 4-week sermon series, which begins September 10th.
- **ATTEND THE CELEBRATION!** A pot-luck supper and worship night will be held on October 15th beginning at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy fellowship, music from our youth praise band and hear personal stories of how The Case for Christ has impacted our faith! A special gift will be given to honor those who accepted the sermon series attendance challenge or invited a friend to participate in some way!

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

If you have questions, please contact Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or email her at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)

I look forward to spiritual renewal for all of us as we dig into the compelling evidence undergirding our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Growing in Christ with you!

Pastor Denny

## “Case for Christ” Small Groups

### Men of First Church

Our men’s group, the Men of First Church, will be taking a break from normal meeting times during September to participate in *The Case for Christ* study. All men (and their significant others) are invited to participate in this special study group on Thursday evenings beginning September 14<sup>th</sup> at the church in room B005. This group will meet from 7 – 8 pm. Please sign up for this group at *The Case for Christ* display in the main lobby.

Contact Barry Eaton at [theeaton5@verizon.net](mailto:theeaton5@verizon.net) or John Bowen at [bowenhome720@gmail.com](mailto:bowenhome720@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like more information about this group.

### Thursday Lunch & Devotion Time with Pastor John

Our new Assistant Pastor, Rev. John Shellenberger, begins on September 10<sup>th</sup> and he would love to spend some time getting to know you! He is offering a 4-week “lunch and devotion time” as a part of *The Case for Christ* study beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the West Main Family Restaurant in Mechanicsburg from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. If you are interested in participating, please sign up for this group at *The Case for Christ* display in the main lobby at church. Lunch is “dutch-treat”.

### Other Small Group Options

Check the display in the narthex for more options to join a small group for this study. Contact Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611, extension 104 if you have any questions or would like more information.

## 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.

## Rejoicing Spirits

It’s that time of year when many households gear up for the fall schedule. Schools are back in session and many activities are added to the calendar. There are only three more opportunities to attend the Rejoicing Spirits service this year. There will be no service in December. So you don’t miss it, mark your calendar now for: **September 24<sup>th</sup>** **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** **November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Rejoicing Spirits is an adapted service for individual with intellectual and developmental special needs and their families. I believe it’s much more! It’s an opportunity for the whole body of Christ to worship and praise our Lord together. This service is so full of joy. It provides an opportunity to be a part of the service and includes singing, praise, a brief message and time for snacks and fellowship afterwards. Everyone and all ages are welcome. Should you have any questions or wish to help, please contact Karin McHale.

---

## Holy Communion

World Communion	September 3	Pew Service
First Sunday in Advent	October 1	Loaves and Chalice
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	November 26	Pew Service
	December 24	Loaves and Chalice

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

## Music

### September Ministry of Music Sunday Morning Schedule

September 3	Carvel Markley
September 10	Sounds of Worship (8:15) Praise Team (10:45)
September 17	Sounds of Worship (8:15) Sanctuary Choir (10:45)
September 24	Sanctuary Choir (8:15) Praise Team (10:45)



### Please come join Sanctuary Choir!

We are always looking for new members of Sanctuary Choir and would love to have you come join us. ALL ARE WELCOME!! We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9 and primarily sing at the 10:45 Worship service (there are a few Sundays when we will sing at 8:15). No experience is really necessary, just come and join us and become part of our fellowship and ministry! First rehearsal will be September 6.

## Fall Sunday School

As we say goodbye to summer, we praise God for the wonderful opportunity we had to gather together for Sunday School and spend time focusing on how we can change the world through missions. We also give thanks for our special guest speakers, who shared information about the mission work they have been able to accomplish with support from First Church!

On September 10<sup>th</sup> regular Sunday School classes will resume at 9:30 am. Walk-in visitors and new class members are always welcomed in all classes. Here are the options for adults:

- **FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE** - A group of singles and couples age 25ish and above. A discussion-based class that values friendship, sometimes getting together outside of class. Will be studying The Case for Christ in Fellowship Hall.
- **FAITHFUL FAMILIES** - This class is made up of parents who are in the child-raising stage of life, and who enjoy discussion-based Bible studies related to living a faithful, Christ-centered life. Will be studying The Case for Christ in Fellowship Hall.
- **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** - A multi-generational adult class that selects short-term studies which generate challenging discussion of Christian principles. Meets in room 223.
- **GROWING IN CHRIST** - A mixed class of single adults and couples of all ages that select short-term studies intended to challenge thinking and create fruitful conversation of Christian principles. Will be studying The Case for Christ in Fellowship Hall.
- **GUYER CLASS** - A well-established group of elders in the church who study the United Methodist Quarterly Adult Bible Studies, which are designed as encouragement and instruction in living a life of faith. Meets in room 123.
- **HELPING HANDS** - A group of active seniors who focus on studies designed as encouragement and instruction on living a life of faith. Interactive studies and discussions are led by several class members. Also, class members enjoy many Christian social activities together. Meets in room 105.

## Finance

### Financial Report—through July 31, 2017 58% of year

#### General Fund

2017 budget	\$ 935,000	
Expected income	\$ 542,300	
Actual income	\$ 533,962	(57% of budget)
Shortfall	\$ 8,338	
Actual expenses	\$ 506,514	

Earlier this year income was higher than expected. That trend has changed during this summer and we now are experiencing a small shortfall. Income is typically lowest during the third quarter of the year so this is not surprising.

\$20,000 from the General Fund and \$3,015 from the Building Fund has been paid on the debt thus far in 2017. An interest payment of \$1,508 was made during July.

## SPRC UPDATE

### Music Staff

There have been some changes in the music staff over the summer. We bid a sad and grateful farewell to Gail Leinhos, who will be stepping down from all but the occasional guest appearance. Gail has been an integral part of the musical life of First Church, having served as Director of the Sounds of Worship, the Youth Choir and as an organist, in addition to being an inspiration to us with her spiritual and musical energy. We are very pleased and blessed to welcome back Flossie Ryder who will be raising the Sounds of Worship baton again. Nick Werner returns as a part-time organist and contributor to the Praise Team.

The following people have formal positions in our exemplary music program:

Jody Brinley, Director of Music and Sanctuary Choir Director;  
Kathie Bittenbender, Director of Bell and Chime Choirs;  
Lorette Cale, Children's Choir Director;  
Karen Philp, Sounds of Worship accompanist;  
Trace Morgan, Praise Team Co-director;  
Geri Nuss, Junior Choir Director;  
Allison Ometz, Praise Team Co-director;  
Flossie Ryder, Sounds of Worship Director;  
Seth Wickenheiser, Part-time organist and Youth Choir accompanist; and,  
Nick Werner, Part-time keyboardist.

Supply organists include:

Michal Foursevitch, Frank Heberlig, and Tom Mullikin.

Note well that the music that enables and enriches our worship experience is supported by a large group of people who contribute their time and talent as technicians, musicians, and "what-shall-I-do-now?" labor.

### Open Meeting

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites any interested member of the congregation to attend an open meeting on September 12th at 7:00 pm in Room 123. Attendees will be able to observe a typical meeting and have an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. Guests may be excused at the end of the public session if there are confidential issues to be discussed.

### New Faces

Rev. John Shellenberger and his wife, Merri will begin their active role in the First Church community in early September. Please remember to introduce yourselves. Name tags wouldn't hurt.

## Church Picnic ~ September 10<sup>th</sup>

Our annual church picnic will be held at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion from 3:30 – 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Come to play and stay for the pot-luck supper at 5 pm, followed by outdoor worship as the sun sets on a beautiful day! Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Also bring your own place settings and lawn chairs to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company!

---



## 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 **September 20 at 6 pm**. Contact Eric King at [eking@verizon.net](mailto:eking@verizon.net) for more information.

### Penny Report ~ Now Located at the Sierra Leone Display in the Tower Hallway



Help support the Sierra Leone Well Drilling Project by dropping your pennies, or any 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. There were 1,000 pennies contributed this past month for a total to date of \$12,846.96.

**Thank you for another great a month of donations and for your continued prayers and financial support! Let's keep the water flowing.**

### Recap of Allport-Bigler-Woodland Workcamp

Once again this summer, I was blessed to be able to take part in the Volunteers in Mission (VIM) workcamp to the three Clearfield County towns of Allport, Bigler and Woodland. Led by Pastor Jeff Fisher of Calvary UMC in Harrisburg, the group of volunteers worked on about 20 homes doing repairs and improvement projects during the period of Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> assisting elderly and low income members of the communities. Most of us from out of the area stayed at Lake Street UMC in Woodland, while others stayed at the nearby Woodland Campground. There are a number of small UMC congregations in the area, and they all work together to provide food for our nourishment during the workcamp. Morning and evening meals were prepared and served (buffet style) by some of the women from Lake Street UMC, and we "brown bagged" our lunches at the various worksites.

The biggest project worked on during the week was a 12' by 36' deck along with a 24' ramp being built for a 50-year old woman (and her family) who had recently been diagnosed with MS. As you might imagine, lots of folks (but not me) were fully engaged on that project. I spent most of my days working on the home of an 87-year old woman named Shirley, where we tore off and replaced a 10' by 12' section of her roof, fixed a number of rain gutter issues, replaced a rotting window sill, installed about 36' of new aluminum fascia along one side of her home, weeded her flower beds, and did some exterior painting. Shirley's husband died when she was 52, so she has been taking care of her home by herself for the last 35 years. When Shirley told me she could do plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work, I replied that she ought to be part of our workcamp team! Unfortunately, she has arthritis in her hip and needs to use a cane when walking, which really limits her mobility. I did notice that she was still able to get on her riding tractor and mow over an acre of her yard while we were there, and also clean out/straighten up her garage. Wow! It was a joy to sit down and talk with her about her life and her faith. I could really sense her pride in keeping her humble home maintained these many years, and she was so appreciative of our efforts to accomplish some things around her home that she is no longer able to get done. In addition, I helped install some additional electrical circuits in the fellowship hall at Lake Street UMC so that breakers don't get tripped every time a bunch of crockpots and roasters get plugged in for church meal gatherings.

I love being part of this workcamp, which was being held for the 6<sup>th</sup> time this summer. Mike Ogden invited me to go the first year as Mike is originally from Clearfield and wanted to "give back" to his old communities. What a blessing it has turned into for me. I so look forward to going back each summer, renewing acquaintances with other persons on the workcamp team and the folks from Lake Street UMC. Like Shirley this year, I have always found the people whose homes we work on to be most appreciative of our efforts. It takes a lot of faith to open your doors to a group of strangers, not knowing if they have the requisite skillset to accomplish the needed repairs. As the old saying goes, "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips those that are called!" So won't you consider joining me next June for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual workcamp? I'm sure you'll be blessed by the experience!

Roger Walton

## From the Director of Outreach

### Third Friday Food Truck Feast!

The Food Trucks are returning! First Church is now hosting gourmet food trucks the third Friday of the month, in partnership with the Borough of Mechanicsburg. The trucks, which were previously located in Harrisburg, are now rolling into our parking lot from 5 to 9 p.m. on September 15 and October 20. We welcome this opportunity to invite our neighbors and friends to our parking lot for good food and to share upcoming events at our church. Join us at Third Friday Food Truck Feast and meet our neighbors! If you have any questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle, Director of Outreach, at outreach@fumchurch.com.



### Mechanicsburg Community Day



Community Day at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park on August 12 was a great success! The Castle Bounce House, Lollipop Tree and face painting were a big hit! We had well over 100 children stop in to visit us and we were able to talk to families about Wonderful Wednesday and all the other great programs happening at First Church. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the event! Keep your eyes open for new families in the church and be sure to welcome them when they walk through our doors.

### Wear Your Name Tag

As we look forward to seeing new families in our church and welcome our new Assistant Pastor, John Shellenberger, on September 10, we encourage you to wear your name tags. Please take the time to locate your name tag and wear it at church. If you don't have one, we can make one for you! Contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com or 766-4611, ext. 115 to request a name tag. Thanks for showing such wonderful hospitality! "Be hospitable to one another without complaint." 1 Peter 4:9.



### Thursday Bible Study - Romans

What a tremendous experience awaits you as you study the book of Romans! Join us as we study this letter from Paul, which is called the "Master Key" to understanding the New Testament and Christian life. Your heart will be humbled as the majesty of God's redemptive work is laid before you.

This 14-week study will begin on August 31. You may choose to come to class on Thursday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. or Thursday evenings from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. The cost of the workbook for this inductive Bible study (by Precept Ministries International) is \$25.00.

Please sign up in the main lobby at church or contact Juanita Guise at kguise@comcast.net.

### Men's Bible Study – Revelation

The imagery in the book of Revelation is vast... 7 churches, dragons and monsters, the different colored horses, the antichrist, just to mention a few! All men are invited to come on September 17th and begin a 6-week study entitled Discovering What the Future Holds. This study is designed to introduce participants to the inductive Bible study method. All work will be done in class (no homework!) and the cost of the workbook is \$8.00.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

After completion, you will be prepared to move on and dig deeper into a 13-week inductive Bible study entitled *Behold, Jesus is Coming*. A small amount of reading/homework is required each week outside of class and the workbook cost is \$10.00.

Class meets at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and typically runs 60 - 90 minutes. A full schedule will be handed out at the first class. All men are welcome - Please invite your friends! Please sign up in the main lobby at church or contact Ken Guise at [kguise@knouse.com](mailto:kguise@knouse.com).

## **Bless Our Schools Sunday ~ September 17**

You won't want to miss out on the seventh annual Bless Our Schools Sunday, which is being observed at First Church during the 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. worship services on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Every year on the third Sunday in September, churches around the world take this special time to pray specifically for the schools, teachers, staff, and students in their congregation. As a result, many are blessed, feel bolstered in prayer and ready to stand firm in Christ for the new school year!

For more information, contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or Tina Eaton at 766-4611, extension 104 or [adultministry@funchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@funchurch.com).

## **Bible Sunday ~ September 24**

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> is Bible Sunday at First United Methodist Church. Bible Sunday is a special day for 4 year olds, second, sixth, and ninth grade students as they each receive a Bible as a gift from the Church. This is a special day in your child's Christian Education and promotes a lifelong adventure and discipleship in studying and growing in God's Word. We encourage you to come to Bible Sunday and join us as we come along side you in helping to develop your child's faith walk.

Bibles will be presented at both morning services. During the presentation we will honor the role of you as parents in your child's Christian growth. Parents will be asked to stand with their child so that you can receive and present the Bible to your child. Please plan to attend so the church community can recognize your child on this special occasion as they continue in their spiritual growth here at First Church. If a parent is not able to be present, we will have a known adult stand with your child.

If you are unable to attend one of the church services on September 24, please contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado (pre-kindergarten & second grade) or Lisa Aronson (sixth and ninth grade). We will make other arrangements for your child to receive their Bible.

## **See You At The Pole ~ September 27**

For over 25 years, See You at the Pole has been about one simple act—prayer. SYATP is still about students uniting themselves in prayer before God interceding for their generation. There are two opportunities to unite in prayer with your friends:

- **DAY:** SEE YOU AT THE POLE day is on Wednesday, September 27, at 7:00 a.m. local time. All around the globe, in every time zone, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE is a day committed to global unity in Christ and prayer for your generation. (Check with your school to see if any special events have been organized).
- **WEEK:** The *GLOBAL WEEK OF STUDENT PRAYER* (Sunday, September 24 through Saturday, September 30) encourages students to find new and unique ways, places, and times to pray throughout the week. Whether you attend PUBLIC SCHOOL, PRIVATE SCHOOL, or HOME SCHOOL, gather your friends wherever and whenever and pray! The GLOBAL WEEK OF STUDENT PRAYER is dedicated to prayer and launching your on-campus Bible clubs, prayer strategies, and student ministries.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

It's not too early to sign up for Wonderful Wednesday! This year's curriculum is "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss." Children ages three through sixth grade and their families are invited to attend. The weekly program includes a family-style dinner, Bible study and fun activities and allows families to spend quality time together. The fall session starts on October 18 and runs through December 6. The program lasts from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Registration forms can be found below, at the Children's Department display or on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com). There is a \$15 fee per child per semester. Scholarships are available. If have questions, please contact Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com).



**Note: You do not need to be a member at First Church or attend worship here to participate.**

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Choices: Sports, Legos, Board Games, Crafts or Homework.

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & Age \_\_\_\_\_ Club Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & Age \_\_\_\_\_ Club Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & Age \_\_\_\_\_ Club Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers (home and cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name and phone \_\_\_\_\_

**I give permission for any video or photos of my children taken while participating in Wonderful Wednesday/ Passion Play be shared on the church website/Facebook page or on play DVDs. Names will not be used in postings or DVDs.  YES  NO**

Please rank your top three preferences of involvement:

\_\_\_ shepherd for rotations \_\_\_ table parent \_\_\_ kitchen help \_\_\_ set up \_\_\_ clean up \_\_\_ childcare, if needed  
\_\_\_ bake desserts \_\_\_ where needed (feel free to contact us with any questions about the responsibilities of these roles)

Member of First Church? Yes No (circle one) Attend First Church on Sundays? Yes No (circle one)

### Cost and other details:

- \$15.00 per child, per semester. Please make checks payable to First United Methodist Church.
- \$3.00 for adult dinner each night
- Children will be exploring The Gospel According to Dr Seuss!
- The first Semester begins October 18<sup>th</sup> and ending December 6<sup>th</sup> (no session on November 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Starts at 4:30pm with WW clubs (like sports club, legos club, etc), followed by an opening and Bible lesson. Dinner starts at 5:50, and ends at 6:20 when kids go to choir practice until 7pm.
- Second Semester will continue on January 24<sup>th</sup> and end on March 28<sup>th</sup> with the Passion Play.
- At least one adult from each family is requested to participate in the program in some capacity.

### Registration (please check one):

First Semester Only \_\_\_\_\_ Second Semester Only \_\_\_\_\_ Both Semesters \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this form in the silver backpack at the Children's Display area or in the Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado mailbox or return to the church office. Questions? Call Dawn Fisher or George Canonizado at 766-4611 x102 or e-mail [kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com). Please register by **October 13th**.





## Library

When you work in a library, you always think two to three weeks in advance because of checking out books, and I find the same to be true when I am writing this newsletter every month. My brain keeps screaming, “No, it can’t be that time yet.” I always feel that way even more as summer slips away from me. I still think of September as back to school month, even though most schools start in August now. With fond memories of back to school and days gone by, I have the perfect book for you.

Rachel Hauck has been using dual time periods in several of her recent books to connect women from different eras. Her newest book **The Writing Desk** is reminiscent of days gone by when ladies sat at their writing desks with their flowery stationery and answered their correspondence. Tenley Roth has written a best seller and her editor and her fans are eagerly waiting for a sequel. Tenley is struggling with writer’s block while also trying to take care of her ill mother. While sitting at her mother’s writing desk, she finds a secret compartment that contains a hidden manuscript written by Birdie Sheldon a century earlier. Since it was frowned upon for a socialite to write books, Birdie hid her writings in her desk. When Teney begins to read Birdie’s manuscript she wonders if she could use it as her next novel since she can’t seem to write anything herself. The story goes back and forth between the two women, and the problems they both have in their lives and the ache to be writers. I will warn you -- you won’t be able to put this one down!

No matter what time of year it is, the Amish always remind me of my mother’s stories of attending school in a one room school house. If you love the Amish books, you know the library is always up-to-date on new books from your favorite Amish writers. Beverly Lewis’ new book is **The Proving**. In this latest story set in Lancaster, Amanda Deiner has not seen her Old Order family in five long years and that includes her twin sister. When the family lawyer calls to tell her that her mother has died and left Amanda the business and farm, Amanda asks him if he is confusing her with her sister, Arie Mae. With Dad also deceased, Amanda would have sole control of the best bed and breakfast in the area. But the property comes with some strings. Amanda must prove she can successfully run the business for twelve consecutive months for it really to be hers. And, of course, it means going home to face the family she left behind. She has also left the Amish ways and she wonders if people will still be willing to stay at a bed and breakfast run by an Englisher? I’ll let you find out how Amanda resolves her dilemma!

Stop in the library to check out these authors or let us help you find just the right book for you. Now that school is back in session, bring your children in to get some good reading materials to supplement their reading programs.

See you in the library!!

Pam & Donna

## Health and Wellness

### September Blood Drives

September 5	3 pm to 7 pm	Denny’s on the Carlisle Pike
September 6	12 pm to 4 pm	West Shore Hospital
September 7	10:30 am to 3:30 pm	2020 Technology Park, 17050
September 8	8 am to 7 pm	Fox Center, 120 S. Filbert St. 17055
September 9	10 am to 2 pm	Black Landscape, 1360 E. Lisburn Rd., 17055
September 13	3 pm to 7 pm	Century 21 Realty, 3315 Market St., 17011
September 17	7:30 am to 12:30 pm	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 310 Hertzler Rd., 17055
September 18	9 am to 4 pm	Messiah College, Boyer Hall
September 19	7:30 am to 12 pm	Hampden Township at the Good Hope Fire Station, 1200 Good Hope Rd. 17050
September 20	8 am to 12 pm	PinnacleHealth, 1200 Camp Hill Bypass, 17011
September 21	3 pm to 7 pm	Buffalo Wild Wings on the Carlisle Pike
September 26	9 am to 1 pm	Sun Motor Cars, 6677 Carlisle Pike, 17050

## **First Connections!**

### **Open House - Thursday, September 14th – 1-3 pm**

In preparation for First Connections, we have renovated the sweet space in our church tower that was formerly used as a children's library. You may be asking, "What is this First Connections? Who is this for?" Our intention is to offer a gathering place on Thursday afternoons for relaxation and fellowship. If you are feeling cooped-up at home or lonely, and wishing for the company of others, then please come check out First Connections! Simple activities will also be available for those who are interested (puzzles, cards, service projects, adult coloring, etc.) Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at [wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611 x 112.

\*First Connections will meet weekly on Thursday afternoons from 1-3 pm beginning September 21st.

## **Gleaning with Project SHARE ~ September 18 5:30–8:30 PM**

Please join us for an evening of gleaning! You are welcome to meet at First Church (4:50 pm) to carpool, or meet us directly at Project SHARE in Carlisle. We will then drive out to the designated farm or orchard to glean until the sun sets. This is really fun and such a great opportunity to gather food that may otherwise be wasted! Questions? Contact Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 766-4611 x 112.

*"Gleaning is a Biblical concept described several places in the Bible, including in the book of Ruth. It is when the growers purposely leave extras from the field behind for the poor to pick up to feed their families and those who have no way to help their families. The food is free for those laborers and is from the generosity of the Lord. Project SHARE volunteers and recipients collect excess, unsellable, but still perfectly good field gleanings, drops, 2nds, market leftovers, and the last planting that is still good food but the farmer does not pick- or cannot sell it. Over 36 local farms & farm markets allow us to glean in their fields or donate fresh produce to us."* <https://projectsharepa.org/gleaning/>

## **Moms in Prayer**

Did you know that, through Moms in Prayer International, thousands of mothers around the world gather together in groups to passionately pray for the lives of their children in more than 140 countries? The impact on children, their teachers and their schools is profound, and it is life-changing for the mothers who pray as well!

In addition to groups meeting in homes to pray for specific schools, and the children and teachers who attend those schools, there is an "open group" that meets here at First Church. This group, led by Deb Noss, will resume meeting for the 2017/18 school year on Monday evenings beginning August 21st from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room.

All mothers are invited and no prayer experience is required. Your child can be any age/any stage of life. And what is prayed in the group stays in the group, so don't worry – your prayer requests will remain private within the group.

Please contact Deb Noss at [sdppp@msn.com](mailto:sdppp@msn.com) or Tina Eaton at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611, extension 104 if you have questions or would like to join this group. You can also check out [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org) if you would like more information about this organization or would like to search for another group that fits your schedule.

---



## **New MOPS Group Begins This Fall!**

Raising children is both beautiful and challenging, and having a network of other moms to lean on is a life-giving part of God's plan! That's why Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) connects moms to a community of women who meet to laugh, support and embrace the journey together.

A new MOPS group will begin meeting monthly at First United Methodist Church on Friday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 – 11:15 am. MOPS provides a welcoming and open environment where every mom can grow through mentoring and leadership development. Here are the basic elements of every group meeting:

- Fellowship time over a light breakfast
- Valuable teachings/lesson time
- Small group discussion time
- Encouragement and support from mentor moms
- Christian devotions to take away and apply to everyday life
- Safe, secure and loving care for children with experienced childcare providers

Greeters will be on-hand that morning to welcome moms and assist them in getting children to their classroom for childcare. Please contact Tina Eaton by September 10<sup>th</sup> if you plan to come so that adequate childcare can be pre-arranged. You can contact Tina at [adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com) or call 766-4611, extension 104.

The local fee for this group is just \$20.00 per semester (fall/spring) to help cover childcare and other miscellaneous expenses, and the MOPS registration fee is \$31.95 for the entire 2017/18 school year. Scholarships are available. Registration gives you access to:

- Any MOPS group (4000 worldwide!)
- A guidebook/personal journal to help transform your year
- A beautiful beaded bracelet that reflects the annual MOPS theme
- An annual subscription to MOPS Magazine, delivered to your doorstep each quarter
- Weekly emails on what moms are talking about – parenting, womanhood, marriage and so much more
- Exclusive downloads from MOPS favorite musical artists, authors, working moms, and culture influencers
- Plenty of other surprises that'll cause spontaneous smiles!

In between monthly meetings, fun outings/play-dates, creative projects and/or service opportunities will be organized for those who are interested.

If you are the mother of a young child, you won't want to miss this special opportunity so join today!

---



## 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:**

- October 7** First Church hosts the Harrisburg District UMW Annual Day
- October 14** Susquehanna Conference Annual Day, Camp Hill UMC
- 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

### **Harrisburg District Annual Day – First Church is Hosting!**

The Harrisburg District United Methodist Women will hold their annual meeting at First Church on Saturday, October 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This yearly event is an opportunity to meet other UMW members in the District, learn about upcoming events, hear more about Fresh Expressions ministry, celebrate accomplishments and enjoy lunch together. The UMW District Team has been hard at work creating a meaningful program for all UMW members. Please plan to attend this event, which is conveniently held at our church, and help us to be welcoming and inviting to members of the UMW Harrisburg District. The Registration Form can be found on the next page or you can contact Lori Hoffnagle at 766-4611, ext. 115 or l\_hoffnagle@yahoo.com. All attendees will receive a special goodie bag at the end of the program! (Registration form available on the following page)

### **Dresses for Girls in Sierra Leone**

The UMW will be sewing dresses for girls to send with the Sierra Leone mission team in November, but we need your help! We are collecting small and medium pastel tee shirts that will be transformed into dresses for little girls by our wonderful UMW seamstresses. The shirts can be placed at the Sierra Leone table (in the Main Entrance Hallway). We want to send 50 with the team and only have 16 completed. If you have questions, please contact Lori Hoffnagle at outreach@fumchurch.com.

### **Squares and Prayers UMW Circle**

Squares and Prayers circle of ladies have been busy bees over the past year since beginning the ministry. 498 items have been made and given, 85 of which have been lap quilts. We are excited to announce that Mechanicsburg Police Dept., Washington Fire Co., Silver Spring Township Police Dept., Homeland Hospice, many of our youth in our neighborhood, new people to our church and our church members have been the recipients of the many items we are making. We have found a wonderful outreach ministry with your help and support. But we are in need.

(Continued from page 12)

We are in need of anyone who is interested in helping in various areas. We need people to help on Monday mornings from 9-11. But if you can't make it on a Monday, contact one of us (Tammy Snyder at [tamsnyde@gmail.com](mailto:tamsnyde@gmail.com), Nancy Eddy at [naeddy3@aol.com](mailto:naeddy3@aol.com)) and we will give you things you can work on at your convenience. Don't worry if you don't sew, there are many things that can be done without sewing a stitch. If you do sew, there are new kits in the Narthex to be sewn, most are very simple squares or panels. If you want to make a donation, our supply of the middle batting is dwindling, for example: we can use used mattress pads, flannel, used blankets, or rolls of quilt batting. Monetary donations can also be given for the use of buying thread, fabric, batting, and sewing machine upkeep -- just put Squares & Prayers in the memo of your donation. We appreciate any and all donations to this ministry. We want to continue to provide lap quilts, pencil bags for the UMW yard sale, finger fidgets, cup cozies for the welcome mugs, prayer strands, and other projects. We can only do this with the help of You -- the Church members.

**Harrisburg District United Methodist Women Annual Day  
October 7, 2017 First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg**

**Registration Form**

**Please complete all information on the form. Additional copies may be made. Each person attending must complete a form. Completed forms and \$7.00 per person must be sent by September 29, 2017.**

**(Lunch is not guaranteed with late registration).**

**Make checks payable to:** Harrisburg District United Methodist Women

**Send completed forms to: Belinda Mullen**

717 Pleasant Valley Rd, Ellittsburg, PA 17024

**Please Print Clearly or Type**

**Name for Badge** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church** \_\_\_\_\_ **Current Office Held** (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply. I am a member of:**

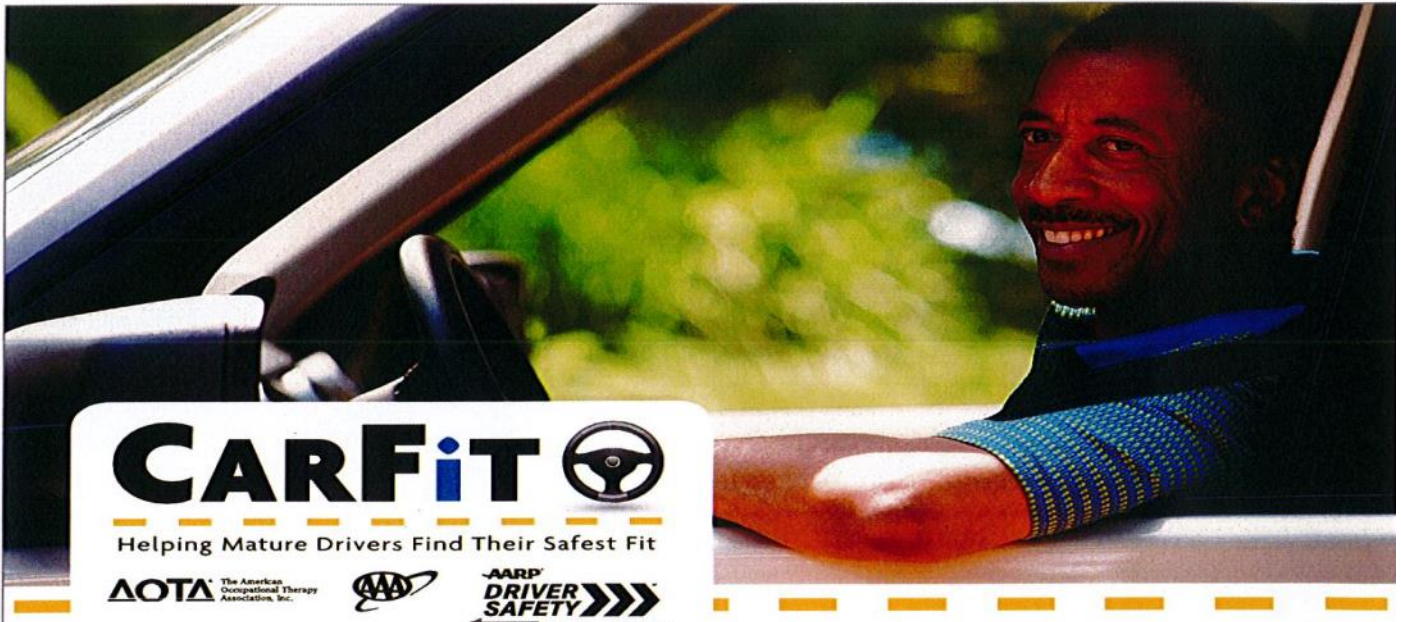
- 2016 5 Star Unit** \_\_\_\_\_ **2016 Mission Today** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2016 Reading Program** \_\_\_\_\_ **1st Time Attendee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you need child care? Yes** \_\_\_ **or No** \_\_\_

    \_\_\_ **# of children**   **ages of children** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child care is free, but please bring a bag lunch for your children.**

**Please list special physical or dietary needs:**



## Discover your perfect “fit.” Attend a **FREE CarFit Checkup!**

CarFit is a FREE, interactive and educational program that teaches participants how to make their personal vehicle “fit” them to increase safety and mobility when they hit the road.

- > Review 12 key areas of your fit to your car such as adequate space from the steering wheel, proper seat belt use, and properly adjusted head restraints.
- > Learn how to use and adjust your safety devices.
- > Each checkup takes about 20 minutes—this is not a driving test or mechanical inspection.

**To schedule your 20-minute appointment, please call the appropriate number listed on the right. Appointment spaces are limited, so don't wait!**

For more information, visit [www.car-fit.org](http://www.car-fit.org).

### **AARP Driver Safety's CarFit Event**

September 16, 2017

Bethany Village  
The Rife Center  
325 Wesley Dr.  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
17055

9am-12pm

Please call to register:

**(717) 728-2478**

**Leanne Rutt**

*CarFit is an educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association.*

## Church News and Notes

### *Love & sympathy...*

- to the family upon the death of Joy Losh's father, Ethan McBeth, on July 20.
- to the family upon the death of Deb Lehmer's father, Dick Rhoads, on July 20.
- to the family upon the death of Joan Stokes' mother, Elsie Johnson, on July 24.
- to the family upon the death of Betsy Keller's mother, Dorothy Miller, on July 26.
- to the family upon the death of Bill Seig on July 29.
- to the family upon the death of Catherine Mader on August 4.

### *Thank yous...*

"We want to thank our church family for your love, support, and concerns, and most of all your prayers, which were a great comfort during Harry's DBS procedure."  
~Harry and Joyce Woods

Bill's family and I want to thank our family and friends at First Church for your great showing of Christian love. The cards, calls, food, helping to clean up our yard and the visits. You will never know how much it touched our hearts. Again, many thanks. God bless you, and he has.  
~ Marilyn Seig

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and notes. They meant so much to us. Mother (Catherine Mader) enjoyed the Guyer Sunday School Class so much and everyone was so kind to her. Mother will be missed but we will always have our memories of her. Blessings,  
~ Fran and Art (Davis)

### **Special Birthdays**

Bill Neumyer .....	September 4	Peg Hassinger .....	October 8
Emma Whitcomb....	September 8	Skip Hutter.....	October 13
Ken Nelson .....	September 13	Carol Moomaw .....	October 21
George Rehfluss .....	September 16	Winslow Brown.....	October 23
Lil Thomas.....	September 22	Don Shover .....	October 23
Ralph Harkins .....	September 25	Paul Strock.....	October 31
Peggy Shenberger ...	September 28		

### **Special Anniversaries**

- ♥ Bob & Judy Wertz married 54 years on September 1
  - ♥ Richard & Alberta Knause married 67 years on September 2
  - ♥ Ed & Ginny Johnson married 53 years on September 3
  - ♥ Darrell & Barbara Sill married 50 years on September 16
  - ♥ Milt & Dolly Dougherty married 67 years on September 23
  - ♥ George & Mary Beth Snoke married 51 years on September 24
  - ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 53 years on September 26
  - ♥ Paul & Lorraine Strock married 64 years on September 27
  - ♥ Leroy and Pam Weaver married 55 years on October 7
  - ♥ Skip & Pat Hutter married 62 years on October 8
  - ♥ Ralph & Gwen Harkins married 55 years on October 20
  - ♥ Paul & Vesta Rynard married 53 years on October 24
-

## Church Staff

### SENIOR PASTOR

**Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller**  
766-4611 ext. 103  
pastordenny@fumchurch.com

### ASSISTANT TO SENIOR PASTOR\*

**Rev. John Shellenberger**  
766-4611 ext. 117  
pastorjohn@fumchurch.com

### YOUTH PASTOR

**Lisa Aronson**  
766-4611 ext. 113  
uthrock@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP\*

**Tina Eaton**  
766-4611 ext. 104  
adultministry@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY\*

**Dawn Fisher**  
**George Canonizado**  
766-4611 ext. 102  
kidscount@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE\*

**Janice Bowen**  
766-4611 ext. 112  
wecare@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH\*

**Lori Hoffnagle**  
766-4611 ext. 115  
outreach@fumchurch.com

### OFFICE MANAGER/FINANCE SECRETARY

**Kristin Brown**  
766-4611 ext. 101  
office@fumchurch.com

### FACILITIES COORDINATOR\*

**Tom Ziegler**  
766-4611 ext. 105  
facilities@fumchurch.com

### CUSTODIANS\*

**George Canonizado**  
**Matthew Miller**  
766-4611 ext. 109  
maintenance@fumchurch.com

### FINANCE DIRECTOR\*

**Nancy Robinson**  
nrobinson@fumchurch.com

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR\*

**Jody Brinley**  
Brynleawesties@comcast.net

### SOUNDS OF WORSHIP DIRECTOR\*

**Flossie Ryder**  
florencewryder@yahoo.com

### DIRECTOR OF BELL & CHIME CHOIRS\*

**Kathie Bittenbender**  
rbittenben@verizon.net

### PRAISE TEAM CO-DIRECTORS\*

**Allison Ometz Trace Morgan**  
ometz@msn.com traceintune80@gmail.com

### JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR\*

**GERI NUSS**

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR\*

**Lorette Cale**  
lorettecale@gmail.com

### ORGANISTS/ACCOMPANISTS\*

**Michal Foursevitch**  
**Frank Heberlig**  
**Tom Mullikin**  
**Karen Philp**  
**Nick Werner**  
**Seth Wickenheiser**

### DIRECTOR OF LITTLE FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL\*

**Chris Sims**  
lfns@fumchurch.com

\*PART-TIME

*FIRST NEWS FIRST*  
Editor: Kristin Brown

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

Early submissions always  
appreciated!

**September 15**