



# *First News First*

September 2019

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

**From Pastor Denny...**

## **“Words Matter”**

*“Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you,  
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14)*

Rev. Dr. Gerald Kauffman was pastor of my home church in Carlisle for 32 years. His ministry there began just six months before I was born. He baptized me, confirmed me, and joined the bishop in laying hands on me when I was ordained. Dr. Kauffman was a big influence in helping me to come to faith in Christ and to discern a call to pastoral ministry. As a young pastor, I was so blessed to have him nearby for support and wise counsel.

One of Dr. Kauffman's most important influences on me was his preaching. He communicated God's Word with such clarity and enthusiasm every Sunday. During my childhood and youth his well-chosen Sunday morning words played a big role in shaping my life as a disciple of Jesus and as a preacher.

Often, before Dr. Kauffman began his sermons, he would pray this prayer from Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer." I have used this same prayer from time to time before sermons. It expresses the yearning of my heart as a preacher: that my words would honor the Lord, as would the thoughts of the whole congregation. Using this prayer also reminds me that my effectiveness as a preacher does not depend on me, on my insight or skill, but upon the Lord, who is "my rock and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14 is a fine prayer for the pulpit, but this prayer belongs not just in the pulpit, but also in the world. For one thing, the identified poet of Psalm 19, David, was not a priest or a prophet. He didn't do "religious work" in the usual sense. Rather, he was a shepherd, a warrior, a musician, a poet, and most famously, a king. David did, if you'll pardon the expression, secular work. Nevertheless, he sought to please the Lord with his words and thoughts, not just in his private prayers, but in every sector of life.

You and I are privileged to live for God's glory in all that we do, in every word, every thought, and every deed. This means we ought to borrow David's prayer, not just if we happen to be preaching a sermon, but all the time. This prayer reminds us that words matter. Words have power to heal, to inspire, and to unite us. They also have power to harm, to discourage, and to divide us.

How would your life be different if you began praying Psalm 19:14 in the day-to-day situations of your life? What difference might it make if, before you participate in a meeting, you prayed, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer"? How might praying this way transform your language and actions on the athletic field, when you're out on the town with your friends, when you're writing a letter to a client, or when you're negotiating a contract? How might it affect the way you speak to your spouse, your children, your roommate, or your colleagues?

I invite you to make Psalm 19:14 your prayer, so that whether in worship or in day to day living, the words of your mouth and the meditations of your heart will please God and bless others.

Joining with you in all that is good!

Pastor Denny

## Lifelong Learner



### Take the Challenge!

Have you accepted our *Be One, Make One Discipleship Challenge* yet? If not, please join us on this adventure! Visit our Welcome Center to pick up your copy of our **Daily Bible Reading Plan**, a **Study & Prayer Journal** and a regular or large-print **Bible** to guide you as you grow in your discipleship. While you're at it, pick one up for a friend!

### Fall Bible Studies

Looking for a new way to grow, learn and get into God's Word this fall? Then consider participating in any of the following classes or groups:

- **Regular Sunday School** classes will resume on September 8, and walk-in visitors/new class members are welcome in all classes. Look in the September 8 bulletin for more details regarding the class locations and choices, including one NEW class!
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study with Pastor Denny:** "The Gospel of John: Finding Identity and Purpose" begins September 4. This 12-week class meets in room B004 from 6:45 – 8:00 pm. Workbook cost is \$9.99. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display.
- **Study on the Gospel of Luke:** "Who Is This Man Who Forgives Sins?" begins with workbook distribution on September 5 in Fellowship Hall, followed by the 11-week study. Led by Juanita Guise, Thursday morning and evening classes available. Workbook cost is \$24. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display.
- **Lunch and Learn Bible Study with Pastor John:** Based on our Bible reading plan, this group will begin meeting on September 11 for eight Wednesdays at 11:00 am in the church sanctuary (under the balcony) for study, followed by a Dutch treat lunch at CC's Kitchen. Visit the Welcome Center display to sign up and grab your daily Bible reading plan!
- **Men's Bible Study:** "The Holy Spirit Unleashed in You" is a 13-lesson study on the book of Acts that begins September 15 in room 207. Led by Ken Guise and David Mengle. Class begins at 6:15 pm and runs 60-75 minutes. Workbook cost is \$9.99. See details and sign up at the Welcome Center display.
- **New Member class:** "A Disciple's Path", begins October 13. This class, which runs seven weeks, will be held during Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am in Room 207. Please see the Welcome Center display to sign up. Questions? Contact Tina Eaton.

### From the Library

For many years when I would write the September newsletter, I would write about the bittersweet time of back to school and the end of summer. But since so many children go back to school in the middle of August—well back to school is old news now. If you are like me, I loved August as a kid because it was still vacation, and my grandmother was at our house a lot as she, my mom, and all of us kids canned and froze the bounty from our garden and the orchard. Oh, the good old days—better move on to September and books before I get maudlin.

If you like mysteries, you are probably familiar with author Robin Carroll. She has a new trilogy called the **Darkwater Inn series** set in the French Quarter of New Orleans. All three books are brimming with the ambiance of French sounding names, Mardi Gras, and mayhem and murder at its best. **Darkwater Secrets** finds hotel manager Adelaide Fountain with a murdered guest in her Bourbon Street hotel. Longtime friend and detective Beau Savoie begins to investigate with the hope that the distraught Adelaide will turn to him in her time of distress as he has been her secret admirer for years. But she seems more comfortable with her co-worker Chef Dimitri. Worse yet she seems to have hidden the fact that she knew the murdered guest. However Beau can't push too hard as he is keeping secrets himself. But can they really suppress the truth when there is a killer on the loose?

**Darkwater Lies** finds Adelaide just back from a long rest in Europe and ready to resume her job during Mardi Gras. Before her suitcases are put away, there is a jewel heist in the hotel and Detective Beau is back on the scene. He promptly discovers that it had to be an inside job, and his competition, Chef Dimitri, is a suspect. If that wasn't enough of a problem, Adelaide is kidnapped, and Beau and Dimitri have to put their distrust of each other aside to save her.

**Darkwater Truth** finds a recovered Adelaide starting a remodeling project on the inn. Behind one wall is a skeleton with an axe at its feet. If the problems the Darkwater Inn has faced recently have not been enough, now the past evils of the inn are snaking their way into the present. I won't give the plot away, but reviewers have said there are more twists, turns and tension in this series to keep you glued to the page until you discover the conclusion. Another plus is all three books are on the shelf, so there will not be a wait for the next book.

On a milder note, Beverly Lewis's sequel to **The Tinderbox** will be available mid-September. **The Timepiece** still finds the Miller house in an uproar. If you haven't read the **The Tinderbox** yet, I won't tell more than that Sylvia Miller stumbled on a family secret that sent this quiet and loving Amish house into a tailspin. Sylvia is trying to rebuild her trust in family members and evaluate her engagement to Titus. Most of all Sylvia is wondering if God can make something good come out of past mistakes. I will let you find that answer!

Since I am writing this on the last day of July and our book sale hasn't happened yet, I am going to take the leap of faith and thank all of you for the support you have given our sale with not only donations, but also purchases. Due to the success of the books sale over the last few years, we have become self supporting. Your support allows us to offer the best Christian books at your fingertips. Rarely is there any waiting for new books and a helpful volunteer is available to show you our wide variety. If you have not been in the library, you are missing a treasure trove of good reading.

See you in the library!!!

Pam and Donna

### Health and Wellness Presentation and Flu Shots

The Health and Wellness team will offer a special presentation during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> in the multi-purpose room. Please save the date and stay tuned for details on the speaker from UPMC Pinnacle!

The Health and Wellness Team is happy to announce that **Flu Shots** will be offered twice this fall on Sunday mornings! **October 6<sup>th</sup> (multi-purpose room 9 – 11 a.m.)** Free flu vaccination regardless of insurance coverage for ages 9 and up. However, *please bring insurance information with you.* **November 17<sup>th</sup> (multi-purpose room at the Mission Fair)**



### Little Friends Preschool Update

Back to school season is here! We are so excited to begin another school year on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> with all of our little friends from age 18-Months through 5-Years-Old! Little Friends Preschool offers the children in our community a wonderful resource for quality early childhood education in a supportive, Christian environment. And we feel blessed to be a mission of First United Methodist Church!

Classes meet from 9am-11:30am, September through May. We currently have VERY limited openings in our classes:

- 3-Year-Old (4 openings, Monday/Friday Classes)
- 4-Year-Old (2 openings)
- Morning Pre-K (2 openings)

Please tell your friends, families and neighbors about our wonderful little school that's here at FUMC! Our teachers are CPR & First Aid Certified, our students perform in 2 concerts each year, and we love being a ministry of FUMC! We are also beginning to gather donations for our Annual Silent Auction, which will be held Saturday, November 2, 2019. If you have anything you could donate to the auction, please contact Patti Herring or Janet Almond. Thank you!!!

## Praying Follower



### 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, has resumed meeting for the 2019/20 school year on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Prayer Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator landing).

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.

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 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.

### See You at the Pole

SYATP prayer events are happening at schools around the globe on September 25. All are encouraged to attend school events or join us here at the church that day as we cover our Little Friends Preschool, other area schools, students, teachers and other staff in prayer. Come to the church flagpole on that day at 9:05 am. Prayer will be brief, and “grab and go” breakfast snacks will be available.

### Drawing Nearer to God Creative Classes

First Church is excited to announce a series of creative classes designed to help you Draw Nearer to God through crafting and creating using God’s Word as our backdrop. The classes will be held at Mechanicsburg Crafter’s Retreat, 304 W. Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The six classes will focus on writing God’s Word in beautiful ways. You can choose to attend one or all of the classes. Classes will be led by church members and all materials and instruction provided at no cost. The classes are as follows:

- September 18:** Modern Calligraphy
- September 25:** Traditional Calligraphy
- October 2:** Writing God’s Word
- October 9:** Praying in Color
- October 16:** Bible Journaling
- October 23:** The Word in Watercolor



Please register at Time to Sign Up at: [ttsu.me/ynd84n](https://ttsu.me/ynd84n) or by contacting Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). For planning purposes, please register one week before each class. You do not need to be a member of First Church or any church to participate. No special skills required!

### Bless Our Schools Sunday

Bless Our Schools Sunday is coming up on September 15 - you won’t want to miss worship that day! Together we will pray for our schools, teachers, staff and students so they are ready to stand firm in Christ this school year.

## Passionate Worshipper



### Service of Praise & Prayer

Join us for a special time of worship to praise God and experience His provision, protection and promises through prayer focused on Psalm 23. We will gather on Sunday, September 29 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All are invited to come and be refreshed by the Good Shepherd!



## Worship

Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:15 am Foundation Service

10:45 am Convergent Service

Sunday School 9:30 am



**The 4th Sunday at 4:00...** an interactive and inclusive ministry for those with developmental disAbilities, their families, friends and care givers.

## Holy Communion

World Communion	September 1	Pew Service
	October 6	Loaves and Chalice
	November 3	Loaves and Chalice
First Sunday of Advent	December 1	Pew Service
Christmas Eve, 8:00 and 11:00	December 24	Loaves and Chalice



The summer has just flown by, hasn't it? We had a great time in Lancaster at the Area 2 Handbell Festival the end of June. It was so nice to see many of you from First Church in the audience! So everyone knows – Area 2 is returning to Lancaster the end of June, 2021. Mark your calendars now for the concert which will be the last Sunday in June!

We are ready to begin another year of ringing and are hoping to see a few new faces in the bell choirs this year! You're always welcome to join us – just give Kathie a call! We rehearse on Monday nights right now.

Mark your calendars now for our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Chicken BBQ – Saturday, October 12. Tickets will be available very soon!

## WORSHIP ARTS

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”*  
**Romans 12:1**

With many of our music groups starting back up again, it's important to remember both 'why' and 'how' we worship. Sometimes we go to church, but we don't quite worship. We'll sing the familiar hymns and songs, but we may not always put our focus on God. We'll listen to the sermons, or partake in prayer, but we may not let go of our own opinions or worries. True worship is celebrating God, and drawing closer to Him. God created us perfect in His own design, using all of our gifts He has bestowed upon us— we were made for worship.

While our current music ministries are ramping up for another joyful season, I invite you to join me in prayer with how God is calling you to use your creative gifts and talents in music, media, design, drama, dance, and all elements of creativity. All are welcome!

**Handbell Choir** – Mondays 6:30-8p in the choir room

Kathie Bittenbender - rbittenben@verizon.net

**Sanctuary Choir** – Wednesdays 8-9p in the sanctuary

Sarah Pugh – worship@fumchurch.com

**Sounds of Worship** – Thursdays, 7-8p in the choir room

Flossie Ryder - florencewryder@yahoo.com

**Worship Band** – Thursdays 6:30-7:45p in the sanctuary

Allison Ometz & Trace Morgan

**Accompanist/Organist**

Karen Philip

For more information about any of our music ministries and creative arts, please reach out to Sarah Pugh at [worship@fumchurch.com](mailto:worship@fumchurch.com)

## *Dedicated Missionary*



The Missions Committee invites you to join in mission work! Next Missions Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are planning to go on a short-term mission trip, please feel free to complete the application for financial assistance found on our website at [fumchurch.com](http://fumchurch.com), under the Missions tab. Questions, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).

### **Monthly Mission Opportunities:**

**Isaiah 61 Ministries** ~ First Church is pleased to support Isaiah 61 Ministries, a local organization that serves the needs of the homeless in Dauphin County. They provide a variety of services including a soup kitchen, clothing bank and Life groups. Specifically, First Church members help serve meals to the homeless in downtown Harrisburg on the third Wednesday of each month. The next volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, **September 18 at 6:30 p.m.** A carpool leaves from First Church at 6:00 p.m. for those who are interested. To volunteer, contact Tiffany Holland at [tholland1967@gmail.com](mailto:tholland1967@gmail.com).

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

This past month 2,350 “pennies” (\$23.50) were contributed to the Well Drilling Fund for Sierra Leone. Thank you to everyone!! Every penny helps so keep dropping your loose change into the ***Change for Water*** Bucket. One hundred percent (100%) of your donations are used to provide training and dig wells that supply safe drinking water for schools and communities in Sierra Leone. ***You can even throw in “paper” change ~ they’re the best!!***

### **Missions in Sierra Leone**

Our March 2020 mission trip will be here before we know it but it’s not too late for you to join us. Unlike other trips where relationship building was our main focus, this trip we will be working alongside the people of Taiama to paint the exterior of the church. If you’ve ever seen pictures of the church, you know it’s a sizable structure so all the help we can get is needed and welcomed.

Sierra Leone is once again experiencing overwhelming amounts of rainfall during this time of the year, causing flooding and erosion not just of the land but also of the structures. During a past trip, we saw firsthand the results of the rainy season on the buildings when we visited a church that no longer had a back wall. This is just one reason why painting the church is necessary. Please prayerfully consider being part of the 2020 team. You can contact Tiffany Holland, Sarah Jones or Kristin Brown if you have any questions or would like more information about the trip.

Even if you are not able to be part of the team going to Sierra Leone, you are still part of the mission in Sierra Leone and your help is needed. First, and foremost, we need your continued prayer as we plan and prepare for the trip and while we are on the trip. Second, we are raising funds for the trip through various fundraisers. We are selling t-shirts that you can wear to show your support or you can buy one for the team to take to someone in Taiama. Also, proceeds from specific gift cards purchased through the Scrip program in September, October and November will go to benefit the 2020 mission trip. Check the Missions in Sierra Leone display in the tower hallway for more information. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Save the Date for Annual Ministries and Missions Fair!**

Mark your calendars for the annual Ministries and Missions Fair on Sunday, November 17. This is a great opportunity to learn about all the ministries and missions of First Church and beyond! The fair will take place in the multipurpose room during the Sunday School hour from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Watch for details closer to the date.

## Relationship Builder



### Annual Fall Picnic

Mark your calendar! Our annual all-church fall picnic is coming up on Sunday, September 8. It is being held again this year at the Adventure Zone Playground Pavilion and begins at 3:30 pm. Come to play/visit and stay for the pot-luck supper at 5:00 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!

### MOPS Meets Here!

Our MOPS group will begin meeting for the 2019/20 school year on Friday, September 27. MOPS provides a welcoming and open environment where every mom can grow through friendship, mentoring and leadership development. Here are the basic elements of every group meeting:

- Fellowship time over light breakfast
- Valuable teachings/lesson time
- Small group discussion time
- Christian devotions to take away and apply to everyday life
- And best of all ... quality childcare!



### Squares and Prayers

Squares and Prayers, FUMC's quilt circle, would like to thank the congregation, along with the Veterans, for the warm reception of our quilts, including your thank you notes and donations. We are currently on summer break with plans to resume meeting weekly on Mondays at 9 am beginning September 9th. Everyone is welcome to join the circle! We are always in need of people to cut fabric, sew (hand or machine), tie knots, or simply to enjoy the fellowship of the group! In the meantime, Quilt Kits are located near the door to the multi-purpose room for anyone who desires to complete a kit at home.

### Broad Street Community Meal

The next Caring and Cooking for our Broad Street Community Meal will be held on Thursday, September 19. First Church, along with several local churches provide a meal, free of charge, to the families of Broad Street Elementary School. Please keep this event in prayer and if you would want to provide any of the food items or help with the meal, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). Thanks for your support!

### September Food Trucks Announced!

The Third Friday Food Trucks are here again on Friday, September 20 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. The trucks scheduled for September are: Mad Dash, Get Smok'd, 717 Tacos, The Chicken Truck, It's All Greek, Sugar Whipped and Smoothie King.

The Food Trucks are a great outreach to the community. Please stop in to take this opportunity to get to know our neighbors and enjoy great food! We can always use help with setting up tables and chairs, clean up and parking lot attendants. If you would like to help in any way, contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com). The last date for 2019 is Friday, October 18

### First Connections Gathering

The next First Connections time for fellowship will be held on Thursday, September 26th in the Tower Meeting Room (2nd floor children's Sunday School wing). Please join us between 1-3 pm to simply relax and visit with some First Church friends! Questions or need a ride? Ask Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 717-766-4611 x112

### Free Movie at Mt. Olivet UM Church, September 27

Join us at Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, 5000 Simpson Ferry Road, on Friday, **September 27** for a Free Movie Night! Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7:00 p.m. Movie will be announced later this month. Tables and chairs will be provided, but you can bring your own blankets and pillows for additional comfort. Snacks, drinks and popcorn will also be provided.



### Extravagant Hospitality

Summer is almost over and school is starting, so this would be a great time to invite friends and neighbors to join FUMC. We all need to be welcoming new guests and inviting them to join in our many activities. Our family picnic will be held on Sunday, the 8th of September as well as the new Sunday School classes. What a wonderful opportunity to include those who are new. Again in September, FUMC will host the Food Trucks on 9/20. Come and enjoy the crisp air of fall. Talk to someone new and show them the hospitality that God has given us!

### Generous Giver



### FINANCIAL REPORT Through July 31, 2019 58 % of year

General Fund 2019 budget	\$ 970,000
Actual income	\$ 533,095
Projected income	\$ 565,833
Actual expenses	\$ 516,284

As we finish up a wonderful Summer season, please pray for the mission of our church to open doors for our community, and to welcome newcomers to the love of Christ through the ministry of First Church. Your prayers and gifts are needed and appreciated.

### CROP Hunger Walk, October 20

First Church will once again be participating in the annual CROP Hunger Walk sponsored by Church World Services. This year's date is Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 117 W. Keller Street. This year we are excited to announce that our Rejoicing Spirits friends will be walking! If you want to support the CROP Walk and our walkers, please pick up the information across from the Welcome Desk or you can donate online at:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa/Team/View/114357/Rejoice-Walkers>. We'd love to have you walk with us! If we have the most walkers, we get to keep the celebration banner for 2019! All walkers will receive a Free tee-shirt and a meal will be served after the Walk compliments of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Let's all help to 'End hunger, one Step at a Time!' For more information, visit the website at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa/> or contact Lori Hoffnagle at [outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com).



## Tax Advantaged Ways to Gift to First United Methodist Church

1. If you are over 70 1/2 and have to take a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA AND are gifting money from your checking account, you may be able to save money on federal income taxes using the Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) rule.
2. If you have stocks with big gains and plan to sell them to gift to the church, you may be able to save on federal income taxes by gifting the shares instead.

If you're not sure how to do this and have questions contact Ken Rapp at (717) 364-7840.



### Mission Central 5K Race, Walk; Walk the Warehouse; One Mile Fun Run!

Save the Date for the Mission Central 5K on Saturday, October 26, starting at 9:00 a.m. This annual event raises much needed funds and awareness for Mission Central, located at 55 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg. New this year, you can walk inside the warehouse and learn more about Mission Central! This event is professionally timed and prizes will be awarded to top runners! For more information and registration, visit the website here: <https://missioncentral.org/events/>.

## Share the Harvest

We once again invite you to *share the harvest* with others this summer! If you have extra flowers, fruits or vegetables to share, bring them to the coffee prep area (right hand turn at the end of the Main Entrance hallway) anytime this summer. If you don't have access to a garden, feel free to help yourself or share with a friend! Plastic bags are available for you to use. If you have questions, contact Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 766-4611 x112.



## Hope Blooms

**Hope Blooms!** Take a stroll on the Frederick Street side of First Church to see our flower cutting garden! With God's sunshine and rain, we are growing flowers to share in small bunches with notes of encouragement as an outreach ministry! Questions or to be involved, please contact Janice Bowen at [WeCare@fumchurch.com](mailto:WeCare@fumchurch.com) or 766-4611 x112.

"Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer." ~ Romans 12:12

# Women's Ministry

Any and all women are invited to participate in upcoming events and activities. This page gives you an overview of all the ways to connect. More information can be conveniently found in other parts of the newsletter or feel free to contact the person involved with the event. The Women's Ministry Facebook page has been created! Look for it on our FB page titled "First Church Women's Ministry" and feel free to join!

## United Methodist Women

### DEBORAH CIRCLE

Sandy Walton ~ swalton54@comcast.net  
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

### MARTHA CIRCLE

Marley Ann Schmick ~ marleyannrichard@gmail.com  
Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

### RUTH CIRCLE

Joan Mains ~ mains.joan@yahoo.com  
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

Nancy Eddy ~ naeddy3@aol.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

## Other Opportunities to Connect

### DAY OF PAMPERING

Karin McHale ~ karinmch@comcast.net

### LADIES' SEPTEMBER TEA

Janice Bowen ~ wecare@fumchurch.com  
**September 19**

### MOMS IN PRAYER

Deb Noss ~ sdppp@msn.com  
Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room

### MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Summer Outings:  
September 27 (9:15am; First Meeting)  
Tina Eaton ~ adultministry@fumchurch.com

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

**February 7 to 9, 2020:** Mt. Asbury Retreat Center  
Patti Herring ~ familyzeke@verizon.net

### ZUMBA Gold (low impact dance/aerobic exercise)

Multipurpose Room  
Tuesday at 1:00p.m. ~  
Mary Stine: freddlz@comcast.net  
Thursday at 1:00 p.m. ~  
Lisa Lynch: lisaloveszumba@gmail.com

## Upcoming Events:

**November 24:** World Thank Offering and Mission Meal

**December 14:** Marketplace of Miracles and Cookie Walk, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. **Start thinking of the type of cookies you want to donate to the Cookie Walk!**

## Who is My Neighbor, Christianity & Immigration

This Social Justice Seminar will be held on Saturday October 5 at Aldersgate UMC, 109 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Mifflintown from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. How has God called us to build hospitable communities of radical welcome for all people? And what does that mean for us here and now? Join our guest speaker Jay Godfrey, Executive for Faith & Social Justice Education from United Methodist Women who will lead us in an exploration of who is our neighbor. Cost \$20/person includes lunch. To register, contact the church office at [aumcmifflintown@gmail.com](mailto:aumcmifflintown@gmail.com) or 717.436.6750 or visit the website at: <https://www.aumcmifflintown.org/events/who-is-my-neighbor-a-social-justice-seminar>.

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## Men's Small Group Video Series

The "Kingdom Man" video series has ended, but a new one will begin in September. The men will meet for a final session in August and discuss ideas for the next video series. Watch the bulletin and announcement board in the Narthex for more details. The time of the meetings will not change - the next meeting will be at the Eaton home on **Wednesday, Sept 4th, from 8-9:30pm**, and the series will continue on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month**. Contact Barry Eaton (theeaton5@verizon.net) or John Bowen (bowenhome720@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like more information.

## Men's Breakfast

An open invitation is extended to any and all men who want to gather for good food and light-hearted fellowship on the first Saturday morning of each month. Please come join us at Brother's Restaurant, located at 705 Gettysburg Pike in Mechanicsburg. Our next gathering will be on **Saturday, September 7 at 7:30 am**. Hope to see you there!

## Men's Group Activities

Watch the bulletin, the announcement board or your emails for info on a men's golf outing being planned for late September/early October!



## Men's Rally on September 28

The Harrisburg District Office invites you to the **Going Deeper into Faith Men's Rally** on **Saturday, September 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Lunch is included. The rally is for men, men's ministry leaders and participants and pastors. The location is Aldersgate UM Church, 1480 Jerusalem Road, Mechanicsburg. The day includes worship, breakout-sessions and several resource tables pertaining to Men's Ministry. To register, call the Harrisburg District Office at 717-766-8124 or harrisburg@susumc.org by September 18. Look for the flyer on our bulletin boards.

## Tool Pool

A directory for any hand or power tools that you may need to borrow for one-time use. Contact: Don Karns at dekarns0107@gmail.com

## Men's Retreat - Save the Date!

We have reserved Wesley Forest for the annual men's winter retreat. Dates are March 6-8, 2020.

## Church News and Notes

### Love & sympathy...

to the family upon the death of Doris Zimmerman, on August 11th.

to the family upon the death of Dave Leinhos, on August 23rd.

### Thank you...

*While recovering from my recent fall, I was pleased to be remembered by my First Church family. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, flowers, cards, and meals. I enjoyed visits from Pastor John and Janice Bowen for my communion. Many thanks to all.*

~ Blessings, Pat Hutter

*We want to thank our church family for their thoughts and prayers for our daughter, Steph, while she was in the hospital. Thanks also to Pastor Denny and Betsy for the visits and the gift of a quilt. Janice Bowen, your love and caring is very much appreciated.*

~ Roy and Ginnie Miller

*I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome as I begin my ministry as Office Manager here at First United Methodist Church. My transition has gone very well, thanks to the care and kindness of so many wonderful people. I look forward to getting to know everyone better as we all serve together!*

~ Ellen Hill

### Special Birthdays

Emma Whitcomb .....September 8  
Patricia Sheely .... September 11  
Kenneth Nelson... .....September 13  
George Reh fuss... .....September 16  
George Carpenter .....September 18  
Joan Stokes..... .....September 19  
Ralph Harkins ..... September 25

Peggy Shenberger .....September 28  
Margaret Hassinger.....October 8  
Ray Hutter .....October 13  
Carol Moomaw.....October 21  
Winslow Brown .. .....October 23  
Donald Shover.....October 23  
J. Paul Strock.....October 31

### Special Anniversaries

- ♥ Robert & Judith Wertz married 56 years on September 1
- ♥ Edwin & Virginia Johnson married 55 years on September 3
- ♥ Darrell & Barbara Sill married 52 years on September 16
- ♥ George & Mary Beth Snoke married 53 years on September 24
- ♥ Richard & Marley Ann Schmick married 55 years on September 26
- ♥ J. Paul & Lorraine Strock married 66 years on September 27
- ♥ Leroy & Pamela Weaver married 57 years on October 7
- ♥ Ray & Patricia Hutter married 64 years on October 8
- ♥ Ralph & Gwendolyn Harkins married 57 years on October 20
- ♥ Paul & Vesta Rynard married 55 years on October 24

**FIRST NEWS FIRST**

**Editor:** Ellen Hill

The **deadline** for submitting articles  
for the **October** issue is  
**September 15**

**Early submissions always  
appreciated!**