

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

November & December 2017



November and December are months where we spend a lot of time with family and friends sharing moments of thanksgiving and fellowship. Whether it is at a Thanksgiving dinner or around a Christmas tree giving and receiving gifts, these two months are full of the sacred.

As the staff at First Church have begun to prepare for Advent and Christmas, we discerned the importance of dwelling within a

loving community or the home we choose to belong at. Think about it, God chose to make His home among us. It was out of God's great love for humanity that God sent his son Jesus to be born and live on earth. Was it always pleasant? No. Were there moments of conflict and struggle? Absolutely. However, God chose us. God chose us because God loves us. Through Christ, we can find the home we have always looked for knowing that God desires to dwell within and around us.

Would it not be amazing if everyone in our community had a place to call home? Unfortunately, that is not the case. There are individuals within our own community, and even our local church, who feel as if they are without a place or a people to call home. The addicted, abused, ill, disabled, lonely, elderly, home-bound, and many more struggle to find a place or a people to call home. This holiday season, reflect on how you can create room in your own life to welcome God's love. Reflect on how God is calling you to reach out to those who are struggling this holiday season and show them hospitality in which God has shown to all of us. Some possible ways to do this is to invite a neighbor over for dinner one night, sponsor a low income family and provide Christmas gifts for them, or volunteer at a food pantry or donate clothes or gently used toys to a homeless shelter.

However God leads you to make more room for Christ in your life, do so knowing that, in your doing, God is transforming you and the lives of those which God has led you to minister with. I hope you will join us this holiday season as we seek to make room for God in our lives and community.

Nov 5: Living a Legacy (All Saints Sunday)

Nov 12: First: The Commitment (Pledge Card Sunday)

Nov 19: Help. Thanks. Wow.

Dec 3: Come Down Home (Communion Sunday)

Dec 10: Home is Where We Meet (Christmas Sweater Sunday)

Dec 17: Joy is Our True Home

Dec 24: God Makes This World a Home (10:15a.m.)

One Night in Bethlehem (6 p.m.) A Manger for the World (10 p.m.)



Dear First Church,

I want to start my letter by saying, "Thank You!". The month of October is a very busy time in the sphere of Family Ministry and I am extremely grateful for all of those who helped me out in any-way. I wanted to first thank all of the volunteers that participated in Creative Arts Camp! We averaged between 30 and 40 kids every single day and from what I have heard the children enjoyed not only the crafts, but also the music, the volunteers, the food, and so much more! I also want to thank all those that lent a helping hand with the Harvest Party. Everything came together and it was fun to catch up with one another, play some games, and enjoy some delicious food. And although we've yet to complete the Youth Lock-In and Trunk or Treat, I wanted to thank all the individuals that are taking part in those events! Jesus calls us to follow him and it's a great blessing to see all the dedicated servants that call Hagerstown First United Methodist Church their home!

As October comes to a close, we have some fun things planned for the Youth and Tweens in November. The Tweens will continue to use the Groove Curriculum as they look at what it means to have character. The Youth will continue to study the parables of Jesus in Sunday school and in the evenings we will wrap up the Storyline curriculum. It is my hope that by the end of November and early December that we can sit down and begin writing out our own stories, so that others may hear of our faith stories and how we came to know Jesus.

Following November, we will begin Advent and enter a new season. I can tell you that there will be some interesting new things happening with the Christmas Eve services and there will be a Youth/Tween Christmas Party in store for everyone 4th-12th grade (Volunteers are also welcome to join!). It should be a magical month filled with Christmas cheer and plenty of surprises!

Family Ministry Director Adam Duell





80+ - 90+
Happy Birthday Methodist Friends!

Phil Bond November 9
Ron Luellen November 12



Mary Asche December 7
Don Hilbert December 15
Bertha Davis December 18
Ginny Ozbun December 28

7th- 12th YOUTH & Tweens 4-6TH

Mark Your Calendars
Invite Your Friends We got Fun Stuff
Happening for Youth

7th-12th & Tweens (4th-6th) @ 6:30-8 p.m.
Sometimes there are changes. Always check with Adam

Holiday Pitch-In November 14

You are welcome to share United Methodist Women's Holiday Pitch-In November 14th at 5:45 and eat at 6 p.m. We always try to make this an extra opportunity of giving to a local agency or organization. This year UMW Executive Committee has chosen the local Trustee's Office. The emphasis are: dish detergents, laundry items, toilet paper and paper towels/ paper products. Everyone of the church community is welcome to donate to this project. Thank You.



Ages Birth thru 3rd Grade



Bring the Kids
Fun stuff happens
Every Sunday
Morning
Beginning at 9:00

First Sunday Morning each month K.I.D.S. will worship with family. Remainder of the month they have their own Worship Service just for kids.

Kids In Divine Service

designed just for.....



United Methodist



Women News

Lucille Raines Residence welcomed the United Methodist Women of Hagerstown Saturday, September 30th. Nine members went on a field trip to downtown Indy. Our first stop was Coat Check Coffee, owned and operated by Paul and Neal Warner, who grew up in this church.



Next we visited the Lucille Raines Home, an addiction rehabilitation home solely supported and run by the UMW of Indiana. Carolyn Marshall, top picture, hosted the meal and overall view of the facility. It was a fun, educational, and inspiring day. The picture of former director who passed away this year was Evelyn Shaffer. She was one of our guest speakers several times and participated in one of our Mission Conferences. Those who attended were left to right Jean Dille, resident, Donna Winters, Sharon Howell, Marti Retherford, Carol Meyer, Ginny Ozbun, Karen Leonard, Mary Ann Pollard and Peggy Horr. Not pictured Susie Lewis. **Karen Leonard** accepted the call to be on the Lucille Raines Residence Board of Directors. She begins her term in January. In other position news, **Jean Dille** will be vice-president of the East District beginning January 2018 while **Sharon Howell** will be Education and Interpretation Mission Co-coordinator.

Local Invite November 14, Tuesday at 5:45 will be our local November General Meeting. Reflections will host and provide meat and dessert for the meal. Bring a side dish or salad. Our speaker Howard Lamson, will discuss immigration in Wayne Co. We will also be celebrating World Thank Offering that evening. Please come!

District Local Officer Training Saturday, November 18 here. Registration at 9 a.m. Light Breakfast. If you want to volunteer food or drink, please call me at 238-0870. Our speaker will be by the delightful, wise, and fun Pauline Neal who led the Mission U class on Climate Justice. She will also share her thoughts on our call to Racial Justice: Topic "With Blessings Come Responsibilities". District Officers will then share with their local counterparts new training info. Please let Jean Dille know if you are planning on attending by November 13th.

**Community Food Pantry
Food Donations Always Needed**

Place food donations in the shopping carts located in the front entrance of the church.

May drop off at the Trustee's Office, 37 E Main St
Jeffersonwpwayne@comcast.net
For info contact Joe P. Smith

Gleaners returns in April

Community In School Needs:

Liquid Soap, Hand Sanitizer, chap sticks
Snacks individually wrapped and sealed.
Examples: crackers, fruit cups, pudding cups, etc.
These are given out by the School Nurse and CIS Coordinator.

Place in the white laundry basket located in the Café.

In the bookrack @ Friendship Haven Café
Cost: \$1.00 Please place in the box in the rack.



**Daily Devotion Booklets
Upper Rooms & Daily Bread**



**Provide Nettle Creek School
Children for the holidays.**

If you would consider sponsoring an individual, family, or families, please contact Joe P. Smith as soon as possible. Like to have all gifts delivered to the Trustee's Office no later than Dec. 18. We offer the option of wrapping the gifts to the parents. If you would like to donate wrapping paper and tape, it will be put to good use.

The Annual UMW Cookie Walk

Trustee's Office Room

Friday, December 1st 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, December 2nd. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or until sold out.



Volunteers who bake cookies are asked to bring six dozen cookies (or more).

For All the Saints



November 5 is All Saints Sunday & 80+ Birthday Party

Martha Madonna Bookout	December 30, 2016
Betty June Beachler	April 6, 2017
Lee Ozbun	May 12, 2017
Marcia Anne Leeka Powell	August 11, 2017
Kermit Boyd Thomas	September 1, 2017
Mary Elizabeth Holcomb	October 7, 2017

Thanks from Allison Ullery Community IN Schools

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Communities IN Schools. It is great to know I have such wonderful support in our little town.



Stewardship Report As of October 30, 2017

2017 Total Giving for Church Ministries (Budget) = \$155,989.86

Faith Promise (Mission) = \$16,848.35

Total Giving for GOOD Fund (Capital Projects) = \$3952.00

2017 YTD Total Giving for Hours of Service = (Gifts of Love)

2017 Total Service Value YTD=\$2004.60

Offering Envelopes



Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matthew 6:19-21**

Name _____ Date _____

My loving gift of treasure for God's Kingdom:

Church Ministries \$ _____ Faith Promise \$ _____

GOOD Fund \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

My loving gift of time and talent to others:

I gave _____ hours of service to _____

I gave _____ hours of service to _____

The church no longer identifies those that give by a number. Our giving records are maintained by the name of the giver either on the envelope used or by the name on the check. You may still designate your giving on the envelope to the same categories as we have always had: Church Ministries (budget), Faith Promise (missions), GOOD Fund (Capital Projects), and other special offerings or gifts. We have also provided space to acknowledge the numerous gifts of time that our congregation gives to the church and our community. These are all gifts of love!



Join us to worship these Advent Services.

Christmas Eve 10:15 a.m

Dec 24: 10:15 a.m. God Makes This World a Home

Come to Bethlehem Tonight!

6:00 p.m. One Night in Bethlehem

10 p.m. A Manger for the World

6 p.m. & 10 p.m. Both will be Candlelight Services



Daily Bible Readings

This new year of 2018 let us continue our focus on the New Testament. Begin with I Thessalonians and finish by January 2019 with the Book of Revelation. Set your own pace.



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