

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

March & April 2018



The Pastor Pen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you joyful of what God has done and revealed so far in this new year of 2018. We truly serve a powerful and wonderful God. I am overjoyed by the extravagant generosity shown through our February "One Thing"

which sought to lend a hand to those suffering from domestic violence, abuse, and other forms of violence through partnering with Genesis YWCA. I am overjoyed by the turn out for our "Invitation" Study which is a journey through the entire Bible in ten weeks. I am overjoyed by the responses of "yes" I have heard and witnessed of church members responding to a need in our community and world. I am overjoyed that we are commissioning over forty persons to do mission work in Sebring, Florida. I am overjoyed by the reality that we are nearing a celebration of resurrection in Easter Sunday and how Jesus is still relevant today as he was over two thousand years ago. I am overjoyed that we continue to encourage one another pursuing to reflect the character of God in all aspects of our lives.

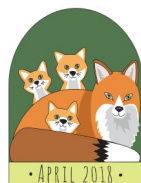
I am overjoyed because I choose to direct my focus on the joy that God is birthing all around us. There is a lot of things that can grab our attention and rob us of the joy God gives us in Christ. However, as it is written in Philippians 4, we are called to focus our attention and lives on the good, loving, beautiful, and noble. We are to focus our attention on Jesus. Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel "Seek first the Kingdom of God..."

May you be encouraged to place your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. May you choose to live in the fullness of God's love, and seek to be aware of how God is birthing His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?

Grace and Peace, *Pastor John*

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I cannot wait to jump into the months of March and April! There will be so many fun opportunities in store for all the Youth, Tweens, and Children at First Church! The most important thing that will be happening is the confirmation of all the Junior/Senior High Youth that have completed the Confirmation series! Confirmation Sunday will be held on April 29th so be sure to mark that on your calendars! In the coming weeks a small handout will be given to the confirmands so we can get the proper names to place on their certificates and to reserve seating for family members. But wait! On that same Sunday we will be putting together a special Youth Sunday service. We will need all hands on deck with Confirmands, the other Youth, and Tweens. It is the hope of Pastor John and myself that a special offering will be taken this Sunday and all proceeds will be donated to the summer mission trip, so we want to put together an extremely special service

In the months of March and April we will be entering some interesting discussions in our Youth Group times. With the Junior/Senior High Youth we will wrap up our discussions on romantic relationships and will transition to addressing world issues and how we can be part of a solution. With the Tweens, I will continue to come up with unique topics and conversations that engage them in an exciting and fun manner!

Sunday School will also enter some interesting changes. The High School Youth will continue a study on practices that were important to John Wesley's early Bible studies and ministries. The Tweens will be starting a new mission minded study. Erin Doerstler and I have had some discussions and we believe that the Tweens need some new opportunities to practice missions and we have discussed some potential opportunities for them. In the coming weeks a letter will be sent to the parents discussing our idea and plan and we hope you will allow your children to take part in this service opportunity.

I also wanted to briefly give a quick thanks to all of the adults that helped out with the Winter Jam Concert! I had some time to talk with some of the youth and they all had a great time and that would not be possible without the help of all the adults that offer to spend time with the youth! You are all a blessing and I'm extremely grateful for your service and dedication!

The last thing I wanted to make mention is to keep a lookout for future announcements on movie nights! There have been a new batch of family/children's movies that have recently and will be released within the next coming months and we hope to provide new opportunities for families to sit down together and enjoy a nice movie!

With regards to any or all of the above topics, you can email me at aduelli01@yahoo.com call or text me at (317) 709-4250. Here's to an amazing March and April!

Blessings, Adam Duell Director of Family Ministries



Happy Birthday
80+ & 90+

Coyeta Jayne Miller turns 95 March 21
Brookdale 3700 South A St Richmond IN 47374



David Wilson April 8
2203 N Jacksonburg Rd
Cambridge City IN 47327



Information Needed

The Church Office is working on a 2018 Membership/Friends/Leadership Directory.

The goal is to have this ready Easter Sunday, April 1. Please call us with your name, address, email address, phone #, cell #.

Your willingness will help us reach the goal line. Remember our phone number is 765-489-4558.



Ages Birth thru 3rd Grade

Bring the Kids
Fun stuff happens here
Every Sunday Morning
Beginning at 9:00 a.m.



Every Sunday Morning as part of our Worship Service there is a special time just for kids? **Kids In Divine Service** is a special time during the service with a message designed just for



UMW President Mindy Smith Shares with You



Another beautiful sunny morning, the birds have been so happy these past few mornings as I leave for work. It's hard not to have your hopes up for an early spring.

Those of you who could not attend our February General Meeting, you missed a morning of great fellowship, not to mention the yummy Brunch our ladies put together for us. Thank You to all who contributed to our table that day. Then our own Donnie Benedict gave a very enlightening, informative presentation. Donnie shared how the Richmond police are improving the way they serve the community, as well as plans to keep moving in new more proactive ways. Donnie said in several groups he presented to last year, the business people present pointed out that new direction they are heading is comparable to Risk Management in the business world. I was glad to hear Donnie's presentation and the positive changes he's seen and help initiate in the Richmond Police Department. This kind of message is very much in keeping with the Social Action side of our organization and keeping current with how to be the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world.

That same weekend we had members Karen Leonard and Sharon Howell attend our annual Spiritual Growth Retreat. We look forward to hearing a report from those ladies next time we are together as a group.

Another chance to raise your Social Action awareness is to attend our March 8th Legislative Day. Jean Dilley is the person to contact if you have an interest in seeing how the Church, especially the United Methodist Women interacts with our legislators. Jean always has positive comments to share about this event.

On Monday, March the 5th at 7 p.m. our Executive Committee will be meeting to plan out more of our calendar year.

Looking ahead to April on Saturday April 14th the UMW will have their Spring District Meeting in DeSoto. Make plans to include this event on your calendar. Keep looking for new ways to serve Jesus and our community, Mindy

Living ...



17% of all the financial gifts given through the church offerings are used to support ministries outside the church walls in our community, our country, and around the globe. We invite you to live out your faith by helping to transform the world through acts of hospitality, care and service.

Food Give Away @ Trustees Office
March 22 @ 10 a.m.
37 W Main St

UMW
Continue saving postage stamps & box labels. Containers located in Narthex.

Food Donations Always Needed Community Food Pantry

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

Or

Drop off at the Trustee's Office, 37 E Main St
Jeffersontpwayne@comcast.net

IN Community School Needs for Both High School and Grade School

Your contributions are much appreciated.
The schools say Thanks!

In School Needs: Snacks individually wrapped and sealed. No peanut butter. Examples: crackers, snacks & bars. Place in the white laundry basket located in the Café.

Sympathies: The church extends their prayers to Betty Thalls and Dan Ballenger families at the passing of their mother, Louise Newton. Louise Newton's Celebration of Life will be Sunday, March 4 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Meeting Place. Stop by to greet the family.

The church extends prayers to Joyce Wilson's family at the passing of her mother, Alice Matney.

Congratulations to Don, Jane Sturgeon & Family
Their son James & family blessed Don & Jane with the arrival of Charlotte Grace 7 lb. 12 oz and 21". Her big sister is Harper. Blessings to the family.



Stewardship Report as of February 2018

- 2018 Total Giving for Church Ministries (Budget) = \$33,766.23
- 2018 YTD Total Expenses for Church Ministries (Budget) = Not available
- YTD Faith Promise (Mission) = \$1039.00
- YTD Total Giving for GOOD Fund (Capital Projects) = \$495.00
- YTD Total Giving for Hours of Service = 216.50 Hours = \$4776.00

Offering Envelopes 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!

Did you pray for someone, read to the children, attend Bible study, work at the Thrift Shop, etc.? Put down your hours you volunteer on the bottom of the offering envelope.

It is amazing to see hours you've given for God.



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 _____

Holy Week March 25

Waving the Palms



PALM SUNDAY

March 29



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Two Services
Noon & 6:30 p.m.



GOOD FRIDAY



EASTER SUNDAY

8 a.m. Chapel Service
Continental Breakfast @ Café
9 a.m. Egg Hunt
10:15 Worship

Contact Us:

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Carol Meyer
Church Secretary
hfumc@firsthagerstown.org
489-5536 (After office hours)

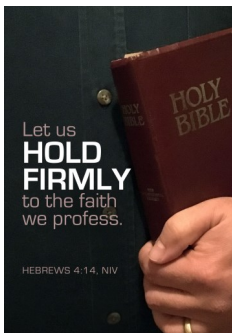
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www.firsthagerstown.org



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Next Steps

