

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

Nov./Dec. Newsletter 2018



The Pastors Pen

What is Christmas to you?

For some Christmas is _____

- ◆ Presents
- ◆ Cheesy Christmas songs
- ◆ Sweaters and movies
- ◆ Santa and Christmas Trees
- ◆ Time with Family (even the family you wish you didn't have to visit)
- ◆ Shopping and spending money you might not have (Americans use credit cards the most in November and December)
- ◆ Running Errands and being exhausted
- ◆ A time of grief and brokenness

What if Christmas was something different? What if God's intention for Christmas is not about the stuff we surround ourselves with and it was more about the Savior who came to be with us?

What if God has something amazing planned for you this holiday season that will be a blessing to you and those around you?

This Advent, we will journey through the true meanings of Christmas in a series called "Christmas is _____". We will be looking at what the world wants Christmas to be and God declared Christmas to be for all of humanity. If you are looking for more this holiday season, please join us this Advent (December 2-24) and discover the true meaning of Christmas.

- December 2: Christmas is Hope
- December 9: Christmas is Peace
- December 16: Christmas is Joy (Christmas Sweater Sunday)
- December 21: Longest Night Service of Loss & Healing (Location TBD)
- December 23: Christmas is Love
- December 24: Christmas is Jesus Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(Same Service at 6:30p.m. and 10.p.m.)

Finally, I hope you will join us for our **Community Thanksgiving Service** at First Church on November 18 as we give thanks for all of God's blessings in our area. We will also be celebrating the ministry career of Rev. Bob and Carol Fannin as they transition into retirement. Bob will be preaching. You will not want to miss this opportunity!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



November is only one week away and December is right around the corner! Before I share what will be happening with the Youth, Tweens, and Children, I want to take a moment to say thank you. If you volunteered for Creative Arts Camp, the Harvest Party or the Youth Lock-In, I am incredibly grateful for everything you did. If we totaled every person that attended those events our church reached right around 100 children, youth, and adults and it would not have been possible without all of the volunteers. We are all a part of the Body of Christ and I think He would be proud of all our efforts. I cannot say thank you enough. In November I hope to reach out to all of the volunteers that participated in any of these events to receive feedback on what went well and what could use changes. There will also be a small meeting of the Leaders for CAC and we will discuss the vision of CAC and where we see it going in the coming years. I will make sure to inform you when that meeting will take place, once we have looked over schedules to find the best date.

There are two important dates that I want to share with the congregation. On November 18th the youth will be making their second college visit. On this date we will be visiting Butler University. On these trips it is my intention to show the youth some of the different religious organizations that Universities offer incoming freshman. We also would like to show our youth a few different churches that are in the area so that they may better discern where they would like to worship when they leave this community. November 25th marks the Hanging of the Greens where we help get the church prepared for the Advent season. A sign-up sheet will be put on the welcome desk to mark the different locations that need decorating. Anyone is welcome to help and we look forward to welcoming the Christmas season to our church. Youth Group, Tween Night, and Sunday will continue to remain steady with all. I do want parents to know on December 23rd we will have our annual Christmas Party. Any tween or youth is welcome to attend and encouraged to invite friends. I've also been asked by another church if we would be willing to do some things together. I have gotten to know a few of their youth through Mission U and I will be inviting them to our Christmas Party! I would also like to mention that our youth are involved in a lot of winter activities and all are welcome to attend. The high school puts on an annual winter concert that displays the bands and choirs at the school. We also have a handful of that perform winter dance recitals and would love to see some friendly faces in the audience. Basketball seasons will be starting and we have another handful of youth that will be playing on the JV and varsity teams. I am unsure of dates at the moment, but will post them outside my door when dates become clear. With regards to any or all of the above topics, you can email me at duellhagerstown@gmail.com or can call or text me at (317) 709-4250.

Here's to a Merry November and December!

Blessings, Adam Duell Director of Family Ministries



Happy Birthday 80+

Phil Bond, PO Box 125 Hagerstown November 9
Ron Luellen, 2030 Chester Blvd Bldg.1H101 Richmond
November 12



Mary Asche c/o Steve Cox, 4696 W CO Rd 400S Winchester
47394 December 7
Don Hilbert 521 Jones Rd Hag. December 15
Bertha Davis, 137 W Main St, Hag. December 18
Ginny Ozbun, 50 S Pearl St Hag. December 28

Invite Your Friends

Fun Stuff Happening for Youth

7th—12th 2nd & 4th Sundays 6³⁰ - 8
Tweens (4th-6th) 3rd Sundays 6:30-8 pm
Sometimes there are changes.
Always check with Adam



Bring the Kids
Fun stuff happens
Every Sunday Morning
Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Ages Birth thru 3rd Grade



Every Sunday during Worship Service
there is a special time just for
Kids In Divine Service Ages 3-3rd

UMW President Mindy Smith asks “Did You Hear That Church?”



Last Sunday on my way to church I had stopped to pick up Jayden and during our short ride together he said something that ended “yeah when I’m old enough I want to work at the Church !! WOW! Did you hear that Church? Did you hear that Creative Arts Camp helpers/volunteers? We are making a difference~a nine year old wants to work at church when he’s old enough ~ Our job is to keep that momentum going in his life. We have to keep making Jesus real for Jayden and all the youth at our church. We are making a difference.

Pastor John's sermon Sunday was highlighting all the areas on Outreach our church had been busy with in the month of October. I won't repeat his list here since I want to share United Methodist Women activities with you here, and we've been busy with Outreach and Education events of our own.

On September 8th, we had 11 members attend our Fall District Meeting in Yorktown where Circuit Court Judge Kim Dowling spoke about Human Trafficking in the Delaware County area.

Then on October 6 Jean Dilley and MaryAnn Pollard traveled to Gethsemane UM Church for our Annual Meeting . We still have these other opportunities coming up that you can participate in: Our UMW will be trying to raise “Money for Mortar” this fall as our Lucille Raines Building in Indianapolis needs to be tuck pointed. Karen Leonard will be giving us the pertinent details of this project soon.

On Tuesday, November 6 we will have our next **General Meeting, our featured speaker will be Amanda Stainbrook and possibly some of her J.A.G! students to give us a better understanding of just what the JAG Class is** accomplishing in the lives of her students. If your wondering what the JAG stands for, Amanda says it's Jobs for America's Graduates. To learn even more all our church family is invited to join us on November 6th at 5:45 for our pitch-in. meal and stay for the program following.

Also coming up is the East District 2018 November Event on Saturday, November 10th 9:30 to noon at Connersville First Church. Our educational topic is Racial Justice presented by Cathie Burris, the Indiana UMW President.

The last event our UMW Calendar would be our Annual Cookie Walk. This year's dates are Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1st. Be planning what treats you want to create for this year.

God Bless you each as we head into this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I pray we can keep our focus on the real reason for this season Jesus our Savior. At the end I want to add one last item of business. When the UMW have their Holiday General Meeting we always pick a group or organization to give a love offering or gifts to. Our focus for this year's November 6th meeting will be our own church. Items we are suggesting would be things to keep our kitchen and bathrooms well stocked such as: Dish Soap, Paper towels, SOS pads, Zip Lock Bags quarts; gallons; Hand Soap in pump bottles or bottles of soap refills; Kleenex's In Cubes or pocket packs; Swifter mop & Cleaning Solution

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 trans-

Gleaners - Volunteer helping with this Mission Outreach!
No Winter months
Back here April 26, 2019

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
Jeffersonwpwayne@comcast.net

Dear UMC Congregation,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during and after my recent hospitalization. May God bless you.

Bob Fast



Help Provide Hope This Christmas

Fifty five Nettle Creek families representing 113 children and youth find themselves needing assistance during the Holidays. **Our goal remains to provide Nettle Creek School Children with as good a Holiday Season as possible. Joe P. Smith**

If you would consider sponsoring an individual, family, or families please contact us as soon as possible as we are in the process of distributing the identified needs to organizations and individuals. The combined listing available in our office includes gender, age, clothing and shoe sizes, and any special wish they may have.

Thank You for your part in making Nettle Creek Valley a better place to live. Your gifts provide Hope to families who feel forgotten. Your gifts provide healing to families who've been hurt. Your gifts provide trust to families who feel forsaken. What a wonderful community when members share!

All gifts preferably unwrapped with the number of the individual on the package no later than December 21. Also if you would like to donate wrapping paper and tape so the parents may wrap them, it will be put to good use.

All Saints Sunday, November 4

Member Betty J. Murray 9/12/18

Methodist Minister Rev. Herschel Murray 7/22/18

Friends and Relatives of Our Congregation Debbie Cowan's father; Carl Seffrin's parents; Jessica Moore's mother; Connie Rhodus's husband; Dan Ballenger & Betty Thalls' mother; Debra Salhoff's mother; Bob Davis's son, Sue Crossley's brother.

Stewardship Report as of October 21, 2018 = \$11,999.68

YTD Faith Promise (Mission) = \$ 427.00

YTD Total Giving for GOOD Fund (Capital Projects) = \$170.00

YTD Total Giving for Hours of Service = 149



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.

My Offering
FIRST CHURCH
www.firstchurchomc.org

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 _____

Hanging of the Greens



Sunday, November 25
Lunch & Decorate
Everybody come to help!

Be Watching for the Sign Up Sheet!
Cookies & Candies



Cookie Walk

November 30
& December 1

Contact Us:

Rev. John E. Huff
Senior Pastor
John.huff@inumc.org
812-592-0359

Adam Duell
Director of Family Ministry
Duellahagerstown@gmail.com
317-709-4250

Rick Peelle
Director of Music & Worship
nccgardenspso@aol.com
765-220-2336

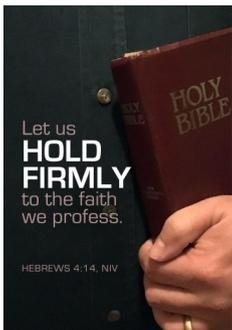
Carol Meyer
Church Secretary
hfumc@firsthagerstown.org
489-5536 (After office hours)

Connect with Us-
www.firsthagerstown.org



First United Methodist

199 South Perry Street
PO Box 65
Hagerstown, Indiana 47346



Living
Learning
Loving

Next Steps

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 2

Hagerstown IN 47346

CART-RT.SORT

Return Service Requested