

# FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

March/April Newsletter 2019

**Have you ever heard** someone say something was from the Bible and think, "I don't think that's in the Bible"? Many times we hear things that are quoted as scripture but do not have a biblical foundation. This Lent, we will explore such phrases that are said and compare them to the Bible. The series leads us right up to the triumphant arrival of Christ to Jerusalem in Palm Sunday. **Holy Week** this year will be focused on one central theme, reconciliation. Through the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday, there is a core direction to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is the reconciling of a sinful humanity with a Holy God. Through the cross and empty tomb, Jesus reconciles the sin between us and God and establishes an eternal Kingdom that rooted in the love of God. **The Holy Week Services** are located on page 4. **Finally, a word on General Conference 2019.** The General Conference voted to approve the Traditional Plan at its gathering. However, key petitions within the plan have been ruled unconstitutional. Judicial Council will be deliberating and rendering a ruling on the Traditional Plan by the end of April. To those who want to know what was the outcome of General Conference, the answer is simply, "I do not know." What I do know is that First UMC will continue to be a place where all are welcomed and celebrated as children of God. We will continue to minister to our community and seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As I said in the March 3 sermon, our way forward as a people of God is through the love of God being manifested in our discipleship and relationships with one another. Let us focus on these things. Grace and Peace, Pastor John

## Youth Bowling Outing



L- R Mattie Dreu Doerstler, Jack Linderman, Trey Sharp, Director Adam, Steve Strunk, Teresa Rojas, Shay Doerstler, Alivia Pierce (in back) and Madison Zetzel.



Spring is just around the corner and is chalked filled with activities for the children and youth! One of the major events that will be happening is this year's Mission Trip. The youth will be combining forces with the adults and will be traveling to North Carolina. On Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> a brief meeting was held in Fellowship Hall and forms were distributed and questions were answered. If you were unable to attend the meeting, I have additional forms in my office that I can pass on to you. Some of the quick details are that the trip will be from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, there is a fee of 100 dollars, and there is a small info packet that must be filled out. John and I would like to know by next Sunday (March 3<sup>rd</sup>) if you plan on going and would like a deposit of 25 dollars, this just gives us a good idea on which youth will be attending (this does not apply to the adults).

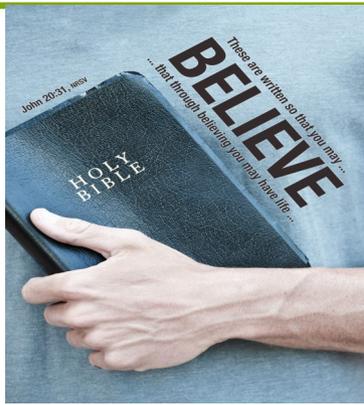
Another event that the youth will be leading this year is Ash Wednesday. Erin Doerstler has briefly mentioned this in an additional article, but this year the youth will be leading small prayer stations in lieu of a traditional Ash Wednesday Service. There will be a diversity of stations and you will still be able to receive ashes at one of the stations. This event is for all people and our youth have a lot of interesting things planned, please come out and support our youth!

In the month of April, we also have two additional events for youth and children. On April 13<sup>th</sup> we will be having an Egg Hunt here at the church! As a staff we discussed how having the Egg Hunt on Easter can sometimes become a bit chaotic so we will be moving it to the 13<sup>th</sup> and a time will be TBA. The youth will also be leading the first service on Easter Sunday. We would like to try and get as many youth involved as possible, so please speak with me if there is something specific you would like to help with. We are in need of youth who are willing to play music, usher, pray, read scripture, and even one who is willing to give a small sermon! If there is an area that you would like to help out as youth, tween, or even as a child, please let me know asap.

In March and April, I will also work with the parents of Youth and Tweens to plan an outing each month. In February we went bowling and had dinner to follow. All youth that attended had a great time and we even had one who learned how to bowl for the first time! More events like this will be coming and we hope to make more memories along the way. When dates have been configured they will be announced on Sunday morning and dates will be placed on my board outside of my office.

With regards to any or all of the above topics, you can email me at [duellhagerstown@gmail.com](mailto:duellhagerstown@gmail.com) or can call or text me at (317) 709-4250. Here's to warmer weather and a beautiful spring!

Blessings, Adam Duell, Director of Family Ministries



**Daily Devotion Booklets**  
**Upper Rooms & Daily Bread on bookrack**  
**in Friendship Haven Café**  
**Cost: \$1.00**  
**Place in the box in the rack.**

Invite Your Friends

Fun Stuff Happening for Youth

**7th—12th 2nd & 4th Sundays 6<sup>30</sup> - 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.**

**Agnes Birth thru 3rd Grade**

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

**President Mindy Smith Shares UMW News**

Yesterday in our Church Service Pastor John compared the wind that was blowing to the Scripture in I Kings 19:11...and behold a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord... I tried my best to find another scripture that would come as close to describing yesterdays winds, but Pastor John was right, this is definitely the best scripture to describe yesterdays powerful wind. I don't know about you but I'm glad the Lord doesn't send us that kind of wind very often-I find it unsettling ~Thank you Lord for Monday mornings calm beginning. United Methodist Women had a calm beginning for their year-trying to find a day to meet when there wasn't snow, rain, sleet, freezing temperatures. It was a bit of a challenge in January. However, we did finally get our group together and made plans for the rest of our year. As you may know, we had our first General Meeting February 16. A few of you braved the cold to be with us that morning. Those brave enough to get out enjoyed a scrumptious brunch and got to visit with two former church members. Kimberly Keesling Guard came to speak to us of her medical mission trips to Haiti. She also had updates on the political unrest that had caused the Wesleyan Church to call their Missionaries home Wednesday February 13. Kim had been hoping to return to Haiti this coming May, but is fearful she won't be making her trip in light of these developments. Kim brought her mother Pam along so we had an enjoyable time getting caught up with the family as well as what we learned of Kim's Haitian experiences.



**Some announcements made that morning that everyone should be aware of were:**

*At each General Meeting this year we will be taking a special offering for one of our areas of ministry. Our February offering was the Local Food Pantries. Watch for notice of offerings for Communities In Schools, the Thrift Store, and our church. Before each General we will announce the featured group and suggestions of items to donate.*

- 1. There will be no Mother's Day Celebration in May this year.** We are planning to do some kind of General meeting for May and are open to any input from you as to what that could look like. Ideas we've discussed are Mission Day where we could do projects in our church (clean or paint), or in the neighborhood (plant flowers for neighbors, clean yards) a group trip or a group movie night.
- 2. Another celebration we are looking forward to is the 150th Birthday of United Methodist Women on March 27.** We will actually celebrate the big event on **August 10 by hosting a District Party.** Big things are being planned!
- 3. Educational opportunities available this spring are Legislative Day on March 7th at Castleton UMC. 10 to 3:30.**

**Spiritual Growth Retreat April 5 & 6th at Don Hall Center in Fort Wayne; Spring District Event April 13th at Central UMC Richmond.** We hope to have a good representation at these events. One last bit of business, if you did any reading for the **Reading program**, please let MaryAnn Pollard know as soon as possible.

Remember to pray for our church, especially our Financial Health, because when two or three of us agree about anything, God is willing to do what we ask. **Note of Interest: Our church sign on Main Street blew off the pole.**

# 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.



**Gleaners - Volunteer helping with this Mission Outreach!  
Back here April 25, 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](mailto:Jeffersonwpwayne@comcast.net)

**Life Group - Amy Zetzel and Erin Doerstler** are still hosting a Life Group at one of their homes, once a month. The dates fluctuate based on work schedules, so if you would like more information - please call or text Amy (969-8623) or Erin (238-8595). We typically enjoy a meal together, visit, and reflect on God's Word through some type of Bible study. Our goal is to support one another and strengthen our Church family.

**Ash Wednesday Service** The youth would like to invite you to attend Prayer Stations in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 6th - Ash Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. These stations will be available for you whenever you are able to come during the two hour block of time. The Prayer Stations will be taking the place of a traditional service that evening. We hope you are able to attend.

## Financial Update

by Greta Gustin, Treasurer

	Total 2018
Total Operating Receipts	\$189,648
Less: Total Operating Expenses	\$194,048
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$ 4,400)
Total Faith Promise, GOOD, Designated	\$ 26,991
Less: Total Paid from these	\$ 22,840
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	\$ 4,151



\*\*\*\*A special thanks to those generous givers who increased their December giving to help reduce our shortfall for the year\*\*\*\*

Our operating expenses exceeded operating giving by \$4,400 causing us to reduce the checking account balance by that loss.

Our giving for the GOOD Fund, Faith Promise and Designated Giving exceeded the amounts paid out by \$4,151.

The **GOOD Fund** is used as needed for large Building Repairs.

**Faith Promise** is used for Mission related work. In 2018 we used Faith Promise for: Adult work camp (\$2240), Youth Mission (\$800),

Pack A Way Hunger (\$1000), Gideons (\$300), and Mission Guatemala (\$130).

**Designated Giving** means the money will be spent specifically as indicated. Includes special offerings like: UMCOR, Bishop's Fund, Hurricane Relief, Creative Arts Camp, Youth Mission, Food Pantry, Plastic Table Fund, etc.

	January 2019	YTD 2019
Total Operating Receipts	\$13,056	\$13,056
Less: Total Operating Expenses	\$18,563	\$18,563
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(\$5,056)	(\$5,056)
Total Designated, Faith Promise	\$ 2,179	\$ 2,179
Less: Total Paid from these	\$ 297	\$ 297
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	\$ 1,882	\$ 1,882

## Lent Season Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during the Lent season (March 13 - April 17), you are invited to be at our church all evening. After school (3 p.m.), Adam Duell and Erin Doerstler will be working with any youth that would like to come to the church. They will be offering homework help, game time, study time, Bible discussions, or anything that might be needed. A meal will be served every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Starting at 6 p.m. Erin Doerstler and Christy Herr will be leading a Lent focused Bible study in the Conference Room that will last until 7. Each Wednesday will have a different topic geared toward developing our walk with Christ. Some of the topics to be covered are Prayer, Fasting, Accountability Friendships, Devotionals, and more.

If you are interested in assisting with the after school time, just coming to visit, helping with the meal, or participating in the Bible study time or if you have any questions, please contact Adam or Erin.

## 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

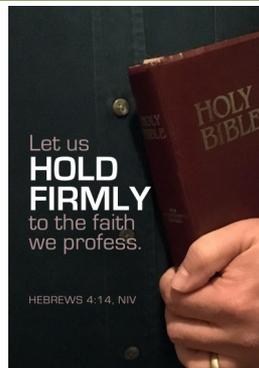
**Carol Meyer**  
Church Secretary  
hfumc@firsthagerstown.org  
489-5536 (After office hours)

**Connect with Us-**  
[www.firsthagerstown.org](http://www.firsthagerstown.org)



## First United Methodist

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PO Box 65  
Hagerstown, Indiana 47346



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### Easter Egg Hunt



—Saturday, April 13

Check time with Adam

**Palm Sunday April 14**

Waving Palms

**Thursday April 18**

**Community Service @**

Nettle Creek Brethren

**Good Friday 12 Noon**

**Service—Methodist Church**

**6:30 Community Service**

**@ New Testament**

Pastor John delivers the message.

**Easter April 21 8 a.m. Youth Service**

**Breakfast follows. 10:15 Easter Worship**

