

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

July & August Newsletter 2019



As I sit down to write this Pastor Pen, I am pausing for a moment after our monthly Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry. The parking lot was full and we served over one hundred fifty individuals. This no small endeavor and is only possible by the selfless service of our church/community members, and the grace of

God. I am humbled and overwhelmed by the missional drive our local church has to be the hands and feet of Jesus in so many profound ways. Whether it is through Gleaners, (RE)CHARGE, Community In Schools, our annual work camp, and much more, Hagerstown First UMC is engaged missionally to meet the needs of our community and the world.

As I say this, I am also overwhelmed by the unmet needs of our community. One of those unmet needs is caring for those suffering from addiction (substance, opioid, alcohol, etc.). While most states and counties have seen a significant drop in opioid related deaths and overdoses, our state and our county is still seeing above average numbers in deaths and overdoses.

I am reminded in our prayer of confession that we pray during our communion liturgy asking God to forgive us when we have not heard the cries of the needy. This includes the addicted and they are crying out for help. Which leads us to the question “how do we respond the cries of the needy?”

We pray, then we act.

Today I am writing this pastor pen to let you know that we will be seeking to relaunch the Hagerstown Chapter of A Better Life: Brianna’s Hope in the beginning of 2020. We are seeking those within our local church and other local churches to stand up and volunteer so that we as a community may say to the needy “we hear your cries. Help is on the way.” If this ministry is something you would be interested in serving on, or you feel led to be generous to this lifesaving ministry, please contact me for more information.

Together, we are more able to tackle the large issues in our community and world. Let us, by the grace of God, be beacons of the light of Christ so that those living in the darkness of despair and pain may see the way to healing, freedom, grace, hope, and, most importantly, true life in the love of God!

Grace and Peace, PJ



This article will be a little different than my normal type-ups. I have dates scheduled for the month of July and our morning programs will continue as they normally do. I want to remind our congregation that our youth will continue to practice and get ready for marching band competitions, so keep your ears open for when those opportunities may pop up. I will also be serving in Indianapolis at Mission U this year and so I will be out of the office from the 15th-19th. I’m now going to turn this letter in a different direction.

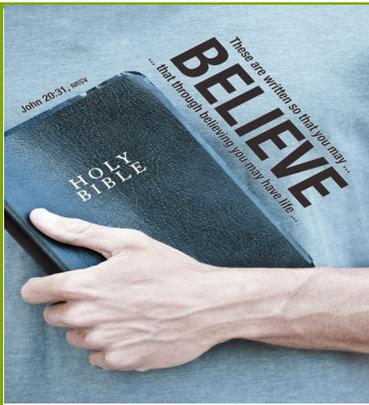
The past four years that I served here have been some of the best of my life. I’ve been extremely blessed by so many of the adults, children, and especially the youth I have served side by side. I love every single person in this church and that is why this is such a hard thing to say. After discussions with Pastor John and Steve Cox I have turned in a letter of resignation. There are many factors behind this decision, but I want to be perfectly clear. To my youth and children, I love you all so very much and I will miss you all so very much! We have made so many memories together and I share a bond that will last a lifetime.

With all this being said, my last Sunday will be August 4th. If this is the first time you are seeing this announcement, I want you to know there is still good news. I have another month that I will be serving at this Church! There is much work that I still need to finish, but I also hope to continue to make memories as my final Sunday approaches. There are a couple of things that will be happening on August 4th. I will be preaching that morning, God has been speaking on my heart for the past year and there are some parting words I have for this congregation. It will make for a heavy Sunday, but I will try to lighten things up with my sense of humor. I will also lead one last youth group that night, it is my plan to close youth group the same way I started it. I don’t want to ruin that experience, but I hope it will be a tremendous closing.

There is so much this church has taught me and I can’t say thank you enough. All of you have had an impact on my life and I am so thankful that God led me to this happy town of 2000 people. As of right now, I am unsure where God will direct me in the coming months, I only know that a beautiful young woman is willing to stand by my side and help me with whatever challenges lie ahead. Let’s enjoy this last month and have a blast! I’ll save some final words for August 4th and I look forward to seeing you all! *Blessings, Adam Duell Director of Family Ministries*

Adam Duell will be vacating the position of Family Ministry Director at Hagerstown First United Methodist Church on August 4, 2019. Adam will be relocating to the Columbus Indiana area to join his fiancé Cassidy as she begins her first teaching position. Adam will be starting the next stage of his life as he and Cassidy look forward to marriage in the fall. Adam is searching for his next career opportunity as he has been at Hagerstown First Church. Please join us for a carry-in lunch on Sunday, August 4th as we celebrate and send Adam off on a new life journey.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee



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

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

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.
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 to Everyone!



What crazy summer weather we're having. Hope you all are enjoying it more than me. I'm sure many of you have heard me complain "I have to be cold all winter, I want to be warm in the summer!" That's not happened much so far this spring or summer. Wonder what I'll be complaining about a month from now!?!

United Methodist Women have two fun events to look forward to. On July 9th all the women of the church are invited to attend our Annual Indoor Picnic. (Must have come up with that concept one of those years and when we were having a Hot Summer). This is a Fun evening when we get together to share a meal and casual fellowship. The meal is a pitch-in and this year we will make a necklace or other jewelry item (small fee of \$10.00) with instruction from Karen Kirtley. Some of our ladies have chosen not to make the jewelry and we'll have coloring sheets for them to do. If your hands and eyes won't cooperate for even the coloring page, still come for the fellowship. This event takes place Tuesday July 9th at 5:45 p.m. We hope to see you there.



Our second chance for having fun together this summer is the **150th Birthday Party for United Methodist Women's Organization.** We'll celebrate together on **Saturday, August 10th from 2 to 4.** You'll want to come to share any special memories, photos, or memorabilia you have of some way as United Methodist Women have impacted your life, or maybe to learn someone else's special memories. There will be fun games to play and of course Birthday Cake. Please plan to be part of this special day as we work to inspire future generations to continue Christ's mission and ministry for the next 150 years.



Another special part of the summer for United Methodist Women is Mission U. This year we only have Jean Dille attending. Adam will be going as a leader of the program for youth who attend. Mission U is an educational event held every year to enlighten our members to the social injustices inflicted on our sisters and (brothers) here in the United States and globally. If you've never attended, now is the time to start planning to attend next year's event. This is always a well planned, meaningful educational experience.

I want to close with a scripture I read during my devotion time in early June—I was so touched by the verse I've read it at least once a week since, hope it brings you find inspiration from it as well. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing "Zephaniah 3:17. The writer of this devotion suggests reading it with your name inserted for the word you. I hope you get a blessing from this beautiful scripture.

Mindy

Living



Gleaners - Volunteer helping with this Mission Outreach! 2019 Fourth Thursday each month.

Community IN School
When school begins in August, we will resume our giving food items students need.

The Leadership Table met on May 29, 2019. One of the action areas to be voted on was the presence of the Christian Flag and US Flag. After discussion, The Leadership Table of First UMC approved the following policy:

The Christian and US Flag are to be prominently displayed within the sanctuary of the church.

Financial Update by Greta Gustin, Treasurer

	Quarter 1	Apr 2019	May 2019	YTD 2019
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 45,029	\$ 13,517	\$ 13,370	\$ 71,916
Less: Total Operating Expenses	\$ 51,522	\$ 16,776	\$ 15,041	\$ 83,339
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(\$ 6,492)	(\$ 3,259)	(\$ 1,670)	(\$ 11,422)

As reported above, Operating Expenses continue to exceed donations with a \$11,422 loss YTD. Leadership Table is continuing to identify ways to address the situation. Your increased pledges and prayers for the financial well-being of our church are gratefully appreciated.

Total Faith Promise & Designated Giving Receipts	\$ 15,026	\$ 1,624	\$ 702	\$ 17,352
Less: Total Paid from these	\$ 1,297	\$ 1,475	\$	\$ 2,772
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	\$ 13,729	\$ 149	\$ 702	\$14,580

- Faith Promise is used for Mission or Community Related Projects. Faith Promise received \$ 1,846 in April & May.
- The GOOD Fund (Get Out Of Debt) aka Building Fund increased by \$ 330.
- Designated Giving means the money will be spent specifically as indicated. In April and May the designated spend included Work Camp (\$1,133) & UMCOR (\$ 342).
- The \$14,580 Net Increase YTD includes \$ 10,000 being held from Work Camp. See below.

Adult Work Camp Summary

Contributions from Other Churches	+\$ 8,430
Contributions from 41 Attendees	+\$ 4,100
Contributions from Our Church Members	+\$ 722
Contributions from Faith Promise	+\$ 2,000
Total all Contributions	=\$ 15,252
Food Expenses	-\$ 1,193
Reimburse Building Supplies	-\$ 1,059
Donation to UMCOR at our Worksite	-\$ 3,000
Donation held for regional tornado relief	=\$ 10,000

Holding remaining funds for distribution after damage and insurance coverage are evaluated for tornado damage recently incurred in Pendleton, IN and Beavercreek, OH.

My Offering
FIRST CHURCH
www.firstchurch.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 _____

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
GRADUATES!



Sunday, June 2 several of our 2019 graduates were honored during the service. Graduates were Neva Carter, Mattie Drew Doerstler, Linsey Retherford, Stevie Strunk, Ana Terry, and Madison Zetzl.

Recognition was given to college graduates Cole Lane, son of Chris & Staci Lane and Mitch Burelison, son of Tracy Burelison and grandson to Peggy Ellis.

From the Church Secretary

I have been working on the Membership and Friends Booklet. It is very important to keep our records accurate. I want to have correct phone numbers and addresses since our last one in 2018. Some of you have changed companies, have cell numbers only or have moved. It is amazing how fast changes are and new customers are receiving our old numbers. Those customers are not pleased to hear us calling for you and so we need correct changes all the time. Please call the office or mail. Parents who have grown children who are members of the church and live elsewhere, send that info as well.

RE-Charge 1st & 3rd Wednesday's Each Month

5:30 Free Meal Served
in Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Bible Study in the Café

Prayer Group in Fellowship Hall

Come join us!

Contact Us:

Rev. John E. Huff

Senior Pastor

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Church Secretary

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489-5536 (After office hours)

Connect with Us-

www.firsthagerstown.org

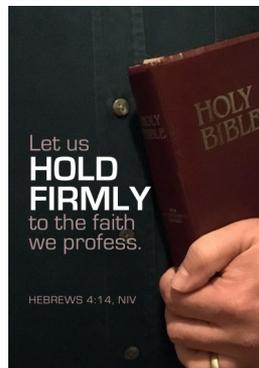


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