

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

November/December 2019



Pastor Pen: The end of the year is upon us and we are already being reminded of what is to come, Christmas. Even before Halloween, we have observed the arrival of the holidays with Christmas trees next to jack o lanterns. All of this reminds us of the hustle and bustle that is approaching. Shopping, spending, worrying, living in a frantic state hoping to see the end. What if God's intention for the celebration of Christ's birth was less about us and more about Him? What if God was seeking to reveal His eternal presence with us this holiday season rather than us giving each other presents that will not last? What if we moved our focus off of the things of Christmas and toward the person to whom we celebrate and serve, Jesus?

Imagine if your family turned Christmas upside down this year? It's not just something to imagine because God is calling us to do it! This Advent, we will be gathering together every Sunday and learning about how God is calling us to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all through radically following Jesus. Each weekly worship will be a launching pad for you to carry the love of Christ in a new and exciting way out into your family, school, and community. Our Advent Series, The Advent Conspiracy, will close with our Christmas Eve services where we celebrate and shine the light of Christ as we remember God's only son coming to be with us.

I hope you will join us this holiday season as we seek to follow Jesus and love our community! *Dec 1: Worship Fully Dec 8: Spend Less Dec 15: Give More Dec 22: Love All Dec 24: Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Grace and Peace, Pastor John*

Roof Update by Trustee Chair Linda Cowan

The replacement of our roof has been the subject of discussion for several years. In March of 2019, after professional roofers advised the "Band-Aid" repairs were no longer effective, the Leadership Table decided to replace the roof. In April six roofing contractors were interviewed and submitted bids. Based on the best price and quality, Stormy Ridge was chosen to construct a standing seam metal roof with covered fasteners.

The cost was going to be \$35,000, so a Financial Task Force was assembled. Different options were discussed. We thought there might be a possibility of receiving a grant from the Conference, but that was not available. We discussed how this congregation had been so successful raising money for previous projects, and we wondered if it could be done with the roof. On August 11, 2019 the 12-week "Roof Campaign" began.

The roof construction started on October 23, 2019, and at that time we were only \$500 short of our \$35,000 goal! * It has been amazing to see the pledges in the offering every Sunday. The "Thermometer" was so white at the beginning, and now it has turned red. Many prayers have been answered. Thank you Church Family for your generosity and your continued support.

Today is October 30, 2019. About ½ of the new roof is complete and looking great. The design of the system is impressive. We knew the old roof was in bad shape, but when they removed some of the sheeting, it actually crumbled. Several of the building's on-going issues will be solved with this new roof. The best part is that the congregation will be safe and dry when we say, "God is good, all the time. All the time, GOD IS GOOD"! *As of Oct. 31, our goal has been exceeded by \$376.

The KICKS Connection

Hello everyone, most of you know me but for those that don't I will give you a little background. My name is Scott Sharp. I live in Dublin, Indiana but I grew up right here in Hagerstown. I am a graduate of Ball State and the Methodist Lay Servant Academy. I am currently a Certified Lay Minister in our United Methodist Denomination. My current position is with the Hagerstown First United Methodist Church as the Christian Ministry Coordinator. Hum you say... What is that? Well it is just a revamp of the old position Adam Duell had which was the Director of Family Ministry. I will be the coordinator of all of the children's ministry at FUMC.

Now you're probably wondering also what the heading stands for. As I was pondering the other day of what I can call my section of the newsletter I came up with this. It stands for Kids In Christ's Kingdom Serving. All the children of the world is under Christ's care. We as adult's are charged with teaching the same children how to be servants of the Lord not only by instruction time during Sunday School but also by doing. Showing our children at church how to be servants through action and by example. Until next time may the Peace of Christ be with you.

Grace and Peace, Scott Sharp

Hello from K.I.D.S! We are currently working our way through the days of creation and making our very own creation book. We will start activities and lessons around Thanksgiving and Christmas soon. **And most exciting is that we are learning how to play the hand bells!! The kids love this and we hope to have some performances ready for the holiday season.**

We want as many kids as possible to participate in the hand bells. **We will practice during K.I.D.S. time at worship.** So please bring your kids and let's make some music!! Details on performances will be shared with parents soon.

We still need lots of nursery help. Please see the sign up sheet in the Cafe. Thank you for sharing your children with me and all your support! **Stacy Herr**

Creative Arts Camp - Another Year of Success!

"Hey Miss Lisa? How many kids are here today?" "30!"
"What's for lunch today Miss Ciss?" "I need help!" "I don't think I can do that!" I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength, Philippians 4:13. Tummys as well as souls were fed.
"How many cans did you bring for the Food Drive?" "What class is going to get to pie Pastor John?!" "Miss Elizabeth, can I paint this one?" "We're going to melt crayons with what?" "Miss Mindy I need a turn to stir!" "Can I lick the spoon?!" "Can we sing This Little Light of Mine after we sing Peace Like a River?"
Sounds throughout the church during CAC with fun and creativity going on and anticipation for the next day. Mark your calendars for Fall Break next year and volunteer for Creative Arts Camp.

A Big Thank You to all who helped with CAC through volunteering your Time, Talents, Supplies and Prayers! It takes all of us to help spread God's Love.

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. Check with your Leaders.



Bring the Kids
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 Shares with You Soooo Much Information to Share!

*** November General Meeting—the date has changed!**

Our original calendar slated Tuesday, November 12th.

Morning Glories as Hostess requested we move the meeting to **Saturday, November 9th.**

Our final General Meeting for 2019 is Saturday, November 9th at 9:30 a.m.
Brunch will be served by the Morning Glories.



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

The speaker will be Cheryl Wilson, our own East District President. She will share a Video "Deconstructing White Privilege". We will bring our Thank Offering. Our Mission Focus will be buying supplies for our Church—Spray deodorizer, paper towels, floor cleaner, dish soap, SOS Type Pads, 1-4 Cup Glass Measuring Cup; Heavy Duty silicone backed hot pads, Kleenexes for the sanctuary, aluminum foil, parchment paper. Seems we're doing well on hand soap and baggies.

Another Mission Project we are working on is shampoo for women in jail. Ann Cashner's Women's Prison Christmas Gift List has been promised 500 Bottles by a church, but that still leaves her 250 bottle too. So bring a full size bottle of shampoo.

We have the opportunity to join the Northeast District for a morning of mini Mission -U Studies. On **November 16th** we can carpool to New Haven UM Church. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Program begins at 9:45 Dr. Derek Weber, will present the study of Mark. Lunch served at noon. Our group will leave after the lunch. (Cost \$10.00 Lunch)
Reservations are due by November 9th. Please let me know if you are planning on going. There is no Hometown Christmas Celebration this December. However The Cookie Walk will happen! Friday December 6th from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday December 7th from 10 a.m. to closing. Same location as in past years - 37 East Main. You know this means we need your help. Cookie and Candy makers don't let us down! And Volunteers! Set up, sales, clean up. Many hands make light work so please be ready to help. The money raised helps support Youth Projects at our church, Youth Group, Camps, Mission trips and creative Arts Camp. The more cookies we sell the more ministry that happens! Another part of Hometown Christmas that will continue is The Scouts Spaghetti Supper. I don't have any details to share but watch the Hagerstown Gazette and support Boy Scouting in Hagerstown.

The last bit of news I have to share is about our next Executive meeting scheduled for January 20th, Monday at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. Officers, please mark your calendars to help us plan for an exciting year of United Methodist Women In Action. **Please find our article elsewhere on Blessing Bags UMW is working on.**

Youth To Have Fun Outings -Watch your bulletin!

The November Youth Meeting will be on Sunday 17th at 6:30. December will be on Sunday the 15th at 6:30. We are scheduling some fun outings so watch the bulletin for more information!!

As a Junior High and Senior High Sunday School Class, we just made 'Care packages' for some of our college students. We wanted to pray over them and remind them that we are cheering them on from Hagerstown!

Another project we are working on in Sunday school class is highlighting the major 'take aways' from each book of the Bible. Please encourage any Teen to join us and bring their Bible!
Leader Erin Doerstler



First United Methodist Members and Clergy

Roll Call of those 2019 Saints Whom God Called Home

James (Ted) Asche October 21, 1924 - March 10, 2019

Rick Cowan May 8, 1952 - May 23, 2019

Rev. Donna Brower November 14, 1938 - August 26, 2019

Diane Lee Keesling May 10, 1942 - September 23, 2019

Stewardship Report from Greta Gustin, Treasurer



	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	YTD 2019
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 14,327	\$ 16,821	\$133,887
Less: Total Operating Expenses	\$ 14,791	\$ 16,262	\$145,201
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(\$ 554)	\$ 559	(\$ 11,314)

YTD Operating receipts are \$500 more than last year and expenses are \$3300 less. Leadership has worked hard to minimize spending. While \$\$ pay the bills, many, many thanks to those who have stepped forward to lead our youth programs and allow us to save the expense of a paid position for Youth Director.

What is next? We were so busy with the roof campaign that we temporarily postponed the customary fall pledge campaign. Thank you Lord for inspiring our generous members for that amazing roof campaign.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving for next year and invite friends, family and neighbors to become a part of our church family and its mission serving our Lord.

	Aug 2019	Sept 2019	YTD 2019
Total Faith Promise & Designated Giving Receipts	\$ 1,033	\$ 2,032	\$ 22,554
Less: Total Paid from these	(\$ 92)	(\$ 5,087)	(\$ 11,206)
Roof Campaign	\$ 11,156	\$ 16,062	\$ 27,218
Roof Payments	(\$ 8,979)		(\$ 8,979)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	\$ 3,118	\$ 13,007	\$ 29,587

Faith Promise is used for Mission or Community Related Projects. Faith Promise received \$533 in August and \$933 in September from our members.

The GOOD Building Fund continues to increase from regular giving. Funds not designated for the Roof are being saved for anticipated replacement or repair of air conditioning units. As of Oct 29 we have pledges of \$34,806 for the GOOD Roof project and have received \$30,733 of those funds.

Designated Giving means the money will be spent specifically as indicated. In September \$5,000 was sent to UMCOR from Work Camp donations. \$1,308 was donated specifically for youth programs.



Singers, On Christmas Eve I would like to present the following www.jwpepper.com/What-Is-This-Lovely-Fragrance?/11100444.item Hal Hopson Arr.

Each of you are cordially invited to join us and sing this hauntingly beautiful choral Christmas anthem. I want us to sing and play the above song at Christmas Eve service. I need to know which service you plan to attend (6:30 or 10 p.m.) and how many of you intend to sing so I can order the music. Rehearsal for this piece would start soon, before Thanksgiving.

Director of Music & Worship Rick Peelle



Christmas Eve Services Tuesday, December 24

6:30 & 10 p.m.

Yard Signs promoting our services to the community with times of the services may be ordered and purchased for you to place in your yard.

Reasonable price.

Contact Us:

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Rick Peelle
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Connect with Us-
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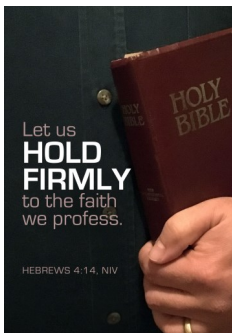
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Next Steps

