

# FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

January Newsletter 2020



## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ who is the Alpha and Omega and the Beginning and the End.

Our family wishes to thank you for your kind words, holiday wishes, and Christmas gifts. Second I want to thank you for your faithful witness as the light of Christ through our Christmas Eve Offering which benefited Mission Guatemala's efforts in providing access to clean drinking water to families and classes. The offering raised over five hundred dollars. Glory to God!

Next I want to invite you to reflect on the year that was 2019. Many are quick to move on from the previous year in excitement of the new year that has arrived. However, if we want 2020 to be a great year then we must reflect on the journey we walked with God in 2019.

What victories did you experience this past year?

What struggles/battles did you experience this past year?

In what ways did you grow deeper in the love of God?

Who did you show Christ to through your words, acts, and prayers?

Finally, as we look forward to this new year, may we keep our eyes and lives focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and may we seek to be the light of Christ to the Nettle Creek area and beyond. *Grace and Peace, PJ*

## Up Coming Adult Florida Work Camp

In October just over a year ago, Hurricane Michael hit the Florida panhandle SE of Panama City. It was a category 5 storm...the first category 5 to hit the US since 1992! It cut a path almost 100 miles wide all the way to the Georgia state line. The damage was extensive and that's where we come in.

Working thru the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the Methodist Church has set up three Recovery Centers. We have reserved the week of **March 22-March 28, 2020 at the Port St Joe Center** for our group. This location has kitchen facilities, showers, and beds. Our work sites should be within 20 minutes of our housing. Our anticipated cost is \$100/person for the week.

We have scheduled a pre-trip meeting for Sunday, February 23, 2020 at our church to share additional information, answer questions, and fill out needed forms.

Please consider this hands-on mission opportunity. We always seem to be of help to folks in need...and have a really good time in the process! If you have any questions, please call or email.

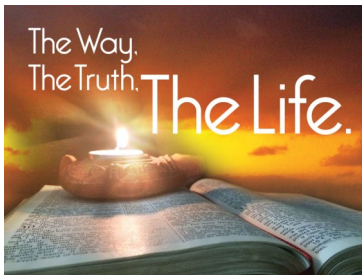
**LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE MAY BETTER PLAN THE DETAILS.**

Grace & Peace, Jim & Sharon Howell

Jim's cell: 765-748-1825

Sharon's cell: 765-489-5325

Email: [howelljdsd@yahoo.com](mailto:howelljdsd@yahoo.com)




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

**Bible Quiz**

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples



Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)



*2020 Has Begun! President Mindy Smith shares these items of interest.*

The Winter Spiritual Growth Retreat is January 24-25 at the Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer, IN. Registration form with payment needs to be received by Tuesday, January 7th! Check the website [umwin@inum.c.org](mailto:umwin@inum.c.org) to register. Realize the deadline is over-really want to go, please contact them!

The **Executive Board** of UMW will meet **January 20 at 7 pm. In the Conference Room.**



WOW! What great performances from our KIDS during the December holidays! The kids worked so hard at learning their songs with the hand bells and doing great performances. They practiced each week during K.I.D.S. time. Thank you very much to Felicia Beeson for helping direct and Rick Peelle for working us into the adult song. Thank you as well to those who brought the kids each week to practice and showed up for the performances. Your support is much appreciated and helped create a beautiful memory for our church! While the K.I.D.S. are getting a break from bell rehearsal for a bit, we will be back with more performances in the future. Thanks again and we look forward to a wonderful New Year in K.I.D.S. church!

Stacy Herr

Invite Your Friends

Fun Stuff Happening for Youth



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

Ages Birth thru 3rd Grade



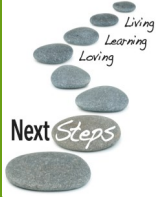
Every Sunday during Worship Service there is a special time just for Kids In Divine Service Ages 3-3rd

**Recap of the 2019 Youth Lock-In Success** by Mark Linderman

The 2019 October Youth Lock-In was yet another success, but in a very different way! For the first time since my family has been at First United Methodist Church, we witnessed a "passing of the torch" between the two generations of students that we have been blessed to minister to! Many of the older students have graduated, or are in their Senior Year of High School. However, we were amazed to see a new group of students between the 6th-8th grade begin to make their mark within our congregation, and they brought their friends in "FORCE" for this lock-in! While the lock-ins a founded within the church, it is also a fun time to be had by many in a safe, God-fearing evening where Jesus is the foundation of each event and every connection made.

Of course, these events could never be made possible with the awesome group of adult chaperones who not only attend the event, but provide food, resources, and entertainment as well. My gratitude for your service cannot be expressed, and our youth are extremely blessed to have your love shared with them! We had over 30 students that evening, and PLENTY of adult support with nearly 20 volunteers! While the game of "Ultimate Underground Church" is always a bit spooky in nature, it is an extreme blessing to see and hear our halls filled with laughter and fun! It shows yet another opportunity that our Congregation has to reach out to those who don't attend church, and minister with the love of Christ to all who enter our doors! I can't wait for the fears and fun for next year...as I'm already planning the next big event!

# 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 23, 2020**

**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  
[Jeffersontwayne@comcast.net](mailto:Jeffersontwayne@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.

## 2020 Leadership Table Members

Pastor John, Chair Jim Howell, Vice, Shawn Murphy, Secretary Marti Retherford, Treasurer Greta Gustin, Lay Leader, Jean Dille, Finance Cory Herr, Trustee Chair, Linda Cowan, Missions Chair Dreu Doerstler, Staff Parish Chair, Amy Zetzel, At Large Member, Amanda Stainbrook

## Financial Update

	Total 2018	Total 2019
Total Operating Receipts	\$188,423	\$186,394
Less: Total Operating Expenses	(\$194,049)	(\$185,031)
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$5,626)	\$1,363

By Greta Gustin, Treasurer

**\*\*Operating revenue\expenses exclude Faith Promise, GOOD Fund and Discretionary Spending.**

The last few months of 2018 our Leadership stood before you to say that contributions were not enough to cover our operating expenses. Despite receiving a \$10,000 boost in December 2018 contributions, we ended 2018 with a **\$5,626** shortfall.

This year we were focused on the roof replacement with our entire goal of \$35,000 met and paid. Additionally we made the tough call to not replace the departing Youth Director with a paid position. Volunteers have stepped up to fill this need. This saved us \$11,600 in 2019 versus 2018.

It is my pleasure to report that 2019 ended with positive operating income of \$1,363.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Kind Deeds Are Like Little Prayers:** Thank You so much. We appreciate the wonderful program the church hosted during Fall Break! This was Jesse (9) and Jessalyns (6) first time and they loved it!! They want to come again! My daughter, Jessalyn, loved Donna Winters! Thank you again for offering such a great program free to our community. Your service to our children is appreciated The Bowlings!



The Youth Group had a festive 'wrap your neighbor' Christmas party with lots of fun and great discussions. L- R Mattie Drew Doerstler, Ana Terry, ?? Nolan Linderman, Teresa Rojas, Stevie Strunk.

*Our next meeting is Sunday, January 19th.*

## Contact Us:

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

First Hagerstown  
United Methodist  
Church



## First United Methodist

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