

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

March & April 2020 Newsletter



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so joyful and hopeful for our Lenten Journey through the series, Soul Shift! Over 40 people, across all age ranges, are engaged in shifting their lives from themselves and toward the Kingdom of God. There is still time for

you to join in on the Journey! Each week, the Bible Studies and Sunday School classes will be learning and discussing a new soul shift. Join in and be transformed!

As I mentioned last month, our Soul Shift series will conclude on Easter Sunday as we reflect and celebrate all of the next steps our congregation has taken to be the hands and feet of Christ in Hagerstown and around the world! Grace and Peace, Pastor John

Here is the Schedule of Services/Events during Holy Week 2020:

**April 5: Palm Sunday
with procession of palms**

**April 9: Maundy Thursday Service
@ 6:30 p.m.**

**April 10: Noon Good Friday Service
Community Good Friday Service @
Chicago Corner Church @ 7:00 p.m**

**April 12: Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m. Youth Easter Service
Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
following service**

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:15am Easter Worship Service



SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

for Church and Parsonage

Saturday, April 25, 2020 @ 9 a.m.

Please mark your calendars. There is something for everyone. A list of projects will be posted later.

Hope to see you there. Trustee Chair Linda Cowan

A HEART FOR MISSIONS



First UMC is a church with hearts for missions. Our church lives John 5:12 **“MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.”**

Our church has identified several Mission Fields where our love for one another is shared in our community, our country and the world. “FAITH PROMISE” is one of these Mission Fields. Faith Promise donations are above and beyond our annual Church pledges. These donations are placed in the Faith Promise account as directed by the giver and may be used to help relieve an urgent need in our church family, a need in our community or given to other church missions. Each need that is submitted to our church is prioritized by the Pastor, the Leadership Table, and Missions Committee before funds are allocated.

Your 2020 Missions Committee needs your help identifying your preferences for Faith Promise action. We encourage you and your family to prayerfully consider mission priorities for Faith Promise. A short Faith Promise Survey will be distributed during the May 3rd Sunday worship service. I refer to the sample survey in this newsletter. It includes the First UMC Mission Fields and space for your suggested missions. Each person attending the worship service will be asked to prioritize the listed missions and suggest other mission interests. The completed surveys will direct our Faith Promise dollars according to your wishes.

Let us encourage each other to prayerfully seek God’s guidance ... to follow God’s call through the intentional use of the resources He give us.

WATCH FOR and complete the “FAITH PROMISE” SURVEY. Any questions, please direct them to Dreu Doerstler, Missions Chair.

Sincerely, Debra Salhoff, Missions Committee



Daily Devotion Booklets
Upper Rooms & Daily Bread
on Bookrack in
Friendship Haven Café
Cost: \$1.00

Place in the box in the rack.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The theme for this year, **Let Your Light Shine, Igniting for Justice,** reminds me of the song, **“Pass It On.”**

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around will warm up from its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, it's fresh like spring. You want to sing, you want to pass it on.

There are many ways for us to let our light shine and be excited about ministry.

- 1..This coming **Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m.** the whole church is invited to our **General Meeting** to hear Dr. Greg Hellwarth, who does frequent international mission work. He will be going to Somalia in a few months.
2. March 5 is **UMW Legislative and Advocacy Day** at North United Methodist Church in Indy. Focus is Maternal and Child Health. See Jean Dilley or MaryAnn Pollard for more details, or call Church Office.
3. April 3-4 is the **Spiritual Growth Retreat in Fort Wayne** at Don Hall's Guest House. Friday 7 p.m. thru Saturday 3 p.m. The speaker is Rev. Regina Proctor with the intriguing theme of “30 Seconds and Then ALL Out.” The scripture base is Luke 12:48b and Mark 12:39.
4. Our **Spring District Meeting** will be held at New Castle First on Saturday, April 18th. **Climate Justice** will be our topic. We hope that you will get fired up about cooling down our planet! The District has great things planned for this day including hands on activities and a free gift or two for everyone. We hope you will come and warm up from the glowing.

Jean Dilley, who is subbing for our beloved Mindy.

Editor's Note: Please keep Mindy in your prayers for her health. Recent tests reveal colon cancer.

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



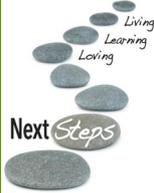
K.I.D.S. - It's Bell Rehearsal Time!

Stacy Herr shares: The K.I.D.S. will be performing Jesus Loves Me with the hand-bells on Palm Sunday, April 5th. We have already started practicing during our K.I.D.S. time so please come join us! And then invite your family to come watch for Palm Sunday! During K.I.D.S. time, we will focus our lessons on helping others and how God wants us to be kind. We will celebrate Easter with a special Sunday of activities including some for K.I.D.S. Make plans to join us!

It's Time! We need a Leader for Creative Arts Camp! CAC will be held during October Break 2020 and we want to start planning early. But first things first, we need someone willing to direct and coordinate. This can be an individual or two or three people who are willing to work together. Worried that you don't have experience...no fear. There are great advisers who have worked with CAC before. If you are interested, please see Scott Sharp.

Musical Notes I am excited about bringing the Choir back to sing for Palm Sunday Service and Easter Celebration Service. If you want to be a part of this music celebration, please join us or if you have questions call me at 765 220-2336. All are welcome. Rehearsals are every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. through Holy Week. **On Palm Sunday, Make Way for the King** will feature Amanda Stainbrook and Lydia Herr on a vocal duet and beautifully transition into the congregational hymn *Hosanna Loud Hosanna* as the KIDS process and wave their palms. **On Easter Sunday**, the choir offers *The Wondrous News to remind us 'to go and tell of the wondrous news.... God has won the day. 'Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing'- Robert Lowry* Praise be to God, Rick Peelle Director of Music and Worship

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 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

Jumping Into May Really Fast

IMPORTANT Parent and Youth meeting after church on Sunday 5/3 to discuss plans for upcoming plans for our youth - including mission trips, summer camps, and other opportunities. Erin Doerstler

2020 Leadership Table Members

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

Financial Update by Greta Gustin, Treasurer

	Jan 2020		Jan 2020
Total Operating Receipts	\$12,526	Total Designated, Faith Promise, GOOD & Roof	\$1,014
Less: Total Operating Expenses	(\$15,247)	Less: Total Paid from these	(\$765)
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(\$2,721)	Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	\$249

January results reflect (\$530) less revenues vs. last year and a savings of \$3,316 in expenses.

The savings were primarily \$2,583 wages and taxes for Family Director and \$777 lower Conference Tithe.

Conference tithe is a fixed 10% of prior month's operating receipts + 1.15% for District.

Designated Payments consisted of :

Guatemala Water Filters	\$	500
Bishops Fund		125
Handbell Music		140
	\$	<u>765</u>

The Kicks Connection

Where does time fly. It doesn't seem like it should be Spring, but the birds are starting to chirp everyday. Spring is a season of rebirth. Most of the animals in the kingdom welcome new offspring. The tree's start to bud out. The grass starts to get greener with new life. We as Christians also see a rebirth in our youth. When youth get to a certain age they go through Confirmation classes. It is a time for them to reenergize their commitment to Christ. At their Baptism we as a congregation accepted the task of nurturing them in the Christian faith and life. Now it is their turn to take what they have learned from their parents and their Christian family to start their new Christian life. When confirmed they will become a new member of the Christian family. A new start, in a new Journey of Christian Living. As they go through these classes they still need to be nurtured, they still need our mentoring. I am asking the congregation to think about the commitment we agreed to at their baptism. "Will you nurture these children in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example they be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and lead a Christian Life?" and **WE** as a congregation said "**I WILL**". If any of you would take that next step and say **YES** I will mentor them. Please contact me or the Church Office. Until next time may the Peace of Christ be with you.

Grace and Peace, Scott Sharp
Christian Ministry Coordinator

My Offering
Society Meeting 10:15 am
FIRST CHURCH
Hagerstown, IN 47346
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 _____

Offering Envelopes are in the Pews, Balcony, Café or Church Office.

STILL ROOM & TIME



We still have room (and time to sign up) for folks who might be interested in the Florida Mission Work Camp in Port St. Joe the week of March 22. This hands-on mission opportunity is a great way to help folks whose homes were severely damaged by Hurricane Michael in the fall of 2018. There will be plenty to do for participants of all skill levels. **For more information, call Jim Howell at 765-748-1825**

Missions in Motion

The **Tiger Mentor program** is up and running! With the help of the Hagerstown High School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Julie Arnold, and Dean of Students, Mrs. Emily Schaeffer, several of our very own Hagerstown First UMC members recently gathered to learn more about becoming a student mentor at Hagerstown High School. Many of these participants are now meeting one-on-one with a high school student on a weekly basis. These meetings center on establishing a trusting relationship between the mentor and mentee as well as incorporating the concepts of accountability, goal setting and attainment, and positive relationships. This collaboration between First UMC and Hagerstown High School is a unique way of shining Christ's light throughout our community and world.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

First Church, continue to Shine your Light!! *Dreu Doerstler, Missions Chair*

Contact Us:

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Rick Peelle
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765-220-2336

Carol Meyer
Church Secretary
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489-5536 (After office hours)

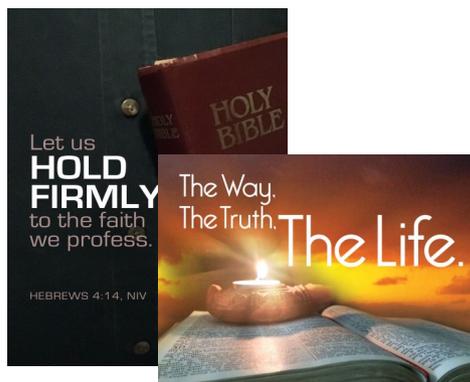
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First Hagerstown
United Methodist
Church



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