

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

July & August 2020



The Pastor Pen

Gifted

One of the phrases we often hear when we see an accomplished musician, scientist, surgeon, or even someone who wins Jeopardy is the phrase “they are gifted”. Usually folks are referring to the skills and talents of the individual within a specific field. The flipside of this phrase sometimes is that some people are gifted while others are not. This is far from the truth.

All are gifted.

The New Testament is clear on this matter. All persons are created with various spiritual gifts that are empowered by the Holy Spirit for a particular purpose within the work of the Kingdom of God on earth. Paul puts it best in first Corinthians 12:4-6...

“4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” (NIV)

Paul goes on to explain that we all have different gifts working toward the same purpose and goal, the Kingdom of God. You might be gifted in teaching, comforting, advocating, encouraging, leadership, and much more. Whatever may be your God-given gift in life, know that it was given to you by the same God who created the stars in the sky and the flowers that bloom at just the right time. We are called to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in using these gifts to love God and love our neighbor.

Also, do not assume that your God-given gift makes you more special than anyone else. Remember all are gifted. Do not diminish the work of others to elevate yourself. That is not Kingdom work.

As preacher Frederick Buechner put it, may the deep passions (and gifts) that dwell within you meet the deep pains and wounds of the world.

Want to go deeper? Read 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-14, Philippians 4:4-9
Grace and Peace, Pastor John



REVISITING SHIPROCK— HELPING AGAIN

We received word through the UMW Act of Repentance Working Group that the Navajo nation has one of the highest number of COVID Patients and deaths in the country. The local hospital is small and filled with COVID patients. Many of the people live in remote areas near mountains or desert plains with livestock without running water or electricity. They travel many miles for their needs.

Requests for donations have been made by the Navajo Administration. There are people who are sewing masks in the community for citizens and hospital staff, but they do not have enough. Water is sorely needed in the remote areas, hay is needed for livestock (horses, cows, and sheep), and some families still need wood to warm and cook in their homes. Sending them money also helps because they can buy things locally. (Gallup NM, 100 miles away, may be closest for some.)

Now for the good news—At our last Leadership Table meeting, it was decided that our church through Faith Promise will donate \$3000.00 for this cause. Our money will be used to purchase 55 gallon barrels of water for those homes without running water, food, and other essentials such as sanitizers, cleaning products, children’s diapers, hay for livestock, pet food, wood, etc.

We are happy when our church shows faith, hope, and love in action. God is good—

By Jean Dilley, Lay Leader



Happy
Birthday 80+ & 90th

July 2nd-Jeanine Carey
6481 St Rd 1 Hagerstown

George May July 5 PO Box 99 Hagerstown

Frances Workman July 8 - 600 N Sycamore St Hagerstown

Jo Johnson July 28 -711 Northwest L Richmond 47374

Joyce Wampler Turns 90 July 29

146 17th Av N St. Petersburg FL 33704



Jackie Harrison August 5
Address Unavailable

Priscilla Sherry August 28 Turns 90
11 E Southmarket St Hagerstown

Congratulations!

Steve & Debbie Cox celebrate their 50th
on July 3rd.

July 14 Marvin & Dottie Culy celebrate 65th

Don & Caroline Benedict 58th July 14

Jim & Sharon Howell 52 years July 14.

BOB MEYER CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The family of Bob Meyer thanks you for your prayers and love shown to us at the passing of Bob on April 8th. A special "thank you" to the *O of Friendship* for your extra giving and the meals. We are planning to have a Celebration of Life hopefully in the next month or two. We hope you will join us.



News from Our UMW President Mindy Smith

You might think that the Covid 19 stopped United Methodist Women in their tracks. Our meetings stopped, our carefully planned event calendar went out the window, Mission U was CANCELLED. But I'm here to assure you that Hagerstown's Unit of United Methodist Women have been letting their Light Shine! How you asked? Well...one of our groups met via Zoom until June when they gathered together in Betty Thalls yard. We Zoom conferenced on making sure we continued to collect and send money to our statewide project of supporting The Lucille Raines Residence (3/4 House for those recovering from Drug & Alcohol additions). We also wrote letters of encouragement to those residence-some circles chose to write a letter per member. Other circles had volunteers that wrote several notes each. And then many reports of those who transported people to Dr. appointments, grocery shopping or became shoppers for shut in's. Others who called to just chat and encourage friends. Another example of letting our Light Shine is covered in an article by Jean Dilley's article. Make sure you read that elsewhere in this newsletter.

As more restrictions are being lifted, we can see plans for more ways to continue shining our Lights. Morning Glories will have their first meeting of the year on Wednesday, July 15th at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Reflections will resume on Monday, July 6th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Another upcoming event is planned for Tuesday, July 21st. In the past we had this July meeting in Fellowship Hall and it had become known as "The Indoor Picnic". Well, we've jazzed it up for 2020. We're meeting at the **church parking lot at 5:30 to carpool to the Barn at Helm**. Reservations are needed by July 12th. Call Susie Lewis 765-238-0300 or Mindy 765-238-5466. The cost is \$35.00 which is also due to Susie by July 12th. It includes tour, food, vase, cut flowers, and the arrangement you create. Hope you can go with us for this fun outing. What perfect timing! A night out in the fresh air instead of staying in again! **All women of the church are invited.**

We would be remiss if we didn't mention how another United Methodist Woman that was once very active at Hagerstown has Let Her Light Shine. Our friend Joan Esterline Lafuze has written a book, "Dad Named Me Robert" (Let's talk about Mental Illness). This book will be available in our Church Library, but it's sure to be popular and may be hard to get, so it's also available at Amazon and of course comes in different formats. If you purchase your own copy, all proceeds will benefit a Scholarship at IU East for the Medical program.

Talk about Letting Your Light Shine! Way to go Joan!

Hope you see a place where you can join us to make our Light Shine even brighter.
Mindy Smith

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY from Pip the Church Mouse

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” *Mark 16:15*

Jesus calls us to go out and share the good news. But wait what if they don't want to hear it? What will I say? What if they ignore me or ridicule me? Rats! This is pretty scary stuff. Pip, the Church Mouse has become my way to share my observations or stories about Jesus and his teachings. Telling stories comes naturally to me, but coming up with a new idea for Pip can be a real challenge. Then you have to expand on that theme a bit. I seem to easily get distracted when something old or new flits through my brain. Pip does meander off the path and go astray at times. Thankfully, I'm blessed with a sister mouse who often helps me edit my musings.

I truly believe that faith in Jesus is the way to a better life now and into eternity. I'm certainly not a preacher and often can't quote appropriate Bible verses without doing some research. However, I love Bible stories. Adventure, drama, sorrow, joy, amazing characters and multiple plot changes are all in there. Pip is a simple church mouse who talks about what she sees, hears or reads. Sometimes a Bible verse, a devotional, a book or a song can give me a nudge or whisper of "Hey, how about this for Pip?" Usually if I pray over it, ponder a while and then just wait – the story will emerge. I know I couldn't write many of Pip's stories without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The story might come in a few minutes, a few hours, several days or longer. Sometimes the idea just doesn't progress and I have to let it go. Maybe I am supposed to write about something else.

An old favorite hymn was my inspiration for today's column. The beloved melody and lyrics sung by Alan Jackson kept replaying in my mind. "I love to tell the story, T will be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story, Of Jesus and his love." That's why I do Pip. Hopefully someday "in glory" I will still be telling stories. May God bless you and all those who are "hungering and thirsting to hear it ... I love to tell the story ... of Jesus and his love." Thanks for the nudge Alan. Musicians share the gospel, too.

"In these troubled times, how are we doing financially at our Church?"

I hope this will answer that, but please call me if you have questions or concerns. Greta Gustin

January - May combined contributions were \$12,700 below what we needed to make our budget and \$12,500 below the same time last year.

In April the Leadership Table with Conference encouragement voted to apply for funds under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Frankly with the elimination of in-house attendance it was tough in early April to predict if and when contributions would increase to needed levels and the vote was difficult.

May 4th we received \$18,800 our total eligibility under this Stimulus Act. These funds are earmarked to cover Payroll, Benefits and Utilities over a specific period of time. We will meet the criteria to not have to repay the funds. Because of these funds we were able to continue to meet all of our bills on-time without payroll cuts and also continue to employ the janitorial service despite reduced contributions. We also were able to pay back the GOOD fund for the \$6,000 loan that covered last year's deficit. Meanwhile spending was kept minimal. Compared to last year we are also saving the costs associated with the Family/Youth director position.

June contributions were robust enough to make our budget with a little to spare. Thank you!!
If we subtract the June YTD operating loss of <\$3,562> and the <\$6,000> for last year's loss from the \$18,800 we got from PPP we now have a positive \$9,238 available to help meet future requirements as we continue through the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. That is still a small cushion. Our monthly budget is \$14,563.

With yours faithful contributions we will continue to be able to spread God's love through our community and beyond. In addition to the regular donations and expenses we received and sent contributions that came with a specified destination.

2020 Designated Payments consisted of:

Jefferson Township for Covid-relief	3000	Faith Promise	Community Dinner	55	Donor designated
Navajo Nation fund for Covid-relief	2820	Faith Promise	Music purchases		
Work Camp refunds	1600	Donor designated	from Memorial Fund	226	“ “
Jefferson Food Pantry/Covid-relief	1650	“ “			
Guatemala Water Filters	500	“ “	Total	\$10,066	
Bishops Fund	145	“ “			
UMW Shampoo campaign	70	“ “			

ATTENTION: As of Thursday, July 2, anyone in the church building is to wear a face mask.

Youth Group Resumes with Outdoor Gatherings.

Watch for the Youth Movie Outdoors night at Leader Erin Doerstler's, 12067 Fox Rd right turn off N Jacksonburg Rd.

Adult Sunday School Class begins Sunday July 5th

Jim Howell will lead his class in Fellowship Hall



Graduates Honored July 5th

Kassidy Olinger, Jack Linderman, Sophie Foust, Teresa Rojas, Francesca Benedict. Alivia Pierce was honored June 28.



The church extends their sympathies to families and friends of

Member Bob Meyer who passed away April 8.

Member Bob Davis who passed away April 30.

Friend John Zetzl at the recent passing of his father.

In a letter sent to the congregation, it was stated that Scott Sharp was seeking to follow his ministry beyond the United Methodist Church. We have received clarification that Scott is still pursuing his discipleship and not leaving the United Methodist Church. We apologize for this misunderstanding.

Contact Us:

Rev. John E. Huff

Senior Pastor

John.huff@inumc.org

812-592-0359

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

First Hagerstown
United Methodist
Church



First United Methodist

199 South Perry Street

PO Box 65

Hagerstown,

Indiana 47346



Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 2

Hagerstown IN 47346

CART-RT.SORT

Return Service Requested