

"We love because
He first loved us."
1 John 4:19



First United Methodist Church

602 S. Market St.
Muncy, PA 17756-1628

570-546-8030
www.firstumcmuncy.org
office@FirstUMCMuncy.org

The Rev. Richard Robinson
570-546-8030
rrobinson@susumc.org

Vision Statement
We are
a welcoming family
of Christ followers,
living lives
of generosity
as we seek to be
a blessing to others.



NOVEMBER 2020

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Be Transformed This Advent Season!



His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

In "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas," best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This Advent season let's remember what's important! In the face of uncertainty and conflict, we can reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we need to reflect on the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world!

This four-week study will begin at the end of November. Sign up at a Connection Table (narthex or Living Water Café), the office or via the link in "First Light" (see "Staying in the Know" below). Group options are:

Sundays 10:30 our Living Water Café, led by Dave Gehrum
Mondays 6:30 Mothersbaughs' home in Muncy, led by John Smay
Tuesdays 10:00 sanctuary, led by Pastor Rick
Wednesdays 1:00 sanctuary, led by Sally Gardy
Wednesdays 6:30 our Living Water Café, led by Holly Pote

To complement this Advent study, Pastor Rick is preparing a sermon series on the Old Testament names of Christ found in Isaiah.

Blessed to Be a Blessing!



Due to the pandemic, Family Promise has temporarily suspended its program of housing homeless families in local churches. But we can still serve this vital ministry by **donating** coats, hats, gloves and scarves for babies through adults. Bring in new or gently used items until Thanksgiving. Hang coats in the designated sections of the coat racks, outside our Living Water Café or in Heritage Hall. Hats, gloves and scarves go in the designated bins in the same areas.

Staying in the Know

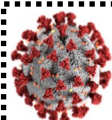


When the COVID pandemic forced us to suspend the monthly newsletters and Sunday bulletins with announcements inserts, the church needed a way to communicate with its people, without exchanging in-person materials. As a result, "First Light" was created. "First Light" is a weekly electronic newsletter that allows us to communicate the news of the church in a safe and efficient manner.

Even though the monthly newsletter has now resumed, we are still going to use "First Light" to convey more imminent church news that can't wait for the monthly newsletter. If you are not receiving "First Light" each Friday afternoon but would like to, please contact the church office or send an email to communications@firstumcmuncy.org.



"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37)." ~ Jesus



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please verify dates closer to the day of the activity you are interested in. Use the church's website calendar or contact the church office (570-546-8030; office@firstumcmuncy.org).



Dear friends,

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 virus has disrupted and changed life as we know it. Over the past nine months, I and the church leadership have been diligently doing everything within our ability to offer worship options that keep everyone connected and as safe as possible. This has been and continues to be challenging, as each new directive from Governor Wolf and Bishop Park require modifications to how we worship and do ministry.

To help simplify this process, it was decided in August to create a blended worship service, offering elements of both our traditional and contemporary services in order to offer something to all our members and constituents.

Then in September we voted to increase our allowed worship attendance from twenty-five people, as directed by the governor, to twenty five percent of our sanctuary's maximum capacity, which is eighty-five people.

From the beginning of this ordeal in March, we planned to reevaluate everything in October. After doing so, we have decided to return to three worship services beginning November 15, 2020.

We have been listening to you and have heard that, although not everyone, many of you have come to enjoy the blended worship service. Therefore, we will be offering an 8:15 traditional service, a 9:30 contemporary service and a 10:45 blended service. We will continue to require face masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing for the safety of all our beloved brothers and sisters.

Our small groups and ministries have been allowed and will continue to be allowed to meet. However, we are not at this time opening up our facilities to outside groups or rentals except for support groups. We will reevaluate this policy in the new year.

We will continue to live stream the 10:45 service for those who cannot or are not comfortable worshipping in person at this time.

Friends, I know we all would like for things to go back to "normal," to the way they use to be. And while many things will be similar, I do not think we will, or can, or even should go back to how things were. I believe this is an opportunity for us to grow and expand our understanding and vision for worship and ministry. I believe God is doing a new thing and is challenging the church to follow His lead, as we strive to reach new generations of people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The message has always been and always will be the same but the way it has been conveyed and experienced has undergone countless seasons of change, and I believe we are living into the next change.

I know change is not easy, and so I pray for you and hope you will pray for me as we journey together to where God is leading us. On behalf of myself and the church leadership, I want to thank all of you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we continue to confront COVID-19 and endeavor to be faithful to minister to one another and share the Gospel with those around us in word and deed.

Peace and Blessings
Pastor Rick

Mothers of Preschoolers

Better Moms Make a Better World!

Welcome back mommas. We invite you to join our adventure at MOPS this year. We are calling all moms with children birth to age 5 to join us. Childcare is available along with our MOPPETS program. To be paid **nursery** staff please contact Gabby.

Our November meetings are tentatively scheduled at the church on first and third Sundays, but we may meet on Zoom. We encourage you to contact us.

We will discuss “Sisterhood Cultivators”—how we build circles of women who love each other like family, because we believe in the transformative potential of relationships and mentoring.

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:24–25).”

We hope you can join us! Please contact Gabby Marconnet for more information and with any questions at kids@firstumcmuncy.org.

submitted by Gabby Marconnet, Coord.

Center for Spiritual Formation: Zoom Workshops

A “Guided Imagery Prayer Workshop” will be presented via Zoom by Laura Baber from 1:00 to 4:00 on Friday, December 4.

“When Life Is Like a Labyrinth” will be presented by Beth Knight, MAPC, Spiritual Director, Pastoral Counselor on Saturday, January 9, 9:00–2:30 or Thursday, January 14, 9:00–2:30, via Zoom.

Go to <http://www.centerformation.org/>. The center is an affiliate of the United Methodist Church.

“A new commandment I give to you ... even as I have loved you, that you also love one another (John 13:34).” ~ Jesus



Imagine what might our world look like in 2021 if we each got out of bed every morning and asked God to “Use me to bring Your love to those I meet today.”

Children's Ministry

570-916-9353

kids@FirstUMCMuncy.org

We have nursery care through age four during the three worship services, which resume on November 15 (see pages 2 and 6). To serve the church as paid **nursery** staff, please contact Gabby.

Sunday school is at 9:30 in Room 104 for ages four through eleven. We ask all children to wear a mask or face shield and wash their hands when they come in. There will be a sign-in at the door every week to track attendance. We can't wait to have everyone back and look forward to seeing you soon!

submitted by Gabby Marconnet, Children's Min. Coord.

YOUTH MINISTRY

570-412-2820

youth@FirstUMCMuncy.org

“Engage” (grades 6–8) meets at 12:00 on Sundays in CC207. The God Squad (grades 9–12) meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 in CC207.

The youth participated in Missions Expo 2020, which was hosted at our church in October. They packed 225 refugee Action Packs for Voice of the Martyrs.

Their annual Friendsgiving event is this month.

Youth will be doing community service projects.

An event is planned for recruiting and training people to **help*** with our youth ministry. Watch for details!

submitted by Kevin Myers, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Hiring Preschool Substitutes

Our church preschool is hiring **substitutes** to assist the full-time staff on an as-needed basis. No teaching certification is required. The schedule for 4-year-olds is 12:30 to 3:30, Mondays through Fridays. To learn more contact Kelly Hoover, Director/Teacher (preschool@firstumcmuncy.org).

Safe Sanctuaries: Putting Them First

We strive to provide the safest possible environment at First United Methodist Church in Muncy. Volunteers who work with children, youth or vulnerable adults at any UM Church, as well as all staff, must obtain a child abuse history clearance (Act 33), PA and FBI criminal history reports and complete MinistrySafe online training. This is done in order to be in compliance with the PA Child Protective Services Law.

Contact our Safe Sanctuaries Chair, LizAnn Barlett, with questions (570-971-6532, lizbarlett@comcast.net).



If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.





Men

Men's Breakfast—7:00 Tuesdays
Cracker Barrel Restaurant, Muncy
Denny Hammond: 570-772-9983
dhammond67@yahoo.com

Muncy Valley UM Men plan to resume
Meeting in January. Harold Geise, Pres.
570-538-9173, hgeise@windstream.net



Older Adults⁺

Keenagers is a ministry to older adults,
however anyone may attend. They gather
monthly for lunch and a program. Due to
pandemic precautions, it has been sus-
pended, tentatively until April 2021.



Widows

The Widow's Mite women have sus-
pended their monthly lunches due to pan-
demic precautions. They are continuing to
support each other with phone calls. All
community widows are welcome. Current
membership is 45! The coordinator is
Anne Knox (570-546-2012, annewknox@
gmail.com).



Women

Our women's prayer breakfast meets
at 7:30 on Thursdays at the home of Betsy
Mothersbaugh, in Muncy (570-971-7866).

Our Body & Soul women's exercise
group meets at 9:00 on Mondays and
Thursdays in the church's Celebration
Center, where social distancing is easily
accommodated. This is a low-impact
workout, adaptable to an individual's fit-
ness level and abilities.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED to schedule
Sunday doorkeepers: 570-546-8030



Christ Followers—*Live your lives in him, rooted and
built up in him ... as you were taught ... (Colossians 2:6b-7).*

Learning to Live The Life

Sun. adult classes: Childcare through age 4, Room 102
Beginning November 15 classes meet at 9:30.

- † 8:15 Room 200 Bible Life and Times: Room 200
—taught by Sally Gardy; “The Mind of Jesus”
by William Barclay
- † 9:30 Wesleyan Class: Room 201—group led
- † 10:30 “Biblical Truths” through 11/22: Lounge,
—taught by John Smay, Lay Servant

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Pastor Rick teaches at 10:00
in the sanctuary. If you prefer to participate via livestreaming,
please contact Jody Robinson at communications@firstumc
muncy.org. The focus through Nov. 17 is the book of Hosea.



Seek to be a blessing.—*Do not neglect doing good and
sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:16).*

More opportunities to serve are in boldface on pages 1 and 3.

Mission Stitchers Help provide clothing and more for those
in need! There are non-sewing tasks, and some projects can be
done from home. Call Nancy Grove (570-433-3133) for the
date and time or watch for it in “First Light” (see page 1).

Touch a Heart Local churches partner to provide Christmas
blessings to people in need in our area. This year each church
first determines the number of people in their congregation
who wish to participate. Sign up by November 15 at a Con-
nection Table (in the narthex or our Living Water Café) or via
the link in our weekly “First Light” e- newsletter. Tags will
be handed out at the church on November 22. Gifts and tags
must be brought to the church no later than December 13.

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots donations may be
brought to the labeled box at the lower level coat rack, near
the Living Water Café.

United Churches of Lycoming County newsletter is posted
on our lower level bulletin board, classroom hallway ([http://
uclc.org/newsletters/](http://uclc.org/newsletters/)). There are many opportunities to serve,
including their **Dial-A-Devotion** ministry (listen at 570-322-
5762). Volunteers record messages from home. 570-322-1110

Calvin Klein Mixup Jan. 19, 10:45 service: A woman's
long, black, hooded, winter coat, size L, was honestly
mistaken for a similar size M, and taken home.
Please contact the office to trade them (546-8030).



Sunday Morning Schedule

- † Worship services (Nursery care Rm 102)
9:30 Sanctuary—Blended style
- † Classes, children (page 3) and adults (page 4)
Grades 6–8: 12:00 — Read more on page 3.
- Beginning November 15**
- † Worship services
8:15 Sanctuary—Traditional style
9:30 Our Living Water Café—Contemporary
10:45 Sanctuary—Blended style
- † Nursery 0–4yr: 8–9:25 CC202; 9:30–12 Rm102
- † Prayer for concerns after 8:15 services with
John Smay, Lay Servant — sanctuary

Christ followers worship.

“Where two or three have gathered together
in My name I am there in their midst.”
Matthew 18:20 ~ Jesus

Nov. 1, All Saints Sunday
Celebration of Holy Communion
Josh 3:7–17; Ps 107:1–7, 33–37;
1 Thess 2:9–13; Mt 23:1–12.

Nov. 8, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Josh 24:1–3a, 14–25; Ps 78:1–7;
1 Thess 4:13–18; Mt 25:1–13.

Nov. 15, 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Deut 8:7–18; Ps 65;
2 Cor 9:6–15.

Nov. 22, 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezek 34:11–16, 20–24; Ps 100;
Eph 1:15–23; Mt 25:31–46.

Nov. 29, 1st Sunday of Advent
1 Sam 16:1–13; Ps 23;
Eph 5:8–14; Jn 9:1–41.



To sponsor worship service flowers
in 2021, please sign up in the narthex.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY at 7:00 on Sunday, November 22: Due to pandemic precautions, we will not worship in person. A community-wide virtual Thanksgiving celebration will be offered by the Muncy Ministerium with multiple pastors participating. Join in via their Facebook page or watch for the link in our weekly “First Light” e-newsletter. Plan to worship with us and invite your neighbors!

New District Superintendent



The Rev. Dr. Paul Amara was appointed as District Superintendent of the Williamsport District of the UMC, effective July 1. Dr. Amara graduated from Methodist High School in Sierra Leone, People's Friendship University in Moscow, Russia with a BA in History, an MA in Political Science, and a PhD in International Relations. He received his MDiv degree from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in New York.

Reverend Amara started his ministry in the Wyoming Conference in 2005 and was ordained elder in full connection in the Susquehanna Conference in 2012. The churches he has served include Mount Upton and Guilford in the Oneonta District of the former Wyoming Conference and Plains, Bennett-Derr and Wilkes-Barre Central in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District. Most recently he was appointed to the Albright-Bethune and Park Forest Churches in the State College District.

Dr. Amara serves on the Conference Mission Committee, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Episcopacy Committee. He was elected to be a clergy delegate to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.

Paul has a contagious sense of joy and draws people in with his genuine and friendly spirit. His sincere passion, spirit-filled presence and commitment to serve God's purpose has been evident in his desire to be an effective pastor. He possesses the ability to work collaboratively in mission and strives to help the church understand their ministry and witness as they serve the greater community. With ample experiences in global ministry, his vision for the church is unity in the midst of diversity.

Originally from Sierra Leone, he speaks multiple languages. Paul is married to Kadie (Kadiatu). They have two sons, Charles and Paul Jr., and two grandchildren, Andrew and Jacob.

Words of welcome may be sent to 2420 Nottingham Road, Williamsport, 17701 or pamara@susumc.org.



The United Methodist Women's
World Thank Offering
will be received on November 22.
Faith • Hope • Love in Action

Potted poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary in late December. To make dedications, use the order forms in the narthex and café or the link in “First Light.” If unable to obtain a form, please call the office (570-546-8030). The deadline is Nov. 15.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

*The Lord bless you, ... be gracious to you,
and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).*

11/01 Diane Shoop
11/02 Kristin Timer, Vonnie Poust
11/03 Gary Allshouse, George Duckworth
11/04 Jamie Brelsford, Judy Rider,
David Schoch
11/05 Reese Roca
11/6 Dennis Fausey, Noah Hoffman,
Gail Nuss
11/10 Kent Bennett, Pearl Rathmell
11/11 Marta Smay, Harold Geise, Nixon
Lamper, Willow Nichols, Philip Ruhl
11/13 Donna McCaslin
11/14 McKenna Beyer
11/16 Patsy Charles
11/17 Gregg Rhodes
11/18 Jerry Walburn, Jason Winters
11/19 Dave Wallis
11/20 Danica Barnes, Royce Boyles,
Kerm Breon, Ali (Swank) Stratton
11/21 Suzy Foresman
11/22 Alicia Blackwell, Rayma Gover,
Reed Hansen, Jonathan McJunkin
11/24 Chantal Gadoury
11/25 David Holsinger, Patti Myers
11/26 Devaney Hanford
11/27 Mya Evans, Glenn Schell,
Paige Wright
11/28 Janet Brown, Dawson Zerbe
11/29 Cathy Henry, Phyllis Strasburg



11/04 Pat and Bob Schreffler
11/10 Bev and Larry Rupert
11/18 Bobbi and Corey Bellows
11/20 Deb and Marshal Frye
11/24 Nancy and Dick Lyons,
Susanne and Tyler Morse
11/27 Sue and Garth Everett
11/28 Cathy and George Henry



Looking ahead ...

12/01 J.P. McCabe, Chrissie Schmidt
12/03 Alaina Brelsford, Tony Mack, Layne

FINANCE REPORT

“... living lives of generosity ...”
“Where your treasure is, there will your
heart be also (Matthew 6:21).” ~Jesus

CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 9-1-20	\$ 21,817.20
Receipts	46,114.26
Funds available	67,931.46
Total expense	33,022.05
Net balance 10-1-20	34,909.41

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 9-1-20	3,648.62
Receipts	4,266.00
Funds available	7,914.62
Total expenses	4,593.21
Net balance 10-1-20	3,321.41

BUILDING FUND

Balance 9-1-20	9,207.14
Receipts	15,120.00
Funds available	24,327.14
Total expenses	21,593.85
Net balance 10-1-20	2,733.29

Church Council Highlights—October

- A motion to send \$1000.00 from the benevolence fund to The Salvation Army was approved. They have had to cancel most of their yearly fundraising activities.
- A motion to send \$500.00 from the benevolence fund to our Susquehanna Conference for their World Food Offering was approved.
- The Susquehanna Conference leadership requires all churches to hold charge conferences this year instead of church conferences. The difference is that for a church conference, all church members are invited to attend and have voice and vote. For a charge conference, only the administrative council members are permitted to attend and have voice and vote. If you are not on the administrative council at First UMC, Muncy, but have something that you'd like to add to the charge conference, please see Pastor Rick or Dennis Fausey, Council Chair, before November 12.
- Five youth were confirmed and four were brought into church membership on October 4. Another youth will be confirmed at a later date.

Submitted by Jody Robinson, Council Recording Sec.























"Disciplines" 2021 Daily Devotional

Order by Dec. 1 in the narthex, Living
Water Café or by contacting the office.



"Blessed to be a blessing" Genesis 12:2

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Saints Sun. 1 8:15 Class 9:30 Classes 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Class 12:00 Gr. 6-8 4:00 Mothers of Preschoolers 	2 9:00 Women's exercise 	3 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 7A-8P Election polling 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Church council 7:00 GriefShare 	4 5:30 Rehearsal 6:30 Study group 7:00 Youth group	5 7:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	6 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7
8 8:15 Class 9:30 Classes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Class 12:00 Gr. 6-8 	9 9:00 Women's exercise  	10 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study 1:00 Daughters of Am.Rev.  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 GriefShare	11 12:00 Private grp 5:30 Rehearsal 7:00 Youth group	12 7:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 9:00 Archives committee  7:00 Charge conference	13 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 9:00 Mission Stitchers 
15 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Contemporary worship 10:45 Blended worship 12:00 Gr. 6-8 4:00 Mothers of Preschoolers 	16 9:00 Women's exercise  7:00 Trustees	17 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  7:00 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 7:00 Staff-Parish relations com. 7:00 Youth group	19 7:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	20 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21
World Thank Su 22 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Contemporary worship 9:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship 12:00 Gr. 6-8 7:00 Community worship online	23 9:00 Women's exercise 	24 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study  7:00 GriefShare 7:00 Finance com. 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:00 Youth group	26 Office Closed THANKSGIVING DAY	27 Office Closed 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28
Advent begins 29 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Contemporary worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Advent study 10:45 Blended worship 12:00 Gr. 6-8 	30 9:00 Women's exercise  6:30 Advent study 	1 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study  7:00 Church council 7:00 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	2 1:00 Advent study  5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Advent study 7:00 Youth group	3 7:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	4 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	5

Due to the pandemic, please verify activity dates closer to the day of occurrence. check the website calendar (firstumcmuncy.org) or contact the office (570-546-8030; office@firstumcmuncy.org).

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
602 S. MARKET STREET
MUNCY, PA 17756



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WILLIAMSPORT PA
PERMIT #151

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH STAFF

- Joy Beachel, Marty McCabe, Custodians (W) 570-546-8030
- Lucy Buck, Music Director (H) 570-584-4521
- Barry Grove, Facilities Coordinator, Financial Secretary (C) 570-447-0514
- Kelly Hoover, FUM Preschool Director/Teacher (W) 570-546-8030
- Paige Kepner, Media Coordinator, Receptionist (W) 570-546-8030
- Gabby Marconnet, Children’s Ministry Coordinator (C) 570-916-9353
- Kevin Myers, Youth Ministry Coordinator (C) 570-412-2820
- Sherrill Reynolds, Secretary (W) 570-546-8030
- Jody Robinson, Communications Director, Treasurer (W) 570-546-8030
- Rick Robinson, Pastor (W) 570-546-8030
- Tom Ruhl, Associate Music Director (C) 570-220-1544
- Julie Watson, Assistant Preschool Teacher (W) 570-546-8030



We are a welcoming family of Christ followers,
living lives of generosity as we seek to be a blessing to others.

November Newsletter