

"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

Rev. Richard N. Robinson, Jr.
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.



DECEMBER 2020

Opportunities to serve	1
Children's Ministry	2
Sunday adult classes	2
Getting Connected	2
Sunday schedule	3
Council Highlights	3
Change Your Life!	3
Birthdays	4
Finance report	4
Stewardship report	4
Church calendar	5

Take Time to Be Holy



"But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do (1 Peter 1:15)." If we think about Advent differently, our "getting ready for Christmas" could mean a more "holy time." We *can* choose Christ over busyness. We can ... participate in our church-wide Advent study opportunity. ... look online for family Advent activities. ... spend focused time with God. (Free Advent devotionals are in the narthex.) ... offer prayers of gratitude for the gift of Jesus while decorating. Focus on the Christian meanings of the ornaments. For example, the wreath is round because God is eternal, never ending. The Christmas tree is an evergreen because God's promises never fail. The lights remind us that Jesus is the light of world! ... serve others as a wonderful way to celebrate Advent (see Mission Moments below). Volunteer at a ministry that our church supports (Son Light House, Vineyard Community Activity Center, Sojourner Truth Ministries) or help a neighbor. ... lend a hand to our United Methodist Women, Muncy Valley United Methodist Men, congregational care team (Dave Waltz, convener—570-584-4402), children's ministry and youth ministry. (Find contact information on page 2.) ... support the ministries and missions of our church (contact Barry Grove, finance committee chair—570-433-3133). UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has opportunities to give that help others in amazing ways! Donations can be designated for specific projects in the categories of hunger and poverty, water and sanitation, education, and health ministries (advance.umcor.org). ... worship on Christmas Eve.

Sometimes we put pressure on ourselves to carry out holiday-time traditions. Let's give ourselves permission to take time to be holy.

based on a UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino

Mission Moments

With COVID-19 restrictions, we have to "double think" all of our mission activities. There are things we do every year that now cannot be safely done, so we've learned to adapt.

Family Promise of Lycoming County is one of the missions we do. Since we could not house participants in our church, we provided them with meals at the FP day center. Our turn to help in October worked out very well. A big thanks to those who volunteered for this important ministry.

Family Promise collected coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for the homeless in the area. Our church family provided so many wonderful coats to keep folks warm.

Our time and talents can be directed toward the things that really matter this Christmas. Our giving continues with Toys for Tots (deadline December 18, lower level coat rack area) and Touch a Heart, which benefit children and the elderly locally.

Our plans also include giving \$20 gift cards to Weis shoppers. To be part of this, contact me (570-546-8910). If you'd like to be a Salvation Army bell ringer at Sam's Club on December 12, please contact Karen Barraco (570-546-5180).

Although it seems like everything is disjointed, one thing is constant, and that is that God is always with us. So we will celebrate the birth of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, as we have in years past. This year Christmas may be different, quieter, or less busy. But we haven't lost our anticipation, our joy or our celebration of the birth of the King!

*submitted by Convener Joyce McCarty
Externally Focused Church Team*

Bags Needed

The church is accepting donations of clean, plastic shopping bags, any size, any color. Use the labeled box at the lower level entrance. The bags will be given to a church whose volunteers cut them into strips. Those are crocheted into two sizes of bed mats for the homeless. The smaller size requires 100 bags!

Mats provide some protection from dampness, cold, and hard surfaces. The added benefit is that there will be less plastic in the landfill! Learn more on YouTube.

Children's Ministry

570-916-9353
kids@FirstUMCMuncy.org

We have a fun annual Christmas party coming up! Our party will be at 9:30 on Sunday, December 20. A mask or face shield is recommended.

Have you ever wanted to be involved with our children's division but didn't know how? Here is your chance! As children's ministry coordinator, I am looking for a few people to form a children's council. We will meet three times a year. We're looking for people who want to help the children's division thrive! Are you willing to give a few hours a year of your time to our children's division? For more information please contact me, Gabby Marconnet, at kids@firstumcmuncy.org.

We are looking for a Sunday school teacher to serve once a month. Everything is provided. Safe Sanctuaries training and abuse clearances, required by state law and the UMC, keep our kids protected.

*submitted by Gabby Marconnet
Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Find tips at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/helping-children-process-coronavirus>.

"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."

Learning to Live The Life

Sun. adult classes 9:30—Childcare thru age 4, Rm 102

- † Bible Life and Times: Room 200
—taught by Sally Gardy; "The Mind of Jesus"
- † Wesleyan Class: Room 201—group led; topic TBD
- † 10:45 Advent study, through Dec. 20—in our Living Water Café; Dave Gehrum, lay speaker
- † "God's Truths"—taught by John Smay, lay servant; resumes in January; time and location TBA

Advent study: Find the four weekday group options on the church website or contact the church office.

The Tuesday morning Bible study resumes in January. Pastor Rick teaches at 10:00 in the sanctuary. If you prefer to participate via livestreaming, please contact Jody Robinson at communications@firstumcmuncy.org. The focus will be the book of Hosea.



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

Getting Connected

For the days and times of regular activities of the church, please see the calendar on page 5.

For information about any of these activities, please contact the leaders listed below.

- † Body & Soul women's exercise class: 9:00 a.m.
Mondays and Thursdays in our Celebration Center;
Dori Fisher, doriscranton@yahoo.com
- † GriefShare: 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, lounge; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † Men's breakfast: 7:00 Tuesdays, at Cracker Barrel;
Denny Hammond, dhammond67@yahoo.com
- † Mission Stitchers: monthly, on Saturday mornings;
Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Mothers of Preschoolers: first and third Sundays;
Gabby Marconnet, kids@firstumcmuncy.org
- † Muncy Valley United Methodist Men: 4th Mondays;
Harold Geise, 570-538-9173
- † UM Women: Aline Miller, 570-584-5850
- † Women's prayer breakfast: 8:30 Thursdays;
Betsy Mothersbaugh, 570-971-7866
- † God Squad (grades 9–12): 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays,
CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED to schedule Sunday doorkeepers. Please call the office (570-546-8030).

Sunday Morning Schedule

- † Worship services (unless otherwise noted)
 - 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
—sanctuary, with Lay Servant John Smay
- † Classes, 9:30: children (Rm 101); adults (p. 2)
“Engage” (grades 6–8) 11:00—CC207

Christ followers worship.

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

Dec. 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent Celebration of Holy Communion

Isaiah 64:1–9;
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19;
1 Corinthians 1:3–9;
Mark 13:24–37.

Dec. 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11;
Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24;
John 1:6–8, 19–28.

Dec. 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16;
Luke 1:47–55;
Romans 16:25–27;
Luke 1:26–38.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve time to be determined

Isaiah 9:2–7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–20.

Dec. 27, 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10–62:3;
Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4–7;
Luke 2:22–40.



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



December 24 Worship Service
Watch for details in our weekly “First
Light” e-newsletter or call the office.

Church Council Highlights—November

- Benevolence giving in October included \$800.00 from Mission Stitches to the Missions Expo event; \$1,038.00 collected for the World Communion Offering; \$741.17 spent by VIM to build a ramp for a community member experiencing health issues; several fuel assistance payments from the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund; and \$1,000.00 sent to the Salvation Army.

submitted by Council Recording Sec. Jody Robinson

How to Change Your Life!

The #1 spiritual discipline is to take in God’s word because it is the foundation of our lives. In the Scriptures, God reveals himself and his will for us. If we want to know and enjoy God, the place to begin is God’s word! Apart from the Bible, we can’t know what God is like.

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts (Jeremiah 15:16).” To eat God’s words means to hear and read them.

The first thing we should seek to incorporate into our lives is regular meditation on Scripture. To meditate on God’s word means to ponder it, dwell on it, chew on it and roll it over in our mind in order to apply it to our lives. When we do this consistently, God’s words become a joy and the delight of our hearts.

A second way to take in God’s word is to memorize it. Some think that’s too hard. Here’s a simple way to get started: Write one Scripture on a 3×5 card and read it two or three times every day (at whatever time is best for you) as the first part of your time with the Lord.

Bear in mind also that it’s better to read the Bible five minutes a day than once a month for an hour. And as far as taking the time to do so, we know that there is *nothing* better for us than to spend time in God’s word. We are not to do it legalistically, but because we love it and it blesses us. It’s like eating meals every day. I don’t eat breakfast because I have to. It’s because I like food, and it gives me strength.

Excerpted from “Five Spiritual Disciplines That Will Change Your Life” at “The Blazing Center” blog site of Mark Altrogge.



You can receive these newsletters by email!
570-546-8030, office@firstumcmuncy.org



“Disciplines” 2021 Daily Devotional
Pick up ordered copies at a Connection Table
(in the narthex and our Living Water Café).
Extra copies may be available.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

12/01 J.P. McCabe, Chrissie Schmidt
 12/03 Alaina Brelsford, Tony Mack,
 Layne Oden
 12/04 Kathy Grenoble, Helen June
 12/06 Madesyn Brelsford, Joan Harman,
 Hailey Lucas
 12/07 Troy Hansen
 12/08 Denny Hammond, Kelsey Foreman,
 Jason Perritt
 12/11 Mary Eckard, Nancy Poust
 12/12 Emily Glidewell
 12/13 Tom Gordner
 12/16 Temperance Eck, Brooke Rishel
 12/17 Dominique Schell
 12/18 Erabella Eck, Deb Frye, Matt Frye,
 Samantha Velkoff
 12/19 Scott Moon
 12/20 Mary Ann Hull, Angie Kustanbauter
 12/21 MJ Kainz, Carol Karschner,
 Dave Waltz
 12/22 Kathy Burkhart, Chris Maneval
 12/23 Morgan Armstrong
 12/24 Lillian Klucka, Dave Pentz,
 Justin Winters
 12/26 Samantha Robinson
 12/27 Reid Baker, Cris Morgan, Trent Statts
 12/28 Elsie Emick
 12/30 Jane Lucas, Sophie Strong
 12/31 Elaine Duckworth, Betty Wright



12/04 Dona and Dan Winder
 12/13 Michelle and Chris Ebner,
 Jackie and Barry Shuck
 12/14 Alyson and T.J. McCabe,
 Betsy and Jim Mothersbaugh
 12/30 Holly and Don Pote
 12/31 Cori and Dan Cotner, Jan and Pete
 Madison, Patty and Paul Wentzler



Ryder Michael was born Nov. 8 to Kelsey and
 Madison Foreman. He is the grandson of Paula and
 Marty McCabe and great grandson of Loretta Ryder.

Velma Ruhl (mother of Tom) turns 100 on Dec. 27. Her
 family can't celebrate with a party due to nursing home
 pandemic restrictions, so they're doing a birthday card
 shower. 305 E. Tressler Blvd., Apt. 307, Lewisburg 17837

FINANCE REPORT

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

CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 10-1-20	\$ 34,909.41
Receipts	37,754.90
Funds available	72,664.31
Total expense	34,513.66
Net balance 11-1-20	38,150.65

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 10-1-20	3,321.41
Receipts	2,543.00
Funds available	5,864.41
Total expenses	2,692.41
Net balance 11-1-20	3,172.00

BUILDING FUND

Balance 10-1-20	2,733.29
Receipts	2,083.00
Funds available	4,816.29
Total expenses	0.00
Net balance 11-1-20	4,816.29

2021 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2021 envelopes in Heritage Hall
 through December 27, and in the lower level vestibule
 after that. Envelope numbers can be found on the alpha-
 betical list provided. If your envelopes are missing or
 you would like to have envelopes, please contact Barry
 Grove (570-447-0514, finance@firstumcmuncy.org).

Stewardship Report

As of November 18, 62 estimate of giving cards for
 2021 were received.

14 families increased their pledge for 2021. The pro-
 jected income for 2021 is \$524,500.00. This represents a
 2.5% increase over 2020. Thank you for your generous
 pledges and giving!

*But who are we, that we should be able to give as
 generously as this? Everything comes from you (Lord),
 and we have given you only what comes from your hand
 (1 Chronicles 29:14).*

*submitted by Chair Barry Grove,
 First UMC Muncy, Finance Committee*



"Blessed to be a blessing" Genesis 12:2

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.		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 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	3 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	4 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	5
6 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Contemporary worship 10:30 Advent study  10:30 Gr. 6-8 10:45 Blended worship 4:00 Mothers of Preschoolers	7 9:00 Women's exercise  6:30 Advent study 	8 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study  7:00 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	9 1:00 Advent study  5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Advent study 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	10 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Archives committee 9:00 Women's exercise 	11 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	12 9:00 Mission Stitches  12:00 Private group
13 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Contemporary worship 10:30 Advent study 10:30 Gr. 6-8 10:45 Blended worship 	14 9:00 Women's exercise   6:30 Advent study 	15 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study  7:00 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	16 1:00 Advent study  5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Advent study 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	17 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	18 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	19
20 8:15 Traditional worship  9:30 Classes 9:30 Contemporary worship 10:30 Advent study 10:30 Gr. 6-8 10:45 Blended worship 12:00 Private grp 4:00 Mothers of Preschoolers	21 9:00 Women's exercise   6:30 Advent study 7:00 Trustees meeting	22 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	23 1:00 Advent study 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	24  TBA Worship service	25 Christmas JOY TO THE WORLD! 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	26 2:00 Private group
27 8:15 Traditional worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Contemporary worship 10:30 Gr. 6-8 10:45 Blended worship 	28 9:00 Women's exercise 	29 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	30 1:00 Advent study 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:30 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	31 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 	1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2

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.

December Newsletter