

APRIL 2021

First United Methodist Church
602 S. Market St.
Muncy, PA 17756-1628

Worship services
Nursery care is available.
8:15 & 10:45: sanctuary
9:30: our Living Water Café
Classes: 9:30 adults & kids
19:45 adults

Church office: 570-546-8030
www.firstumcmuncy.org
office@FirstUMCMuncy.org
Rev. Richard N. Robinson
570-546-8040
rrobinson@susumc.org

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



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




Holy Week 101

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday (March 29), progresses through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (April 1 and 2), and culminates with Easter (April 4).

Maundy Thursday is the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." In John's gospel, on Jesus' last night and before his betrayal and arrest, he washed the feet of his disciples and gave them a new commandment—to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). While John does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other Gospels do. Christians therefore mark this night with the celebration of Holy Communion.

The term Good Friday may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday." It proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord. It's "good" because God drew the world to Himself in Christ!

Holy Week Worship Services

April 1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.
with Holy Communion
 sanctuary (and livestreamed)

April 2 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.
sanctuary (and livestreamed)

Easter Sunday, April 4

6:30 a.m. Son Rise Worship Service (outside)
8:15 Worship service
9:30 Adult classes; no children's class
9:30 Worship service
10:45 Adult class; no Children's Church
10:45 Worship service (also livestreamed to FB)
(No nursery care available)



Easter Season

Easter, for Christians, is not just one day, but a 50-day period. The season of Easter begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on May 23, Pentecost Sunday (from the Greek word which means fiftieth), the day on which we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church of Christ (described in the Bible in chapter 2 of the book of Acts).

This is *the most joyous season of the Christian year!* We celebrate the Good News that in Christ's death and resurrection we are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace! It gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say, "Christ is risen!" We remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, as stated in the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people" we celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and how we can live as faithful disciples.

United Methodist Women: Faith • Hope • Love in Action

United Methodist Women of First UMC, Muncy, has not met since March 10, 2020. Yes, 2020! Its leadership team met February 24, 2021 and set the date for our first meeting of 2021 as Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. in our Living Water Café (masked and socially distanced). We will have election of officers and then Darlene Webb, past president, will lead the installation of officers. Until then, we would like you to consider this question: How has God been with you during this year of the pandemic? Bring your written answer to the meeting and our secretary will enter our testimonies into the 2020 record book. If you will be unable to attend the meeting, please send your response to Karen Barraco (kbarraco@windstream.net; 649 Fogleman Rd., Muncy, 17756). We look forward to seeing you and sharing our stories of God's provision!

submitted by Karen Barraco, UMW member, First UMC, Muncy

Co-ed Christian Softball League

13 yrs–adult (under 16 w/ a parent)

Games: 6:00 Tuesdays, beginning 5/11

Call Marty McCabe by April 15.

570-971-6386

FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

accepting 2021–22 applications

3-yr-olds: Tuesdays–Thursdays
8:30–11:00 \$130/mo.

4-year-olds: Mondays–Fridays
12:30–3:30 \$175/mo.

registration forms: church office
and at www.firstumcmuncy.org



Get Connected

- † Bible Study (Hosea): 10:00 Tuesdays, Living Water Café; with Pastor Rick Beginning April 13
- † Body & Soul women’s exercise: 9 a.m. Mondays/Thursdays, Celebration Cntr; Linda Holsinger, 570-546-6840
- † Engage (gr. 6–8): 11:00 a.m. Sundays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † God Squad (grades 9–12): 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † GriefShare: 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, lounge; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † Men’s breakfast: 7:00 Tuesdays, Cracker Barrel Restaurant; Denny Hammond, 570-772-9983
- † Mission Stitchers: monthly, second Saturdays, Celebration Center; Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Mothers of Preschoolers: Gabby Marconnet, kids@firstumcmuncy.org
- † Muncy Valley UM Men: 4th Mondays; Harold Geise, 570-538-9173
- † Study group: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, via Zoom; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com

Community Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous: 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Celebration Center; open
Narcotics Anonymous: 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays; Celebration Center; open
Social benefit dance: 6:40–10:00, May 1, Celebration Center; Gary and Bonnie Glidewell (instructors), 570-546-2866

Graduates Recognition Sunday



Graduates Recognition will be Sunday, June 6. Any student graduating from high school, college or other post secondary training who has not received a letter by April 5 from the church regarding this should contact the office (570-546-8030, office@firstumcmuncy.org).

Engage!

Dear Congregation, our youth group for grades 6–8 has been studying Ephesians 4–6 to learn about the ways we can "walk in love." We have started letter-writing with you and made pick-up packs to help share joy and love in school. Our next project is a thank you gift to the Muncy Volunteer Firefighters.

We are asking you to consider donating single-serve bags of snacks, playing cards, small game books (Sudoku, etc.), packs of bottled water or Gatorade, and notes of encouragement for our local volunteers.

These individuals set a great example of serving our community, and we hope to show our gratitude for them. We hope to attend their April membership meeting to deliver the items.

Please bring donations by April 18 to Heritage Hall (next to the sanctuary) or our Living Water Café. As young believers, we thank you for helping us learn as we walk our faith journeys.

Sincerely, Engage Members

Sharing the Table

When we think about “sharing the table” in church, visions of Holy Communion come to mind. But there’s an addition to that picture on Sundays at 9:30 during the contemporary worship service in our Living Water Café.

“Table talk” occurs twice during the service, adding interactive opportunities between the corporate singing and worship. Toward the beginning of the service the congregation breaks into smaller groups to share joys and concerns with those around them—in essence, a deeper dive into their lives for that given week.

After the pastor’s sermon, small groups reconvene for table talk. Participants discuss what the scripture and message mean to them. Questions are provided to start and guide the conversation. Each individual brings a unique understanding of the message to the table.

These two opportunities are lead by facilitators who ensure that all are included in the conversations.

One of the more interesting questions is “What will you remember about the message next Friday?”

These opportunities have been unique additions that promote strong bonds within our congregation, as we share ourselves with each other during the sessions and keep worshiping throughout the week through emails, phone calls and texts with each other.

submitted by Dave Gehrum, UMC Certified Lay Speaker

TREASURER'S REPORT

CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 2-1-21	\$18,881.93
Receipts	53,773.22
Funds available	72,655.15
Total expenses	44,325.74
Net balance 3-1-21	28,329.41

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 2-1-21	8,754.93
Receipts	7,441.00
Funds available	16,195.93
Total expenses	2,731.85
Net balance 3-1-21	13,464.08

BUILDING FUND

Balance 2-1-21	6,022.12
Receipts	6,181.00
Funds available	12,203.12
Total expenses	600.00
Net balance 3-1-21	11,603.12

March Council Highlights

- John Smay was nominated and approved as our church council chair, after Dennis Fausey stepped down to focus on his health.
- 2020 external and internal audits were done. All financial records are in order.
- Our hospitality committee reported Good 'n Plenty Meals or meals to outside groups won't be served before autumn.

submitted by Jody Robinson

Council Recording Secretary, First UMC

Soupless Soup Sale for Missions

One of the “casualties” of the pandemic has been the annual vegetable beef soup sale sponsored by United Methodist Women of First UMC, Muncy (usually in February). As our largest fundraiser, the proceeds benefit our local mission outreach projects and our pledge to missions through the Susquehanna Conference UMW. Therefore, as we did in 2015 when construction to the church made the kitchen inaccessible, we are sponsoring a “Soupless Soup Sale.” If you would like to support our cause, on Sunday, April 11, we will have containers as you enter the church for your donations. Also, you may bring or send your gift to the church office. Checks should be payable to “United Methodist Women.” Thank you in advance for helping us continue our efforts to be “faith, hope and love — in action.”

submitted by Karen Barraco

UMW member, First UMC Muncy



“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” ~ Jesus

Matthew 6:21

2020 Year-End Financial Report

Once again we at First UMC, Muncy, have been blessed with an outstanding year for our finances. At the end of 2020 we had these balances:

Current Expense Fund: \$ 21,097.96

Building Fund: \$ 1,041.12

Benevolence Fund: \$ 7,575.78

The Christmas offering of \$1,840.00 will be sent to our Susquehanna Conference's Camp and Retreat Ministry.

A decision was made at church council in March that we felt should be shared with the congregation. \$7,500 of the balance in the benevolence fund will be distributed to charitable and Christian organizations to aid them with projects and expenses in 2021. (See the article below.)

After these decisions, we had the following balance to begin 2021:

Current Expense Fund: \$21,097.96

Building Fund: 1,041.12

Benevolence Fund: 75.78

In 2020 we collected over \$648,000.00 in offerings and various donations. We'll distribute over \$73,000.00 through the benevolence fund, which is 12% of our income.

submitted by Barry Grove

Finance Committee Chair, First UMC

Annual Benevolence Disbursements

In March our church council approved the recommendations of the ad hoc committee for the disbursement of \$7,500.00 in benevolence funds from 2020, along with a single line item of \$1,815.00 (which is 10%—a tithe—of the income in our endowment general fund).

Camp Victory, Millville	\$500
Central PA Food Bank	500
Cornerstone Christian High School, Malawi	600
Experience Missions	1815
Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity	500
Sojourner House of Hope	500
River Valley YMCA	500
Salvation Army, Williamsport	1000
Shepherd of the Streets, Williamsport	500
Sojourner Truth Ministries, Williamsport	400
UM Committee on Relief (TX or USA)	1000
Veterans Multi-service Center	500
Vineyard Community Activity Center, Muncy	500
WGRC Christian Radio (Lewisburg)	250
WJSA Radio (Jersey Shore)	250

Committee members: Gary Allshouse (chair), Bob Forse, Barry Grove, Joyce McCarty, Gail Pentz, Pastor Rick Robinson, Dave Waltz

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



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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WILLIAMSPORT PA
PERMIT #151

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

CHURCH STAFF

- Joy Beachel, Marty McCabe, Custodians (W) 570-546-8030
- Lucy Buck, Music Director (H) 570-584-4521
- Barry Grove, Director of Operations, Finance Secretary (C) 570-447-0514
- Kelly Hoover, FUM Preschool Director/Teacher (W) 570-546-8030
- Paige Kepner, Receptionist, Media Coordinator (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, Church Treasurer, Communications Director (W) 570-546-8030
- Rick Robinson, Pastor (W) 570-546-8030
- Tom Ruhl, Associate Music Director (C) 570-220-1544
- Julie Watson, Preschool Assistant Teacher (W) 570-546-8030



Celebrating New Life Together in Jesus Christ
Growing Deeper, Giving of Ourselves, Reaching Wider

April Newsletter