

AUGUST 2021



*"Seek first
His Kingdom and
His righteousness."
~Jesus
Matthew 6:33*

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

570-546-8030
Office hours: M-F 9:00-4:00
www.firstumcmuncy.org
office@FirstUMCMuncy.org

Rev. Richard N. Robinson
570-546-8040
rrobinson@susumc.org

Sunday morning schedule

- Worship services:
8:15 traditional
9:30 contemporary
10:45 blended

• Classes:

- 9:30 adults, children
10:30 adults, children

Nursery care is available.

Vision Statement

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



New Staff Position



In July our staff-parish relations committee announced a new part-time position for our children's ministry program. The administrative director of children's ministries oversees ministries for children, birth through 5th grade. This includes visioning and developing programs along with coordination, delegation and oversight of paid and volunteer workers. The purpose is to lead children to a foundational, authentic relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lisa Laidacker has been hired for this position. She will work with Children's Ministry Coordinator Gabby Marconnet. Lisa recently retired after 25 years of employment in the field of education. She spent eight years teaching business education in a high school setting, fourteen years as a high school counselor and three years teaching STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) to kindergarten through 6th graders. Elementary education was her favorite area, and she's happy to be working with little ones again.

Lisa and her husband, Gary, have been members of First United Methodist Church, Muncy, for four years. They have four children, six grandchildren and a dog. They enjoy traveling, golfing and spending time with family and friends.

Lisa is very excited about working with our children's ministry team to grow our program, which is now named "Jesus and Me"—"JAM" for short. Contact her at jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org and 570-419-8786. Welcome, Lisa!

Susquehanna Fellowship Float

Join us on Sunday, August 15, for a fun, relaxing time on the river! We'll launch promptly at 1:00. The put-in and take-out locations are yet to be determined. Bring friends and your watercraft of choice. If the event needs to be canceled, it will be announced that morning during worship services and via a congregation-wide email. (If you don't already receive occasional informational congregation-wide emails and would like to be added, please contact the office.)



This summer our Muncy Team in the Charlie Strayer Memorial Christian Fellowship Softball League enjoyed yet another season of comradery, exercise and fun! We have participated for over twenty years! Members included: (kneeling l-r) Tyler Wagner, Zach Fry, Glenn Klucka, Tyler Morse, McKenna Beyer, Bob Reynolds; (standing l-r) Steve Overdorf, Coach Marty McCabe, Andrew Dincher, Ben Robinson, Ellen Dincher, Pastor Rick Robinson, Kevin Myers. Missing from photo: Maddie Beyer, Josh Fry, Matthew McCabe

Get Connected

Confirm events at our website calendar.

- † Coffee Fellowship: Welcome Center and Living Water Café before and after Sunday services; Contact Candy Winters 570-546-3963 to host (make coffee, set out snacks, clean up).
- † Men's fellowship: 8:00 p.m. Sundays; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † Body & Soul women's exercise: 9 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays, Celebration Center; Linda Holsinger, 570-546-6840
- † Men's breakfast: 7:00 Tuesdays Cracker Barrel Restaurant; Denny Hammond, 570-772-9983
- † Bible study—"Letters of John": 10:00 Tuesdays in our Living Water Café; taught by Pastor Rick; no homework or registration
- † GriefShare: 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Welcome Center; Holly, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † "Seasons of the Spirit" Bible study 6:30 every other Wednesday (8/11, 25); facilitators Becky Shaner, Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † Youth group (grades 6–12): 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † Mission Stitchers: 9–12:00 3rd Saturdays, CC107; Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Muncy Valley UM Men: picnic Monday, Aug. 23; Harold Geise, 570-538-9173

Community Groups

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays; Room 103
- Narcotics Anonymous: 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays; Room 107; open
- Alcoholics Anonymous: Room 107 7:00 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8:00 a.m. Saturdays; open
- Widow's Mite monthly lunch: 12:00 third Thursdays; location varies; Anne Knox, 570-974-1020
- Social dance: August 7, 7:00–10:00 (6:40—no free lesson); Celebration Center; \$5 donation to mission efforts; Gary and Bonnie Glidewell, 570-546-2866 bgdance@comcast.net

Youth Events

Students in grades 6 through 12 will gather at 6:00 on Sunday, August 8, for worship at our pavilion (inside if there is inclement weather).

On Sunday, August 22, starting at 1:00 there will be a "Back to School Bash" at our church. To help, contact Kevin Myers, youth ministry coordinator (570-412-2820; youth@firstumcmuncy.org).

UMC Spiritual Formation Podcasts

How do you nurture your soul? The Compass Podcast seeks to answer this question by sharing insights on finding something spiritual or the presence of the Divine in day-to-day life.

This bi-monthly podcast talks with special guests about how they are encountering spirituality in surprising ways—such as when facing up to their own self-doubt, asking questions, or in hanging out with their kids. Join hosts Pierce and Ryan as they go on a journey to come up with creative answers to the old, old question: "How goes it with your soul?"

Visit <https://www.umc.org/en/rethink-church/compass-podcast>. Another good resource is found at <https://www.umc.org/en/ways-we-grow/tools-for-your-spiritual-journey/podcasts>.

United Methodist Women Hope • Faith • Love in Action



Summer is a time for hands-on mission for United Methodist Women. Our June 30 outreach to Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg was a great experience. Many thanks to those who donated, prepared and/or traveled to deliver the lunch! Their summer program for children and youth in their community is a blessing!

Plans for our annual picnic for the girls at Ashler Manor are uncertain due to pandemic restrictions. Get more up-to-date information through the "First Light" weekly church e-newsletter or contact Gail Pentz (570-546-3998). If we are unable to have the picnic, we will still deliver the gift bags for approximately 35 residents, which include a Bible, personal care items and treats.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14.

LOOKING FORWARD: Upcoming community-wide event sponsored by United Methodist Women on Sunday, October 3, 2:00–4:00: "Dwell Orphan Care" in Williamsport will present their story of supporting foster and adoptive families so that children have a safe, loving, forever home in which to dwell. Save the date and look for more information on this important ministry in the near future! Learn more at DwellOrphanCare.org.

*submitted by Karen Barraco, secretary
United Methodist Women, Muncy*



CELEBRATIONS

To add a birthday or anniversary, contact the office (570-546-8030, office@firstumcmuncy.org).

*May the blessings of our loving God
fill your heart with joy!*

- 8/3 Betsy Parker, Joanie Wallis
- 8/5 Yuanita Frantz
- 8/7 Annie Bell, Bobbi Bellows
- 8/8 Galen Betzer, Jan Marie Lamper
- 8/9 Barb Kiessling
- 8/10 Gary Glidewell, Cookie Shaffer
- 8/11 Ben Robinson
- 8/12 Craig June, Brian Kustanbauter
- 8/14 Dylan Leshar
- 8/15 Jennie Borek, Roland Long
- 8/16 Barry Grove, Alex Laubscher, Cole Leshar
- 8/17 Jed Lamper, Colby Way
- 8/18 Jim Goss, Joyce Heiges, Jake LeVan (90th*),
Shickera Speights
- 8/19 Corey Bellows
- 8/20 Amara Barnes, Michele Ebner, Melissa Hull,
Brittany Mostowy, Sam Sherman, Mishia Spring
- 8/21 Bob Forse, Alyssa Schell
- 8/22 Erin Barto, Clark Enders
- 8/23 A.J. Marconnet, Marty McCabe
- 8/24 Juli Mingle
- 8/25 Nick Kilpatrick, Dave Spring
- 8/26 LizAnn Barlett, Hailey Myers, Jody Robinson
- 8/27 Mary Ann Wertman
- 8/28 Nichole Buck-Manikowsky
- 8/30 Becky DeWald, Mary Ann Miller,
Logan Zerbe
- 8/31 Chad McElwee

* age provided with permission



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- 8/1 Angie and Brian Kustanbauter,
Dolly and Layne Oden
 - 8/2 Mary Ann and Nick Kilpatrick
 - 8/7 Marcy and Tim Benner
 - 8/11 Stacie and Stan Nierzwicki
 - 8/13 BJ and Phil Soohy
 - 8/15 Jennie and Walter Borek
 - 8/17 Sue and Scott Moon
 - 8/20 Melissa and Donnie Zerbe
 - 8/21 Tiffany and Royce Boyle,
Becky and Dennis DeWald
 - 8/23 Alicia and Corey Blackwell
 - 8/24 Idona and Eugene Artman,
 - 8/26 Sara and Joe Lowe
 - 8/29 Brenda and Joe Neidig
 - 8/31 Brooke and Troy Hansen,
Sally and Garman Zehner



THANK YOU

Dear First UMC Muncy,

*We want to thank you for the use of the pavilion
for the Waltz reunion.*

Dave Waltz and family

*I wish to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards,
and prayers during the time of my recovery from a
stroke. I am so thankful for our thoughtful, caring
congregation. Your prayers really helped me to my
complete recovery. Thank you. Craig Miller*

Dear First UMC Family,

*Thank you so much for reaching out to me follow-
ing my graduation and for the generous gift. I appre-
ciate all of the kind words of encouragement and
prayers as I continue on in my journey to become a
registered nurse. I will always keep my church family
close to my heart wherever my journey takes me.*

With love, Elly Sherman

*I want to thank everyone, including my brothers
and sisters in Christ at First United Methodist
Church, for the phone calls, well wishes, prayers and
cards that I received during my two-week "adven-
ture." I am pretty much back to normal, but I had to
slow down my daily activities for a while. That was
the hardest part for me to do. Thank you!*

Jan Mostowy

Dear Church Family,

*It has been an honor to receive the First UMC
and Rinn scholarships. I am beyond grateful as these
awards will help me with the cost of my college edu-
cation. Thank you for the recognition and continual
support. It's nice to know I have such a supportive
community. I am excited to embark on my next edu-
cational journey and next chapter of my life, which
you all have made possible. Thank you. Rory Oden*

Dear First UMC,

*Thank you for your donation to Family Promise of
Lycoming County. You are making a difference! To-
gether we are braking the cycle of homelessness,
eradicating food insecurity for children and keeping
working families housed.*

Jenny Hull, Executive Director

Dear First UMC,

*I give sincere thanks to God for your donation to
Shepherd of the Streets. It will help people in our
community receive their medications, travel to their
medical appointments, purchase eyeglasses, and re-
ceive hygiene items.*

In Christian Love,

The Rev. Mark Brumbach

10 Ways to Improve Your Prayer Life

Moses went to a mountaintop to hear God. Jesus fled to the desert. But for many Christians, their most regular place for praying is whatever pew they sit in on Sundays. Work, children, chores and other duties make stopping for prayer seem a luxury.

In today's culture, some even joke that Charles Wesley's quote "Pray and never faint" refers to passing out from an overloaded schedule.

"We forget to intentionally make space for prayer," said Betty Kay Hudson of First United Methodist Church in Lancaster, S.C. That's not the way it's supposed to be. Souls, like vines, tend to grow wild and weak when untended.

No matter the season on the church calendar—Advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost—or all of the times in between, prayer is the gasoline that fuels Christians. "Prayer is the catalyst," says The Rev. Jeffrey Kersey, a United Methodist minister in Lexington, S.C.

Prayer, like tennis, takes practice to become accomplished. Spiritual guides and sages, pastors and other church members are filled with advice and counsel. Here's some of that wisdom condensed into ten tips about prayer:

1) You are worthy. Do not feel guilty about the quality of your prayer life, or fall victim to doubts and despair about your worthiness to talk to God. Each of us has a spiritual gift. So remember John Wesley's words: "In Christ we gain more than in Adam we lost."

2) The more you pray, the richer your prayers become. To deepen your prayer life, don't be a slacker. Like anything in life, to become good at prayer you must be disciplined. Just as running is an exercise in physical fitness, prayer is a spiritual discipline.

3) Prayer involves action; namely, being attentive to God's voice in your life. Listening for God means stopping and sitting still. It means paying attention to what God may be saying to you at any point in your life. *(continued to next column)*

(continued from column one)

4) Prayer should not be an afterthought. Prayer was the backbone of Jesus' ministry. Often, he broke away from his disciples to spend time with God. In the same way, prayer is essential to individual lives and to the life of the church. Break away from your daily routine for quiet time in prayer.

5) Surround yourself with people who are seasoned at praying. People who've established prayer routines have much to teach those wanting to draw closer to God. Seek out those who can help guide and encourage your prayer life.

6) God doesn't require eloquence. Don't worry if you fumble for words when you pray. God is not looking for "Toastmasters" graduates but sincerity (not that you can't have both at once). If the words won't come, God still knows what's in your heart. Lift up that desire.

7) Prayer need not involve words. The great Christian saints all write of prayer as a time of sitting quietly with God. Jesus even went off for forty days of prayerful solitude. Take a deep breath. Exhale. Follow the breath as it flows in and out of your body. Think of it as the spirit of God breathing life into you.

8) Prayer is a time for conversation with a friend: God. Whether you see that friend routinely or just every once in awhile, know that whenever you turn to God, you're turning to someone who loves you.

9) Ask God for help if you get stuck. Maybe you've hit a dry spell. There's no shame in asking God to guide you to pray in a new way.

10) The three Ls of prayer: Listen, listen, listen. Listening for God is central to prayer, according to the great saints. It's so critical that St. Benedict began his famous Rule with this command for monks: "Listen with the ear of your heart."

And remember, prayer can happen anywhere -- it doesn't have to take place in a church.















by Susan Hogan

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/10-ways-to-improve-your-prayer-life>



If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15 Traditional worship service 9:30 Contemporary service 9:30 Classes 10:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship service	2 9:00 Women's exercise 	3 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Church council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous mtg	4 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	5 9:00 Women's exercise and picnic 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	6 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Social dance 
8 8:15 Traditional worship service 9:30 Contemporary service 9:30 Classes 10:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship service 6:00 Youth Worship Night	9 9:00 Women's exercise 11:00 Little Spartans Cheerleading 	10 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:00 Little Spartans Cheerleading 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	12 9:00 Women's exercise 	13 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
15 8:15 Traditional worship service 9:30 Contemporary service 9:30 Classes 10:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship service	16 9:00 Women's exercise  7:00 Trustees mtg	17 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	19 9:00 Women's exercise 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	20 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Mission Stitches 
22 8:15 Traditional worship service 9:30 Contemporary service 9:30 Classes 10:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship service 1:00 Back to School Bash	23 9:00 Women's exercise	24 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	26 9:00 Women's exercise 	27 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
29 8:15 Traditional worship service 9:30 Contemporary service 9:30 Classes 10:30 Classes 10:45 Blended worship service	30 9:00 Women's exercise 	31 7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study  7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	1 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Youth group	2 9:00 Women's exercise 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	3 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	4 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Social dance 

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS SECOND MONDAYS.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
602 S. MARKET STREET
MUNCY, PA 17756
8/21



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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
- Paige Kepner, Receptionist, Media Coordinator (W) 570-546-8030
- Lisa Laidacker, Administrative Director of Children's Ministries.....(C) 570-4198786
- 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



“We love, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).”

August Newsletter