

SEPTEMBER 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
• Nursery care: 9:30–12:00
• Worship services:
8:15 traditional
9:30 contemporary
9:30 children’s church
10:45 blended
10:45 children’s church
• Classes:
9:30 adults
10:30 adults, youth

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



“More Than Enough” Event October 3



Join Dwell Orphan Care at First United Methodist Church, Muncy, from 3:00 to 5:00 on Sunday, October 3, for a foster care advocacy event—“More Than Enough.” When we all find our “something” to serve the cause, we will ensure there is “more than enough.”

This event will explore the foster care system in Lycoming County and examine the deep need for awareness, support, and participation in the cause of caring for vulnerable children and the families who love them.

Sponsored by our United Methodist Women, the presentation will be held in the Celebration Center and is open to the community. Dwell Orphan Care, based in Williamsport, is a faith-based outreach that supports foster and adoptive families in central Pennsylvania so that children have a safe, loving, forever home in which to dwell.

The program will include speakers from Dwell, informative videos* and a panel sharing first-hand experiences. There will be time for interaction with panel members and Dwell staff while enjoying refreshments following the program. We encourage you to learn more about this ministry at www.DwellOrphanCare.org.

Registration is free! Sign up to attend at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/more-than-enough-tickets-165955947707> or contact MaryAnn Breon at 570-584-2998.

**Children attending should be at least 13 years of age. Some of the videos include sensitive content that may not be suitable for young viewers.*

submitted by Karen Barraco, UMW Secretary

JAM Children’s Ministry News

There has been so much excitement over the last month with the children’s ministry program, now called JAM (Jesus and Me). We gained a new name, lots of supplies from the recently closed preschool, a big room (former preschool space) and a team working hard to kick off a new program in September.

Now we need children and volunteers. We’re required to have two adults per room to fulfill the UMC Safe Sanctuaries requirements. If you’d love to be a part of the excitement, and love working with kids but don’t want to commit to teaching, consider joining us once a month (or more) to help with activities and monitor the room. Of course, we’d love to have teachers too and, with the new curriculum and prepared lessons, it’s never been easier!!

The second and MOST IMPORTANT component is the kids. If you know kids in need of a church, let them know about our exciting program. We’ll have two children’s church services available at 9:30 and 10:45 on Sundays in Room 103 of the children’s wing. The 9:30 one replaces our children’s Sunday school for now. If you attend the 9:30 worship service and the 10:30 Sunday adult class in the café, have no fear. Your children will be kept engaged even if they attend both sessions.

Nursery care is provided for infants through age 4, during the 9:30 and 10:45 services, in Room 102. We are in need of adult staff in the nursery. An unstaffed “quiet room” (CC202—adjoining the Welcome Center) has a monitor for viewing the worship service.

Our theme this month is “Blast Off”! We’re so excited to begin this journey with the children of our community! If you’d like to join the fun or have any questions, contact Lisa Laidacker (570-419-8786; jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org).

submitted by Lisa Laidacker, Administrative Director, Children’s Ministry

Get Connected!

Due to the pandemic, please confirm events at our website calendar closer to the date.

- † Coffee Fellowship, Welcome Center and Living Water Café, before and after Sunday services: To host (make coffee, set out snacks, clean up), contact Candy Winters (570-546-3963).
- † God Squad Rewind (gr 7–12) 10:30 Sundays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † 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 10:00, Tuesdays in our Living Water Café, taught by Pastor Rick; topic TBA, no homework
- † GriefShare: 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Welcome Center; Holly, hmpote@yahoo.com A new 13-wk series begins September 7.
- † “Seasons of the Spirit” Bible study 6:30, every other Wednesday (9/8, 22); Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † God Squad (grades 7–12): 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † Women’s prayer breakfast begins Oct. 7, 8:30, at Betsy Mothersbaugh’s (Muncy), 570-971-7866
- † Thursday rehearsals start Sept. 9: hand bells (6:15, sanctuary; Tom Ruhl, 570-329-3070); choir (7:30, Rm 203; Lucy Buck, 570-584-4521); First sessions are on *Wednesday*, 9/1.
- † Mission Stitchers: 9–12:00 3rd Saturdays, CC107; Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Muncy Valley UM Men, fellowship and service: evenings, 4th Mondays, Harold Geise, 570-538-9173

Community Groups

- Widow’s Mite monthly lunch: 12:00 3rd Thursdays; Anne Knox, 570-974-1020
- Benefit social dance: 1st Saturdays, 7–10, Celebration Center; \$5 missions donation; Gary and Bonnie Glidewell, 570-546-2866

TREASURER’S REPORT

<u>CURRENT EXPENSE</u>	
Balance 7-1-21	\$11,508.63
Receipts	46,977.79
Funds available	58,486.28
Total expenses	37,894.72
Net balance 8-1-21	20,591.56
<u>BENEVOLENCE FUND</u>	
Balance 7-1-21	3,904.58
Receipts	2,279.00
Funds available	6,183.58
Total expenses	1,431.85
Net balance 8-1-21	4,751.73
<u>BUILDING FUND</u>	
Balance 7-1-21	15,672.03
Receipts	42,695.00
Funds available	58,367.03
Total expenses	5,625.00
Net balance 8-1-21	52,742.03

Good ‘n Plenty Supper: curb-side pick up only

3:30–6:00 Wed., Oct. 6 (tentative due to pandemic)
roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes,
corn, salad, dessert Suggested donation \$12
No child-size -- Nov. 3 to be determined

August Church Council Highlights

- After speaking with folks and getting feedback, Pastor Rick is resuming the use of worship bulletins. He’s re-designing them for better clarity and cost efficiency.
- Nominations for leadership positions for 2022 will take place soon. If you don’t wish to continue in your current role or you wish to be considered for a leadership role, speak with Pastor Rick or anyone on the lay leadership committee.
- The bell tower at the west end of the church has been painted.

submitted by Jody Robinson, Council Recording Sec.

United Methodist Women

Hope • Faith • Love in Action



United Methodist Women will welcome several young women from our First UMC youth group at our meeting on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. in our Living Water Cafe. We look forward to meeting them and hearing about their experiences this summer, as well as their plans for the school year ahead. Join us!

(continued to page 3)



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!

- 9/1 Jean Hester, Tessa Troup,
Tierney Snyder
- 9/3 Gail Wood
- 9/4 Ashley Bellows, Kyra Creasey,
Keeley Fae Dincher, Dione Wright
- 9/5 Glenn Klucka
- 9/7 Emilie Kainz
- 9/8 RaeAnn Cooley, Wade Lamper,
Michael Rader, Darl Smith
- 9/9 Cori Cotner, Skylar Phillips
- 9/10 Riley Cotner
- 9/12 Kaylee Hoshauer, Marie Mitchell,
Loretta Ryder
- 9/13 Sadie Creasey, Sue Everett, Stephanie
Mostowy, Rhonda Riddell, Kayla Suders
- 9/14 Amanda Derr, Christopher Timer
- 9/15 Courtney (Ebner) Taylor
- 9/16 Bill Forse
- 9/17 Lou Cromley, Adalynn Morse,
Michael Mostowy
- 9/18 Jayme Winters
- 9/20 Alyson McCabe, Bob S. Mertz
- 9/21 Aline Miller
- 9/22 Deb Beyer
- 9/24 Richard Buck, Floss McCarty
- 9/26 Sandy Ravert
- 9/27 Marie Bell
- 9/28 Pam Armstrong, Carter Feigles
- 9/29 Kaylyn Nierzwicki, Gail Pentz
- 9/30 Darren Webb



-
- 9/1 Deb and Mark Beyer, Lori and Jay Lewis
 - 9/4 Mary and Jeremy Eckard
 - 9/6 Joanie and Dave Wallis
 - 9/8 Ashley and Chris Leshar
 - 9/9 Ruth and John Phillips,
Christie and Troy Sellers
 - 9/13 Cindy and George Collister
 - 9/22 Nichole and Matt Frye
 - 9/25 Linda and Harold Geise



Missions Expo 2021 October 18–23 (times TBA):
A collaborative, multi-ministry event to pack
a variety of humanitarian and ministry aid.
Bible and Christian Literature Drive list of items:
Connection Tables, experiencemissions.com/events



THANK YOU

Transform Lycoming County Volunteers in Mission,
Thank you for painting my front porch ramp and
putting black strips on it. Elaine and George did a
very good job.

In Christian Love, Janice Easton

Dear Friends at First UMC,

Thank you for sharing your pavilion with the
Muncy Public Library for our Reptiland program in
July. We had almost 70 people in attendance. The
feedback from patrons was overwhelmingly positive!
It was the perfect venue for the event. Thank you
again.

Sincerely, Corey Breneisen, Director

Pastor Robinson,

I recently attended a memorial service at your
church and was impressed with the modernization of
your facility, as well as Heritage Hall. It was inter-
esting to view the history and progression of the
church. What a nice feature and very innovative.

God bless you and your ministry, and thank you
for all you do for our community!

Respectfully, Ron Reynolds, Pres., UPMC Muncy

Gabby Marconnet resigned as our children's
ministry coordinator, effective September 3.

Thank you, Gabby, for nine years of faithful
service to the children of our congregation!

May God bless you as you serve His Kingdom.

New automated external defibrillators are in the
sanctuary by the roll top desks, in the kitchen
and in the lower level near the children's wing.



United Methodist Women (cont. from p. 2)

A word of thanks to all who helped in August
with our “modified” annual picnic for the girls at
Ashler Manor. Due to pandemic restrictions, we
were unable to host our usual event, but some
women shopped and assembled the forty gift box-
es, others baked cookies and brownies, and still
others delivered the gifts, pizzas and beverages—
a team effort coordinated by Gail Pentz. Another
example of “Faith - Hope - Love - in Action!”

submitted by Karen Barraco, Secretary
United Methodist Women, Muncy

Living in the Supernatural Power of the Holy Spirit

Pastor John Phipps of Concord UMC near Beaver Falls, PA, has asked Dr. Frank Billman, author, seminary professor and pastor, to lead eight ZOOM studies on Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00, September 29 through November 17. It will cover different aspects of living a life led and empowered by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, including a portion on our supernatural history as Methodists, which is the subject of Dr. Billman's book *The Supernatural Thread in Methodism: Signs and Wonders Among Methodists Then and Now* (first published in 2013; revised in 2021).

There will also be a live version at Pine Creek Valley UMC in Gaines. Participate there or email Pastor Billman for the ZOOM link (fbillman@susumc.org). The series will include presentations from Pastor Billman's two sons, UMC missionaries in Brazil and Philadelphia.

How to Instill Faith in Children

by Crystal Caviness, UM Communications

Helping kids learn about God may seem daunting. The good news is that a theology degree isn't required, and it has less to do with words than with actions. Consider these tips from United Methodist children ministry leaders for how to make faith real in the lives of the kids we love.

† **“Every day offers teachable moments,** and that doesn't stop with your faith,” says Aimee Cox, director of children's ministry at Christ United Methodist Church. “People think you have to be in a worship setting in your sanctuary to have sacred moments,” she explains. “When you allow your kids to talk about how they are feeling and how to approach things in a Christ-like way, you're having that sacred moment without naming it as such.”

(continued to column 2)

Instill Faith (continued from column 1)

Sitting around the table at mealtime, taking a walk, snuggling at bedtime are ideal holy moments, says Melinda Shunk, the Arkansas Conference's children's ministry coordinator. “Adults can take these routine opportunities to tell children that you thank God for them or for the time you're spending together. It blesses that child to hear those words wash over them,” Shunk points out.

† **Let kids have their own experiences.** Sometimes, parents fear how their child may react to a Bible story. Share the story anyway, without editing and introducing personal biases. “Children take in what they understand for their age,” explains Cox. “Let them ask questions.” Read the stories together and follow with a discussion. “You don't have to be an expert in understanding the Bible,” Cox points out. “Ask questions, such as ‘What do you hear? What words spoke to you?’ Ask open-ended questions to keep the conversation going,” says Brittany Sky McRay, director of children's and family ministries at Los Altos UMC. “Invite kids into the experience of the story to give them an opportunity to think about the feelings, who is missing, or the most important part. It brings God's word alive. Questions engage curiosity, with no right or wrong answers.”

† **Take time to wonder.** “I think the greatest gift our kids give to us is the curiosity they bring to the table,” McRay shares. “The wondering about how God works in our world creates more biblically literate children and creates lifelong lovers of Jesus.” Build a spiritual library as a way to nurture wonder and create a space for discovery,” McRay says. Offer books by Matthew Paul Turner and Fred Rogers and music by “Rain for Roots” as good starting places. *The Deep Blue Bible Storybook*, which McRay wrote as senior editor of children's resources at The United Methodist Publishing House, was developed specifically to promote conversations.

† **Being present and listening to your child is a spiritual act, a cornerstone of faith,**” McRay says. The adults who love you when you're small set you up for who God is.

† **Authenticity rules!** Admitting you don't know the answer or that you messed up is OK. “Being authentic is key, because our kids see through a façade,” McRay explains. “I want to model what it means to be a believer, but we have to remind ourselves that life is hard and we're going to struggle. I give myself space to be a good enough person who my son will watch his whole life and internalize that being a good person means making decisions every day, saying, ‘I'm sorry’ when I mess up, and trying again the next day.”

† **Be a faith storyteller.** Children love a good story, particularly when someone they love is the main character. “Tell stories about when you were a child, what you thought about God, how you first came to your faith,” Shunk suggests. Grandparents make excellent faith storytellers because they have the experiences and time to share. “Being a faith storyteller makes faith come alive and weaves into your family's faith story.”

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" (Jesus) said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:36-40)."</p>			<p>1</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:15 Hand bells rehrsl (note day) 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir rehrsl (note day)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Social benefit dance</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Adult classes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind (youth) 10:45 Children's church 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Labor Day 9:00 Women's exercise (on Labor Day)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel Restaurant 8:30 Take off Pounds Sensibly</p> <p>6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Church council</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir rehrsl</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 Rotary International</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>4:00 Beryl Magyar Memorial Service</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Adult classes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind (youth) 10:45 Children's church 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>5:30 Rotary International</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel Restaurant 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 12:00 Daughters of Am Revolution 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 UM Women</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir rehrsl</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Mission Stitchers</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Adult classes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind (youth) 10:45 Children's church 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>7:00 Trustees meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 6:30 GriefShare</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Muncy Woman's Club</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir rehrsl</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Adult classes 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind (youth) 10:45 Children's church 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Tale Off Pounds Sensibly</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir rehrsl</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Social benefit dance</p>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS SECOND MONDAYS.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
602 S. MARKET STREET
MUNCY, PA 17756
9/21



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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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).”

September Newsletter