

OCTOBER 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](http://www.firstumcmuncy.org)  
[office@FirstUMCMuncy.org](mailto:office@FirstUMCMuncy.org)  
Rev. Richard N. Robinson  
570-546-8030  
[rrobinson@susumc.org](mailto: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.



## Christian Literature Collection and Missions Expo

An estimated 250 million people around the world have no access to the Holy Bible. First United Methodist Church, Muncy, is again partnering with Experience Missions to serve as a collection point for a Bible and Christian literature drive, 9:00–4:00 October 11–15 and 18–20. Contact Barry Grove (570-447-0514) if these hours aren't suitable. Items accepted are: Bibles (new or used); New Testaments; Psalms and Proverbs; Bible commentaries, concordances; the Bible on cassette tapes or DVDs (in good condition only); new or used SD cards (all sizes); Christian books (hard- or paperback); Christian magazines; devotionals; tracts; Christian music CDs and DVDs; Sunday school and VBS materials (only from publishers David C. Cook, Lifeway, Standard, Pathway Press, and Union Gospel). “Guidepost” is not accepted. Please bring items in boxes or heavy duty bags.

The expo will be in our Celebration Center, October 21–23 (see times on calendar page). It's a multi-ministry event to pack 100,000 meals, sort and pack several tons of Christian literature, and assemble 100s of family medical kits. Learn more at <https://www.experiencemissions.com/events>. No registration is required.

## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Our United Methodist Women at First UMC, Muncy, will have a kickoff on Sunday, October 10, for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox mission project. Empty shoeboxes, provided by Samaritan's Purse, will be available for distribution in the Welcome Center or the Living Water Café beginning on that date. Instructions on how to pack a shoebox along with suggestions for what items to pack will be available. When you pick up a box, please sign the sheet that you have taken one or more boxes. The cost of shipping each box is \$9.00. If you are able to contribute all or part of that expense, please place your donation in an envelope provided at the table. Envelopes should be placed in the basket at those locations. *Do not* put the donation in the shoebox and *do not* wrap the shoebox. Shoeboxes should be returned to either location by Sunday, November 7. Children around the world will be blessed with your gift-filled shoebox. Please contact Gail Pentz with any questions (570-546-3998). Thank you for your support!

## Jesus Wept—So Should We

Although society encourages us to hide our tears, crying connects us with God. “Tears are the soul speaking,” says Linda Douty, a UMC spiritual director and author, who shares that she was taught in spiritual direction school to “always follow the tears.” Pay attention, she says, to what makes you cry. We may discover that our tears are the most authentic indicators of who we are. When we cry, we enter a space where we might best commune with our Creator. Even Jesus wept.

God created our body to give us clues as to who we are in our spirit, Douty teaches. “Think of how you smile when something delights you. The body reacts before you can even describe it,” she points out. “We throw scripture after scripture at a situation, when the reality may be that we're just “disappointed.” God made you with all of these emotions,” emphasizes Ron Bell, author of *The Four Promises: A Journey of Healing Past and Present*. “Why wouldn't you hand them to God? God wants to walk with us through all emotions, not just the good ones. If we get tears in our eyes when we hear a symphony, it's a message that something in us is responding to that music. Inside of me there was a response that was unintentional. We're after knowledge of that interior landscape. To grow spiritually, we'll fan that flame,” she explains. Culture tells us to be strong. “To cry suggests vulnerability, and we're taught to hide our vulnerability,” explains Bell.

(continued to page 2)

## Jesus Wept *(continued from p. 1)*

"We're not taught the importance of sadness. Grief is an extension of love, the love after the loss. Yet we aren't taught to embrace that. In the church, we see sadness or disappointment or grief as a sign that God failed, that God didn't meet the mark," Bell explains.

The failure to be honest about how we feel interferes with having an authentic faith. "We see God as a task master to be pleased and obeyed. That's head stuff. The distance from the head to the heart is a long and painful one," Douty says, adding, "We tell ourselves, 'If I were a good Christian, I'd be more accepting, trusting and above this.' We go for information instead of transformation. We take a class, read a book or talk to someone who's smarter," Douty points out. "We don't go inside ourselves and believe we have an inner compass that God put there. God wants our authenticity, not our good behavior," she says. "Part of our transformation is a realization of who we really are, rather than living as a clone of someone else."

We produce three types of tears: basal, reflex and emotional. Basal tears lubricate and reflex tears react to irritants. Only emotional tears can be held back. And they release endorphins, which help ease physical and emotional pain. "When we don't cry, physiologically we're inhibiting our bodies in the process of being healed," Bell says.

"In many ways, we're dishonoring the way God made us by not letting ourselves do the very thing God made us to do. When I'm stuffing my emotions in this temple that God gave me, how can I function fully in my faith? On the spiritual side, when I refuse to cry what I'm saying is there's a piece of me that doesn't trust God with this."

*Crystal Caviness,  
UMC Communications, Aug. 26, 2021*

## Tuesdays at the Table

It's important for United Methodists to explore who we are, what we believe and how we live as people of God. United Methodist theologians lead a series of discussions to help us understand our faith, our church and ourselves.

October 5, Session 1 is "Should I stay? Or should I go?" As our church experiences a tumultuous season, are you wondering what our disagreements and decisions will mean for you? Dr. David N. Field, author of *Our Purpose Is Love: The Wesleyan Way to Be the Church*, will talk about how he's thinking through these personal decisions. <https://www.umc.org/en/what-we-believe/tuesdays-at-the-table>.

## Your "Next Step" With First UMC

Have you been participating in worship services at First UMC, Muncy, for some time now, met the pastor and some other nice people, but wonder what's next? Where are you on the pathway to becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ? If you have questions about how First UMC can help you grow spiritually and be involved in ministry, we hope you'll attend the "Next Step" gathering on Tuesday, October 26, at 6:30 in our Living Water Café (on the lower level). You and your family can meet with Pastor Rick and some of our church leaders and get connected with who we are as a faith community.

Childcare will be provided upon request. Call the church office (570-546-8030) to register or sign up on Sundays at a Connection Table following worship services (narthex/behind sanctuary or the hall outside the café). Discover how to take your next faithful step on your journey of discipleship!

## Welcoming Our New Bishops

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball began episcopal oversight of the Susquehanna Conference on September 1, following the retirement of Bishop Jeremiah Park. There will be gatherings in our seven districts for the bishops to become acquainted with all, with at least one bishop at each. You're invited! If not able to attend your district's, register for another.

The agenda, planned by our bishops, includes: worship and renewal of baptism; sharing of who each bishop is (their call stories; leadership styles; hopes and dreams for the UMC); facilitated conversation and sharing of the hopes and dreams of the gathered community; the most critical things our new bishops need to know about each district; and a question and answer time.

Participants will be expected to wear masks and social distance as much as possible. Registration ensures adequate spacing (<https://susumc.org/bishops-districtgatherings/>).  
*(continued to page 3)*

## Good 'n Plenty Supper October 6 Curb-side pick up only

3:30–6:00 Wednesday: roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, dessert Suggested donation \$12 No child-size.  
Nov. 3: also turkey dinner menu

## Get Connected!

*Due to the pandemic, use our website calendar to confirm events closer to the date.*

- † Coffee Fellowship: Welcome Center and Living Water Café, before and after Sunday worship services—Contact Candy Winters (570-546-3963) to host (make coffee, set out snacks, and clean up).
- † Classes, all ages: Sundays 9:30, 10:30
- † 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, Revelation: 10:00 Tuesdays, Living Water Café; Pastor Rick, 570-546-8030 no hw
- † GriefShare: 6:30 Tuesdays, Welcome Cntr; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † Bible study: 6:30, every other Wednesday (10/6, 20), lounge; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † God Squad (gr 7–12): 6:30 Wednesdays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † Women's prayer breakfast: Thursdays 8:30, as of Oct. 14; Betsy Mothersbaugh's home (Muncy), 570-971-7866
- † Rehearsals, Thursdays: hand bells (6:15, sanctuary; Tom Ruhl, 570-220-1544); choir (7:30, Room 203; Lucy Buck, 570-584-4521)
- † Mission Stitchers: 9–12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, CC107; Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Muncy Valley UM Men, fellowship and service: evenings 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays; Harold Geise, 570-538-9173

## Community Groups

- Widow's Mite monthly lunch: 12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays; Anne Knox, 570-974-1020
- Benefit social dance: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, 7–10, 6:40 free lesson, Celebration Center

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 8-1-21	\$20,541.56
Receipts	29,882.45
Funds available	50,424.01
Total expenses	36,427.83
Net balance 9-1-21	13,996.18

### BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 8-1-21	4,751.73
Receipts	3,177.54
Funds available	7,929.27
Total expenses	1,306.85
Net balance 9-1-21	6,622.42

### BUILDING FUND

Balance 8-1-21	52,742.03
Receipts	68,911.14
Funds available	121,653.17
Total expenses	21,196.30
Net balance 9-1-21	100,456.87

## "One Man, One Woman"

A 6-session Bible study led by Sally Gardy will be held at 1:00 on Wednesdays in Room 201, beginning October 6. Please sign up at a Connection Table (narthex or café entrance) or call 570-546-8030.

## United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 in the church's Living Water Café. The program "She Leads" will focus on our own leadership experiences. Karen Barraco will share how United Methodist Women works to develop the leadership skills of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. This new initiative provides training to identify their skills, as well as how to assess the needs of their churches and communities. Join us as we consider the challenges faced by women in mission globally and locally.

UMW is so grateful for the generous donations for Dwell Orphan Care! They will be used to help children transitioning into foster homes. (*Read "More" on p. 3.) Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute (Prov. 31:8 31:8).*

## Bishops (continued from page 2)

These are not live-streamed. There will be a video on the conference website after all events have concluded.  
10/3, 3:00–5:30, Messiah UMC, 1300 N. Beaver St., York  
10/16, 2:00–4:30, Mt. Nittany UMC, 1500 E. Branch Rd., State College  
10/30, 2–4:30 Christ Com. UMC, 3939 Park Rd., Selinsgrove  
10/31, 2:30–5:00) First UMC Hollidaysburg,  
801 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg  
10/31, 4:00–6:30, Wellsboro UMC, 36 Main St., Wellsboro



## CELEBRATIONS

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

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

- 10/1 Adria Eck, Robin Bardo, Travis McNett
- 10/2 Nancy Lyons
- 10/3 Tiffany Boyles, Betsy Mothersbaugh,  
Bonnie Rebuck
- 10/5 Mary Root, Kay Wagner, Randy Welch
- 10/6 Isabella June, Annalise Mack,  
Betty Jo Soohy
- 10/7 Leona Dewalt, Brooke Hansen,  
Alexa and Madison Karschner
- 10/8 Madelyn Dyer
- 10/9 Murray Hanford, Sadie Ritter
- 10/10 Tom Brittain, Jamie Hanford
- 10/11 Paul Snyder
- 10/12 Maine Wertman
- 10/13 Celia Roca
- 10/15 Gary Edwards, Eli Fausey, Craig Miller
- 10/17 Katie Nichols, Stacie Nierzwicki
- 10/18 Addie Fausey, Ryan Riddell
- 10/20 Mark Beyer, Barry Shuck
- 10/22 Heather McCaslin
- 10/23 Persephone Boyles, Brooke Reynolds
- 10/24 Aurora Boyles, John Smay, Emilia Winters
- 10/25 Amy Myers, Abby Potts
- 10/26 Linda Geise, Tom Weaver
- 10/27 Brinley Lucas
- 10/28 Mike Wood
- 10/29 Jean Bogart, Jackie Leinhard Shuck
- 10/30 Phil Soohy
- 10/31 Josette Betzer



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- 10/1 MaryAnn and Kerm Breon
  - 10/5 Ann and Wayne Dougherty, Steph and Jan  
Mostowy, Lizze and Justin Winters
  - 10/6 Valerie and Dan Kelley
  - 10/7 Donna and Leon McCaslin
  - 10/8 Jenni and Zach Soohy
  - 10/11 Juli and Dan Mingle
  - 10/12 Barb and Mitch Morgan, Jen & Harry Swank
  - 10/14 Meg and Mike Hoffman
  - 10/15 Dani and Gordie Eck
  - 10/16 Kate and Drew Johnston
  - 10/17 Jo Ann and Dave Swartz
  - 10/18 Marie and Bob Anderson
  - 10/20 Jenelle and Larry Miller
  - 10/21 Shelley and Bob Webb
  - 10/22 Patrice and Bill Bond
  - 10/26 Tessa and Sean Troup
  - 10/30 Lyla and Gary Allshouse, RaeAnn and  
Jason Cooley, Katie and Brad Nichols



## Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

This five-session study focuses on God's intentions for us and for our spiritual maturation. Led by Calvin Miller it's via Zoom<sup>®</sup>, 6:00–8:00. Registration information is at the Connection Tables (2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the narthex and 1<sup>st</sup> floor next to the café).

October 7: Ephesians 1 – God's Intention for Us

October 14: Ephesians 2 – Gifted Children

October 21: Ephesians 3 – Gifts and Spirituality

October 28: Ephesians 4:1–16

Developing and Deploying Gifts

November 4: Ephesians 4:14–5:20

Turning Gifts into Ministries

## Good 'n Plenty Bakers/Buyers

We thank you for your past and future donations of desserts for our Good 'n Plenty Suppers. You are a vital part of these meals.

As a reminder, please make every effort to return your call from the dessert solicitor so we know we'll have enough donations. A cart will be at the church's lower entrance for early drop off. Please put your name on the dessert so we can check it off. Again, our thanks for your support through these contributions!

*Betsy Mothersbaugh, Hospitality/Reception Com.*

## More Than Enough

If you've ever felt pulled to do more for vulnerable children, but you're not quite sure where to start, come to the church's Celebration Center at 3:00 on Sunday, October 3, for the "More Than Enough" event with Dwell Orphan Care. It will provide insight and direction to know which step to take first. Invite friends and neighbors.

Dwell believes everyone can do something to care for foster and adoptive families. Whether it's signing up to foster, providing a meal, buying diapers, offering financial support, praying, mentoring, volunteering, or growing a greater understanding of trauma-informed care, you can find your "something." And together, we can work to make sure there is "more than enough."

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.

"The Hope Chest" at Dwell is in need of donations of: diapers sized 1, 2, 3, 4; diaper wipes; laundry detergent and dryer sheets; new socks and underwear for children and teens; new duffle bags, totes, and carry-on size suitcases; and cell phone chargers for teens. Please place donations in the Welcome Center and outside the café by October 3.

We are "blessed to be a blessing"! To learn more about Dwell visit [www.dwellorphan.care.org](http://www.dwellorphan.care.org).



# OCTOBER

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>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 11:00–4:00 Medieval Faire</p> <p>7:00–10:00 Benefit social dance, 6:40 free lesson</p>
<p>World Communion 3</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Children's Church 10:30 Classes 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Worship 10:45 Children's Church 3:00 OrphanCare</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare NO Church council mtg. 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00 Bible study 3:30-6:00 Good 'n Plenty Super--takeout only 5:30 Praise band 6:30 Bible study 6:30 God Squad 6:30 Lay leadership 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>4:30 Richard J Webb visitation &amp; 5:00 memorial service</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Children's Church 10:30 Classes 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Worship 10:45 Children's Church</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study 12:00 Daughters of Am. Revolution 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 UM Women</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 Bible study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 Future Farmers of Am.</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Mission Stitchers</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Children's Church 10:30 Classes 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Worship 10:45 Children's Church</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 9:00 Bishop's Day Apart for clergy NO 10:00 Bible study 6:00 Priv. group 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 Senior Citizens 1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:00 Priv. group 6:30 Bible study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00–12:00 Mission Expo 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 6:00–8:00 Mission Expo 6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00–12:00 Mission Expo</p> <p>6:00–8:00 Mission Expo 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00–12:00 Mission Expo 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Children's Church 10:30 Classes 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Worship 10:45 Children's Church</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:00 Muncy Valley UM Men</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 6:30 Next Step 7:00 Finance com 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00 Bible study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Muncy Woman's Club</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Flour Power baking ministry</p> <p>12:00 Private party</p>
<p>31</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 9:30 Children's Church 10:30 Classes 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Worship 10:45 Children's Church</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 Men's Brkfst @ Cracker Barrel 7AM–8PM Election polling 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Bible study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Church council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00 Bible study 3:30-6:00 Good 'n Plenty Super--takeout only</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Bible study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Benefit social dance</p>