

DECEMBER 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  
www.firstumcmuncy.org  
office@FirstUMCMuncy.org

Rev. Richard N. Robinson  
570-546-8030  
rrobinson@susumc.org  
Pastor's office hours:  
Mondays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays 9:00–12:00;  
Tuesdays 1:00–4:00;  
and by appointment

Sunday morning schedule  
• Nursery care: 9:30–12:00  
• Worship services:  
8:15 traditional  
9:30 contemporary  
9:30 children's church  
10:45 traditional  
• Classes:  
9:30 adults  
10:30 adults; youth  
10:45 children's group

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



## Church-Wide Advent Opportunity!



Our four-week Advent study began meeting the week of November 28, and it runs through the week of December 20—“The Heart that Grew Three Sizes—finding faith in the story of the Grinch.” Study author Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Join us as we rediscover the gift of Advent which “comes without packages, ribbons, and bows,” and find out how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Sign up for one of the six group options at the Connection Tables (narthex; café entrance; for virtual, contact Cori.Cotner@gmail.com) or call the office.

### United Methodist Women

### Hope • Faith • Love in Action

UMW will host a lunch and Christmas party for residents at Park Place, Muncy, on Tuesday, December 14. We'll meet at their community room at 11:30. Contact Gail Pentz with questions (570-546-3998).

We gather at 7:00 on December 14, in our Living Water Café, for a business meeting, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Please bring a snack or cookies to share. Beverages will be provided.

Thank you to our congregation for your generous support of the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. 90+ boxes were filled with gifts that will share God's love with children in the U.S. and around the world!

For all those who filled their World Thank Offering cup banks with coins throughout 2021, we give thanks for the impact that will have on others through mission outreach. Banks not yet returned may be taken to the church office.

*submitted by Karen Barraco, UMW Secretary*

### “Jesus and Me” Children's Ministry News

We are excited to announce that we have twenty-three children registered to attend JAM on Sunday mornings! December's theme is “Joy To The World,” a 4-week series on Christmas. Our room decorations reflect Christmas celebrations from around the world because we'll talk about how Jesus came to earth for everyone.

December 10 is Parent's Night Out, 6:00–8:00 (note date change). Parents may drop off their kids, then get some Christmas shopping done or just enjoy a quiet dinner. This evening will include a dress rehearsal for the children's Christmas program, “One Starry Night,” to be presented at 6:00 on Sunday, December 12. The children are excited as we prepare for this. You don't want to miss it!

To volunteer with our JAM Children's Ministry, contact Lisa Laidacker (570 419-8786; [jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org)). Check out our Facebook page—JAM at First UMC Muncy. Help us spread the word about what our ministry has to offer!

*submitted by Lisa Laidacker, Administrative Director of Children's Ministries*



**Dec. 24 afternoon and 26** worship services times will be announced.  
**8 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service** will be livestreamed to our Facebook page and a recording made available on our YouTube channel.

**Good 'n Plenty Supper Wed., Dec. 1**

3:30–6:00, while supplies last

Curb-side pick up only. Baked ham, green beans, rolls, scalloped potatoes, salad, dessert

Suggested donation \$12 No child-size

No supper in January

To help: Betsy Mothersbaugh, 570-971-7866

**Get Connected!***Please use our website calendar  
to confirm events closer to the date.*

- † Coffee Fellowship: Welcome Center and Living Water Café, before/after Sunday worship services—Contact Candy Winters (570-546-3963) to host (make coffee, set out snacks, and 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 fellowship breakfast: 7:00 Tuesdays, Cracker Barrel Restaurant; Denny Hammond, 570-772-9983
- † GriefShare—new 13-week series, Jan. date TBA: 6:30 Tues, Welcome Center; 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; Betsy Mothersbaugh's home (Muncy), 570-971-7866
- † Rehearsals, Thursdays: hand bells (6:00, Tom Ruhl, 570-220-1544); chancel choir (7:00; Lucy Buck, 570-584-4521)
- † Mission Stitchers: 9–12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, (not Dec.); Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Flour Power baking ministry: 9:00, last Saturdays; Patti Myers, 570-515-0674
- † 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: January 8, 7–10:00, 6:40 free lesson, Celebration Center; missions donation; Gary and Bonnie Glidewell, bgdance@comcast.net

**TREASURER'S REPORT****CURRENT EXPENSE**

Balance 10-1-21	\$7,788.73
Receipts	35,320.64
Funds available	43,109.37
Total expenses	35,608.80
Net balance 11-1-21	7,500.57

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Balance 10-1-21	6,760.57
Receipts	3,277.00
Funds available	10,037.57
Total expenses	1,306.85
Net balance 11-1-21	8,730.72

**BUILDING FUND**

Balance 10-1-21	19,541.00
Receipts	3,089.00
Funds available	22,630.00
Total expenses	--
Net balance 11-1-21	22,630.00

**Let There Be Christmas!**

“Let There Be Christmas!” by Joseph M. Martin is the cantata to be offered on December 19 at 10:45 and 2:00 in the sanctuary. The 40-voice choir will be accompanied by an orchestra of 25 musicians.

**Keenagers Lunch**

Our older adults group, suspended during the pandemic, will join the Muncy area senior citizens for a shepherd's pie lunch and program in our Celebration Center on Wednesday, December 15, at 12:00. A \$5 suggested donation will be received at the door. Register with Linda Holsinger (570-546-6840) by December 10.

**2022 Offering Envelopes**

Please pick up your 2022 envelopes in the Welcome Center through December 26, and at the office after that. Envelope numbers can be found on the alphabetical list provided. If your envelopes are missing or you would like to have envelopes, please contact Barry Grove (570-447-0514; [finance@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:finance@firstumcmuncy.org)).

*Barry Grove, Finance Committee Chair*

**Line Dancing!**

Leon McCaslin is leading country line dancing, through December, in our Celebration Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00. This began in November, and it could continue into 2022 if a new leader steps forward. Beginners are welcome, and dances can be adapted for all abilities.



## 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!*

- 12/1 J.P. McCabe, Chrissie Schmidt
- 12/2 Linda Hartley
- 12/3 Alaina Brelsford, Tony Mack, Layne Oden
- 12/4 Kathy Grenoble, Helen June
- 12/6 Madesyn Brelsford, Joan Harman,  
Hailey Lucas
- 12/7 Troy Hansen
- 12/8 Denny Hammond, Kelsey Foreman,  
Jason Perritt
- 12/11 Mary Eckard, Nancy Poust
- 12/12 Emily Glidewell
- 12/13 Tom Gordner
- 12/14 Kylie Beck
- 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 Burkhardt, Becky Hutchinson,  
Chris Maneval
- 12/23 Morgan Armstrong
- 12/24 Lillian Klucka, Dave Pentz, Justin Winters
- 12/26 Samantha Robinson
- 12/27 Reid Baker, Crispin Morgan, Trent Statts
- 12/28 Elsie Emick
- 12/30 Jane Lucas, Sophie Strong
- 12/31 Elaine Duckworth, Betty Wright



- 12/4 Dona and Dan Winder
- 12/13 Michelle and Chris Ebner,  
Jackie and Barry Shuck
- 12/14 Alyson and TJ 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



## THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for sponsoring this year's Muncy Monster Dash. We really appreciate your help. Your donation helps fund our field trips, our school T-shirts, and all of our assemblies. Your donation is what lets us have fun experiences like field trips. Thank you.

Sincerely, Myers Elementary Students

Dear First United Methodist Church,

We would like to thank you for the use of your facilities. They were beautiful and worked perfectly for our Pennsylvania Future Farmers of America Northern Region Leadership Conference. We enjoyed being able to help out with the Experience Missions community service event which you hosted. If we can ever be of assistance, please reach out.

Sincerely, Nina Coolidge and Jordan Anderson

First United Methodist Church,

Your generosity blessed us to do the work, and in turn blesses both the people we serve and this community. Thank you for giving to the Lord!

"Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you (3 John 1:5)."

Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz

Executive Director, Sojourner Truth Ministries

Our 50- and 70-year members were recognized during worship services on Heritage Sunday, November 14.



Above, front row: Doris Allen; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Gary Edwards, Janice Oden, Connie Holtzapple, Vonnie Poust, Kathi Blaker; 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Marshal Frye, David Wallis, Joanie Wallis, Linford Frey, Connie Holtzapple, Garman Zehner, Sally Zehner, Wayne Kemmerer, Molly Kemmerer; back row: John Smay  
Below, front row: Ann Dougherty, Loretta Ryder, Doris Fritz, Gail Nuss, Peach Bardo; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Linda Holsinger, Pastor Rick Robinson, Mark Hester, Chalmer VanHorn





**Toys for Tots** donations may be brought to the labeled box at the lower level coat rack, near our Living Water Café, through December 13.

## Take Time (cont. from col. 2)

... worship via our Christmas Eve service (in person or livestream via FB).

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 Joe Iovino feature*

## Mission Stitchers

This dedicated crew from our congregation made washcloth teddy bears for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry, lap quilts as gifts to nursing home residents and microwave bowl cozies to sell as a fundraiser for their shipping expenses.

Knitting and crocheting projects are being planned, including instruction for beginners.

## The Vineyard Community Activity Center

Friday Youth Activity Nights offer a safe place for fun, food and fellowship supervised by caring adults in a positive environment. Youth sign in and out.

Activities offered include air hockey, billiards, games, basketball and more. Snacks are provided.

*submitted by Cindy Collister,  
Treasurer and Marketing, VCAC*

## Blessed to Be a Blessing!

Volunteers are needed to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Sam's Club on Friday, December 10. Giving an hour of your time to support this worthy cause is a great way to bring meaning to the holiday season! Sign up in the Welcome Center. Contact Karen Barraco with questions ([kbarraco@windstream.net](mailto:kbarraco@windstream.net); 570-546-5180).

*submitted by Karen Barraco*



**To sponsor 2022 worship service flowers**  
please sign up in the Welcome Center.

## Prayer Requests

"Pray for one another so you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (James 5:16)."

We hold in prayer our church family who are homebound or living in long-term care facilities, along with those from our community who are serving in the armed services.

- Homebound: Anne Knox, Floss McCarty, Elsie Smith, Phyllis Strasburg
- Assisted living and nursing home/rehab centers: LeRoy Frontz, Jean Hester, Jake LeVan, Bill McCarty, Tony Rebuck, Alberta Shaner, Tom Weaver
- Serving in the military: Brett Bardo, Tyler Barto, Jamie Campbell, Morgan Eck, Madison Foreman, Josh Garverick, Pat Gaydon, John Kuhn, Joshua Kustanbauter, Matt Lucas, Matthew McCabe, Chad McElwee, Ginger Paddock, Derek Reese, Chris Secules, Tyler Smay, Coty Steele, Scott Wolfe, Roy Zeisloft

## 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 (see p. 1).
- ... look online for family Advent activities.

... spend focused time with God. (Free Advent devotionals are in the Welcome Center.)

... while decorating, offer prayers of gratitude for the gift of Jesus. 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. 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, our Jesus and Me children's ministry and our youth ministry.

... 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](http://advance.umcor.org)). *(continued to col. 1)*

# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name <i>Jesus (salvation)</i>, because he will save his people from their sins."</p>			<p>1</p> <p>3:30-6:00 Good 'n Plenty Supper-take out only</p> <p>6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Archives com 10:00 Line dancing 6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:00 Chancel choir rehearsal 7:30 Cantata rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Antique Auto Club of America 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Benefit social dance</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Advent study; adult classes 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 Advent study; adult class 10:30 God Squad 10:45 Chldrn's grp 10:45 Worship 12:00 Cookie bkng 5:00 Girls' Bsktball</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:30 Advent study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShre 7:00 Church council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00 Advent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:00 Girls bsktball 6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Muncy Women's Club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:00 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:00 Chancel choir rehearsal 7:30 Cantata rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 Parent's Night Out 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Advent study; adult classes 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 Advent study; adult class 10:30 God Squad 10:45 Chldrn's grp 10:45 Worship 1:00 Private Party 1:30 Cantata rhrsl 6:00 Children's Chrstm's program</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:00 Muncy Bus. &amp; Prof. Women 6:30 Advent study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study 12:00 Daughters of Am Revolution</p> <p>6:30 GriefShre 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 Cantata rehearsal 7:00 UMWomen</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 Senior Citizens and Keenagers 1:00 Advent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:00 AA dinner and meeting 6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Muncy Women's Club</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 10:00 Line dancing 11:30 Widows Mite</p> <p>6:00 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Chancel choir rehearsal 7:00 Cantata rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 Cantata rehearsal</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Advent study; adult classes 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 Advent study; adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Chldrn's grp 10:45 Worship 10:45 Cantata 2:00 Cantata</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:30 Advent study 7:00 Trustees committee</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Advent study</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00 Advent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> <p>TBA Worship service</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous 8:00 Worship service</p>	<p><b>Christmas</b> 25</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>26</p> <p>TBD Worship service 9:30 Advent study; adult classes 9:30 Children's church 10:30 Advent study; adult class 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:45 Chldrn's grp 2:00 Private party</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Office Closed</b> 9:00 Women's exercise 10:00 Line dancing</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:00 Bible study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 10:00 Line dancing</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal? 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal?</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b></p> <p>Benefit social dance will be 1/8.</p>