

MARCH 2022



Vision Statement

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

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: 9:30–10:45
 - Worship services:
 - 8:15 traditional
 - 9:30 contemporary
 - 9:30 children's church
 - 10:45 traditional
 - Classes:
 - 9:30 adults
 - 10:30 adults; youth



Observe a Holy Lent—Reflect, Repent, Rejoice



The Ash Wednesday worship service (7:00 March 2) emphasizes our sinfulness and our mortality. It points to the triumph over these, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We prepare for Easter during the forty days of Lent (through April 16—not including Sundays, our “little Easters”), with fasting, repentance, and spiritual disciplines. It’s a time to take on new life-giving practices to help us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires and realign our focus toward God. We seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, with a renewed spirit and a genuine desire to become an incarnational presence in the world, by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. We are urged to attend to the body, spirit, mind, and heart. (*continued on page 2*)

Lenten Blessings

Fifty years after Jesus died, one of his closest companions penned an account of Jesus' life. His name was John.

This Lent, experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal through the church-wide Lenten study, “John: The Gospel of Light and Life” by Adam Hamilton. The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels, filled with rich images and profound truths. Each session has a DVD presentation by Adam Hamilton followed by group discussion.

Seven small groups began gathering the week of February 27 (except as noted below), for six weekly sessions, to follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John. The topics are: The Word Made Flesh; The Miraculous Signs of Jesus; The “I Am” Sayings of Jesus; The Farewell Discourse; The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King; and Eternal Life.

You may register at the Connection Tables on Sundays as well as online through the church website (firstumcmuncy.org). Donations toward the cost of the book may be made at the first session.

Choose a day and time that works with your schedule, pick up a book, and be a part of the small group experience during Lent! Group options are:

Sundays, began February 27

9:30 a.m. lounge — Leader: Deb Steransky

10:45 a.m. Living Water Cafe — Leader: Dave Gehrum

Mondays, began February 28

6:30 p.m. lounge — Leader: John Smay

Tuesdays, begins March 1

10:00 a.m. Living Water Café — Leader: Pastor Rick

Wednesdays, begins March 2

1:00 p.m. Room 202 — Leader: Sally Gardy

Wednesdays, begins March 9 (no meeting Ash Wednesday, March 2)

6:30 p.m. lounge — Leaders: Holly Pote, Becky Shaner, Nancy Grove,
Elaine Duckworth

Interested in a Zoom option? Contact Cori Cotner (cori.cotner@gmail.com).

submitted by Karen Barraco, Discipleship Team Convener

God Squad Youth News

There will be a parent meeting on Sunday, March 6, in CC207 from 6:00 until 7:00. A zoom session will be run at the same time for parents who can't attend in person. Contact Kevin Myers, Youth Ministry Coordinator, with questions (570-412-2820).

Ladies: Save the Date!

Due to pandemic precautions, our annual women's retreat/workshop will be held 9:00–12:00 on Saturday, April 30, in our Living Water Café (with social distancing).

Our leader will be Pastor Susan Halverstadt. Her plan is to offer it both in-person and virtually via Zoom. If the pandemic would cause the in-person option to be canceled, we will still host the virtual option.

The theme is "Awaken Our Hearts to Prayer." The scripture focus is Matthew 6:9–13. Presentation, discussion and individual exercises will be used in our workshop experience.

We will ask: How can I deepen and expand my prayer life? Can Jesus show me the way to pray? We'll learn how digging into The Lord's Prayer can take us closer to the path of Jesus' way of life.

The Rev. Dr. Susan Halverstadt earned a Master of Divinity degree at Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri; and a BS in theology from Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

She serves as pastor of Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, Williamsport, and is an Elder of the Susquehanna Conference of the UMC.

In recent years she has led retreats and workshops in the Susquehanna Conference on "women and faith" topics.

Join us for a special time to learn about and experience how Jesus brings us closer to God through praying The Lord's Prayer.

Registration forms will be at the connection tables and website beginning March 27. To participate via Zoom, please contact the office after that date.

submitted by Paige Kepner

Women's Retreat Team, Leader

Holy Lent (continued from page 1)

Quoting The Rev. Gina Yeske, "Spiritual disciplines. It sounds like rules, and something in me naturally bristles against rules. However, it's the part of me that doesn't like the rules which most needs spiritual disciplines. They help me stay connected to God. Without such practices—prayer, meditation, fasting, worship, study, service, generosity—I find myself drifting, doing my own thing, and losing my center in God. Not every practice will be something that we fully embrace, but Lent is an opportunity to consider new practices to draw us closer to God." (*The UMC of Greater New Jersey, posted February 2019*)

Prayers to Pray Throughout a Busy Day

by Author Kelly O'Dell Stanley

(This completes the article begun in our January newsletter.)

Prayer is our primary means of communication with God, and it is only through God that we have the strength, abilities and wisdom we need to face a busy day. But when is there time to pray? Always! Let these simple prayers run through your mind as you go about your everyday tasks. Then your conversation with God will become a soundtrack underscoring your days, transforming them into something beautiful!

Help me to love. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:9–10)." Lord, help me to love as you love me. Help me love my neighbors—friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, my community, and my church family. It's easy to love humanity and despise the person in the next house. Help my love come from you. Help me see others as you see them—beloved.

Let me see You. "You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 29:12–14)." Open my eyes that I may behold your goodness and unfailing love, O Lord! I can go all day and never acknowledge you. I repent of that. Forgive me for walking without seeing. I don't want to be blind. Help me see you.

Fill me with joy. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11)." I love that you are a joyful God. I don't think about that a lot. Lord, please give me a measure of that joy. Help me see all the blessings of life that deserve my joy and appreciation. Help me even see joy in trials, as I know you are in it with me, loving and holding me. The trial is hard, but your joy is my strength. Thank you, Lord.

Get Connected!

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

- † Coffee, snacks: 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).
- † Lent studies (see page 1)
- † 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: 13-week series, 6:30 Tuesdays, Living Water Café; Holly Pote, hmpote@yahoo.com
- † God Squad (gr 7–12): 6:30 Wednesdays, CC207; Kevin Myers, 570-412-2820
- † "That the World May Know" Bible study: 6:30 Wednesdays, café; Pastor Rick
- † Women's prayer breakfast: Thursdays 8:30, Betsy Mothersbaugh's home (Muncy), 570-971-7866
- † Rehearsals, Thursdays: hand bells (6:15, Tom Ruhl, 570-220-1544); chancel choir (7:30; Lucy Buck, 570-584-4521)
- † Mission Stitchers: 9–12:00 3rd Saturdays, Nancy Grove, 570-433-3133
- † Flour Power baking ministry: 9:00, last Saturdays; Patti Myers, 570-515-0674
- † Muncy Valley UM Men, fellowship, service: Welcome Center; 4th Mondays, Harold Geise, 570-538-9173

Community Groups

- Widow's Mite monthly lunch: 12:00 third Thursdays; location varies; reservations: Janice Oden 570-546-6166 or Connie Holtzapple 570-546-6058
- Benefit social dance: March 5, 7–10:00, Celebration Center; missions donation; Glidewells, bgdance@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 1-1-21	\$ 301.89
Receipts	42,004.57
Funds available	42,306.46
Total expenses	38,472.53
Net balance 2-1-22	3,833.93

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 1-1-21	8,926.67
Receipts	7,600.50
Funds available	16,527.17
Total expenses	6,261.92
Net balance 2-1-22	10,265.25

BUILDING FUND

Balance 1-1-21	6,674.94
Receipts	3,506.00
Funds available	10,180.94
Total expenses	000.00
Net balance 2-1-22	10,180.94

• • • • • **Good 'n Plenty Supper—Curb-side pick up only**

Wed., March 2 3:30–6:00

Roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes,
gravy, vegetable, salad, dessert

Suggested donation \$12 No child-size meals

April 6: filled pork chops
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Older Adults Lunch

Our Keenagers group of older adults will join the Muncy Senior Citizens for lunch at 12:00 on Wednesday, March 16. Please call Linda Holsinger to make a reservation (570-546-6840).

Prayers: Homebound+

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 forces.

- Homebound: Floss McCarty, Elsie Smith
- Assisted living facilities and nursing/rehabilitation centers: LeRoy Frontz, Jean Hester, Anne Knox, Jake LeVan, Bill McCarty, Tony Rebuck, Alberta Shaner, Tom Weaver
- Serving in the armed forces: 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



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!*

- 3/2 Linda Miller, Tyler Morse, Elly Sherman
- 3/3 Carrine Gadoury, Rory Oden, Angela Statts
- 3/5 Sally Zehner
- 3/6 Mason Zeisloft
- 3/7 Toni Leitenberger
- 3/8 Makenna Koser, Jan Madison
- 3/9 Dorothy Young
- 3/11 Tim Benner
- 3/14 Jeremy Eckard, Lauren Wilcox
- 3/15 Brenda Neidig, Garman Zehner
- 3/17 Linda Shultz, Patty Wentzler
- 3/19 Samuel Eck, Owen Kilpatrick, Kaitlyn Myers
- 3/20 Cailyn Kilpatrick, Carol LeVan
- 3/21 Juanita Cuddeback, Elsie Smith
- 3/22 Levi Cooley, Donna Gavitt
- 3/23 Lana Baker
- 3/24 Dani Eck, Bob Schreffler
- 3/25 Nicholas Laubscher
- 3/27 Wayne Dougherty, Mavryk Hackenberg,
Sharon Moyer
- 3/28 Dawn Evans, Valerie Gordner, Sara Lowe
- 3/30 Dick Lyons
- 3/31 Dick Hartzell



- 3/1 Paige Kepner and Chris Glidewell
- 3/3 Kelsey and Madison Foreman
- 3/8 Diane and John Shoop
- 3/16 Gail and Dave Pentz
- 3/18 Gail and Michael Wood
- 3/29 Erin and Zachery Barto,
Sherrill and Bob Reynolds
- 3/31 Judy and Dick Hartzell



*Sympathies are extended to the loved ones of
Doris Allen*

*January 14, 1929–November 20, 2021
and*

*Richard Buck
September 24, 1945–January 29, 2022.*



THANK YOU

*Thank you for the cards and prayers. I'm doing a
lot better.*
Harold Walburn

*Thanks to everyone for their prayers for Joe. He is
doing fairly well but will still need therapy.*

Becky and Joe Hutchinson

*Thank you so very much for all the cards, phone
calls, and lovely well wishes from so many for my
90th birthday. I feel truly blessed having my church
family in my life thru the years. God bless you all!*

Doris Fritz

*The family of Richard Buck wishes to thank every-
one for their expressions of sympathy following
Richard's passing. We also would like to thank
Pastor Rick, the kitchen personnel who prepared the
lunch, and the chancel choir for participating in the
celebration of life service for Richard. We are very
grateful for our church family.*

Lucy Buck and family

What Does the UMC Say About Fasting?

The Bible has much to say about fasting. It's a sign of penitence in the Old Testament. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted forty days and forty nights. He commended fasting as an ongoing practice in the Sermon on the Mount.

Methodists have never limited fasting to Lent. The "General Rules" commend "fasting or abstinence" as part of the ordinances of God upon which all Methodists are called to attend as able. Fasting usually means eating no food for a period of time. Abstinence means refraining from particular kinds of food, such as meat.

The UMC does not have official guidance on how to observe fasting or abstinence. Many fast from food, but fasting or abstinence can include restriction of activities (watching TV, shopping, social networking). Some give away clothing or possessions, give time by volunteering, or increase time spent in prayer. Check with your doctor before attempting a total fast (no food, water only) for more than 24 hours.

Whenever or however we fast, we do so to reorient ourselves away from the compulsions and distractions of our lives, to make room for the love of God overflowing as love to every neighbor.

Ask The UMC, a ministry of UM Communications
Ask your questions and check out more FAQs.
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc>

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.” ~Jesus Matthew 6:33</p>		<p>1</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Lent study</p> <p>Family Promise 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Church council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 1:00 Study group 3:30–6:00 Good 'n Plenty take out</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal Family Promise 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Archives committee 9:00 Women's exercise Family Promise 6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Family Promise 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>1:00 Private grp.</p> <p>Family Promise 7:00 Benefit social dance</p>
<p>6</p> <p>1st Sun. in Lent 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult classes and Lent study 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:30 Lent study 10:45 Worship 6:00 Youth parents night</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:30 Lent study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Lent study 12:00 Daughters of the Am. Rev.</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 Lent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 6:30 "Know" study 6:30 Lent study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 6:30 Discipleship team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult classes and Lent study 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:30 Lent study 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:30 Lent study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Lent study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 Older adults 1:00 Lent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 6:30 "Know" study 6:30 Lent study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise 12:00 Widow's Mite</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Mission Stitchers</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult classes and Lent study 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:30 Lent study 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:30 Lent study 7:00 Trustees committee</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Lent study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 Lent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 6:30 "Know" study 6:30 Lent study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Muncy Women's Club</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 Rotary International 9:00 Flour Power</p> <p>1:00 Private grp.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult classes and Lent study 9:30 Children's church 9:30 Worship 10:30 God Squad Rewind 10:30 Lent study 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:30 Lent study 7:00 UM Men</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 Men's brkfst 8:30 Take Off Pounds Sensibly 10:00 Lent study</p> <p>6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Finance committee 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00 Lent study</p> <p>5:30 Praise band rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 6:30 "Know" study 6:30 Lent study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's exercise</p> <p>6:15 Hand bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Chancel choir rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>2:00 Private grp</p> <p>7:00 Benefit social dance</p>