



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FEBRUARY 2023 – NEWSLETTER

602 S. Market St., Muncy, PA 17756  
Phone: (570) 546-8030  
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[www.firstumcmuncy.org](http://www.firstumcmuncy.org)  
[office@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:office@firstumcmuncy.org)

Pastor: Rev. Richard "Rick" N. Robinson, Jr.

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

## FIRST UMC IN ACTION

### B2B = Blessed to be a Blessing



Pictured left to right: Kent Bennett and Pastor Rick present Laura Templeton with a check for 1/2 of the Christmas offering. Ms. Templeton is the Public Relations and Resource Development Director of the Salvation Army Williamsport Corp.

## Faithful Hands Mission

Do you need transportation to the 3:30 p.m. gospel music concert on February 3<sup>rd</sup>? Members of the "Faithful Hands" team will be happy to give you a lift! We can take you home after the concert, or you can stay for the meal in the cafe and then we'll take you home. Call Paige Kepner to make arrangements (570-971-5556).

# Why Easter Matters Church-Wide Lenten Study

*Submitted by Karen Barraco*

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. It's a time for a "re-set," to dig deeper into our spiritual lives, and renew our hope in the God we love and trust. But the truth is that we often find ourselves actively resisting the very God in whom we say we trust. Our hearts and our consciences tell us what is right--and what we need to be doing--but for some reason we tend to find ourselves going the other way.

Small group studies during Lent will be using the book "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley. In four sessions, we will explore the lives of some of those in Jesus' day who found it difficult to trust in Jesus, who claimed to be the Messiah: Joseph Caiaphas, Judas Iscariot, the criminals on the crosses next to Jesus, and the disciples and other followers of Jesus, who found their world turned upside down when the one they believed to be the Messiah was first put to death . . . and then rose again. Their stories reveal the attitudes of our hearts as well and compel us to truly consider why Easter matters and the effect it has on our lives.

There are a variety of days and times set for small groups. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Connection Tables beginning February 5<sup>th</sup>. You may also call the church office (570-546-8030) or register online beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> by clicking [here](#). Participant books will be available in advance for a donation of \$5.00 (to be given to your group leader at the first session). Plan to attend and invite a friend!

SUNDAYS, starting Feb. 26

-9:30 AM Church lounge, led by Deb Steransky

-10:30 AM Living Water Cafe, led by Dave Gehrum

MONDAYS, starting Feb. 27

-6:30 PM Church lounge, led by John Smay

TUESDAYS, starting Feb. 28

-10:00 AM Living Water Cafe, led by Pastor Rick

WEDNESDAYS, starting March 1

-1:00 PM Room 202, led by Sally Gardy

-6:30 PM Living Water Cafe, led by Holly Pote and Becky Shaner

FIFTH SESSION BONUS - All small group participants - and anyone else interested! - are invited to come together on Sunday evening, March 26, for a light supper at 5:15 p.m. followed by a time of sharing with Pastor Rick and a viewing of Ray Vander Laan's video, "The Path to the Cross" at 6 p.m. More details to come!



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank Pastor Rick for his visits and everyone who prayed, sent cards, provided meals, and stayed in touch with me during my recovery from a severely broken arm with complications. While I still have additional physical therapy to complete to be closer to "normal", I have made progress toward that goal. I sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts in my behalf and for my husband as he has become my caretaker. Thank you all and God bless you. – Sincerely, Monica Hill (more "thank you's on the birthday/anniversary page)

# Sharing the good news!

*Submitted by Karen Barraco*

Why is it important to share what God has done in our lives? Check out this explanation found in the Upper Room "Disciplines":

"It's often said that when people of faith gather together, they're like a mighty bonfire. But when they're by themselves, they're like lone embers that cool and go out. When we share the good stuff of faith with others, at least two important things take place. First we reflect on what God has done for us - something we should be doing weekly if not daily. Second, we encourage others in their faith. We open others' eyes to how God will work in their own lives. We bring into the open all the goodness God has accomplished in our lives."

Have you received an answer to prayer, an unexpected blessing, God's guidance? Send your faith story (250 words or less) to Karen Barraco (kbarraco@windstream.net) by February 15 for the March newsletter. Do you have an idea for a name for this monthly feature? We're open to your suggestions!

## 2022 Financial Report

Once again, we have been blessed with a positive year for our church finances. At the end of 2022, the balances were:

Current expense fund:	\$8,795.43
Building fund:	\$ 0.00
Benevolence fund:	\$7,904.81

A decision was made at Church Council in January that we felt should be shared with the Congregation: \$7,900.00 of the balance in Benevolence will be distributed to Charitable and Christian Organizations to aid them with projects and expenses in 2023. A committee, chaired by Gary Allshouse/Nancy Grove has been formed to make this distribution and their recommendation will be made to Church Council in February/March and then published to the Congregation.

Also, we collected \$4,415.00 for the Salvation Army/Pastor's Discretionary Fund from our Christmas Eve offering.

After these decisions, we will have a final balance to begin 2023:

Current expense fund:	\$8,795.43
Building fund:	\$ 0.00
Benevolence fund:	\$ 4.81

In 2022 we collected over \$582,000.00 in offerings and various donations. We will distribute over \$75,740.00 through Benevolence or 13% of our income.

Should you have any questions concerning the finances of our church, please feel free to contact me.

*Barry Grove, Finance Committee Chair*

## Sunday Morning Schedule

- Nursery care: 9:30–Noon (age 4 and under)
- Worship services:
  - 8:15 Traditional
  - 9:30 Contemporary
  - 9:30–10:30 Children's Church (age 5 through Gr. 6)
  - 10:45 Traditional
- Classes:
  - 9:30 adults
  - 10:30 adults; youth

**Live stream:** 10:45 worship services on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCMuncy/>

Or our website—<https://firstumcmuncy.org/sermons/>

## CHANGE FOR CHANGE PROJECT

*Submitted by Gail Pentz*

**CHANGE for CHANGE** project. Beginning in February, the Mission and Outreach committee will be distributing to the congregation empty paper cups (banks) to be used for collecting change. The cups will then be collected in February 2024. The monies that are received will be divided up and given to programs such as Sojourner Truth, Dwell Orphan Care, Family Promise, Salvation Army and UMCOR. These organizations help people through making changes in their lives. Our congregation will be Blessed to be a Blessing to many individuals through this project.



## Winter Concert Churchwide Event – Fri., Feb. 3

The next churchwide project (the first of four this year) will be an afternoon and evening winter concert event which will be open to the public. The event will be held on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will feature a concert by southern gospel singer Jeremy Garner beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Celebration Center. The second concert will feature contemporary Christian musicians, The Danelle Cressinger Band and will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Celebration Center. In between the two concerts (4:30-6:30), food will be served in the Living Water Café.



Aly's Monkey Movement, a local mission, will also have a display in the Living Water Café throughout the event. Individuals are welcome to come and stay for the entire event or for individual pieces. A **free-will offering** will be taken for both concerts and for the food with all proceeds going to benefit Aly's Monkey Movement.



Muncy First United Methodist Church

### JAM Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

- Roller-skating at Trout Pond Park—Feb. 25, Noon –2:00 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 23 to [jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org)
- Color Run—April 8, 10 a.m.
- Vacation Bible School—June 5–9
- Music Day Camp—June 11–16

On display (for the month of February) in the cabinet in Heritage Hall (upstairs outside the sanctuary) are marble paintings made by the children on Sun., January 22.



### How can you get involved?

We are looking for parents and other church members to volunteer their time to help at different events and during Children's Church.

If you are available and would like to volunteer your time, we would appreciate your help.

Kiley Nierzwicki and Tiffany Rarick, [jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org)

# Let's Celebrate!

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

## BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Pollie Furman, Alida Ritter  
2/2 Cindy Campbell, Ruth Phillips, Zach Soohy  
2/3 Judy Hartzell, Stan Nierzwicki  
2/4 Mike Sherman  
2/5 Don Pote  
2/6 Patrice Bond, Kevin Myers,  
Chalmer VanHorn – 90<sup>th</sup>  
2/7 Gloria Baggott, Cindy Collister  
2/8 Kadence Dincher, Ken Kohler, Natalie Wilcox  
2/11 John Rider  
2/14 Jean Gardner Camp  
2/15 Clara Bennett  
2/16 Brock Frye, Sue Kohler  
2/17 Chris Leshner  
2/18 Carol Steward  
2/19 Julie Rishel  
2/20 Shirley Leonard  
2/22 George Collister, Morgan Eck, Marshal Frye,  
2/23 Eugene Artman, Dannon Dennis, Chris Ebner,  
Michael McJunkin  
2/24 Anne Knox – 90<sup>th</sup>, Shawn Leitenberger,  
Rebecca McCabe  
2/25 Marcie Wallis  
2/27 Ann Dougherty, Valerie Kelley  
2/28 Michelle Mostowy, Nora Stuart

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/11 Val and Tom Gordner, Linda and Dave Young  
2/16 Marta and John Smay  
2/17 Judy and Dennis Fausey  
2/25 Deb and Mike Steransky



"I would like to thank all who sent cards, gave gifts, brought food to me for Christmas.

Gary Edwards

"My family and I are grateful to all who sent cards and offered prayers on our behalf, following the death of my father on December 28. I thank God that "the one who believes in (Jesus Christ) will live, even if he dies (John 11:25).""

In His Love,  
Paige Kepner

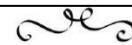
"Dear friends of First United Methodist Church of Muncy,

"Thank you for your love and support through these difficult times. And thank you for the cards and visits. I so appreciated it very much.

In Christian Love,  
Ruth Phillips and family"



**OPEN HOUSE – RSVP to the church office.**  
to help celebrate  
**CHALMER VANHORN's**  
90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Sat., Feb. 18, 2-5pm in the Living Water Cafe



*Please join us in celebrating*

The 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of

**Anne Welling Knox**

Open House

Sunday February 19, 2023

1:30 to 4 PM

In honor of Anne's  
Birthday, please  
wear a hat!

First United Methodist Church  
602 S Market Street  
Muncy, Pa 17756

In the Cafe on the lower level  
RSVP Cindy Craddock  
@ 570-546-2716



In lieu of gifts, please bring a  
nonperishable food item for the  
Local Food Bank

Invitation provided by Cindy Craddock.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- **Homebound:** Peach Bardo – 2699 Haas Lane, Montoursville, PA 17756  
Elsie Smith – 700 Glade Run Rd, Muncy, PA 17756

- **Assisted living facilities and nursing/rehabilitation centers:**

Anne Knox – Wolf Run Village (Rm. D13), 3750 Rt. 220, Hwy., Hughesville, PA 17737  
Phone: (570) 974-1020

Jake LeVan – Hillside Senior Living Center (Rm. 207), Montoursville, PA 17754  
Bill and \*Floss McCarty – WeCare At Loyalsock (Bill: Rm. 306; Floss: Rm. 403),  
1445 Sycamore Rd., Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone: Bill's: (570) 601-8284; Floss: (570) 601-8172

Tony Rebuck – Roseview Nursing Center (Rm. 215), 1201 Rural Ave., Wmspt., PA 17701  
Alida Ritter – Muncy Place (Rm. 122) – 215 E. Water St., Muncy, PA 17756  
Alberta Shaner – Ephrata Manor (Rm. 124), 99 Bethany Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522  
Tom Weaver – Wolf Run Village (C-4), 3750 Rt. 220, Hwy., Hughesville, PA 17737

\*New this month.

- **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

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## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

- Clyde Kepner, 102, father and father-in-law of Paige Kepner and Chris Glidewell of 501 S. Washington St., Muncy, PA 17756, passed away on Dec. 28, '22.
- Jan Nixon Madison, sister of Judy Rider of 514 S. Market St., Muncy, PA 17767, passed away on January 10, '23. **NOTE:** A Livestream can be viewed here: <https://canvas.church/broadcast/> on 2/4 at 1 p.m.



Keenagers/Muncy Area Sr. Citizens  
Next lunch meeting: Noon, Wed., Feb. 15  
Program: to be determined

### WIDOW'S MITE LUNCH

Where: The Ritz Complex, Muncy  
When: Thurs., Feb. 16 at noon  
RSVP: Connie Holtzapple 546-6058  
or Janice Oden 546-6166

## Good 'n Plenty Supper Wednesday, March 1

Time and how serving: To be determined



**MEAL:**  
To be determined, also.

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			1:00 Bible study 5:00–6:30 G'nP 5:30 Praise Band 6:30 Study group 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Hand Bell rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir	♪ Winter Concert♪ 3:30 Jeremy Garner, Aly's Monkeys, 7:00 Danelle Cressinger Band 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8:00 AA 1:00 Livestream of Jan Madison's Memorial Service 4:00 Private Party 7:00 Social dance
5 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30–noon Nursery 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:30 God Squad 5:30 Basketball	6 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball	7 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 TOPS 10:00 Bible study  6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8 1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00 Pickleball 6:30 God Squad Youth Group 6:30 Study group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	9 9:00 Women's Exercise  6:15 Hand Bells 6:30 Discipleship Ministry mtg. 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10     7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	11 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous   5:00 Private Party
12 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30–noon Nursery 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:30 God Squad Noon Private Party	13 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 11:00 Private Party	14 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 TOPS 10:00 Bible study  6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	15 Noon Nuncy Sr. Citizens/Keenagers 1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band 6:00 Pickleball  6:30 God Squad Youth Group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	16 9:00 Women's Exercise Noon Widow's Mite (off-site) 6:15 Hand Bell rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	17     7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	18 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00 Mission Stitchers  Noon–2 JAM's Roller-skating at Trout Pond Park 2:00 Private Party
19  Same as above Except... 1:30 Private Party and 5:30 Basketball practice	20 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball  7:00 Trustee mtg.	21 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 TOPS 10:00 Bible study 6:30 Faithful Hands group 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	22 LENT BEGINS 1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 Youth Group Youth Group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Ash Wed. Worship Service	23 9:00 Women's Exercise  6:15 Hand Bell rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24     7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	25 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous  10:00 Private Party
26 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30 Lent study 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30 Nursery 10:30 Lent study 10:30 God Squad 5:30 Basketball	27 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 6:30 Lent study  Providing meals for Family Promise yesterday through Saturday	28 7:00 Men's Breakfast 9:30 TOPS 10:00 Lent study  6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous				

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

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



**CHURCH STAFF**

- Lucy Buck – Music Director .....(H) 570-584-4521
- Barry Grove – Director of Operations, Financial Secretary ..... (C) 570-447-0514
- John Lucas – Custodian ..... (C) 570-560-2626
- Marty McCabe – Custodian ..... (W) 570-546-8030
- Kevin Myers – Youth Ministry Coordinator ..... (C) 570-412-2820
- Kiley Nierzwicki – Administrative Director of Children’s Ministries ..... (C) 570-560-0535
- Tiffany Rarick – Children’s Ministry Coordinator ..... (C) 570-560-8112
- Sherrill Reynolds – Receptionist, Secretary ..... (W) 570-546-8030
- Jody Robinson – Communications Director, Treasurer ..... (W) 570-546-8030
- The Rev. Richard (Rick) N. Robinson, Jr. – Pastor ..... (W) 570-546-8030
- Tom Ruhl – Associate Music Director ..... (C) 570-220-1544



“Blessed to be a Blessing”  
**February Newsletter**