



FIRST LIGHT

E-NEWS FROM MUNCY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHANGE FOR CHANGE PROJECT

Submitted by Gail Pentz

Beginning in February, the Mission and Outreach Committee will be distributing empty paper cups (banks) to the congregation to be used for collecting change. We ask that you place the cup somewhere where you will be reminded to drop in your loose change over the next year. The cups will then be collected in February 2024. The monies that are collected 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.

Faithful Hands Mission

Do you need transportation to the 3:30 p.m. gospel music concert on February 3rd? 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).

JAM News



The JAM Ministry is holding a roller-skating event at Trout Pond Park on Saturday February 25th from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to the JAM leaders by February 23rd.

Mark your calendars for a Color Run on April 8th at 10:00 a.m. and VBS on June 5th-9th.

The JAM leaders would like to thank the congregation for your generous support of their snack and drink collection. They report, "We are overjoyed with the amount of support we have received. The kiddos are going to be so excited to have so many options! Thank you, thank you, thank you! What a blessing."

January 27, 2023, Vol. 133

Reminders:

-Winter Concert Event Feb. 3rd: Jeremy Garner (Southern Gospel) at 3:30. Danelle Cressinger Band (Contemporary Christian) at 7:00. Food and Aly's Monkey Movement in the Café 4:30-6:30. All donations benefit Aly's Monkey Movement. All are welcome. Tell your friends and family.

-A New Sunday School class is meeting in the lounge at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Linda Miller is leading this class.

-Sign up in the Welcome Center to provide cereal to the Son Light House for a month in 2023.



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 5th. You may also call the church office (570-546-8030) or register online beginning February 1st 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!



Several have expressed appreciation for the Advent devotionals written by some in our congregation. Their stories of faith and encouragement were shared in the “First Light” e-newsletter in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Discipleship Team would like to see these continue on a monthly basis in our church newsletter.

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!



Pickleball Is Back!

New lines have been painted on the Celebration Center floor in preparation for the return of Pickleball. A group of church members and friends will begin meeting on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. to play. All are welcome to either return to play or try it for the first time.

