



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023 – NEWSLETTER

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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

Combined Effort Blesses Muncy Teachers - Submitted by Karen Barraco

The Faithful Hands group filled bins with snacks which were then delivered to Muncy High School and Myers Elementary to express appreciation to teachers and staff for all they do. Also contributing snacks for the project were the Body & Soul women’s exercise group and the Women’s Prayer Group.



Packing the treats were Gary & Lyla Allhouse, Stephanie Mostowy, Elaine Duckworth, Michelle Cowher, Jane Lucas and Karen Barraco. Faithful Hands meets the third Tuesday of the month for Bible study, followed by a planning session for community outreach projects.



“Who Needs Christmas?” – a Church-wide Advent Study

Submitted by Karen Barraco

As we move into the holiday season with joyful preparations and full calendars, consider hitting the “pause button” to make room for deeper reflection on the meaning of Christmas. One way to do that is to participate in a small group during the Advent Season. Join the conversation focused on Andy Stanley’s book, “Who Needs Christmas?”

Through Christmas, we are reminded God is active even when it seems like he is not. We are reminded that even when it seems God is silent, he is always working. And we are reminded that God sent Jesus not simply to be the Savior of the world, but to be the Savior of our world. Through Christmas, we are reminded that God always keeps his promises to us.

A number of options of days and times for small groups will be available. Look for further details in the weekly e-newsletter “First Light.” Sign-up sheets will be available at the Connection Tables starting Sunday, Nov. 5, as well as online sign-up through the church website, with groups beginning the week of Nov. 26. The four session titles are: “The Story Behind the Story”, “The Author of Life”, “The Message of Christmas”, “Ready or Not...He is Coming.”

The narrative of Jesus’ birth is both miraculous and incredible. You won’t want to miss Andy Stanley’s perspective on the Christmas story.

Reminders:

- Daylight Saving Time**, November 5. Remember to turn your clocks back.
- Church Conference**, November 5, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry**: filled shoeboxes (do not wrap) are due Sun., Nov. 5. Baskets for shipping costs donations (\$10/box; cash or checks made payable to FUMC) are available at the shoebox tables (Welcome Center and outside the Living Water Café).

Sharing the good news!

Do you have some good news to share - 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 November 15 for the December newsletter.

Submitted by Holy Pote

As many of you know, I have been involved in the GriefShare Ministry for many years. The one comment I hear most frequently is "I don't know how I would get through my loss without Jesus." Most recently I lost my father, and I would wholeheartedly agree with this statement. I certainly have felt the presence of Jesus walking with me in the "valley of the shadow of death." One of the ways I have felt Jesus' presence is through the Body of Christ – the church – my community.

Do you remember the scene from the movie "Forrest Gump" – where Forrest is running across the country? His childhood friend and sweetheart, Jenny, had just left town. I am sure he was grieving. As he ran, a small group of people amassed behind him. The group grew and grew but just silently ran behind him. I would like to think they were supporting him on his grief journey, in their unique way, by allowing him to just run, process his loss and heal.

In my grief journey, my church community has also quietly and caringly gathered around me in a unique way by praying for me, sending me cards, checking in on me and my family and even taking over some of my church responsibilities. This quiet and caring presence was (and is) my church community supporting me and being the presence of Christ.

I am sure you have all encountered someone who has made a statement something like this – "don't get me wrong, I believe in God, I just really don't see the need for the church." I hope when you hear a statement like this, you will have a "church community" story ready to go that is a little like mine... a story of how much you needed your church community and how you counted on them to help you through a struggle in your life – how they amassed around you. I am sure you will because we share this community – a community of people who are filled with faith and are a powerful presence of Christ!

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays



For many who have lost loved ones, the holidays can be the worst time of the year. To help the grieving navigate the holidays, our GriefShare Ministry will hold a special, free-standing (one-time) meeting for those who are struggling with loss. The meeting will be held on Tues., Nov. 7 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Living Water Café.

THANK YOU

The family of Clara Bennett would like to express our appreciation for all the thoughts, prayers and cards during her illness and subsequent passing away. (continued next column)

THANK YOU (continued)

The support we received from our church family was overwhelming and greatly appreciated during a very difficult time. Pastor Rick led the way as we spoke every day on the phone and some days several times. His visits, support and prayers for us both enabled me to make it through a very challenging emotional week. Finally, many thanks for all who had a part in her life celebration service. You all made it truly a very special tribute to her. God Bless you all! ~ Kent Bennett & family

I would like to thank all the people who sent me cards, plus all who attended my surprise Sunday school party. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. ~ Gary Edwards



To purchase a poinsettia (6 1/2" pot) for placement in the worship areas for Sun., Dec. 24, please place this completed form and payment (\$8 each, cash or check payable to First United Methodist Church) in the offering plates/baskets or return it to the church office by **Thurs., Nov. 9.**

Thank you to all who dedicate poinsettias, adding to the beauty of our Christmas worship services. If it's possible to leave your poinsettia through the Sunday, Dec. 31 service, that would be greatly appreciated. Any poinsettia left after Tuesday, January 2, '24 will be donated unless other arrangements are made with the church office.

Given in memory of: _____

Given in honor of: _____

Given to the Glory of God: _____

Indicate how many of each color:

____ Red ____ Pink ____ White ____ Candy Cane

YOUR NAME: _____

Indicate which worship space for placement:

____ Living Water Café ____ Sanctuary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Same as last month; no mtg. in October

CURRENT EXPENSE

Balance 8/1/23	-\$4,690.19
Receipts	\$43,663.96
Funds available	\$38,973.77
Total expenses	\$38,699.34
Net balance 9/1/23	\$274.43

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance 8/1/23	\$1,533.72
Receipts	\$3,341.00
Funds available	\$4,874.72
Total expenses	\$1,668.00
Net balance 9/1/23	\$3,206.72

BUILDING FUND

Balance 8/1/23	-\$2,121.77
Receipts	\$2,885.00
Funds available	\$763.23
Total expenses	\$0.00
Net balance 9/1/23	\$763.23

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

PASTOR RICK'S OFFICE HOURS

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9-Noon

Tuesdays 1–4 p.m. by appointment

Live stream: 10:45 worship services on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCMuncy/>
Or our website— <https://firstumcmuncy.org/sermons/>

Do You Have a Church Key?



Our records are very sketchy on who has a church key and what type of key they have. Please contact the Barry Grove (facilities@firstumcmuncy.org or 570-447-0514) if you are in possession of any type of Church Key. This would include outside doors, shed, inside doors or filing cabinets.

Thank You for your help.



Muncy First United Methodist Church

JAM Children's Ministry Save the Date:

- Children's Christmas Program—Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.
(Practices for the play every Sunday of November from 10:30-11:30.
Parents can stay for that.)

Kiley Dgien and Tiffany Rarick, jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org

You're still young enough for the Youth Group!



It's been a long time since most of us were young enough to attend a youth fellowship gathering but we're about to change that. The God Squad Youth at FUMC would like to extend an invitation to the entire congregation to join them for an **ice cream party** and night of learning and fellowship. You're invited to attend on November 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Celebration Center. The night will begin with a 30-minute lesson on "Boxes"; how we tend to label people and put them in boxes. This lesson is a great follow up to the Wednesday evening study "Just Walk Across the Room." The lesson will be followed by a time of fellowship. So come on out and meet the youth and enjoy some learning and fun times together. You might just leave feeling a bit younger.

Let's Celebrate!

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Diane Shoop
- 11/2 Kristin (Nuss) Timer, Vonnie Poust
- 11/3 Gary Allshouse, George Duckworth
- 11/4 Jim Dennis, Judy Rider
- 11/5 Reese Roca
- 11/6 Dennis Fausey, Gail Nuss
- 11/7 Michelle Cowher
- 11/10 Kent Bennett, Pearl Rathmell - 97th
- 11/11 Betsy Fahringer, Willow Nichols, Marta Smay
- 11/12 Nicole Johnson
- 11/13 Donna McCaslin
- 11/14 McKenna Beyer
- 11/16 Patsy Charles
- 11/18 Jason Winters
- 11/19 David Wallis
- 11/20 Royce Boyles, Dick Langer,
Ali (Swank) Stratton
- 11/21 Suzy Foresman
- 11/22 Rayma Gover, Reed Hansen,
Jonathan McJunkin
- 11/24 Chantal Gadoury
- 11/25 Mccaulay Eisenhauer, David Holsinger,
Patti Myers
- 11/27 Mya Evans, Glenn Schell, Paige Wright
- 11/29 Cathy Henry, Phyllis Strasburg - 95th

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/20 Deb and Marshal Frye - 52nd
- 11/24 Nancy and Dick Lyons - 61st
Susanne and Tyler Morse
- 11/28 Cathy and George Henry
- 11/29 Jo and Dick Langer



TWINS!

Congratulations to Tiffany and Tyler Rarick
on the October 12, '23 birth of twins,
Kora Grace Rarick
&
Waylon Cole Rarick.
Tiffany is our Children's Ministry
Coordinator!



Keenagers / Muncy Area Sr. Citizens

When: Wed., Nov. 15 at noon
Where: Celebration Center gym
Program: To be determined



When: Thurs., Nov. 16 at noon
Where: Sammy's Pizza, Muncy
RSVP: Connie Holtzapple 546-6058
or Janice Oden 546-6166

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- **Homebound:** *Peach Bardo – 3 Sutphin Pines, Yardley, PA 19067 ([new address](#))
*Jane Pick – 275 May Drive, Hughesville, PA
Elsie Smith – 700 Glade Run Rd, Muncy, PA 17756

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

Ephrata Manor, 99 Bethany Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522; Phone: (717) 738-4940
Alberta Shaner (124)

Heritage Springs Memory Care, 878 Old Cement Rd., Muncy, PA 17756; Phone: (570) 935-0936
Aline Miller (Rm. 202)

Muncy Place, 215 E. Water St., Muncy, PA 17756; Phone: (570) 546-4017
Tom Weaver (Rm. 126), *Carol Karschner (Rm. 201)

WeCare At Loyalsock, 1445 Sycamore Rd., Montoursville, PA 17754
Bill McCarty (Rm. 509), Room phone: (570) 601-8313
Floss McCarty (Rm. 509), Room phone: (570) 601-8236

Wolf Run Village, 3750 Rt. 220, Hwy., Hughesville, PA 17737; Phone: (570) 584-0101
Richard “Dick” Hartzell (Rm. A-12)
Anne Knox (Rm. D13), Cell phone: (570) 974-1020

*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

Good ‘n Plenty Supper – Wed., Nov. 1

“To Go” curbside take-out
(4:00–5:30 p.m.)

“Dine In” (5:00–6:30 p.m.)
in the C. C. gym

Suggested donation: \$12

Menu: Baked ham, green beans,
scalloped potatoes, rolls,
applesauce & dessert



The Worship Committee is looking for wooden apple crates for a harvest display again this year by Nov. 6. If you have one or more that they can borrow for a few weeks in November, please call Jane Lucas at 570-546-5777.

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 1:00 Bible study 4-5:30 G'nP Takeout 5:00-6:30 G'nP Dine in 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 God Squad 7:00 AA	2 8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:15 Cantata Rhrl 8:15 Choir Rhrl.	3	4 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00-Noon Mission Stitchers 6:00 Community Worship at Pleasant View Wesleyan 7:00 Social Dance
5 DAYLIGHT SAVING	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services All Saints Sunday 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 JAM 9:30-noon Nursery 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:30-11:30 Play Practice (children) 5:00 Annual Church Conference	9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball	7:00am-8:00pm Election Polling 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Bible study 6:30 GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" 7:00 Church Council 7:00 NA	1:00 Symbolism study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 God Squad ... and ice cream party! 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 Discipleship mtg. 7:00 AA 7:15 Cantata Rhrl 8:15 Choir Rhrl.	5:00 Private Party 5:30-9:00 Muncy Historical Society's "Artist & Exhibition Sale 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	 Veterans Day 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00-3:00 Muncy Historical Society's "Artist & Exhibition Sale Noon Private Party
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services "HARVEST HOME/ HERITAGE SUNDAY" 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30-noon Nursery 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:30-11:30 Play Practice (children) 1:30 Cantata Rhrl	9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 6:30 Endowment Committee mtg.	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Bible study 12:30 D.A.R. mtg. 6:30 GriefShare 6:30 SPRC 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	Noon Keenagers /Sr. Citizens 1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 Muncy Women's Group 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Exercise Noon Widow's Mite at Sammy's 6:00 Alzheimer grp 6:15 Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:15 Cantata Rhrl	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 5:00-9:00 Pioneer Valley 4-H Club
18	20	21	22	23	24	25
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. 10:30-11:30 Play Practice (children)	9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 7:00 Trustee mtg.	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Bible study 6:15 Handbells 6:30 Faithful Hands 7:00 NA 7:15 Cantata Rhrl. 8:15 Choir Rhrl.	1:00 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band 6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	 HAPPY Thanksgiving CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED No church mtgs. 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
26	27	28	29	30		
8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Advent study 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30-noon Nursery 10:30 Advent study 10:30-11:30 Play Practice (children)	9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 6:30 Advent study	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Advent study 7:00 Finance mtg. 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	1:00 Advent study 5:30 Praise Band 6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad 7:00 AA	9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 Discipleship mtg. 7:00 AA 7:15 Cantata Rhrl 8:15 Choir Rhrl.		

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
- Kevin Myers – Youth Ministry Coordinator (C) 570-412-2820
- Kiley Dgien – 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 – 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”

November Newsletter