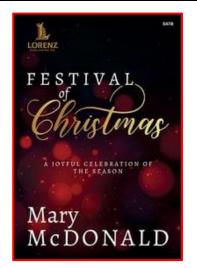


# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2023 – NEWSLETTER

602 S. Market St., Muncy, PA 17756 Phone: (570) 546-8030 Fax: (570) 546-6036 www.firstumcmuncy.org 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."



## Christmas Cantata – Sun., Dec. 17, '23

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us for this year's Christmas Cantata. The cantata will be shared on December 17 at 10:45 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. American composer, Mary McDonald, wrote the "Festival of

Christmas" which shared the Christmas story through songs centered around beloved carols. Tell your friends and family who might enjoy this celebration of Christmas through music and voice.

## Holiday Greetings with the Congregational Care Team Submitted by Sharon Goss

Merry Christmas Church!

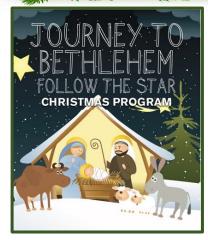
As Christmas nears, our minds turn not only to the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and our church activities, but also to shopping for gifts, planning and cooking dinners, decorating the tree, cleaning and decorating the house, putting lights up outside, wrapping presents, and Christmas cards! Whew!

The Congregational Care Team has a project that might help to lesson your "to do" list. Instead of sending Christmas cards to each member of your church family this year, (plus, have you checked the cost of a stamp lately?) why not show your love by hanging a single Christmas greeting on a display wall?

The first of many Christmas card displays will be in the Welcome Center (which started November 26). Simply sign your card as you normally would and, using the provided "clothes pins", hang your greeting for all to enjoy. As more cards are displayed, we will let you know other locations where cards will be displayed through the church building. We can't wait to see all your Christmas greetings.

~ The Congregational Care Team **WILL** be sending cards to our shut-ins, military personnel, and college students, so please contact the office with addresses for these loved ones. ~

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**



Please join us

Sunday, December 10 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary

# A Christmas celebration to follow with the children.



## B<sub>2</sub>B = Blessed to be a Blessing

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Shoebox project. There were 118 boxes filled and returned. This was an increase of 10 boxes over last year! Thank you to the Youth for helping to assemble the boxes and to those who helped with ensuring that no money was included in the boxes. The boxes will be delivered on November 13<sup>th</sup> to the Pine Street United Methodist Church which is a drop off location for our area. We can only imagine what a blessing these boxes will be to the children who receive them. ~ Gail Pentz

## **Thanksgiving Gift Card Blessings**



The Mission and Outreach Ministry team, again this year, handed out Weis's gift cards to congregation members who then took them to bless Weis grocery shoppers to use during the Thanksgiving season. Thank you to all that participated.



Left: Thirteen people came together in Nov. for the leaf raking project sponsored by the Faithful Hands Group. The group worked on the yards of two members from

our church and then raked leaves at the Muncy Public Library and the VFW Memorial on Main St. as part of our community outreach.

Special thanks to Chip and Michelle Cowher, who provided a truck and huge tarps.



Left: The Veterans Day banner with signatures of our congregation (and children) was delivered just before Veterans Day to the Muncy VFW. Helping Karen Barraco make the presentation was

Tom Ritter, a member of our church and a member of the VFW. The banner was hung in the entryway of the building, expressing our appreciation to those who have served our country.

Special thanks to Jane Lucas and Jo Ann Welch for helping with this Faithful Hands project.



Send your faith story (250 words or less) to Karen Barraco (<u>kbarraco@windstream.net</u>) by December 15 for the January 2024 newsletter.

#### Submitted by Linda Holsinger

Dick and I lived on W. Water St. for 25 years. We were flooded in 1972 (7-1/2 ft., first floor) and 1975 (30 inches, first floor). Several times we put the house up for sale with no results. We figured we would be there forever.

In the spring of 1994, I got up one morning "knowing" in my being that we were going to move. I told Dick and he said, "We can't afford it." I said, "I know, but we're moving." I went up to the attic and started sorting through things.

We put the house up for sale the beginning of July and then visited my Mother in Johnstown for the week of the 4th. The realtor called about the 5th or 6th and told us the house was sold. God was at work.

After our home on W. Water St. was sold, we had to move by the end of August. There were only several houses for sale in Muncy at that time, but none were suitable. A friend told me that a house on S. Market St. was up for auction. Dick, Dave and I checked it out and decided to bid on it. I even went to the post office and got a change of address form.

Scott Williams offered to help us through the bidding process and all the paperwork. The auctioneer said it was the first time people clapped when he sold a house!

Shortly after we bought the house, Dave flew to India for a college semester. With God's help (and Dave Wallis's open trailer), we were able to move all but a few heavy pieces mostly by ourselves. That was 29 years ago. God provided the perfect home for us.

TREASURER'S REPORT					
CURRENT EXPENSE					
Balance 10/1/23	-\$6,398.98				
Receipts	\$37,561.75				
Funds available	\$31,162.77				
Total expenses	\$32.221.18				
Net balance 11/1/23	-\$1,058.41				
<b>BENEVOLENCE FUND</b>					
Balance 10/1/23	\$3,637.72				
Receipts	\$3,620.50				
Funds available	\$7,258.22				
Total expenses	\$1,567.00				
Net balance 11/1/23	\$5,691.22				
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>					
Balance 10/1/23	\$16,800.63				
Receipts	\$14,673.87				
Funds available	\$31,474.50				
Total expenses	\$4.083.04				
Net balance 11/1/23	\$27,391.46				

#### December Schedule

- Sun., 12/10 Children's Program, 6:00pm
- Sun., 12/17 Cantata, 10:45am & 2:00pm
- Sun., 12/24 One Combined Worship, 10:00am
- Sun., 12/24 Christmas Eve, 3:30 & 8:00pm (livestreamed)

#### Sunday Morning "Regular" Schedule

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

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



Dear Methodist Church,

Thank you for the Good & Plenty meals. They were appreciated and very good. Enclosed is a donation for all your good deeds. Thank you again. ~ Sincerely, Betty Wright

Thank you to George Duckworth, Dennis Hammond, Jan Mostowy, Dave Snyder and Candy Winters for building a ramp at my house for me. God Bless You. ~ Arlene Opp

Thank you to the Faithful Hands Ministry team for pleasantly surprising me and the staff at The Vision & Learning Center for raking up our leaves. It so was appreciated and heart-warming! – Marcus Myers, OD

Dear First United Methodist Church of Muncy,

Thank you for sponsoring our Monster Dash this year. We really appreciate your help! Your donation helps fund our field trips, t-shirts, and assemblies. We get to have more fun because of you!

Sincerely,

Hadley and all Myers Elementary students

Members and Friends, First United Methodist Church.

On behalf of the Recipients, Volunteers and Board of Directors at the Son Light House, "Thank You' for your donation of "Non-Perishable Food" we received on November 13, '23 for the Son Light House. We are truly thankful for your generous and thoughtful support. This Food donation will be distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas at the Son Light House.

God's Blessing ~ Ken and Delores Frey, Son Light House, Muncy Directors



 Homebound: Peach Bardo – 3 Sutphin Pines, Yardley, PA 19067 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 Carol Karschner \*(Rm. 208) 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

\*Change in room #

#### • Serving in the armed forces:

Brett Bardo, Tyler Barto, Morgan Eck, Madison Foreman, Josh Garverick, Pat Gaydon, John Kuhn, Joshua Kustanbauter, Matt Lucas, Matthew McCabe, Chad McElwee, Derek Reese, Chris Secules, Tyler Smay, Scott Wolfe

Nefebrate! '8

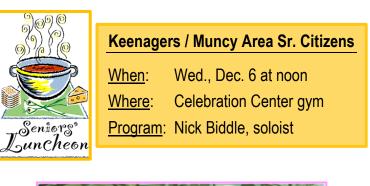
May the blessings of our loving God fill your heart with joy!

## BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Joseph Paul (J.P.) McCabe
- 12/2 Linda Hartley, Lorie McCarty
- 12/3 Layne Oden
- 12/4 Kathy Grenoble
- 12/7 Troy Hansen
- 12/8 Denny Hammond, Kelsey Foreman, Jason Perritt
- 12/11 Mary Eckard, Nancy Poust
- 12/12 Emily Glidewell
- 12/13 Thomas Gordner
- 12/14 Kylie Beck
- 12/16 Temperance Eck
- 12/18 Erabella Eck, Deb Frye, Matt Frye
- 12/20 Angie Kustanbauter
- 12/21 MJ Kainz, Carol Karschner, David Waltz
- 12/22 Kathy Burkhart, Becky Hutchinson
- 12/23 Morgan Armstrong, Lindsy Maxwell
- 12/24 Lillian Klucka, Dave Pentz, Justin Winters
- 12/26 Samantha "Sam" Robinson
- 12/27 Reid Baker, Crispin Morgan
- 12/28 Elsie Emick
- 12/30 Jane Lucas
- 12/31 Elaine Duckworth, Betty Wright 96th

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/4 Dona and Dan Winder
- 12/13 Michelle and Chris Ebner, Jackie and Barry Shuck
- 12/14 Alyson & TJ McCabe, Betsy and Jim Mothersbaugh – 60<sup>th</sup>
- 12/30 Holly and Don Pote
- 12/31 Cori and Dan Cotner





<u>Where</u>: In the Living Water Cafe RSVP: Connie Holtzapple 546-6058 or Janice Oden 546-6166

### The Salvation Army



Volunteers are needed to ring the bell for The Salvation Army on Fri., Dec. 8 at Sam's Club for one-hour time slots from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00. Thank you in advance to those who signed up! – Bob Webb

**Donate Your Turkey**: Do you shop at a grocery store that gives you points for a free turkey during the holidays? Consider donating that turkey to the Hospitality Team if you don't want it. It could end up being used for a Good 'n Plenty supper or it might be used to make soup for our Soup Ministry. Either way, it will be put to good use.

Turkeys can be dropped off at the church and put in the walk-in freezer. Check in to the church office if you need help.



## **Celebrating our 50+ & 70+ Year Members**



(8:15 service) – <u>Front row</u>: \*\*Janice Oden, \*Garman & \*Sally Zehner, \*Wayne Kemmerer, \*\*Connie Holtzapple. <u>Back row</u>: \*Joanie Wallis, \*\*David Wallis, \*John Smay, \*Molly Kemmerer and \*\*Vonnie Poust.



(10:45 service) – <u>Front row</u>: \*Gary Edwards. <u>Middle row</u>: \*Gail Nuss, \*\*\*Arlene Opp, \*Linda Holsinger, and \*Donna McCaslin <u>Back row</u>: \*\*Loretta Ryder, \*Deb and \*Marshal Frye, \*Chalmer VanHorn and \*Jane Lucas.

\*indicates 50+ year member \*\*indicates 70+ year member \*\*\*Although 94-year-old Arlene Opp is not a 50+ or 70+ member of this church, she is pictured because she is a 70+ member of The United Methodist Church.



SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
					1	2
					11:30 Red Cross	8:00am Alcoholics
					6:00 Antique Auto Club	Anonymous
					7:00 NA	7:00 Social Dance
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15, 9:30, 10:45	9:00 Women's	7:00 Men's Prayer	Noon Muncy Sr.	9:00 Women's		8:00 Alcoholics
Worship Services 9:30 Advent study	Exercise 10:00 Pickleball	Breakfast 8:45 TOPS	Citizens/Keenagers 1:30 Advent study	Exercise		Anonymous 9:00–Noon
9:30-10:30 JAM	10.00 FICKIEDali	10:00 Advent study	1.50 Auvent Study			Mission
9:30-noon Nursery			5:30 Praise Band			Stitchers
10:30 Advent study	6:30 Advent study		Rehearsal	6:15 Handbell		Noon private
10:30–11:30 Play Practice (children)		7:00 NA	6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad	Rehearsal 7:00 AA		Christmas Party
10:30 God Squad		1.00101	7:00 Alcoholics	7:15 Cantata Rhrsl	7:00 Narcotics	
1:30 Cantata Rhrsl			Anonymous	8:15 Choir Rhrsl.	Anonymous	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services	9:00 Women's Exercise	7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast	1:30 Advent study	8:30 Women's Prayer Breakfast		8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
9:30 Advent study	10:00 Pickleball	8:45 TOPS	1.50 Auvent Study	9:00 Women's		8:30–Noon
9:30-10:30		10:00 Advent study	5:30 Praise Band	Exercise		Cantata Dress
Children's Church			Rehearsal	6:00 Alzheimer		Rehearsal
9:30–noon Nursery 10:30 Advent study	6:30 Advent study		6:30 Advent study 6:30 God Squad	group 6:15 Handbell		
10:30 God Squad	oloo / laront olaay	7:00 Church	oloo oou oquuu	Rehearsal		
Rewind		Council		7:00 AA		
6:00 Children's Christmas Play	7:00–9:00 Cantata Rehearsal	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	7:00 Cantata Rhrsl 8:15 Choir Rhrsl.	7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CANTATA	Touch-a-Heart	7:00 Men's Prayer	1:30 Advent study	9:00 Women's		8:00 Alcoholics
10:45 & 2:00	distribution	Breakfast		Exercise		Anonymous
Worship Services 9:30 NO Adult S.S.	9:00 Women's	8:45 TOPS 10:00 Advent study	5:30 Praise Band 6:00 AA Christmas	Noon Widow's Mite catered		
or ? Advent study	Exercise	10.00 Advent study	party and mtg.	lunch		
NO Children's	10:00 Pickleball		6:30 Advent study	6:15 Handbells		
Church or Nursery	6.20 Advantatudu	7:00 NA	6:30 God Squad 7:00 Alcoholics	7:00 Alcoholics	7:00 Narcotics	
10:30 NO Advent study	6:30 Advent study 7:00 Trustee mtg.	7:00 NA	Anonymous	Anonymous 7:30 Choir Rhrsl.	Anonymous	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
COMBINED		7:00 Men's Prayer		8:30 Women's		8:00 Alcoholics
Worship Services	MERRY	Breakfast 8:45 TOPS	1:30 Bible study	Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's		Anonymous
at 10 a.m. 3:30 Christmas	CHRISTMAS	10:00 NO study		Exercise		4:00-9:00 private
Eve candlelight &	Office closed	2:00–6:00 private		6:15 Handbell		Christmas party
Communion	&	Christmas party	5:30 Praise Band	Rehearsal		
8:00 Christmas Eve candlelight &	No scheduled activities…	7:00 Narcotics	6:30 God Squad 7:00 AA	7:00 AA	7:00 Narcotics	
Communion	activities	Anonymous		7:30 Choir Rhrsl.	Anonymous	
31		-			-	
8:15, 9:30, 10:45						
Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S.						
9:30-10:30						
Children's Church						
0.30_noon Numor						
9:30–noon Nursery						
10:30 Adult S.S. 10:30 God Squad						

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	
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, volunteer Communications Director	(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"

