



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.**



B2B = 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 13th 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.

Sharing the good news!

Send your faith story (250 words or less) to Karen Barraco (kbarraco@windstream.net) 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

BENEVOLENCE FUND

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

BUILDING FUND

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 (age 5 through Gr. 6)

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/>



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

Let's Celebrate!

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, Lindsay 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 – 60th
- 12/30 Holly and Don Pote
- 12/31 Cori and Dan Cotner



Keenagers / Muncy Area Sr. Citizens

When: Wed., Dec. 6 at noon

Where: Celebration Center gym

Program: Nick Biddle, soloist



When: Thurs., Dec. 21 at noon
(catered by Station House)

Where: In the Living Water Cafe

RSVP: Connie Holtzapple 546-6058
or Janice Oden 546-6166

The Salvation Army



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**
Ring a bell...help change a life

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) – Front row: **Janice Oden, *Garman & *Sally Zehner, *Wayne Kemmerer, **Connie Holtzapfle.
Back row: *Joanie Wallis, **David Wallis, *John Smay, *Molly Kemmerer and **Vonnie Poust.



(10:45 service) – Front row: *Gary Edwards.
Middle row: *Gail Nuss, ***Arlene Opp, *Linda Holsinger, and *Donna McCaslin
Back row: **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.

December

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

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, 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”

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