



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024 – NEWSLETTER

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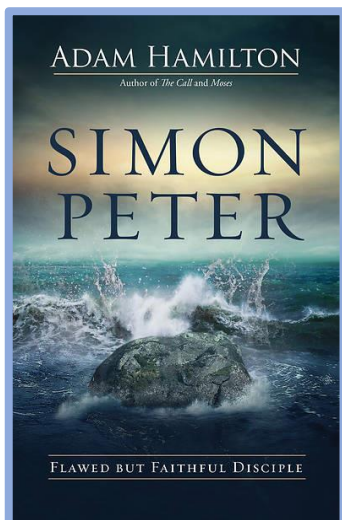
Pastor: Rev. Richard “Rick” N. Robinson, Jr.

“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

Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple A churchwide six-week Lenten Study

Submitted by Deb Steransky



The season of Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day. It seems appropriate somehow that we begin this time with a celebration of love as we dig deeper into our faith and grow our love for Christ.

We will be using *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton.

Here is a synopsis of the study:

"Simon Peter—an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today."

Sign-up sheets are at the Connection Tables, or you can register online by right-clicking on the word, "[here](#)" to open the hyperlink.

- SUNDAYS, beginning Feb. 18
9:30 a.m. led by Deb Steransky, Lounge
10:30 a.m. led by Dave Gehrum, Living Water Café
- MONDAYS, beginning Feb. 19
6:30 p.m. led by John Smay, Lounge
- TUESDAYS, beginning Feb. 13 (**one week earlier than the others**)
10 a.m. led by Pastor Rick, Living Water Café
- WEDNESDAYS, beginning Feb. 21
1:30 p.m. taught by Sally Gardy, Rm. 202
6:30 p.m. led by Holly Pote and Becky Shaner, Living Water Café

B2B = Blessed to be a Blessing

CHANGE FOR CHANGE PROJECT

Submitted by Gail Pentz

CHANGE for CHANGE Mission Project – On February 4th the Mission and Outreach committee will be collecting the paper cups which were given out to the congregation last year. You can place your cup on the altar rail in the sanctuary or on the coffee bar in the Living Water Cafe. You can also drop your cup or donation off in the office after that date. Empty cups will be distributed on the 4th. The monies will be distributed to various programs such as Sojourner Truth Ministries, 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. Thank you for your support.

Faithful Hands Kicks Off a New Year

submitted by Karen Barraco



The Faithful Hands group met to discuss new community outreach projects for 2024 at their first meeting of the new year on **Tuesday, January 23, 6:30 p.m. in the Living Water Cafe**. We will also continue our Bible study on “Christian Community” by looking at the book of Philemon. If you’ve been thinking of being a part of the group, now is a great time to get on board!



“Once upon a time, long, long ago, when I was just a young thing, I never thought that one day I would be 82 and need help. How fortunate for me that I belong to a congregation full of helpers.

Last summer the VIMers were here and willing to do whatever needed to be done around my property. In the fall the Faithful Hands raked my front yard twice. On a cold winter morning one of the soup ladies brought delicious turkey noodle soup.

Molly keeps the inside of my house going, and Rebecca takes me to doctors’ appointments and no doubt will again when she is healed.

Many, many, many thanks to all. I am blessed to be blessed. ~ Evelyn Derrick”

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS...

The God Squad is selling quarts of soup for **\$8.**
Available for pick-up: Saturday, February 10 from 9am–3pm
or Sunday, February 10 following the 8:15 worship service through noon.

Please indicate the # of quarts you would like under each type. Deadline: Feb. 4.



Name & Phone #	Chili	Italian Wedding	Potato



Also, the God Squad is hosting a community-wide Sports Card Show the same day as the soup sale: Saturday, February 10, '24
from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. in the Celebration Center gym.
They will be serving lunch in the Living Water Café from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch (donation only): soup, salad and bread (in person only); No takeouts.
All proceeds from the soup sale and lunch will go to the Central PA Food Bank.
Please consider joining them!



JAM Children's Ministry Save the Dates:

- Roller skating party at Trout Pond Park—Feb. (to be determined)
Kiley Dgien and Tiffany Rarick jesusandme@firstumcmuncy.org



Keenagers / Muncy Area Sr. Citizens

When: Wed., Feb. 21 at noon

Where: Celebration Center gym

Program: To be determined



When: Thurs., Feb. 15 at noon

Where: Haywood's, Muncy

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

2023 Financial Report

Once again, we have been blessed with a positive year for our church finances. At the end of 2023, the balances were:

Current expense fund:	\$24,880.37
Building fund:	\$ 0.00
Benevolence fund:	\$ 6,974.24

A decision was made at Church Council in January that we felt should be shared with the Congregation: \$6,700.00 of the balance in Benevolence will be distributed to Charitable and Christian Organizations to aid them with projects and expenses in 2024. A committee, chaired by 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 \$3,277.00 for Meagan's Box, Aly's Monkey Movement and Dwell from our Christmas Eve offering. We will add \$323.00 from our Benevolence Funds so that each organization will receive \$1,200.00.

After these decisions, we will have a final balance to begin 2024:

Current expense fund:	\$24,880.37
Building fund:	\$ 0.00
Benevolence fund:	\$ 0.0

In 2023 we collected over \$604,00.00 in offerings and various donations. We will distribute over \$86,000.00 through Benevolence or 14% 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
finance@firstumcmuncy.org

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

NOTE: until further notice...

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

PASTOR RICK'S OFFICE HOURS

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9-Noon

Tuesdays 1–4 p.m. by appointment

(570) 546-8030

Live stream:

10:45 worship services on our Facebook page,
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCMuncy/>

Or our website:

<https://firstumcmuncy.org/sermons/>



Pictured (right): Betsy Fahringer presents 1/3 of our Christmas offering to Dwell Orphan Care Executive Director, Jennifer Lake. To learn more about how Dwell Orphan Care supports foster children and the families who care for them, visit their website: dwellorphancare.org.



Let's Celebrate!

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

BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Polle Furman
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
2/7	Gloria Baggott, Cindy Collister
2/8	Kadence Dincher, Natalie Wilcox
2/10	Harrison Sauers
2/11	John Rider
2/12	Cambria Hackenberg
2/14	Jean Gardner Camp
2/16	Brock Frye
2/17	Chris Leshner
2/18	Carol Steward
2/20	Shirley Leonard
2/22	George Collister, Morgan Eck, Marshal Frye,
2/23	Eugene Artman, Dannon Dennis, Chris Ebner,
2/24	Anne Knox – 91 st , Shawn Leitenberger, Rebecca McCabe
2/25	Marcie Wallis
2/27	Ann Dougherty, Valerie Kelley, Bob Mertz
2/28	Michelle Mostowy, Nora Stuart

ANNIVERSARIES

2/11	Val and Tom Gordner, Linda and Dave Young – 57 th
2/16	Marta and John Smay
2/17	Judy and Dennis Fausey
2/25	Deb and Mike Steransky

Good 'n Plenty Supper – Wed., Feb. 7

****Snow make-up date: MON., Feb. 12****

“To Go” (4:00–5:30 p.m.) curbside

***450 meals available for takeout**

***(that's double from the Oct. '23 Turkey supper!)**

“Dine In” (5:00–6:30 p.m.)

in the C. C. gym

Suggested donation: \$12

**Menu: Roast turkey, stuffing,
mashed potatoes, gravy,
vegetable, cranberry sauce,
& dessert**



Congratulations to
Sabrena & Craig Mincemoyer
on the birth of their daughter,
Leora Elaine Mincemoyer
on November 28, 2023.



Congratulations to Jeremy
Winters and fiancé, Wendy
on the birth of their son,
Jack Miguel Winters
on January 11, 2024.



- **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:**

Celebration Villa of Loyalsock, 2985 Four Mile Dr, Montoursville, PA 17754; Phone: 368-2076

*Carol Karschner (Rm. 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

*Rebecca Byers (Rm. 215)

*Juanita Cuddeback (Rm. 107)

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, Morgan (Eck) De Guzman, Madison Foreman, Josh Garverick, Pat Gaydon, John Kuhn, Joshua Kustanbauter, Matt Lucas, Matthew McCabe, Chad McElwee, Derek Reese, Chris Secules, Tyler Smay, Scott Wolfe

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

- Alberta Shaner, 97, of Ephrata, formerly of Muncy, died at The Ephrata Manor on Wed., Jan. 10, '24. She was a 70+ member of our church. Surviving is a daughter and son-in-law, Joseph Giorgio of Bernville, PA.
- Arlene Opp, 94, passed away at her home on Sat., Jan. 20.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 Women's Exercise 11:30 D.S. Cluster mtg. 6:15 Hand Bells 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	3 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00–noon Mission Stitchers 7:00 Social Dance
4 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.	5 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball	6 7:00 Men's Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Bible study 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Church Council 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7 1:30 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 Youth Group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	8 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Hand Bells 6:30 Discipleship Team mtg. 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	10 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 9:00–? God Squad Soup sale 9:00–3:00 Sports Card Show w/ lunch at 11:00
11 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.	12 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball Snow date: 4-5:30 G'nP Takeout 5:00-6:30 G'nP Dine in	13 7:00 Men's Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Lent study 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	14—LENT BEGINS 1:30 Bible study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 God Squad Youth Group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Ash Wed. Worship Service	15 9:00 Women's Exercise 6:00 Alzheimer Support Group 6:15 Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	17 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 10:00 Private party
18 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30 Lent study 9:30–noon Nursery 10:30 Lent study	19 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 6:30 Endowment Committee mtg. 6:30 Lent study	20 7:00 Men's Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Lent study 6:30 Faithful Hands 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	21 Noon Keenagers/ Muncy Area Sr.'s 1:30 Lent study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 God Squad Youth Group 6:30 Lent study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	22 8:30 Women's prayer breakfast 9:00 Women's Exercise Noon Widow's Mite-Haywood's 6:15 Hand Bells rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	24 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
25 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult S.S. 9:30-10:30 Children's Church 9:30 Lent study 9:30–noon Nursery 10:30 Lent study	26 9:00 Women's Exercise 10:00 Pickleball 6:30 Lent study	27 7:00 Men's Breakfast 8:45 TOPS 10:00 Lent study 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	28 1:30 Lent study 5:30 Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 God Squad Youth Group 6:30 Lent group 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	29 9:00 Women's Exercise 6:15 Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal		

CHURCH STAFF

Lucy Buck – Music Director(H) 570-584-4521
Barry Grove – Facilities Manager, Financial Secretary (C) 570-447-0514
John Lucas – Custodian (C) 570-560-2626
Kiley Dgien – Administrative Director of Children’s Ministries..... (C) 570-560-0535
Kevin Myers – Youth Ministry Coordinator (C) 570-412-2820
Tiffany Rarick – Children’s Ministry Coordinator..... (C) 570-560-8112
Sherrill Reynolds – Receptionist, Secretary (W) 570-546-8030
Jody Robinson – Treasurer, 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”

February Newsletter