

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

January 3, 2025

Discipleship News

As we begin a new year, the Discipleship Committee invites you to dive deeper into your faith journey. There's so much to learn about our great God! We encourage you to participate in the church's many ongoing studies and/or the short term studies. We had a wonderful turnout for Advent with 72 people enrolled in our 6 groups. Our next study is a deep dive into how to be a more compassionate listener. Based on the work of Someone To Tell It To, Deb Steransky will lead a 5-week class that will guide you in ways to listen and really hear what's on a person's heart. Everyone experiences times of loneliness and struggle, and in spite of the many ways to connect with new technology, loneliness is prevalent in our modern society. Jesus taught us to love each other, and he showed us over and over that everyone matters. Everyone's story deserves to be heard. This class will show you ways that you can be like Jesus and listen to others with love when they want to talk. The study will begin on January 26th and will meet at 9:30 am in the lounge. Please sign up at the Connections Tables.



Heritage Hall Display

The paraments currently on display in Heritage Hall were given to the church in 1972 by Mary Fry in memory of her husband, Randolph Fry. These paraments were used for worship on the first level of the church from 1972-1982.

Randolph and Mary were the parents of Loretta Ryder and grandparents of Paula McCabe.



Reminders:

-2025 Altar Flowers

The 2025 Altar Flower Sponsor sign-up sheet is now in the Welcome Center. The suggested donation for sponsoring a week is \$35.00.

-2025 Cereal Sponsor

The 2025 Cereal Sponsor sign-up sheet is now in the Welcome Center. To sponsor a month, simply purchase and deliver \$100.00 worth of cereal to Son Light House during the month. Turn in your receipts for reimbursement.

-2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the Welcome Center. Anyone with a number above 150 will now have a new number. Please consult the list on the table for your new number. Contact Barry Grove with questions 570-447-0514

-GriefShare Begins January 7th

The next session of GriefShare will begin January 7th. They will meet on Tuesday evenings in the lounge beginning at 6:30 pm. The session runs for 13 weeks.

-Youth Alpha Meals

Please consider providing a meal to our God Squad Youth one Wednesday evening between January 8th and March 12th as they work through the Youth Alpha Course. The youth would also love to have you join them for dinner. You can sign up at the downstairs Connection Table. Contact Kevin (570-412-2820) with any questions.

-Vineyard Youth Activity Night Volunteers

The Vineyard Community Activity Center is looking for volunteers to help staff their Friday Activity Nights during January—April. Their Friday night program runs from 6:00-10:00 pm. Contact Cindy Collister if you can help or if you have questions; 570-220-4568.



The church office will be closed
on Friday, January 10th



January 5, 2024

Sermon: "The Twelfth Day of Christmas"

Luke 2:8-20

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Let's Celebrate!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Debbie Daggett
- 1/2 Maddie Beyer, Bonnie Glidewell
- 1/3 Merle Parker
- 1/4 Gunnar Mincemoyer
- 1/5 Alexis Harder, Rich Pursel
- 1/6 Marianne Tillotson
- 1/9 Brynn Elizabeth Hansen
- 1/10 Bryce Eckard
- 1/11 Jack Winters
- 1/13 Gabriel Holsinger, Tessa Lamper
- 1/14 Kourtney Anderson, Clynt Oden
- 1/15 DJ Foresman, Candy Winters
- 1/16 Jason Cooley, Max Glidewell, Jean Hammond, Wes Zeisloft
- 1/17 Walter Borek
- 1/20 Don Colyer, Elizabeth Klucka, Joe Lowe, Johnny Reinsel, Abby Robinson
- 1/21 Idona Artman, Levi De Guzman
- 1/22 Janet Pursel, Stacy Schell
- 1/23 Jeremy Winters
- 1/24 Judy Fausey, Katie Bell
- 1/25 William McElwee
- 1/26 Dolly Oden
- 1/27 Kathi Blaker, Gordon Eck, Jennifer Freeborn
- 1/28 Jo Ann Welch
- 1/29 John Lucas, Patsy Fiegles, Judy Fausey
- 1/30 Michael Buck, Chris Glidewell, Michael Kustanbauter, Anne Leshner
- 1/31 Valerie Nuss

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/4 Bonnie and Gary Glidewell
- 1/6 Abbe and Michael Mostowy
- 1/9 Janet and Rich Pursel



Celebrating the birth of:

Asa Eugene Cunningham, son of Martina & Nick Cunningham, grandson of Paula & Marty McCabe and great-grandson of Loretta Ryder.



A BIG Thank You to the Bible Life and Times Sunday School class for their so-much-more than generous gift to me at Christmas. I love teaching and I hope I can continue to do it well for you all. God Bless each of you and Happy New Year.

Abundant Love,
Sally Gardy

Thank You!

Jody and I want to thank you all for your love and generosity during the holiday season. We were so blessed by the cards and gifts and appreciate the love you continue to show us in every season. We look forward to 2025 and pray it is full of love and productive ministry which, above all else, glorifies God. Happy New Year! Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Rick & Jody

