

# First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from  
First United Methodist

October 24, 2025

## **POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

It's time to order the poinsettias that will adorn the church at Christmas time. Poinsettias are \$8.00 for each 6.5" pot and come in either red, pink, white or Candy Cane (red/white variegated). You may dedicate each poinsettia to the memory of a loved one, in honor of someone or to the glory of God. The poinsettias can only arrive after the cantata so, because of the lateness of the cantata, poinsettias will only be placed in the sanctuary this year. There will be no services in the café after the cantata and before Christmas Eve. To purchase poinsettias, please complete an order form which will be in this Sunday's bulletin. After this Sunday, forms will be on both of the Connection Tables. Place order forms and payment (either cash or checks payable to First United Methodist Church) in the offering plates or baskets or turn in to the church office. You can also order [online here](#) and send your payment to the church office. Orders are due by November 9<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you leave your poinsettias in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve if possible. Any poinsettias left after December 28<sup>th</sup> will be donated unless other arrangements are made with the church office.



**Good 'N Plenty Dinner**  
**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Curb Side Take Out - 4:00-5:30**  
(or until sold out)  
**Dine In - 5:00-6:30**

**Meat loaf, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes & dessert**  
**\$12/meal (suggested donation)**

**No Call Ahead Orders Please**



**I would like to thank everyone in the church who sent me cards for my birthday. ~Gary Edwards**



October 26, 2025  
"Life is a Highway"  
Deuteronomy 31:1-8  
Luke 24:13-35

## **Reminders:**

### **Last Call for Bus Trip**

This is the last call to sign up for the bus trip on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to see "Noah" at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster. If you wish to sign up or have questions, please contact Lisa Laidacker at 570-419-8786.

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission**

The 2025 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission project has begun. Empty shoeboxes are available in the Welcome Center and outside the Living Water Café. Instructions on how to pack a shoebox along with suggested items will be available. (Note that soap is no longer accepted). Please sign the sheet and indicate how many boxes you have taken. The cost of shipping each box is \$10.00. If you are able to contribute all or part of this expense, please place your donation in an envelope provided at the table. Envelopes should be placed in the basket at those locations or turned in to the office. **PLEASE DO NOT** put the donations in the shoeboxes and do not wrap the shoeboxes. Shoeboxes should be returned to the Welcome Center or outside the Café by Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Gail Pentz at 570-546-3998 with any questions. Thank you for your support.

### **2026 Disciplines**

It is time to order your 2026 *Disciplines* book. *The Upper Room Disciplines* is a book of daily meditations and prayers from 52 diverse Christian leaders that will help deepen your daily life with God. Order forms will be on both Connection Tables. The books are \$10.00 each and orders are due by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Church Conference**

This year's Church Conference will be on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. We are hosting the East Lycoming Cluster.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive-Oct. 31st**

First UMC will host a special American Red Cross Blood Drive to honor the life of George Frey, a good friend and running partner of Gary Laidacker. Please consider donating blood on October 31<sup>st</sup> 12:00-5:00 pm in the Celebration Center. To register, call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

### **Wicked – November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**

Come join us for an afternoon movie and snacks. The Discipleship Committee will be showing "Wicked" on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 pm in the Living Water Cafe. The movie is based on the musical and imagines how the "wicked" witch became who she was. We'll enjoy some movie snacks and spend some time talking about what the movie might be trying to tell us. We hope to see you there!