

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

October 31, 2025

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS



For many who have lost loved ones, the holidays can be the worst time of the year. To help the grieving navigate the holidays, our GriefShare Ministry will hold a special, free-standing (one-time) meeting for those who are struggling with loss. The gathering

will be held on Tuesday, November 18th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Living Water Café. Come find support or tell a friend who you think might benefit from this ministry.

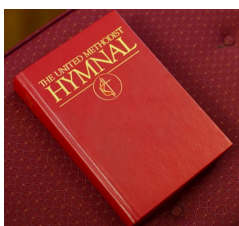


Toys For Tots

The collection bin has arrived and the annual Marine Corps Toys For Tots toy drive has begun. First UMC will again collect new, unwrapped toys. You can place your donations in the collection bin located under the coat rack, outside the Living Water Café. Toys will be collected until December 14th.

New Topic for Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible study at 1:30 pm in room 202, led by Sally Gardy, will be starting a new study on Wednesday, November 5th. We will be studying, singing, and learning about some well-known hymns and psalms using the United Methodist Hymnal as our "textbook." We will learn the history and stories behind the hymns, as well as why the author wrote them, what was their story, and their emotions in creating the hymn- the "hymn story." Please come! No need to sign up! There is nothing to bring! Try it out! It should be fun and maybe you'll stay. Looking forward to being with you. Thanks! ~Love, Sally.



Fall Back 1 hour on Saturday Night!



Reminders:

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 9th. Contact Gail Pentz at 570-546-3998 with any questions.

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 23rd.

Church Conference

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

Wicked – November 9th at 3:00 pm

Come join us for an afternoon movie and snacks. The Discipleship Committee will be showing "Wicked" on Sunday, November 9th starting at 3:00 pm in the Living Water Café. 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! **Note: As "admission" to the movie, please bring a gift card for a local grocery store to be given to those in need.**

Poinsettia Orders Due November 9th

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). To purchase poinsettias, please complete an order form which can be found on either 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. Orders are due by November 9th. We ask that you leave your poinsettias in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve if possible. Any poinsettias left after December 28th will be donated unless other arrangements are made with the church office.

Let's Celebrate!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Diane Shoop
- 11/2 Melissa Martens, Kristin (Nuss) Timer
Vonnie Poust
- 11/3 Gary Allshouse, George Duckworth
- 11/4 Jim Dennis
- 11/5 Reese Roca
- 11/6 Gail Nuss
- 11/7 Michelle Cowher
- 11/10 Kent Bennett, Pearl Rathmell-99th
- 11/11 Willow Nichols, Marta Smay
- 11/12 Nicole Johnson
- 11/13 Donna McCaslin
- 11/14 McKenna Beyer
- 11/16 Patsy Charles
- 11/18 Jason Winters
- 11/19 David Wallis
- 11/20 Royce Boyles, Ali (Swank) Stratton
- 11/21 Suzy Foresman
- 11/22 Rayma Gover, Reed Hansen,
Jonathan McJunkin
- 11/23 Sawyer Pauling
- 11/24 Chantal Gadoury
- 11/25 Macaulay Eisenhower, Patti Myers
- 11/27 Mya Evans, Easton Hiller,
Glenn Schell, Paige Wright
- 11/28 Leora Mincemoyer
- 11/29 Cathy Henry
- 11/30 Lisa Laidacker

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/24 Nancy and Dick Lyons
- 11/28 Cathy and George Henry

Scenes from the JAM Trunk or Treat



November 2, 2025
All Saints Sunday
"Oops, I Did it Again"
Romans 7:14-25
1 John 3:2-3

Good 'N Plenty Dinner
Wednesday, November 5th
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