

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

January 9, 2026

A Grateful Heart This Christmas Season

Dear Church Family,

As we step out of the Christmas season and into a new year, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for each of you. Your generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness have been such a blessing to me and to our family.

The Christmas cards, gifts, notes, and expressions of love were deeply meaningful—not because of the gifts themselves, but because of what they represent: a congregation that lives out the love of Christ in tangible and heartfelt ways. Your generosity is a reflection of your faith, your compassion, and your commitment to caring for one another.

Christmas reminds us that God's greatest gift to the world came through love, humility, and sacrifice. In your giving, both during the Christmas season and throughout the year, you model that same spirit. You serve faithfully, give selflessly, and encourage generously, and it does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for being such a loving and supportive church family. It is an honor to serve as your pastor, and I am continually humbled by your faithfulness and care. As we move forward into this new year, may God bless us abundantly as we seek to be a blessing to others.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,

Pastor Rick



January 11, 2026

"Revealed:
Jesus is God's Son"

Psalm 29:1-11
Mark 1:4-11

Reminders:

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 Offering Envelopes for those who attend the traditional services are in the Welcome Center. The envelopes for those who attend the contemporary service are on the Connection Table outside the Living Water Café. There is an alphabetical list if you don't remember your number. If you give electronically or on a yearly basis, you will not have envelopes on the tables. If you currently are not assigned envelopes and wish to have them, please contact Barry Grove at finance@firstumcmuncy.org or 570-447-0514.

2026 Cereal Sponsors Sign-Up

Each month First UMC provides \$100.00 worth of breakfast cereal to Son Light House to support their food distribution to neighbors in need. The sign-up sheet for sponsoring a month during 2026 is now available in the Welcome Center. To sponsor a month, you simply purchase about \$100.00 worth of cereal and deliver it to Son Light House at 130 Carpenter Street in Muncy during the month. You can donate the cereal yourself or turn in your receipts to the church office for reimbursement. Thank you for your continued generosity.

2026 Altar Flowers

The 2026 Altar Flower Sponsor sign-up sheet is now in the Welcome Center. The suggested donation for sponsoring a week is \$35.00. You can sponsor a week in honor of a loved one, in memory of a loved one or to the glory of God.

Faithful Hands Ministry

Faithful Hands meets monthly for Bible study and planning community outreach projects. Their next meeting will be January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the church lounge. If you would like more information, contact Karen Barraco at 570-546-5180 or kbarraco@windstream.net.

New "Someone To Tell It To" Class

Deb Steransky will offer a new "Someone To Tell It To" Class on Wednesday evenings beginning on January 14th. The class will meet 6:30-8:00 in the lounge and will run for 5 weeks. The study will be a deep dive into how to be a more compassionate listener. Based on the work of *Someone To Tell It To*, the class 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 need to talk. Sign up at the Connection Tables.