

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

October 16, 2026

New Custodian Hired

We thank Jayla Koser and Sara Gehrum for getting us through the late spring and summer by acting as our temporary custodians. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that Tyler Rarick has been hired as our new permanent Custodian. Tyler has already been on the job for several months on an interim basis and is doing a wonderful job. Tyler is a member of the congregation and attends the 9:30 service. He and his wife, Tiffany (our Children's Ministry Coordinator), have three young children. Welcome aboard, Tyler.



Share the Gift of Communion

We are in need of additional Home Communion Servers to bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to members who are unable to attend worship in person. This is a meaningful way to share Christ's love and keep our homebound members connected to our church family. We send servers out in pairs of two and we try to limit each team's responsibilities to one visit per month, either to an individual or couple. Sometimes we ask folks to visit two people who are in the same nursing facility. The Congregational Care Team is available for training, however, it is not complicated. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry! Contact the church office if you have questions or would like to volunteer to be on our team.

Special Church Meeting –October 26th

**SPECIAL
MEETING
NOTICE**

The Church Council of First UMC has been exploring the possibility of changing our leadership structure from committee based to a Simplified Accountable Structure. This is a structure that has been adopted by about 70% of churches in the Susquehanna Conference. The council voted to continue exploring and it is now time for the entire church to join the conversation. There will be a meeting on Monday, October 26th at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Rev. Daniel Wilt, our District Superintendent, will be here to explain the structure and answer any questions. This meeting is preparing the congregation to vote on adopting the new structure at our Church Conference on November 8th.

Reminders:

Advent Devotion Writing Workshop

The Discipleship Committee is collecting submissions for an Advent Devotional they will provide to the congregation. If you would like to contribute a devotion but need a little help with writing it, the Committee is offering a workshop on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Living Water Café.

Trunk-or-Treat—October 25th

The JAM Children's Ministry will hold a Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 25th from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Celebration Center. Would you or your group consider having a "trunk" (really a table) this year and handing out candy to all of our young guests? You can register a table by following the link in the QR code. There are also sign up sheets on the Connection Tables.



Surviving the Holidays – November 8th

For many who have lost a loved one, the holidays can be a difficult time of the year. To help the grieving navigate the holidays, our GriefShare Ministry will hold a special meeting for those who are struggling with loss. The gathering will be held on Sunday, November 8th from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Living Water Café.

Bell Tower Area Clean up – October 24th

Volunteers are needed for a small landscaping/clean-up of the beds and area around the bell tower. Come on out and help if you are able. They will meet at 9:00 am on October 24th.

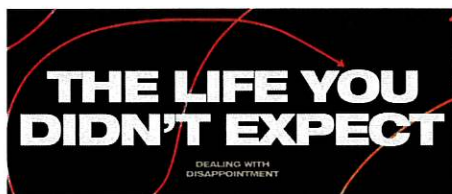
Church Conference – November 8th

Our Annual Church Conference meeting will be held on November 8th beginning at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. We will be hosting all the churches of the East Lycoming Cluster. This meeting is where important annual business is cared for. Every church member has voice and vote. If you have any questions about this annual meeting, please speak with Pastor Rick.



Bible Bag Event

We had a wonderful time at the Bible Bag Event on Sunday afternoon. We enjoyed food, fellowship and creativity. About 35 people, young and old, joined in the fun. A big THANK YOU goes out to Tiffany Rarick and her helpers for organizing this fellowship opportunity. Look for our next opportunity coming in December.



October 18, 2026

"The Life You Didn't Expect:
Perseverance, Faith, Victory

Hebrews 11:1-12:3