

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

October 2, 2026

Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off This Sunday



Sunday, October 4th is the kick-off for our annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox mission project. Empty shoeboxes, provided by Samaritan's Purse and assembled by our Faithful Hands group, are available for pick-up in the Welcome Center and outside the Living Water Café. One change this year is

that a pamphlet including instructions on how to pack a shoebox, a list of suggested items and box labels have already been placed **inside** each box. When you pick up a box, please sign the sheet that you have taken one or more boxes. 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. **DO NOT** put the donations in the shoebox. If you mail your donation personally or pay electronically, please make note of that on the sheet by your name. Shoeboxes should be returned to the Welcome Center or downstairs Connection Table by Sunday, **November 8th**. Children around the world will be blessed with your gift-filled shoebox. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Pentz at 570-546-3998. Thank you for your support.



Good 'N Plenty Dinner
Wednesday, October 7th
Curb Side Take Out - 4:00-5:30
(or until sold out)
Dine In - 5:00-6:30



Roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce & dessert
\$12/meal (suggested donation)

No Call Ahead Orders Please

October 4, 2026
World Communion Sunday

"The Life You Didn't Expect:
Disappointment, Resiliency, and Faith"



Psalm 42
Genesis 29:16-35
Philippians 4:4-7

Reminders:

World Communion Sunday-Oct. 4th

World Communion Sunday is October 4th. We will hold one combined service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. There will be no JAM Children's Church or nursery that day. A special offering will be collected which will benefit educational opportunities worldwide. Donations can be placed in the special offering envelopes found in the pews or on the Connection Tables, and placed in the offering plate. Make checks payable to FUMC.

Bible Bag Event- October 11th

Tiffany Rarick is hosting a "Bible Bag Event" on Sunday, October 11th from 12:00 -3:00 pm in the Living Water Cafe. Come join the fun and fellowship where you'll decorate your own tote bag for carrying your Bible. All of the supplies will be provided. A donation of \$10 is suggested but not required. If you choose to donate, just bring your donation to the event. All ages welcome. Register using the QR code or sign up at the Connection Tables by October 4th.



New Book Club

Do you like to read? Do you enjoy talking about books with others? If you answered yes, then we would love for you to join us October 14th at 6:30 pm in the lounge for the formation of a new book club. The first meeting will be organizational and we will pick a book for November. Please bring suggestions and ideas. We will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Questions? Please reach out to Angie Kustanbaur 570-916-7833 or Stephanie Mostowy 570-506-9175.

Cantata Rehearsals Begin October 15th

The 2026 Christmas Cantata is titled "Night of Hope, Night of Grace," by Joel Raney. Cantata Sunday is December 20th. We will begin rehearsals on Thursday, October 15th at 7:15 pm in the Celebration Center. Rehearsals will typically be Thursdays at 7:15 pm with an occasional Sunday afternoon. Talk with Tom Ruhl if you have questions.

Advent Devotion Writing Workshop

The Discipleship Committee is still 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—OCT. 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.

