

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312
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COME WORSHIP
WITH US,
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS

Monthly Messenger



APRIL 2009



**MAY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,
APRIL 21, 2009**

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Dr. Allyn L. Ricketts, Ph. D
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
ORGANIST: Nick Snow
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Barb Gaughan
MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:
Carolyn Gallaheer, Sally Krozely
June Pollard, Donna Hidingier
Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM,**

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E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net
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UNDERESTIMATED EVEN MORE

As we continue to think about aspects of the Christian faith that are underestimated, both by those outside the church and sometimes by those inside the church, we come this month, for obvious reasons, to the resurrection.

I remember a seminary professor from a main-line seminary saying that, while he thought the idea of resurrection was of great importance, he did not need for Jesus to actually been resurrected from the dead for his faith to be real. I remember this raising all sorts of questions in my mind. What did his "need" have to do with whether an historical event actually took place or not? Since the resurrection was a victory over death, if it did not really happen is death just an idea? What if I "need" the resurrection for my faith to be real - does that now mean the resurrection did happen? Whose "need" takes precedence?

You see the claim of the historic Christian faith is that in real space and time, in real history, Jesus really died on a cross, was honorably buried, and was really, physically raised from the dead. We certainly needed this to happen, and it did happen for us, but it took place based on the sovereignty of God and according to his plan from all eternity - we can't change that by what we feel we need. Our felt needs do not change history. We ought not underestimate the power of this claim. We are claiming much more than a religious fiction here - even a very meaningful one. It was a Jesus who was seen by eyewitnesses that Paul refers to when he states that if this resurrection did not take place our faith is in vain. Paul was not referring to the "idea" of resurrection, or to some notion that the teachings of Jesus were resurrected, but rather to a Jesus who lived with, ate with and taught his followers for 40 days after the resurrection.

We also must be careful not to underestimate the resurrection by thinking of it only in the past. Because the

resurrection happened, our claim is greater than just an amazing historical event - as great as that is. We are claiming Jesus is **STILL ALIVE**. He lives with God the Father and connects to us now by the real presence of the Holy Spirit. Some try to deny the resurrection as if it is only a debate about some ancient event in history. Not only is that a hard position to take - just read the writings of Gary Habermas to see the profound reasons to believe in the resurrection - but it misses the point of the present reality of Jesus which shows him to still be living and working in his people today. There is more to this resurrection thing than meets the eye. The New Testament also tells us that in the resurrection Jesus was the first fruits of those who will follow him. As he was raised, we who trust in him will be raised. To leave out his resurrection is to leave out our future hope for eternal life. If that is the case what message would Christians have to bring? A faith without real resurrection, and without real hope that we will follow in that resurrection, has little but ethics to offer the world. We have done a great disservice to the Lord of lords if we turn him into nothing but an ethical example. Let not the value of Jesus be underestimated - **HE IS RISEN**.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)

Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)

Allyn



Kittanning Ministerial Association Lenten Events

Come to final Lenten events sponsored by the Kittanning Ministerial Association. Join us for the noon meal or the evening service or both as we experience the Lenten season together.

The final Lenten Lunch will be served at noon followed by a program to end at 12:50 April 1 at Grace Presbyterian.

The final Lenten Service will be Wednesday evening at 7:00 April 1 at Cornerstone Assembly of God. The speaker will be Captain Rodney Fowles.

Worship FOR APRIL 2009



April 5, 2009
 11:00 AM Palm Sunday, Communion
Sermon: United To A King
 Luke 19:29-40

April 12, 2009

11:00 AM Easter Sunday
 Exodus 4:21-23, Luke 24:1-12
Sermon: Resurrected To A New Family
 Romans 8:15-23



April 19, 2009
 11:00 AM Hymn sing
 Psalm 98, I John 3:1-5
Sermon: The Forgotten Power
 Nahum 1:1-8

April 26, 2009

11:00 AM Special Music, Sunday School
 Isaiah 5:18-24, Romans 10:8-15
Sermon: God Only Strikes Once
 Nahum 1:9-15



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Join us Good Friday evening at 7:00 for our Good Friday Service. We will share together in a Tenebrae service which consists of the reading of the Scriptures telling us the events of Good Friday along with the extinguishing of candles as we think about the Passion of Christ.

EASTER SERVICE

We will have just one Easter service this year at our 11:00 hour. Come, join us as we celebrate the resurrection and your adoption into the kingdom of God.



APRIL

ACOLYTES

5 Noelle Lemons & Ellen Williamson
 12 Dominic Hoffman & Hannah Hoffman
 19 Alyssa Krozely & Theresa Crouse
 26 Kathryn Kohl & Frailey Scaife

COUNTERS

5 Scaife
 12 Krozely
 19 Thomas
 26 Bussard



NURSERY

5 Janet McKelvey
 12 Natalie Green
 19 Kimberly Yankasky
 26 Mert Hellein



USHERS

5 Wesley/Roy Williamson
 12 Wesley/Roy Williamson
 19 Albright/Dan Wolfe
 26 Albright/Dan Wolfe



SOUND SYSTEM

5 Glenn Krozely
 12 John Yankasky
 19 Greg Lemons
 26 Janessa Muir



READERS

5 Communion
 12 Jim Ternent
 19 Sarah Heckert
 26 Rachel Ricketts



HOLY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER

On Thursday evening April 9 we will remember the Last Supper by sharing in a Passover Seder. This will not be the full meal but will go through the Seder ceremony (Hebrew and all) so that we might be reminded of the symbolic foods and words that were used in Jesus' day and are still part of the Seder. We have not done this for several years so, if you missed it the last time, be sure to join us this time. It is a special thing to share this tradition in a former synagogue.

We will need a couple of helpers that Thursday morning to help set the tables and prepare the food trays. See Pastor Ricketts if you can help.



APRIL SIFT LUNCHEON

&

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2009

MENU: Salisbury, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Dessert

PROGRAM: John Lege, That guy with the birds

RESERVATIONS: Due by noon,

Monday, April 13th

By calling the church office 724-548-4312.



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Our last Lenten Fish Dinner will be Friday, April 3rd at 4:30-6:30 PM in the Covenant Center.



MENU: Baked or Fried Fish or Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Baked potato or Curly Fries, Cole Slaw or Applesauce, Roll, Beverage and PIE. \$6.00

Come and eat, bring your family and friends, Help support our fund raising efforts to raise finances for our church programs and missions.

WHAT'S FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE?!



Many years ago several ladies at our church renamed their circle. Since many worked, Friday nights were their choice. Thus, the former Wesleyan Guild became the Friday Night Circle.

While the group no longer meets on Fridays, the circle of members remains. There are no fixed dues or membership requirements. Instead you will find caring, supportive friends, spiritual support, and great fellowship. While programs may be biblically based or informative, the group always shares devotions and prays for this church and those in need.

Friday Night Circle has a sense of humor, but it also is a group that serves and supports. Annual donations are made to First Church, Red Bird Mission, and the Ruth M. Smith Center in Erie. The group generously provides gifts for one or two needy families every Christmas and has helped to buy Christmas bicycles for children through the Salvation Army.

Does this sound worthwhile, even fun? Would you like some new "best friends?"-join us! Each month the meeting date is announced in the bulletin and newsletter. Don't worry. It won't be on Friday Night!

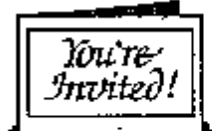
April Meeting—

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH

12:00 NOON-COVENANT CENTER

We are joining SIFT to enjoy John Lege:

The Guy with the Birds. Make your reservations by Monday, April 13th by calling the church office.



CATCH SOME JOY AT JUMONVILLE

Have you thought much about God's desire that you have joy in your life? We are not doing too well at this. The world situation and the burdens of life can overtake us. It is God's desire that in the midst of all the trials of this life we find joy and display his joy to the world. Could you use more joy? Well then, find a way to join us at the retreat this May 1-2-3 at Jumonville. You will be glad you did and so will we. Do you know someone who could use some joy at the moment - then invite them to come along - pray about it - if God wants you there you can get there.

2009 PATTON *Scholarships*

The applications for the 2009 Margaret M. Patton Foundation Scholarships are available in the church office. We have not heard from the foundation yet, but need to let applicants get the process started since we need to have the application back in and completed by May 17th.

GRADUATING SENIORS

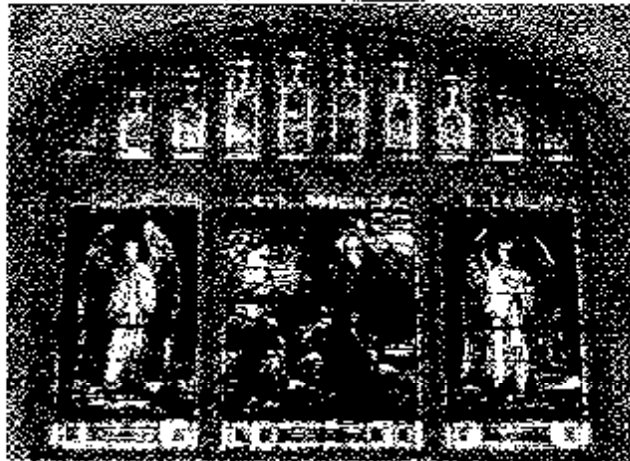
Please let the office know if you are graduating this year so we can plan for our senior Sunday which will be June 7th.



WINDOWS

Years ago a young lad stood with his father before the stained glass windows in one of Boston's historic chapels. Depicted in the windows were some of the great saints of the Christian Church. Probing to see if the lad had learned anything from the windows, the older man turned to the boy and said, "Now Son, how would you describe a saint?" there was a moment of silence and then came the reply, "Why Saints are men the light shines through." Please continue to donate to our window restoration fund so that our light will continue to shine through.

Window Restoration Committee



Market Day

Prego

**LABELS FOR THE
RUTH M. SMITH CENTER**

If you have been saving labels and waiting to turn them in, this would be a perfect time. We are planning to mail the ones we have, and would like to have a large amount for the package. THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE!



V8



JUST A REMINDER

Have you remembered First Church in your will? What a powerful way to recognize God's goodness in a lasting way.



Remember to save items for the annual flea market as you spring clean. It will be held on Saturday, August 29th. Donations will be collected after the Folk Festival (Please no clothing donations).



COOKIE FELLOWSHIP

Our next cookie fellowship will be held on Sunday, April 26th following worship.

ANNUAL LADIES SPRING BANQUET



Mark your calendar now. The ladies banquet will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 5:30 PM. Stay tuned for details.

CENTURY CLIP



Margaret McKelvey, a well-known & self-taught artist of our area, painted the picture of our church displayed at the front of the Sanctuary by the Century tree probably sometime in the 1960's. Margaret was the aunt of our own Frances McKelvey. The Arnold Crawford Family has loaned us this picture for our Century On The Corner Celebration! A second painting by Margaret has been located. "Jesus Knocking At The Door" was painted for her niece, Frances McKelvey, for her children's Sunday School room. This painting is on display in the Children's Library Room.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING.

THANK YOU'S



This is a note to thank everyone who had anything to do with producing our Lenten Devotional booklet. I am sure it took a lot of planning and work. Especially thank you to all those who shared their faith experiences.



In Christian Love and Fellowship,
Bonnie Ferguson

To Friends from the First United Methodist church:

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy during this difficult time. The red roses and white carnations arrangement were just beautiful. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.



The William Pollard Family

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your kind donation of \$35.00 and 4 packages of playing cards to the residents of Mechling-Shankley Veterans Center. Your consideration of the veterans here at the Center is greatly appreciated. Every donation we receive, big or small, is more than just a donation. It is a reminder to these men that they are cared for, they are not forgotten, and that they have value in this world.



Sincerely, Hopeton A. Thompson, Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for allowing the Girl Scouts to use the Covenant Center this past weekend. You certainly have a beautiful space there and it was perfect for our cake-decorating workshop. Thank you for your kindness.



Cathi Brown, Program manager GSWPA

Just a note of thanks to your congregation for the wonderful fish dinner you prepared during Lent. My family and I had the privilege of receiving complimentary meals. We came in and dined and everything was fantastic. (food, service & music) this was a real treat for us. With a family our size, eating out like this are very few. Thank you again. Mere words can't express my gratitude.



God Bless you all,
Mark & Becky Wright and family

Dear members of First United Methodist Church,

Life Choices wants to thank you so very much for all the diapers that were collected for our clients. It is such a blessing to have churches help us to share the love of Jesus with our moms and their babies.

Sincerely, Pam Brumbaugh

Office Manager



I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to the members of First Church for all the cards, phone calls, prayers & visits after the loss of my only brother, Leland Parks of Ridgway. Also, a visit from Pastor Ricketts & Rachel expressing their compassion and concern for my well-being.

The Pollard & Parks Family



We extend our Christian compassion and concern to:

- June Pollard and her family on the death of her brother, Leland Parks.
- Bob Hankey (Mary Anne) and his family on the death of his mother, Mabel Hankey. Mabel was the grandmother of Brenda Buzzinotti (Bob) and Rob Hankey (Sue), the great grandmother of Jeff Hankey and Leslie Buzzinotti.
- Carol Wolfe and her family on the death of her father, Arnold Black.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Matthew Rush | 15 Tony Green |
| 3 Jolena Reefer | 15 Emily King |
| 4 Jessica Comman | 15 Alyssa Krozely |
| 9 Herb Coggon | 16 Gracie Kohl |
| 10 Dennis Hoffman | 19 Jane Shuttleworth |
| 12 Patty Bruno | 19 Meaghan Volek |
| 12 Isaac Zielinski | 22 Gregory "Mac" Toth |
| 13 Bill Hake | 26 Linda Powell |
| 14 Mary Anne Hankey | 27 Sally Felton |



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Harry "Pat" & Jean Wolfe
- 17 Josh & Karen Ricketts
- 19 Leroy & Patricia Snow
- 22 Melvin & Ruth Dalzell (60 years)

MARCH WEDDING

Congratulations to Derek and Tara Green. Derek and Tara were married at First Church on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Derek is the son of Bernie and Audrey Green.



BAPTISM

Christian Michael Zier was baptized on Sunday, March 15th. Christian was born on September 10, 2008 to Crystal Flanders and Ryan Zier.



Just for Kids

HEROES

Who are some of the "super heroes" you know? Superman? Wonder Woman? Batman? The Bible is filled with some very real heroes!

Here are symbols for six Bible heroes. Their names are scrambled on the symbols. Use the Bible verses given to help unscramble their names.



(Genesis 9:8-17)



(1 Samuel 17:50)



(Esther 8:7-8)



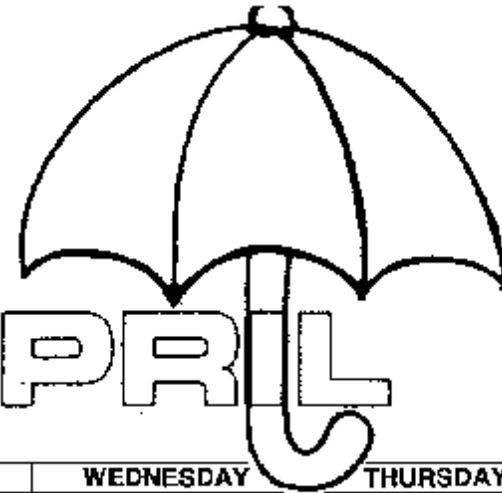
(Luke 1:30)



(Exodus 3:13)



(Judges 4, 5)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	2 8:30 AM OVR-CC 5:00 PM Mary Jo-CC	3 4:30 PM Lenten Fish Dinner	4 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 6:00 PM Financial Peace	6 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Trustees	7 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	8 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM Passover Seder-CC	10 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	11 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
12 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	13 7:00 PM Evangelists/ Outreach	14 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM AM Vets-CC	15 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	16 12:00 PM SIFT-CC Friday Night Circle will meet with SIFT this month.	17	18 9:00 AM UMMCN-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Financial Peace	20 12:00-6:00 PM Red Cross-CC 6:30 PM Finance	21 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	23 10:00-3:00 PM District Meeting-Church & CC	24	25 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Cookáe Fellowship 3:00 PM District Conference 6:00 PM Financial Peace	27 7:30 PM Discipleship Team NEWSLETTER	28 8:30 AM 3R'S 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Staff/Parish	29 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	30		

