

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312
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Monthly Messenger



MARCH 2011



**APRIL NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,
MARCH 22, 2011**

CHURCH STAFF

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

WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

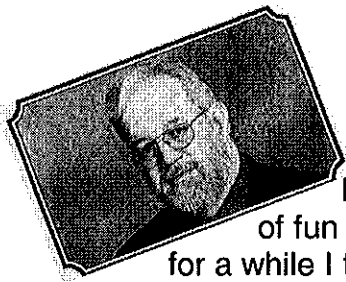
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RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



You Are Not the Gift Giver

Last summer, when our youth took a trip to the Boyce Park wave pool for a day of fun in the sun, an interesting thing happened to me. After we had been at the pool for a while I took a break and hopped back across the burning hot plastic grass, they so intelligently have placed all around the pool, to the spot where we left our towels. As I sat there catching my breath I saw a little boy about 3 years old wander by heading away from the pool. Soon his mother caught up to him and, with a piercing voice full of rage, she grabbed him by the arm and screamed that if he did not stay beside her she was going to call the police and have his #@%*& arrested. Now I thought that was a bit harsh and I wondered what would happen if the boy really got lost—would he be now afraid to ask a policeman for help? No big deal. Later that day, after lunch, I was once again resting on my towel when I saw a little boy walking down the sidewalk with no adults around him for quite a distance. This caught my attention because it had only been a few weeks since our family was at Idlewild Park and we had seen a lost boy wandering around and helped him find his mother. Soon I realized it was the same boy I had seen in the morning. He walked past me and went directly back to the spot where his family had their towels: a pretty good sense of direction for such a little tyke in the midst of a crowd of big people. At that point his mother caught up to him and, instead of being happy that he did not run off but had gone right back to their spot, she screamed at him again like he had committed the unforgivable sin, she threatened him and grabbed him and told him what was going to happen to him in no uncertain terms. The boy looked up at his mom with a look of confusion and hurt on his face that said clearly “Why are you doing this to me?” I can still see that little boy’s face and I still cannot talk about this openly since I am not a big fan of crying in public. I was torn between feelings of wanting to tell the mother off, offering her some counseling, calling the authorities or just offering to bring the boy home to add to our growing number of grandchildren. I was stunned with the thought of what kind of life that little one is going to have.

I have said it before – we no longer live in a Christian culture and the church cannot continue to do business as usual. We better find a way to reach out into our community with the good news of Jesus and we better stop talking about compassion if we do not find a way to reach the generation of that little boy. The world needs the gospel, not the revised gospel, or the emergent gospel, or the post-modern gospel but the historic gospel; and it needs it in a context it can understand. We all have been given different gifts to bring this about. Some of us are not using these gifts at all and so bring dishonor to God. Some of us think we know what gifts others should have and want to mold them to our ideas. Some refuse to see that these gifts are for the building up of the church (Eph. 2) and, while they include serving and loving one another, they must also be used to bring others to faith, reaching out into the world and making disciples. I Cor. 12 tells us that God gives those gifts just as he desires. We do not get to make that decision and we do not get to mold people into something God has not called them to be. If we are to have compassion for the lost children and adults of this world, if we are not to fade away into irrelevance, then we need to ask a couple of questions. How much energy do I actually put into understanding the Christian faith? Do I really know what I am talking about? How can we as a church reach beyond ourselves in obedience to Jesus’ command to “Go” out into the world? When will we understand that all of us are priests in the Kingdom of God according to I Peter 2:9 and we all are responsible for serving God in the day and time he has given us?

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” I Corinthians 12:4-7

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)

Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)

Allyn

WORSHIP FOR MARCH



March 6, 2011
11:00 AM, Communion
Sermon: Back To Basics
Hebrews 5:11-14



March 13, 2011
11:00 AM, Lent
Psalm 138, Romans 8:35-39
Sermon:
"He Who Began a Good Work in You"
Hebrews 6:1-12



March 20, 2011
11:00 AM, Lent
Genesis 22:16-19, John 6:37-40
Sermon: An Anchor of the Soul
Hebrews 6:13-30



March 27, 2011
11:00 AM, Lent
Psalm 119:113-117, Romans 5:1-11
Sermon: Meaghan Volek



COMMUNITY LENTEN EVENTS

The Kittanning Ministerial Association will host two series of Lenten events. There will be the traditional Lenten luncheons on Wednesdays from March 16-April 13 at the Grace Presbyterian Church. Then there will be Lenten services each of those same Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at different locations with different speakers each week as follows.

March 16th at the First Church of God

March 23rd at the Free Methodist Church

March 30th at the Union Ave UMC

April 6th at the First Baptist Church

April 13th at the Cornerstone Assembly of God.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Our sanctuary will be open March 9th, Ash Wednesday, for quiet communion from 12:00-1:00 and from 4:00-7:00. Come as you are able and stay for as long as you like. Directions and guides will be available to help you start the Lenten season in God's presence.



REACHING OUR WORLD FOR JESUS

If you do not know what we are talking about when we speak of evangelism and reaching our world and our culture for Jesus then have we got just the thing for you. The 2011 WPA Conference Clinic on Evangelism will be an opportunity to spend a day with Josh McDowell. The theme for the day is "God's Truth Still Matters: The Role of Apologetics in the 21st Century." (Apologetics is how to give a reasoned defense of the Christian faith.) We will head out from the Covenant Center at 7:45 Saturday March 19 for this event at the Galloway UMC near Franklin and we should be home by 5:00 so we may or may not stop for dinner on the way home. 9But if we vote on it I bet we will.) Register at www.wpaumc.org or call 724-776-2300 and then let us know so we can have enough rides. This will be a great day of fellowship so come along.

ACOLYTE

6 Hayley Hoffman
 13 Hannah Hoffman
 20 Dominic Hoffman
 27 Cierra Hoffman



READERS

6 Communion
 13 Noelle Lemons
 20 Jenny Hellein
 27 Brad Hellein

MARCH



NURSERY

6 Brenda Beers
 13 Mert Hellein
 20 Kelly Hoffman
 27 Kathy Coleman

COUNTERS

6 Scaife
 13 Krozely
 20 Thomas
 27 Bussard



SOUND SYSTEM

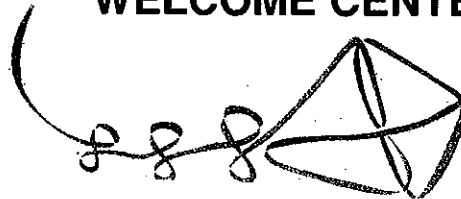
6 Michael Toy
 13 Jalissa Muir
 20 Greg Lemons
 27 Glenn Krozely



USHERS

6 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
 13 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
 20 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson
 27 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson

WELCOME CENTER



CHOIR

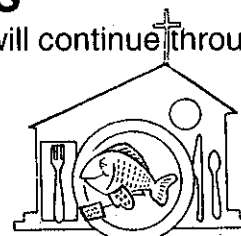


The members of our choir would like to extend an invitation to any singers out there who would like to join us. We have "shrunk" over the years and could really use some help. It's very difficult if folks are ill or away on Sundays when the choir is small. We have been blessed this year to have Kathy Piechowicz join us and hope you might consider it, too. Thanks

6 LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Our first Lenten Fish Dinner will be held on Friday, March 11th and will continue through Friday, April 15, 2011 at the Covenant Center from 4:30-6:30 PM.

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



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



We need pie bakers and workers to help for all 6 fish dinners. Can you help? If so, please fill out the sign-up sheet in this newsletter and let us know you can help and which weeks. Keep the top half as your reminder and return the bottom half to the church. Thank You!



JUST A REMINDER

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

PATTON SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The forms for the 2011 Patton Scholarships are now available in the church office. All parts of the application must be in by May 15th. Be sure to check the new guidelines.

REPORT FROM JAMAICA

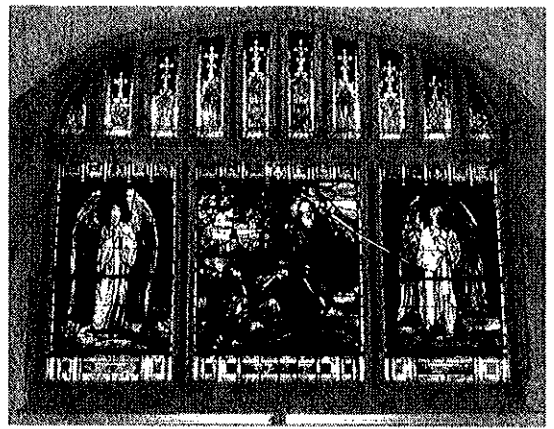
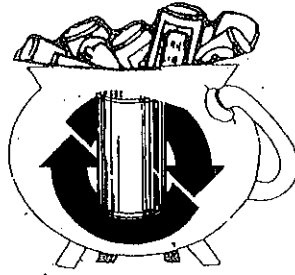
Be sure to join us at worship Sunday, March 27th as Meaghan Volek will be speaking and sharing with us her experiences on the mission trip to Jamaica.



CANS FOR VBS 2011

In the past month (through January 15th) we received 2002 cans for our 2011 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2010 is 21,199 cans. Thank you to those who brought in cans. Please continue to save or start saving aluminum cans – pop, fruit juice, tea, health drinks and beer cans. Drop your cans off at the church ramp anytime.

Thank you, The Can Man



WINDOW UPDATE

As of the finance meeting report on February 14th, we now have FORTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWO DOLLARS (\$ 43,402) for the restoration of the Good Samaritan Window. NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD.

Window Committee

REMEMBER YOUR FOOD BANK DONATIONS. THANK YOU!



Our Mission and Vision...

ICTHUS-the fish –an early Christian symbol. It reminds us of our mission at First Church. How are you helping each area to improve in our church? This is our mission - how are you participating in it? Are you helping us to...

- I--Invite and challenge people to come to faith. [EVANGELISM]
- C--Celebrate God's presence through powerful worship. [WORSHIP]
- TH--be Thoroughly equipped for your walk of faith. [CHRISTIAN EDUCATION]
- U--Use the gifts God has given you to serve. [DISCIPLESHIP]
- S--Set aside a portion of your personal resources to be returned to God. [STEWARDSHIP]





RETIREMENT NEWS


Congratulations to Deborah Reed on her retirement. She is the daughter of June and the late Bill Pollard and was a member of our Church. Debbie worked with the US Army Strategic Logistics Agency from its inception and was instrumental in the success of key projects in the area of supply and technical quality information systems from 1990-1996. From 1996 to 2003, Debbie developed and led a Logistics Science and Technology program which reviewed logistics capability gaps and worked with the TRADOC and Army S&T. Debbie was responsible for the first equipment projections that considered readiness drivers from empirical data. In 2006 Debbie was certified by the Army as the first Black Belt in the G-A and during 2006 through 2010 she led three major Black Belt projects for the Army G-4. In 2008, she led the prototyping of five of the ten Business Intelligence dashboards and enhancements.

Among her many awards, Debbie was the recipient of the Superior Civilian Service Award, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Achievement Award for Civilian Service and DOD Cold War Award. In addition to her work life, Debbie is the treasurer of the Fulton County Food Basket, a member of her church hand bell choir and plays woodwind instruments for her church and community musical events. Debbie plans to continue her hobbies of knitting, riding bicycles and photography.

We extend our Christian concern and compassion to:

 *The family and friends of Jack Tatsak. Jack passed away on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.*

 *Kevin (Norma) Shea and Cindy Frerotte and their family on the death of their Aunt, Frances M. McKelvey. Frances passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2011. She was the great Aunt of Hillary and Charlene Frerotte.*

 *Don (JoAnne) Sarachine and their family on the death of his sister, Delores J. Ondo. Delores passed away on Monday, February 14, 2011.*

THE KEELINGS

In Concert at FUMC March 20



The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that The Keelings Southern Gospel Group will return to FUMC for a concert on March 20 at 7:00 PM. Now in their 18th year, The Keelings have shared their God-given talents through music and testimony at hundreds of venues throughout the Eastern United States during which time they have become known as one of Western Pennsylvania's premier Southern Gospel groups. The Keelings are best known for their unique harmony, trumpet trios, and Jeff's abilities on the piano.


During the course of their ministry, The Keelings have recorded more than 17 albums, written and released several original songs, and have worked with several of gospel music's finest producers. It is the mission of The Keelings to present a message of hope in Christ to a hurting world, and to preserve the tradition of Southern Gospel Music.

Admission is free and a love offering will be accepted for the group. The nursery will be staffed and a Cookie Fellowship will follow the concert.




To First United Methodist Church,

My husband and I would like to express a heartfelt thanks for all of your prayers and condolences during Mother's passing. It is such a comfort knowing that your church family truly cares about our family's loss. Keep up the care and compassion you exhibited to us. Thanks again.





Fred & Gail Blaney


Dear Church Friends,

How very much your prayers, cards and phone calls were appreciated during my illness. It brightened my days to know that you cared. Thank you for being so thoughtful. God bless you all.

Amanda Leech


MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dick Starr 
3 Allyn Ricketts
3 Alice Ternent
4 Glenn Krozely
7 Dan Cornman
10 Ron Scaife
11 Amanda Leech
12 Linda Cornman
12 Eleanor Walter
13 Barb Gaughan
13 Ruth Stubbs
19 Tara Green
20 Franklin Tarr
21 Jeremy Andrews
21 Janessa Muir
21 Kylie Ricketts 
21 Gabi Zielinski
22 Larry McKelvey
24 Melvin Dalzell
25 Lora Williamson
27 Bob Buzzinotti
27 Tim Scaife
30 Lilah Hogamier 
31 Carlee Beers 

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Dale & Grace Trudgen (61 years)
21 Derek & Tara Green
27 Tony & Robyn Green (1 year)



RAINBOW ROAD

Rainbow Road is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. Children must be 3 years by September 1st. Applications are available in the church office or on our website.

MARCH SIFT

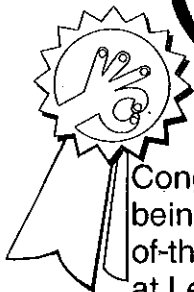
Thursday, March 17, 2011
12:00 PM Covenant Center
PROGRAM: Pam Rhodes of our local Salvation Army
MENU: To Be Announced
Reservations are due by Monday, March 14, 2011

2011

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have a few dates open for the altar flowers for next year. If you would like one of these dates please let Audrey know. Thank you.

May 22
June 26
October 16, 23
& 30



Congratulations to Sierra Aires for being named Lions Club Student-of-the-Month for December 2010 at Lenape Elementary School.

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:00 PM

Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Mission trip to Jamaica with Meaghan Volek

DEVOTIONS: Patti Bruno

HOSTESSES: Donna King, Bonnie Ferguson



LENTEN DINNERS

Fridays from March 11th thru April 15, 2010 4:30-6:30 PM

CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS...

We will need approximately 35 pies each week.

→ PIE BAKERS—SEE OTHER SIDE →

CALLING ALL WORKERS...

We will need approximately 25 workers each Friday to help serve and clean up.

We appreciate your help in the past and hope you will help us once again this year!

Please complete the form below and return to the church, or phone Jim Ternent @ 724-548-7124. Thank You.

Keep this as your reminder

Date	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/1	4/8	4/15
Pies						
Workers						



Lenten Fish Dinners Fried or Baked Fish or Sloppy Joe
 Fridays from March 11th - April 15, 2011
 4:30-6:30 PM Curley Fries or Baked Potato
 Covenant Center Cole Slaw and Dinner Roll
 Beverage and Home Baked Pie



I will bake the number of pies shown on the date/dates indicated below:

Fri. 3/11	Fri 3/18	Fri 3/25	Fri 4/1	Fri 4/8	Fri 4/15

I/We can help serve/clean up on the date/dates indicated below:

We can be there at PM.

Fri. 3/11	Fri. 3/18	Fri. 3/25	Fri. 4/1	Fri. 4/8	Fri. 4/15

Name _____ Phone _____

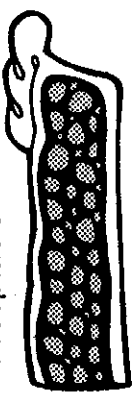


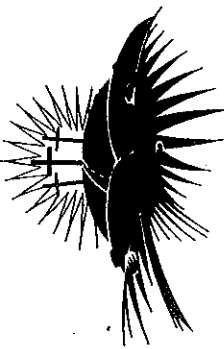
IMPORTANT PIE BAKERS MUST READ AND COMPLY

State health and food safety regulations require that all pies made with milk, milk products or eggs must be baked in a licensed and inspected kitchen (such as a bakery, restaurant or our Covenant Center kitchen which is state licensed and inspected).

This includes crème, custard, pumpkin pies and cheese cakes. Fruit pies and other pies not made with milk, milk products or eggs can be baked in home kitchens.

Crème, custard, pumpkin pies and cheese cakes purchased from a bakery, store or restaurant (which are not labeled "must be refrigerated") are acceptable.







LENT



MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:30 AM 3R's 10:00 AM Evangelical Connection-CC 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	2 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Watchers	3 8:30 AM OVR-CC	4 	5 10:00 AM VBS Showcase-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
6 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	7 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:30 PM Trustees	8 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM AM Vets-CC	9 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00-1:00 PM Communion 4:00-7:00 PM Communion 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	10 8:00-5:00 PM Food Safety Training-CC	11 4:30 PM Lenten Fish Dinner	12 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
13 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43 SUVCC	14 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Church Council	15 8:30 AM 3R'S 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	16 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 12:00 PM SIFT-CC	18 4:30 PM Lenten Fish Dinner	19 7:45 AM Josh McDowell trip 11:00 AM Karen Scaife-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
20 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Chapter 519-CC 7:00 PM Keelings Concert	21 7:00 PM Christian Education 	22 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	24 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle	25 4:30 PM Lenten Fish Dinner	26 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
27 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28 7:00 PM Discipleship APRIL NEWSLETTER	29 8:30 AM 3R'S 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	30 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	31		

