

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



DECEMBER 2010

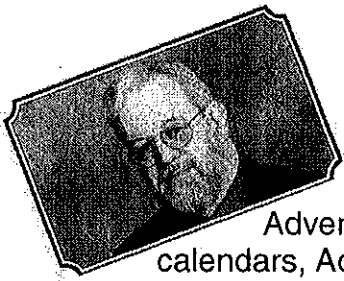
**JANUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2010**



WORSHIP: 11:00 AM
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312
E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net
FAX: 724-548-5157

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 Hiding
Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808
WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com
RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



ADVENT WITH DILIGENCE

Advent has always been a time of preparation. Advent devotionals, Advent calendars, Advent Wreaths, all have been used to help us in our preparing for the celebration of the coming of Jesus; both in history and in the future. Given the discussion we have had in these little articles this year you might guess that Thomas Watson has some suggestions that might help us be more diligent in our faith and grow closer to God. These suggestions may be especially useful during the Advent season. He puts these suggestions in the form of questions to challenge us.

"1. Do we strive with our hearts to get into a holy frame?" Our hearts and minds are not always easily put in the mood to hear from God. Do we make the effort to be prepared?

"2. Do we set time apart to call ourselves to account and to try our evidences for heaven?" That is, do we actually examine ourselves, ask the hard questions about ourselves and our own spiritual growth?

"3. Do we use violence in prayer?" Now in modern language this sounds like a contradiction in terms but I hope by now you understand Watson's meaning here. Is there a passion in our prayers? Is there a fire in our talking to God? As Watson says, "Do we pray in the morning as if we were to die at night?"

"4. Do we thirst for the living God?" In our day we might ask if we desire Christ as much as we look forward to Christmas.

"5. Are we skilled at self denial?" Or as Watson asks, "Can we cross our own will to fulfill God's?"

"6. Are we lovers of God?"

"7. Do we keep spiritual watch?" Not a watch for telling time but a watch as in a lookout for temptation and failures and sin in our lives.

"8. Do we press for further degrees of sanctity?" Here is a great Wesleyan focus. Are we growing in grace? Are you closer to God this year than last? Are you walking with God more than in the past?

"9. Is there a holy emulation in us?" This is another phrase that is difficult in our modern language. We are to ask ourselves if we are doing more than others in our spiritual growth; not to show them up or puff ourselves up, but to imitate (emulate) others who are strong in the faith.

"10. Have we gotten above the world?" Are our thoughts and actions in all areas of life based on God and his word or the teachings of unbelieving humans?

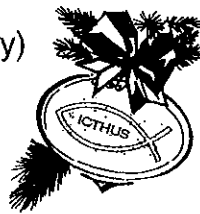
"11. Do we set ourselves always under God's eye?" Are we always aware of God's presence?

If you think on these things during this Advent season; if you ask yourself these questions there will be change in your faith and your walk with God. Christmas will be a different celebration for you.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)

Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)

Allyn



COME CELEBRATE ON JANUARY 2ND



In 2009 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone of our church building. The first Sunday in January 2011 will be the anniversary of the dedication service of the building and mark 100 years since the first service was held in this building. Join us as we celebrate the day with special memories and worship that will include Pastor Ricketts preaching from the same passage used 100 years ago. Watch for more details.

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER



December 5, 2010
11:00 AM
Communion
**Sermon: Worthy of Worship—
Not A Guru John 14:1-14**



December 12, 2010
11:00 AM
Psalm 11, Hebrews 4:12-16
**Sermon: Jesus' Sinlessness
John 8:31-47**



December 19, 2010
11:00 AM, Sunday School Play
Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-15
**Sermon: Jesus' Miracles
Luke 7:18-23**



December 24, 2010
7:00 PM, Christmas Eve
**Sermon: Jesus and Prophecy
Genesis 3:13-16**



December 26, 2010
11:00 AM
Sermon: Brad Hellein



CHRISTMAS EVE

Come and bring a friend to our candlelight Christmas Eve service. The service will be at 7:00 and will include all the special music, singing and lighting of the candles that helps us focus on the One who is the light of the world.

CORPORATION MEETING



When the Trustees meet Monday evening January 3rd at 6:30PM they will be electing their officers for the coming year. This will also be the official corporation meeting for First United Methodist Church. You are welcome to sit in on this meeting.



NEW MEMBERS & CONFIRMATION CLASSES



Are you ready for a new experience? We are going to offer our Confirmation Class and a New Member's Class at the same time and in conjunction with each other. Both classes will meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour starting January 30 and running through April 17 (Palm Sunday) when new members will be received.

Confirmation will meet in the Youth room with Matt Scaife teaching. Pastor Ricketts will also be getting the Confirmation class out of school one day to visit the Conference Center and we will be meeting with the adult class for a couple of special sessions together.

Now, just where the New Member's class will meet will depend on how many sign up. Pastor Ricketts will teach the adult class and we will combine with the Confirmation class for a few special sessions.

In both of these sessions we will discuss basic Christian teaching, unique Methodist teachings, church history and Methodist history as well as the history of our local church and how our denomination and church are organized. For the adults we will also spend some time discovering our spiritual gifts. Please sign up as soon as possible by calling the church office or talking to Pastor Ricketts so we can order the right amount of materials.





NOVEMBER



ACOLYTE

5 Cierra Hoffman
 12 Donovan Hoffman
 19 Frailey Scaife
 26 Sierra Aires



READERS

5 Communion
 12 Dan Wolfe
 19 Pat Wolfe
 26 Meaghan Volek



NURSERY

5 Brenda Beers
 12 Kelly Hoffman
 19 Kathy Coleman
 26 Janet McKelvey



COUNTERS

5 Scaife
 12 Krozely
 19 Thomas
 24 Ternent
 26 Bussard



SOUND SYSTEM

5 Thomas
 12 Janessa Muir
 19 Katie Fox
 26 Glenn Krozely



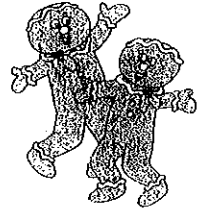
USHERS

5 Wesley/Roy Williamson
 12 Albright/Dan Wolfe
 19 Albright/Dan Wolfe
 26 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski



WELCOME CENTER

5 Mary Jo Lipski
 12 Carol Wolfe
 19 Sandy Scherf
 24 Jean Wolfe
 26 Alyssa Krozely

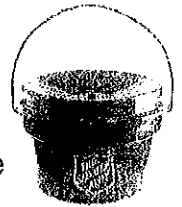


FIRST CHURCH HELPS AT FOOD BANK

December is our month to offer help at the Community food bank. We need some volunteers to be at Grace Presbyterian Church from about 10:00-1:00 Tuesday, December 14th. Sign up with Pastor Ricketts.

STANDING KETTLES?

The ministerial association will be taking Friday, December 17th to help the Salvation Army stand kettles at Wal-Mart. Watch for Pastor Ricketts ringing in the bell if you are at Wal-Mart that day.



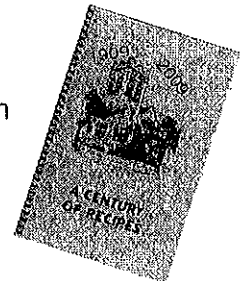
HO HO HO

The anniversary committee has belated Christmas gifts for you.

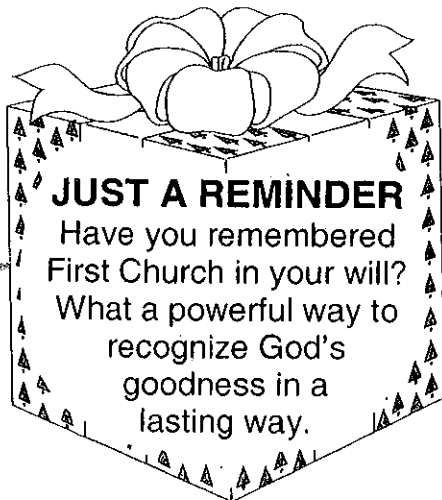
Christmas Tree Ornaments
 (1909-2009)
 \$10.00 each
 Limited stands are available for \$2.00

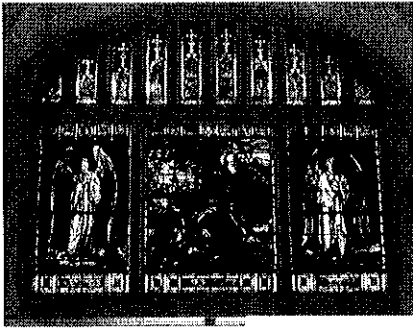


Cookbooks
 \$10.00 each



They are both available in the church office.





As Thanksgiving is upon us and we pause to give thanks for our many blessings received in the past year, let us now turn our thoughts to the Christmas season and our hearts to the memories of loved ones whom have passed from our lives. One way is to purchase a poinsettia for the altar decorations, this year we are asking that you also consider a Memorial donation to the restoration of the Good Samaritan Window, it would be very much appreciated.

LIGHT A CANDLE



*Light a candle for those we mourn
Into a new life they will be born
Do not look for them at the grave site
They are somewhere else radiating their beautiful light
They have gone to a new world where there is no darkness or pain
Their light and essence will always remain.
Light a candle for those who have left this mortal place
They are free to travel through time and space
When we think of them they are near
When we sit in a beautiful garden their voice we hear
When we listen to a divine symphony
We close our eye their face is near
Light a candle for they have not really gone
With each flickering flame in your heart
They will always belong*

A. Pell

*Have a Happy Thanksgiving and now thank we all our God
for the blessings of this holiday.*

Window Committee

FIRST FRIENDS PLAYGROUP



Space is available for the First Friends playgroup that meets at the Grace Presbyterian Church on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am. Accompanied by a parent, children will play, enjoy a snack, crafts and music time. The group gives parents and their children an opportunity to meet and socialize with other children in a fun, nurturing environment. Children from age 18 months to preschool age are welcome!! Any questions, please contact Suzanne Hogamier at 543-2193 or suzmerv@hotmail.com.

SOUP SALE & TURKEY DINNER

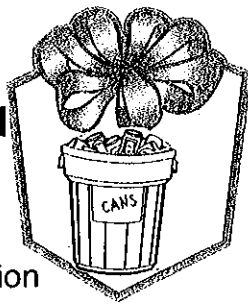
Thanks to all who helped with the soup sale and turkey dinner. We sold 181 quarts of soup and served about 175 turkey dinners. Proceeds from the soup sale was \$800 and \$1150 from the turkey dinner. Thanks to the turkey donors and the pie bakers.



CANS FOR VBS 2011

In the past month (through September 15th) we received 3,830 cans for our 2011 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2010 is 15,485 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



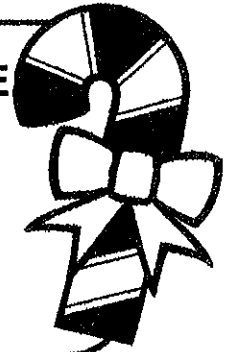
FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

Thursday, December 9, 2010

5:30 PM

Theresa's Royle Allegheny
Restaurant, Dessert at Ruth
Stubbs house

Devotions by Barb Gaughan



THANK YOU

Dear SIFT Committee:

Thanks for having Senior
Citizens meals and entertainment.

I can't always make it, but enjoy
the Friendship. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Margaret Patsy

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]



**REMEMBER YOUR FOOD BANK DONATIONS.
DECEMBER THEY WILL PICK UP ON TUESDAY THE 14TH.
THANK YOU!**

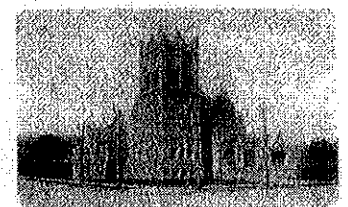
SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

The date was Sunday, January 1, 1911. Special Dedicatory Services were planned for morning, afternoon, and evening on that day in the sanctuary of the handsome new edifice of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Vine & Jefferson Streets. Bishop Hamilton, of Boston, was to officiate.

In the spring of 1907, first action was taken by the Official Board looking toward the erection of this new church building.

Special Observance of this Dedicatory Service will be Sunday, January 2, 2011. Hymns and scriptures from the original service will be used.

As written 100 years ago: "Your attendance is respectfully invited."



**CENTURY ON THE
CORNER
CELEBRATION**

1909-2009

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Jean Schaeffer
7 Joe Bowser
10 Janine Muir
12 Donna Fox
13 Colm Andrews
17 Ed Byerly
24 Linda Scaife
25 Holly Heigley
27 Bill Heigley III
27 Bill Lemons
27 Abby Yankasky
30 Arianna Aires

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9 David & Jill Kohl
15 Dan & Linda Cornman
23 Greg & Lynn Toth
31 Franklin & Milly Tarr



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Robyn & Tony Green on the birth of a son, Logan Anthony. Logan was born Thursday, November 4, 2010. He weighed 6 lbs, 3 oz and was 21 inches long. He is the grandson of Audrey & Bernie Green and the Great Grandson of Jean & Bob Schaeffer.

We extend our Christian compassion and concern to...

~Roy (Bobbi) Williamson and his family on the death of his mother, Berenice Williamson. Berenice was the grandmother of Keith (Lora) Williamson, Kevin (Marcia) Williamson, Robert (Lisa) Williamson. Great grandmother of Nathan, Ellen, Amanda, Bethany & Jacob Williamson, Lance & Sarah McCullough.

~Larry McKelvey (Janet) and his family on the death of his aunt, Esther Davies. Esther passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2010.

DECEMBER SIFT

Thursday, December 16, 2010
12:00 PM Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Phyllis Howard, Hammered Dulcimer Music

MENU: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Cookies

Everyone attending is asked to bring cookies to share.

Reservations are due by **THURSDAY, December 9th** This is an early date due to the dinner.

Baptism

Chelsea Irene Beers was baptized on Sunday, November 21, 2010. She is the daughter of Brenda & Wayne Beers. Chelsea was born on August 31, 2010.

ADVENT 2010

On Sunday mornings in November and December we are looking at the ways in which Jesus claimed to be more than just a religious leader or teacher. The ways in which he spoke about himself tells us much. There are the famous "I am" passages but there are also many other places where Jesus says "I am" and we learn more about him. This Advent read these verses from the Gospel of John and see the ways in which Jesus spoke about his own nature, desires and love. Put \$1 in the envelope each day of Advent in honor of Jesus who confronts us as the very presence of God:

November

- 28. John 6:31-35
- 39. John 7:25-30
- 30. John 7:31-34

December

- 1. John 8:12-15
- 2. John 8:16-20
- 3. John 8:21-24
- 4. John 8:25-30
- 5. John 8:51-59
- 6. John 9:1-5
- 7. John 10:1-8
- 8. John 10:9-18
- 9. John 10:34-39
- 10. John 11:23-26
- 11. John 12:20-26
- 12. John 13:12-15
- 13. John 13:16-19
- 14. John 13:31-35
- 15. John 14:1-3
- 16. John 14:6-10
- 17. John 14:11-20
- 18. John 15:1-5



- 19. John 16:1-7
- 20. John 16:25-33
- 21. John 17:11-17
- 22. John 17:24-26
- 23. John 18:1-9
- 24. John 18:33-38



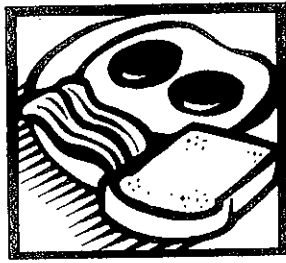
Please tear off this slip and place it in your bag when you return it with your offering. This information is needed for the counters.

Name _____

Envelope Number _____

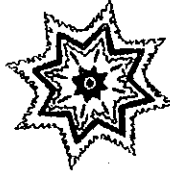
Amount _____





ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

(This is not just for the
people who attend Sunday School, but for
everyone.)



The All church Christmas breakfast will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:30 AM in the Covenant Center.



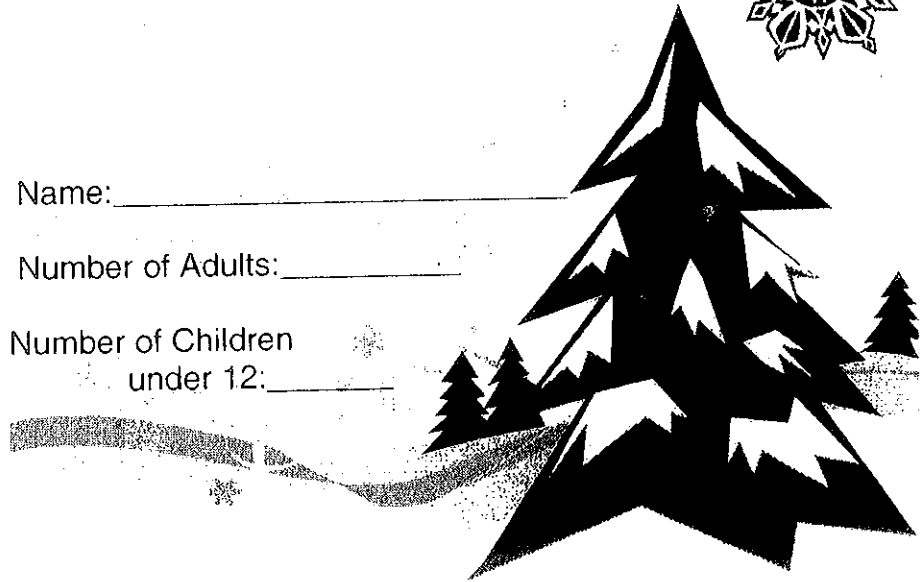
Scrambled eggs, toast, sausage, bacon, hash browns, donuts, coffee cake, juice and coffee will be served. Please sign up by Sunday, December 5th by filling out the form below or calling/e-mailing the church office. 724-548-4312 or fumchurch@windstream.net



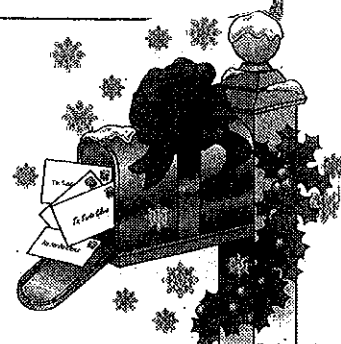
Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____

Number of Children
under 12: _____



FIRST CHURCH'S SHUT IN'S



BEATTY, BOB
ROSEBROOK ASST. LIVING
ROOM 206
723 SOUTH PIKE RD
SARVER PA 16055
724-540-1012

FEICHT, NANCY
SUGARCREEK NURSING HOME
LAKESIDE DR
WORTHINGTON, PA 16262

FLICK, JANE
107 SUNBURY FIELDS APT 1
BUTLER PA 16001

LEECH, MARY ALICE
C/O LINDA RUMBAUGH
2284 FREEPORT RD
KITANNING PA 16201

McMUNN, JOSEPH
217 CYPRESS DR
APOLLO PA 15613-7005

SHANKLE, TWILA
GREY'S COLONIAL ACRES
272 COLONIAL RD
KITANNING PA 16201

SHOEMAKER, KATHERINE
100 VALLEY VIEW DR—APT 127
FORD CITY PA 16226

SPEICHER, BETTY
LIGHT HOUSE POINTE APT 303
500 CHAPEL HARBOR DR
PITTSBURGH PA 15238



Connect the Dots

When you connect the dots to reveal a Christmas delight, this activity page magically turns into a coloring page!

