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

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ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Deb Kociban

Lay Minister: Terri Wells



First United Methodist Church-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312

Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM **Email:** fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM **Website:** firstchurchkittanning.com

Fax: 724-548-5157 Rainbow Road: 724-543-7569

Parsonage- 307 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-543-4808



Ford Memorial United Methodist Church-1024 Fourth Ave, Ford City PA 16226 724-763-1540

Worship 11:00 AM **Email:** fordmemc@comcast.net

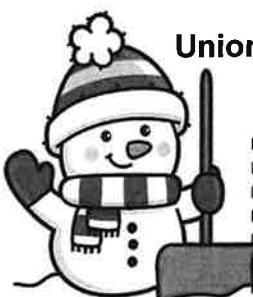
Manorville United Methodist Church-P.O. Box 174, 800 Water Street, Manorville PA 16238

Worship 9:45 AM

Email: mumc@windstream.net 724-763-1254

Union Avenue United Methodist Church-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM



JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please get articles to Audrey no later than
SUNDAY, December 12, 2021. Thank you

Pastor Deb's Message

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2: 7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I had the car for the night. My friends and I took in a movie and went for pizza. It was too early to go home. Curfew wasn't for another couple of hours. "Let's go ride the circuit," I heard from the back seat. "Yeah, great idea. Let's go." Everyone chimed in. Of course, we were not allowed to do that, which made it a great idea. The circuit consisted of 2 parallel one-way streets downtown. Everybody who was somebody drove in a NASCAR-like oval, yelled out their windows and pulled over to meet friends. Ok, so we were meeting boys. And the boys were meeting girls. It made us giddy. I headed for downtown.

For months, Mary had endured wagging tongues and scornful glances. For months, Joseph had been the brunt of furtive, condemning smiles and knowing head shakes. But now, it was all worth it. Their baby boy had arrived. He was all they could have imagined. Their hearts soared with newfound love. Their hearts overflowed with gratitude towards God.

The shepherds arrived, telling them of their night on the hillside and of the angel choir's announcement. They were breathless from running. They were stunned by the news! But here was the boy, the redemption of Israel and they fell to their knees in joy and worship.

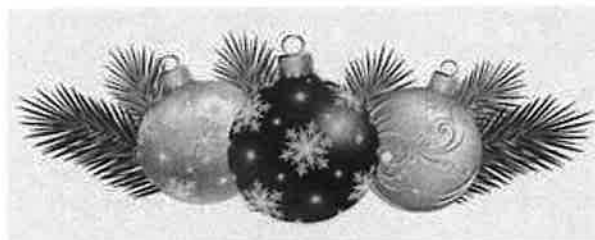
Around a manger, in the back woods town of Bethlehem, God was beginning to save mankind. On that first night, only a few experienced the thrill of God's salvation. Only a few knew the boundless joy of seeing God's great grace in the tiny face of Jesus.

This Christmas, as we once again light the candles of Advent, and hear the scripture story of Jesus, let us reclaim the soaring height of Mary and Joseph's love for their son and their endless gratitude towards God. As we once again hear the angels' song and sing along, let us reclaim the wondering reverence of the shepherds and worship our Savior, our newborn King with humble hearts.

My friends and I spent about an hour and a little bit of gas "riding the circuit." It was fun. We felt both bold and guilty pleasure at the thought of disobeying our parents' warnings. We yelled out the windows. We played the radio as loud as we could. It was as reckless as we were ever going to get. It was exciting! Yet it was only one night of joy which is now just a memory.

This Christmas, we are invited to enter into a joy that knows no end. We are invited into the heart of Jesus whose thrilling love lifts us and sustains throughout our lives. Not just for one night, not just for a season, but for all eternity.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Deb



DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

**December 5, 2021,
2nd Sunday of Advent**

*Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*

**December 12, 2021,
3rd Sunday of Advent**

*Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2,
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18*



**December 19, 2021,
4th Sunday of Advent**

*Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55,
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45*

**December 26, 2021
1st Sunday after Christmas Day**
*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalms 148,
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52*

Terri's Message



I love getting gifts that are unexpected. I do not like it when someone says "tell me what you want for Christmas and I will get it for you." For me, I like the surprise. I like opening something that I have no idea what it might be.

Because for me, it is not the gift that I am given. It is the time, I was being thought of, while they found the "perfect" gift to give me. I remember a specific Christmas, when my oldest son was four and a half years old. Unknown to me, while my son was visiting his grandma, my mother, she took him Christmas shopping. She told me later about the shopping expedition. She told my son he could get his mommy whatever he wanted for Christmas and grandma would wrap it up, hide it and he could give it to his momma on Christmas. He was very good with secrets, and still is to this day. My mom said he walked around the store for an hour, looking at all the options, till his eyes fell upon, what he believed was the PERFECT Gift. I remember the look on his little face on Christmas morning as I was surprised to get a package from him. And the pride in his eyes as I opened to find the most "unattractive, leopard print caftan." He proudly exclaimed "Mommy I picked it for you cause I know you like to be comfy and you like animals." See, it was not the gift that mattered, it was the feelings that my child had, giving me the gift. I proudly wore the unattractive gift for over a year till it finally went to shreds. Many times when I had it on, you could see the pride in his face that he picked it for me. I have to think that God finds that pleasure when we give of ourselves in his name. We may stumble when we try to present something at church, or we may not say a prayer as perfect as someone else, or the love offering may not be as big as someone else's. Our gifts may be unattractive to the human eye, but we give with the love of our soul. We give to the glory of our King, and I am sure it pleases him. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7



UNION AVENUE-TBA

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

FIRST CHURCH- We will have 2 candlelight Christmas Eve services. 5:30 PM with the children's bell choir & candlelight and 7:00 PM Candlelight service. You will need to register for the service you wish to attend.

FORD MEMORIAL AND MANORVILLE- Will hold Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 PM at Ford Memorial

UNION AVENUE-TBA

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

As the saying goes, "Time Flies". And as hard as it is to believe, it is once again time to think about The Lenten Devotional. For the fifteenth year First Church will compile a devotional to be used Mondays through Saturdays during the season of Lent as an addition to your spiritual walk beginning on Ash Wednesday. **WE NEED YOU** to contribute a short devotion to be included in the booklet. You don't have to be a professional writer or submit a three-page masterpiece. Prayerfully consider participating in this meaningful ministry. These devotionals are shared with residents at ARC manor, attendees at SIFT, and other churches in the charge. All devotions must be received in the church office no later than **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST** and can be hand delivered, e-mailed, or sent by snail mail. Any questions, call the church office or Sarah Heckert at 724-543-1083.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited into the hope of Jesus...A service of hope for those struggling with grief, loneliness, illness or are just simply sad during the Christmas season. **December 21st at 7:00 PM.** This service will be in person and live stream on Facebook.





FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

SOUND SYSTEM

- 5 Dave Yanoschick
- 12 John Yankasky
- 19 Tim King
- 24 John Yankasky
- 26 Gabe Smith



COUNTERS

- 5 Bureau
- 12 McKelvey
- 19 Scaife
- 24 Williamson
- 26 Ternent



USHERS

- 5 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
- 12 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
- 19 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
- 24 Volunteers needed
- 26 Oxford/Mark Ferguson



SCRIPTURE READERS

- 5
- 12 Laura Mauger
- 19
- 26



BELL RINGERS

- 5 Caden King
- 12 Jocelyn King
- 19 Ashley Yankasky
- 26 Madelyn Smith



MISSIONS FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

We heard the wonderful news that our Rise Against Hunger meal packets were received by our in-country partner "Convoy of Hope" in Haiti. May God bless and nourish, in every way, the people who received these meals. Next year's packaging day will be September 10, 2022 at the Leechburg UMC.

Our church family will have the delightful opportunity to bring in new fleece, plush-like blankets (any size) for families helped by our Salvation Army. These blankets or throws can be found at most area stores like BigLots, Walmart, Target, Boscov's etc.. You may bring blankets in as early as November 28 but NO later than December 19th. If you are unable to shop, you may give cash or a check (written out to FUMC) and your money will go toward buying blankets. Thank you for giving these cozy, warm gifts to families in need. May you be blessed in your giving.

Missions Team, Meaghan & Janet



DECEMBER SIFT LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, December 16, 2021

PROGRAM: "Life Armstrong County" with Felicia Towaswick

MENU: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Applesauce, Greenbeans. Everyone attending is asked to bring cookies to share for dessert.

Reservations by
Monday, December 13th

Dine-in only



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

2022 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity

Cans Received October 15th-November 15th—2806

Total cans received through November 15th—21,344



Thanks to ARC Manor for 143 cans. Many thanks to everyone who is saving aluminum cans and bringing them to the church-at the ramp at the back of the church. If you haven't been saving aluminum cans, please start-soft drinks, juice, power drinks, tea, beer, cat food-Aluminum only-not "TIN CANS", food, soup, etc.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent

THANK YOU'S



Dear First Church Family,

The cards, phone calls & especially prayers for us following my brother & nephew's passing warmed our hearts as they were the blessings we most needed. The support and the wind chimes from all the Bible study girls was also much appreciated.

God Bless, Rich & Kathy Riffer

To My Brothers and Sisters at First,

I am so thankful for your very generous gift. I am in need of tires and you helped fill that need. I appreciate it more than you can know!

Bless all of you, Terri Wells

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to all my very good friends for all the prayers, cards and well wishes during my absence after my back surgery. I am doing well. God Bless you, Jim Ternent

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Joe Bowser
- 10 Janine Muir
- 12 Donna Lazan
- 24 Linda Scaife
- 25 Holly Heigley
- 27 Abby Yankasky
- 30 Ariana Aires



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Dan & Linda Cornman-42 years
- 21 John & Beverly Patton-9 years
- 21 Tim & Melissa Bureau-2 years
- 23 Greg & Lynn Toth-38 years
- 31 Frank & Milly Tarr
- 31 Jesse & Janessa Shriver-5 years

HELP YOUR YOUTH ATTEND SPARK: JANUARY 8 & 9, 2022

All youth, 6th-12th graders are Welcome to attend, the cost TBA

YOUTH CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Contact Melissa Bureau or Pastor

Mark the number of cookie by the type of cookie. All cookies are sold by the dozen

- _____ Sugar-assortment w/wo sprinkles
- _____ Orange
- _____ Kiss
- _____ Snickerdoodles
- _____ Total dozen @ \$7.50
- Amount Paying \$ _____



- _____ Raisin Filled
- _____ Neiman Marcus
- _____ Total dozen @ \$8.50

Payment Method _____



Name _____

I would like to donate money/supplies: _____

Any questions or to place an order: call Melissa 724-859-2607 *Deadline to order-December 5, 2021

*Pick up date-December 19, 2021@Covenant Center After 11:00 worship



FIRST CHURCH CONTINUED

“A Night In Bethlehem”



WHERE: Covenant Center
WHEN: December 4, 2021
TIME: 6:30-8:00 PM

On December 4th we will have “A Night in Bethlehem”. There will be light snacks for the tastes of that night, smells of that night, and sounds of that night. The story of Jesus’ birth will be told and you can enjoy some singing and for the children a small craft and mingle with friends and family from the charge....If planning on attending please sign-up by **November 29th**, let us know ages of children if children are attending.

If you would like to help please sign-up if you can donate any of the following items:

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Dates | Figs | Grapes | Raisins | Cherries |
| Apples | Pomegranate | Olives | Cheese | Goldfish |
| Gummies | Animal Crackers | Grape Juice | Apple Juice | Sparkling Cider |
| Water | Iced Tea | Bread-a variety of breads, wheat, rye, marble, french, etc.. | | |
| Veggies-carrots, snow peas, peppers, cauliflower, broccoli, etc. | | | | |
| Nuts-almonds, walnuts, pecans, etc.. | | | | |

The items can be dropped off at the Covenant Center Friday, **December 3rd from 7:00-9:00 PM** or **Saturday, December 4th from 9:00-11:00 AM**. Or if item will not perish, can be dropped off in the library room during office hours. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Library or Office so if you can donate, call the office to ensure someone else is not already donating... Please and Thank you.

If you have an easy up tent that you are willing to let us use that night that would be helpful.

NAME _____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____
 CHILDREN AGES _____
 I WILL DONATE _____



MANDATORY VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES

So that we will be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy, all volunteers of First need to update their Act 33 and Act 34 clearances. Leadership in the church is highly encouraged to obtain their clearances as well since they hold perceived positions of authority for our children. Update clearances need to be on file in the church office **ASAP**. There are direct links to the clearance applications on the conference website www.wpaumc.org (Resources-Safe Sanctuaries-Direct Links.) If you need assistance in obtaining the clearances, please call the church office so that Audrey may assist you. (forms are in the office for volunteers who want to mail in your clearances.)



FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Judy Colwell
- 7 Dorothy Russell
- 9 Ruth Curry
- 11 Ed Gergy, III
- 15 Mark Bryan
- 27 Jim Say



DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Alice & Gary Croyle
- 12 Betty & Lowell Simons
- 28 Dorothy & Chet Russell





MANORVILLE LINK PAGE

Now that the hoopla is all over, the Bishop has come and gone and some of our former pastors have shared their fond memories of being here with us, the congregation of Manorville United Methodist Church gratefully acknowledges the contributions of many to our celebration of 130 years of continued ministry and mission along the Allegheny River.

From the original church built in 1891 to the brick church built in 1932, to the many changes over the years to improve our ability to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who enter our doors, God has been faithful and has kept OUR pathway straight and has been a light guiding our steps as we walk towards our eternal home.

Thank you to our good friends, Bruce Shaffer and Michael Coats for sharing their music ministry with us on October 23rd. Thank you to Nancy Busch for providing accompaniment to our singing, both on the piano and the organ on Nov. 7th.

A big thank you to Bishop Cynthia Moore Koi-koi for her timely message on All Saints' Sunday and our celebration Sunday. God was surely leading her at the pulpit.

Thank you to Steve for all his work with the audio/visual part of our celebration. (You are truly a life saver.) Thanks to all our cookie bakers, our editors, JB for all his work to add the names of all the veterans to our History Book. Thanks to Nancy Gaul and Darcy for going thru all our photo albums and choosing a great selection of pictures that showed our ministries over the years. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make our 130th celebration a success. God bless you all. You are forever in our hearts.



FINANCIAL COUNTERS

- December 5 - JB & Jack
- 12 - Mike & Lu
- 19 - Bob & Di
- 26 - Lynn & Sandy



Christmas Eve service will be at Ford Memorial UMC this year on Dec. 24th at 7pm.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2 Michael Alan Czapor | 16 Holly Snyder |
| 3 Betty Fox | 17 Ed Gaul |
| 3 Melissa Relich | 20 Andrew Snyder |
| 3 Diana Shaul | 21 Jessie Boarts |
| 3 James Shaul | 30 Emily Toy |



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Clarence & Lori Walker
- 23 Hyatt & Lois Hawk

MANORVILLE'S CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Manorville's Christmas families this year from Prison Ministry include two or maybe three families. Children's ages are: Family one, boy 8 & girl 16
Family two, girls, ages 1 & 3
Possibly Family three has a 1 year old boy

There may be one more local family that is seeking assistance with Christmas for their five children. Thank you all for always opening your hearts to this ministry. The look on the children's faces as they open their gifts makes it all worthwhile.

Dianna Brocius





UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MEETING

The November 1, 2021 meeting of the UAUMW was held in the Kittanning Cottages Community Room with 10 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of the "Purpose of the UMW" led by President, Karen Wolfe. Hostess: Patty Bowser with the help of Peggy Say and Carolyn Ingram. Devotions: Ruth Gallaher-Thanksgiving. Minute Missions: Ellen Nelson-Good Neighbors. Prayer Calendar: Carolyn Ingram-History of the Ruth M. Center, Prayer for the children. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Christmas Party: 2 entrees were chosen, along with 2 sides and a garden salad. Carolyn and Karen will bring desserts. Lynn and Sandy will do table coverings, decorations, favors and games. Christmas Party will be at 2:00 PM.

- ~We will be collecting items for blessing bags until the end of November instead of October.
- ~Have been having problems getting our program book but finally received it today.
- ~Do we want to do the Hot Dog Hut again? Motion made and passed to not use the Hot Dog Hut for a fund raiser in 2022.
- ~Community Action Agency: We have not received a family to support for Christmas as yet and a motion was made and passed to support an additional family if the agency was having a problem getting sponsors.
- ~Thank you received from East Brook Mission Barn.
- ~Thank banks will be due November 21st.
- ~A motion was made and passed on the amount of our district pledge.
- ~Could we get Bruce Shaffer to sing for our Christmas entertainment? Karen will check with Bruce.
- ~The meeting closed with the reading of the UMW prayer.
- ~A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary, Ellen Nelson



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Courtney Wolfe
- 2 Steve Milanak
- 3 Laura Milanak
- 11 Amy Wyant
- 14 Debbie Waddell
- 15 Kylie Shaffer
- 17 Brenda St. Amand

- 18 Charlene Wyant
- 20 Amy (Loughrey) Grey
- 20 Bryan Wyant
- 24 Jim Smith
- 26 Dana Hough
- 29 Nancy Livengood

