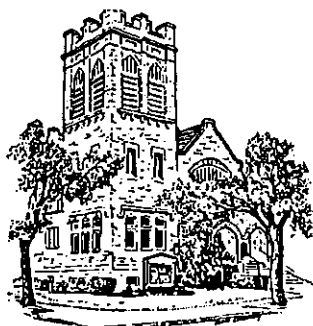
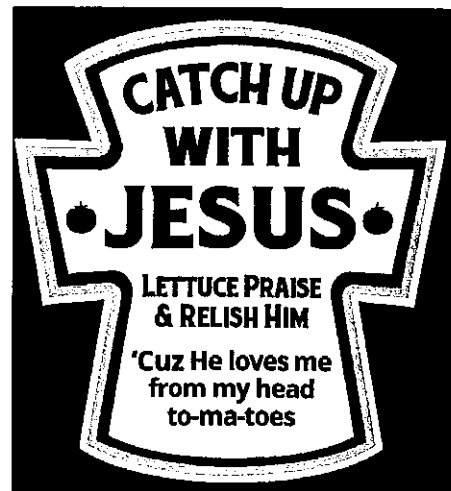
 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

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Monthly Messenger



AUGUST 2018



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE,
TUESDAY,
AUGUST 21, 2018**

CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Deb Kociban
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Brenda Sommerville-Schall
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
PIANIST: Emily King
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda Beers
NURSERY ATTENDANT: Linda Powell
MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely
June Pollard, Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe,
Kathy Coleman

WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808

E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net

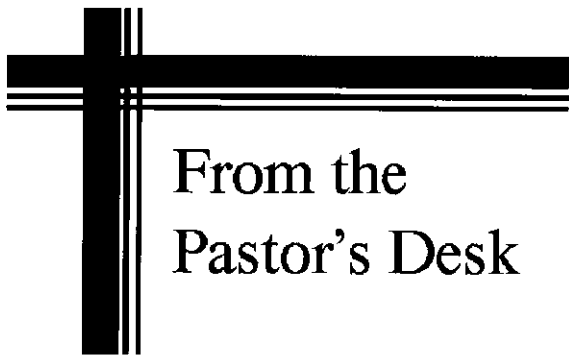
WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com

FAX: 724-548-5157

RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM



From the Pastor's Desk

LORD, let me know my end, and what is the measure
of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is."
Psalm 39: 4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the last couple of years, my birthday has caught me by surprise. Not because I am unaware of the calendar nor am I trying to forget, but simply because it seems impossible that I am now 61 years old. I can't possibly be this age! Just yesterday I was 39, I swear.

So, I have a hard time understanding why King David wanted God to let him know how many more days he had left on this earth. This was a man who fought many battles. This was a man who took on giants. This was a man who fled from his enemies time and time again. Surely, he knew how short life could be.

Perhaps David reasoned that if he knew how much time he had he would spend it more wisely. Perhaps he would say the things he wanted to say to those he loved, maybe he would finally do all those things he meant to do when he was ruling Israel. Just like us, God did not answer David's question.

With the passing of yet another birthday it is my prayer that, even though I don't know the measure of my days, I have learned a thing or two during my life. I try to let others know how much I love them. I try to be as patient and understanding as I can possibly be. But most importantly, I try to spend more time with Jesus in prayer, in meditation, in Bible study. This I feel is the best way to spend whatever measure of days I have.

So, I thank you for your beautiful rendition of "Happy Birthday" this past Sunday. I will treasure it always. I am grateful for cards and cake. I am humbled by all those who remembered my day. I am coming to grips with the number 61.

Over the course of the year ahead, wherever the Spirit may lead us, whatever Jesus asks us to do, let us do it together with love and joy and determination. So, no matter the measure of our days we will have spent them wisely living in the love of Jesus together.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

AUGUST WORSHIP

Lectionary Readings

August 5, 2018

9:30 AM, Outdoor Worship
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

August 12, 2018

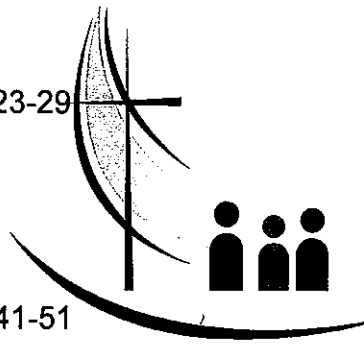
11:00 AM,
1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

August 19, 2018

11:00 AM,
Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

August 26, 2018

11:00 AM,
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18, Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69



WELCOME CENTER

5 Sarah Heckert
12 Melissa Flanders
19 Karen Scaife
26 Beverly Patton



READERS

5 Folk Festival
10 Mert Hellein
19 Janet McKelvey
26 Jim Ternent



USHERS

5 Epworth/Melissa Flanders
10 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
19 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
26 Albright/Dan Wolfe



SOUND SYSTEM

5 Folk Festival
12 Bill Lemons
19 Gabe Smith
26 Tim Scaife



COUNTERS

5 Flanders
12 McKelvey
19 Scaife
26 Coleman/Gallaher



ACOLYTE

5 Folk Festival
12 Joey Kachur
19 Ryan Bish
26 Dane Dimond



BELL RINGERS

5 Folk Festival
12 Max Dimond
19 Hallie Hoffman
26 Rowin Huddleston



We welcomed Pastor Deb Kociban and her husband, George, as well as Pastor Brenda Sommerville-Schall and her husband, Chet, as our pastors on July 1, 2018. Both pastors look forward to welcoming you this summer. Be sure to attend worship and say, "Hi!" They will most certainly say "Hi!" back. Everyone would LOVE to see you!



"I Am The Church"

*"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together.*

*The church is not a building.
The church is not a steeple.
The church is not a resting place.
The church is a people.*

*I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together."*



"The church is wherever people are praising God and doing God's work. The church does not have to be in a familiar building, or a building at all. The church is not a place to rest or be complacent: We need to feed the fire or it goes out. The church is strong when God's people join together in unity and appreciate their differences rather than condemn them. Let this merger be an opportunity for our church family to grow stronger into a bigger family. For those of you who are struggling, give your struggles to God. For it is only when we feel truly broken, that God can put us back together again even better than before."

Submitted by a church member

FOLK FESTIVAL

Pies, ice cream, fish, sloppy joe, sizzle dogs, curly fries, macaroni & cheese, nachos & cheese can all be found at the FUMC Food Booth at the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival, **August 2-5**. Come and eat, visit the art show and even just sit and talk a while.

WE NEED THE MOST HELP For:

Setting up the booth and tent on **Saturday July 28 from 9:00 to 12:00**. Help is needed to carry items, hold poles and put things together. The booth works easiest if we have 12 people to hold poles plus people to lift one side of the booth.

Last year we moved everything in Sunday evening since the festival closed at 6:00 and it looked like rain on Monday. Since that seemed to work well, I anticipate once again tearing apart and putting away most things **Sunday, August 5 starting at 6:00 PM**. Help is needed to clean tables and chairs, carry items, wash pans and utensils and take apart everything we put together for the festival. We need help each day of the festival to fry, put orders together, and take orders. If you haven't signed up for a shift or several shifts, please call Melissa Flanders at 724-859-2607. Once the festival starts you can check the schedule at the booth to see what shifts are still needed.

Help is also needed to:

Cut buns Thursday, Friday, Saturday when the buns arrive, usually between 10:00 and 10:30. Clean up each evening Thursday – Saturday starting about 9:45 pm.

Tim Scaife – Activities Committee Chairman

SHOW SITTERS

Once again, our Art Show will need volunteers to "Show Sit" during the Folk Festival. "What Do I Do If...?" instructions will be right at the art show table. This is a good way to help, to meet and to greet people, and to "**SIT DOWN ON THE JOB**"! Two people are needed at a time. Sign up yourself and a friend! Contact Melissa Flanders 724-859-2607. Thank you.



AUGUST LIBRARY NEWS

The following books were donated to our church's library.

"Burned" by Carol Higgins Clark

"My Gal Sunday" by Mary Higgins Clark

"Bound In Love" by Camy Tang (this book is part of the Patchwork Mysteries series.)

"Danger in Spades" by Elizabeth Penney

"The Crate Beyond" by Pam De Voe

(These 2 books are part of the Antique Shop Mysteries series.)

"The Thief of Hearts" by Mary Blount Chrisitan

"All That Glimmers" by Marlene Chase

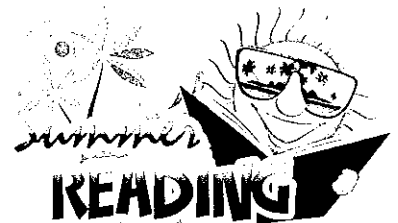
(These 2 books are part of the Annie's Secrets of the Quilt series.)

"Second Edition" by Elizabeth Penney

(This book is part of the Secrets of the Castleton Manor Library series.)

I have lived a thousand lives and I've loved a thousand loves. I've walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time...because I Read. George R. R. Martin

Carol Wolfe, Librarian



**PLEASE
NOTE:**

OPPORTUNITIES AT FORD MEMORIAL UMC

Soup & Sandwich dinner, every Thursday from 4:00-6:00 PM. Free, donations accepted.

Food Bank and Care & Share Shop 2nd and last Tuesday of month from 10:00-1:30 PM.



THANK YOU

My thanks to all who worked at the ramp at my house. It is well built and we have used it several times.

God's love and thanks, Anna Pickett

Thank you to everyone and anyone that had a part in the Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Wade and Pastor Ali. It took many hands to coordinate such a nice event. The luncheon was well attended and was a great way to show our love and support to Wade and Ali. Thanks to all that attended.



Thank you to those that attended the Welcome Fellowship for Pastor Deb and Pastor Brenda on Friday, July 6. The fellowship was held at Ford Memorial United Methodist Church and served as our first official charge gathering. The evening provided everyone a chance to learn about our new pastors and about the other churches in the charge. As an added bonus, we met a lot of nice people! First Church looks forward to more opportunities like this in the future!



Rummage Sale Thank you

A big thanks once again to all who donated items, baked goods and/or their time to the annual rummage sale. As always, your support of the rummage sale is greatly appreciated! Together we were able to raise \$1,135.70 and that money was put into the general fund of the church.

Thank you!! Kim Yankasky

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

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



MISSIONS ARTICLE FOR AUGUST

Our church will again participate in the RISE AGAINST HUNGER program. This exciting event will be Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 AM -- Noon at the Leechburg UMC. We are looking for about 20 assembly line volunteers and so far we have 8 persons. (FYI- Children aged 8 may attend if accompanied by an adult). Call me at 724-543-5855 to sign up.

A different way to participate would be to contribute financially. So far we have a little over \$700.00 toward our goal of \$1100. Is this a way in which you would be interested?

All church projects and volunteers need prayer, so please consider keeping this event on your prayer list.



HYGIENE KITS for UMCOR are in great need now as flooding and fires have so powerfully effected so many in our country. Instead of supplying the entire kits, we will collect certain items for kits. Items we will collect are:

- * Band-aids (3/4" x 3")
- * 1 Gallon size re-sealable plastic bags
- * Adult toothbrushes
- * Wash cloths
- * Hand towels (not kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)

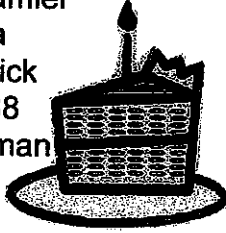
Exciting, meaningful things are happening! Thank you for your love and support.

Missions Committee



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4 Bonnie Bowser
6 Suzanne Hogamier
11 Hannah Morda
13 Evva Yanoschick
16 Anna Pickett-88
24 Donovan Hoffman
25 Sydney Hicks



26 Brian Muir
28 Macy Green
29 Rob Hankey
30 Jayna Harkleroad
30 Becky Zielinski
31 Chelsea Beers
31 Derek Green



August Anniversaries

1 Frank & Esther Kiss
8 Lance & Becky Zielinski-20 years
22 Jim & Darlene Hebb-48 years
25 John & Kimberly Yankasky
26 Tony & Sally Krozely-57 years



We extend our Christian compassion and concern to the family of Betty Mast. Betty passed away on Friday, June 15, 2018. She was the mother to Joanne Mast and grandmother to Jessie.

2018 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

For Habitat for Humanity

5,454 aluminum cans received during 2018 Vacation Bible School week.
35,454 total aluminum cans received during the whole year since the end of 2017 VBS.

\$601.86 received for the sale of the 2018 VBS cans

705,440 total aluminum cans received in 23 years.

\$11,996.69 to Habitat in 23 years from aluminum cans.

Thank you to everyone who brought cans for me to count. The Can Man



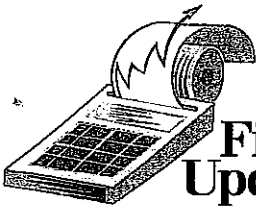
2019 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

Our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity has started. Since the end of VBS 2018, as of July 15th we have received 1768 cans.

Please continue or start saving aluminum cans (pop, tea, fruit juice, health drinks, power drinks, beer and any other type of aluminum cans). Drop them off at the ramp behind the church at any time.

Thanks for the folks at ARC Manor who continue to save cans for us...209 since June 24th. Just as we are in mission with ARC Manor on Wednesday afternoons, they are in mission with us for Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you everyone—The Can Man



Finance Update

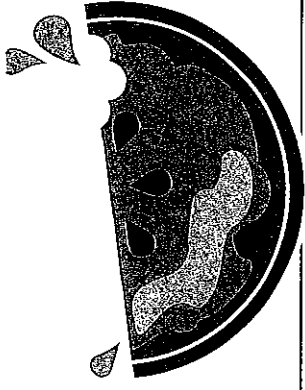
As of this writing, we are settling in with our new pastors Deb and Brenda and as the dust settles we are getting a clearer picture of our financial health. As we have for the past year or more, we continue to face unusually daunting financial challenges.








At the end of June, we have an \$8,648 deficit in the General Fund and we are behind on conference apportionments by \$10,090. Unfortunately this is the worst we have seen in well over a decade. A large portion of the deficit is due to the fact that we must pay the Allegheny River Charge for pastoral expenses one month in advance, meaning that the July expenses were paid in June. This was a large expense (\$5,868) at a time when we were already struggling.

Our new position within the Allegheny River Charge was designed to reduce our expenses over time. Because of the timing of payments described above and the fact that the move was accomplished mid-year, we will not see any significant savings in 2018. However, it should represent moderate financial relief throughout 2019 and beyond.

We are beginning a new chapter in the book of First Church in Kittanning, and we sincerely hope it will be a bright one. Please give consideration and prayer to this situation, for not only increased resources but also wisdom and prudence of the leaders who are stewards of those resources.

AUGUST



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| |  | | 1 3:45 PM ARC Manor | 2 FOLK FESTIVAL | 3 FOLK FESTIVAL | 4 FOLK FESTIVAL 6:30 PM We Surrender-Church |
| 5 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship 5:00 PM Art Show Pictures Pick-up-CC FOLK FESTIVAL | 6 CC Clean Team | 7 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM Staff/Parish 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC | 8 3:45 PM ARC Manor 7:00 PM Worship Team | 9 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle Picnic-CC | 10  | 11 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC |
| 12 9:30 AM Sunday School-Jim 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Camp 43-CC | 13  | 14 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC | 15 3:45 PM ARC Manor | 16  | 17 | 18 6:30 PM We Surrender-Church |
| 19 9:30 AM Sunday School-Jim 11:00 AM Worship | 20 6:30 PM Finance | 21 8:30 AM 3R's 8:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 22 3:45 PM ARC Manor 7:00 PM Nominations Team | 23 | 24  | 25 Michele Beers-CC 6:30 PM We Surrender-Church |
| 26 9:30 AM Sunday School-Jim 11:00 AM Worship | 27 7:00 PM Christian Education SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER | 28 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC Food Bank Pick-Up | 29 3:45 PM ARC Manor 7:00 PM Rainbow Road Board | 30  | 31 |  |

