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

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JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Deb Kociban

Associate Pastor: Brenda Sommerville Schall



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

Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM **Email: fumchurch@windstream.net**

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 4:00 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

Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM **Email: fordmemc@comcast.net**

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

Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Youth Sunday School 9:45 AM 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 Sunday School 10:15 AM



JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE,
Please get articles to Audrey no later than
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. Thank you





Pastor Deb's Message

“Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” ...Seeing was believing.” Luke 2: 15-16 The Message

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I don't know what woke me up that Christmas Eve. I had gone to bed excited, anticipating what Santa would leave for me. I knew when I opened my eyes that it was too early to get out of bed. It was still dark outside, and Mom would not be happy if I woke everyone up now. As I rolled over, I caught a glimpse of something through the window. I laid still. There it was again. A red light. Not a big light. Just a small round circle, red, bright and shining. Could it be? Rudolph?

The shepherds were the first to receive the birth announcement of Jesus the Messiah. It was given to them in a spectacular way. First told to them by a heavenly angel and then sang to them by an entire angel chorus. It's no wonder they ran to Bethlehem to get a look for themselves! It was too good to be true and only by seeing with their very own eyes would they believe what God had done.

Christmas can be a challenging time for believers of Jesus. It can be difficult to see Him among all the hype and glitz of the secular holiday. It becomes even more important for us to spend time every day seeking his face through our devotions and through our prayers. Yet, if we truly seek to see Jesus all we need to do is to look into the eyes and hearts of others. For those who desire an encounter with Jesus, we need to reflect Jesus, to be like Jesus for those around us.

I was still too short to see above the windowsill that Christmas Eve. I will never know if Rudolph, the team of reindeer and Santa was on our lawn. I have no evidence that they were there. All I have is a faded memory and a wish that it was true.

As for Jesus, I have seen him with my own eyes. I have seen him in the kindness of strangers, in the generosity of the saints. I have heard him in the prayers of God's people and in the songs of the church. I have felt him in the embrace of loved ones and in the smiles of those around me. Those who look for Jesus this Christmas season will find him everywhere.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Deb

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

December 1, 2019

11:00 AM,

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122,

Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

December 8, 2019

11:00 AM

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19,

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2019

11:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:46b-55,

James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019

11:00 AM, Children's Christmas play (First)

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19,

Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, 2019

7:30 PM Candlelight Service (First)

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14,

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2019

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98,

Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

December 29, 2019

11:00 AM

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148,

Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

December 31, 2019

Watch Night-New Years Eve

Ecclesiastes 3:1-1, Psalm 8,

Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46



(First Church)

WELCOME CENTER

1 Sarah Heckert
8 Melissa Flanders
15 Karen Scaife
22 Beverly Patton
29 Mary Jo Lipski

SOUND SYSTEM

1 Tim Scaife
8 Gabe Smith
15 Tim King
22 John Yankasky
29 Dave Yanoschick

USHERS

1 Asbury-Mary Jo Lipski & Communion
8 Asbury-Mary Jo Lipski
15 Epworth-Melissa Flanders
22 Epworth-Melissa Flanders
29 Oxford-Mark Ferguson

BELLRINGERS

1 Wyatt Green
8 Nash Wolfe
15 Carlee Beers
22 Chelsea Beers
29 Caden King



READERS

1 Karen Scaife
8
15 Joseph Mauger
22 Larry McKelvey
29 Brad Hellein

COUNTERS

1 McKelvey
8 Scaife
15 Williamson
22 Ternent
29 Flanders

ACOLYTE

1 Carlee Beers
8 Joey Kachur
15 Ryan Bish
22 Isaac Zielinski
29 Hallie Hoffman



(Manorville)

FINANCIAL TEAMS

1 Lynn Sibley & Sandy McKee
8 Judie Reesman & Luella Bennett
15 Bob & Dianna Brocius
22 Lois Hawk & Kay Rupp
29 Jim Boarts & Jack Bennett

USHERS

1 Mike Snyder & Jim Boarts
8 Steve Arblaster & Chuck McNabb
15 Lois Hawk & Nancy Gaul
22 Sandy McKee & Lynn Sibley
29 Chuck Coffman & Bob Brocius

DONUT SPONSOR-2019

December-JB & Nancy

(Cost is \$25, donuts have increased in price to \$26.97. You are asked to please clean up afterwards. Thank you!)



MISSIONS AND MISSIONS UPDATES

2020 VBS ALUMINUM CANS (First Church) *For Habitat for Humanity*

Our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity continues.

We invite our sister churches to join in our aluminum can collection. I will supply a collection container for each church that is interested and pick up their cans monthly. If your church is interested, let me know 724-548-7124 or 724-859-0819.

Cans received (October 15-November 15) 2,273

Cans received since end of VBS (June 21st,) 15,988

Please continue or start saving aluminum cans of all sorts (pop, tea, fruit juices, 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 to the folks at Arc Manor for continuing to save their 200 drink cans and to be in Mission with us.

Thank you, The Can Man (Jim Ternent)



DECEMBER MISSIONS (First Church)



As Christmas nears and our hearts soften, we will lovingly give to the **Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County**. Throughout their history, **PWAC** has partnered with members of our community to meet the needs of their trainees and clients. Our church family will contribute needed items for their **Adult Achievement Center**. The clients who attend this center are ages 18-30 and not yet ready for the workforce. They attend the **AAC** to continue their education and learn soft skill sets. Below is a list from their wish list:

Adult coloring books
Bed sheets
Butcher block paper
Card stock
Clay pots
Crazy art markers
Crockpots
DVD player



Dycem Pads
Education.com (Lifetime subscription \$200)
Gardening supplies
Lakeshorelearning.com - gift cards
Lovesac - medium & large
Melissa & Doug coloring books
Noise cancelling headphones

Pillowcases
Puzzles
Seeds
Sticker books
Tracing books
Composition books
Weighted lap pads

Tools (new or gently used): (socket sets, screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches and toolboxes)

DVDs (musicals, Disney, superheroes, animal-animated or animal-centered)

If you are interested in making a financial donation to PWAC, make your check out to FUMC (First United Methodist Church). We will combine these financial donations and write one check to the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County.

Christmas Love and Blessings from your Missions Committee !!

THANK YOU for OUR CHURCH FAMILY - What a wonderful **Charge Church Family** we have! We want to heartily thank you for contributing to the **UNDIES SUNDAYS**. After a fun time sorting, the total count of underwear was 759 articles!! All we could think of was the children, men, and women who will benefit from this bounteous giving. Thank you!

Also, a Thank You to FUMC for the 24 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Just imagine those dear children opening up their boxes....what treasures! Thank you. Missions Team

UPDATES ON MINISTRIES



MANORVILLE CHRISTMAS DINNER (Manorville)

Manorville Christmas Dinner will be held on December 8, 2019 at 12:30 PM so both Pastors can join us. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, drink and bread will be provided. Bring a covered dish (with some food in it!) to round out the meal. Remember your wrapped gift of not more than \$5.00 for each person attending for a gift exchange game. If for a child, please mark it "child". Use your imagination-something silly, something to read, something to eat, something useful, something homemade. Let's have fun!! We did this last year and everybody had a lot of fun with the "stealing". You need to sign up on the sheet on the back window by December 1st.



THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER

1. Bake Cookies
2. Buy gifts
3. Decorate the house



4. START TO WRITE DEVOTION FOR LENTEN DEVOTIONAL!???

That's right, T'is the season to think about First Church's Lenten Devotional which will be mailed out in time for Ash Wednesday. We need you to contribute! This ministry of our church is in its 12th year and is a meaningful addition to preparation for Easter. While you are preparing for the holidays, listen for God's leading for an inspiration for the devotional. This invitation is open to all in the Allegheny River Charge and will be distributed to all members. And if you are so led, write more than one! Devotions are due in the church office no later than January 26, 2020. Get those creative juices flowing. Hope to see your contribution in the next Lenten Devotional! The NOW Team

CASUAL CHURCH

(Manorville)

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
6:00 PM

Program: Chertiks

Menu: Free homemade soups,
bread, crackers, desserts & drinks

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

Thursday, December 12, 2019
6:00 PM-Crystal's Café

*Ladies Annual Christmas Dinner
See insert in newsletter to sign up*

DECEMBER SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Covenant Center

MENU: Ham, scallop potatoes, green beans, rolls & butter. Everyone attending is asked to bring cookies to share for dessert.

PROGRAM : Mission Ambassadors for the United Methodist Church. Lynn Sibley & Sandy McKee will share their travels in the US and abroad.

RESERVATIONS DUE BY
Monday, December 16th

SOUP AND SANDWICH MEAL

(Ford Memorial)

The Soup and Sandwich meal at Ford Memorial will be offered only on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Thursdays of the month, **4:00-6:00 PM**

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

CHRISTMAS PLAY - (ages 2 and up) We'll start practicing December 1st during Children's church and share the play with the congregation during worship December 22. This is always a fun time of year! We hope you can join us! There are both speaking and non-speaking parts so there is something for everyone.

BELLS - We are also planning to play the bells during the Christmas Eve service (7:30 pm). We'll practice those during Children's church too over the next couple weeks.

ACOLYTES - (Grades 4 and up). We need 2 Acolytes for Christmas Eve so please let Sue know if you will be in church that evening and want to help.



DECEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

The following Christmas books have been donated to our church's library.

"The Nutcracker" by Carolyn Quattrocki (Contributing Writer)

"Merry and Bright" by Debbie Macomber

"Chicken Soup for the Soul...The Gift of Christmas" by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Amy Newmarket.

Merry Christmas! Carol Wolfe, Librarian.

(There is a special display of all our Christmas books and DVDs in our library. Stop in and sign out one or more!)



THANK YOU'S

Hello (First Church)

Always happy to be remembered by friends in the church. I am keeping up with you on facebook. Most recent your trunk or treat. Our trees are putting on their fall show-as we are blessed with frost. Love the colors as usual, can always count on God's blessings! I am sure God is blessing you all as he is me. Miss all of you.

Jean Wolfe



Lynn, Tim and Crew of "Ramps of Hope"

Words can never convey our sincere thanks and gratitude. Your time and dedication are a true tangible witness to your love and service to our Lord and Savior. In Him-Team Bruno-Vince & Patty



TURKEY DINNER REPORT

(First Church)

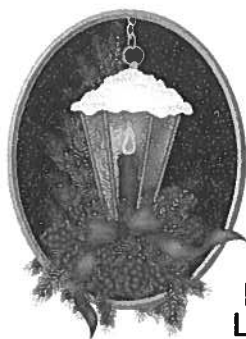
Thank you to all who supported the recent Turkey Dinner through donations, eating, providing pies, or helping. We served about 200 dinners. We have been able to contribute \$815.00 for House of the Carpenter, \$692.75 for our general fund and \$122.25 for Covenant Center Improvement.

Tim Scaife-Activities Chairman



MANORVILLE NURTURE NEWS

We had our Thanksgiving meal on November 9th. Lynn and Sandy had our before-dinner games and they were so much fun. Nancy Gaul and family were the big winners. This year Nurture had our dinner partially catered. The food was delicious and the fellowship was so warm and shared. Thank you to all who helped with serving and cleanup. Thanks to all who came out to support us. This is Judie's last year as co-chair. Lisa will be carrying on with Nurture. Our GREAT thanks to all who have enjoyed our fellowship doings. Next year is right around the corner and plans are already being made. Thanks again and many blessings to you and yours.
Lisa and Judie, Co-chairs



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT

(Union Ave)

The November 4, 2019 meeting of the Union Ave. UMW was held at the Kittanning Cottages Community Room with 9 in attendance. President, Karen Wolfe, opened the meeting with the reading of "The Purpose of the UMW". The hostess was Patty Bowser and Carolyn Ingram.

Devotions: Pastor Deb Kociban

Minute Missions: Donna Shaffer

Prayer Calendar: Peggy Say

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

1. Our recent fund raisers were a great success:
 - A. Cinnamon Roll Sale-\$417.00
 - B. Hoagie Coupons-\$190.00
 - C. Hand Towels & Scrubbies by Donna Titus-\$57.00
2. We will be at the top of the list to receive a family for Christmas from Community Action Agency.
3. Our Christmas dinner will be on December 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM in the Community Room of the Kittanning Cottages, Catered by The Adrian Store.
4. The UMW service pin has arrived and will be presented by President Karen Wolfe when possible.
5. Prayer Partners will be chosen in December for 2020.
6. Blessing Bags and Thank Banks will be on November 24, 2019.
7. Thank you received from Laurie Potter from World Gospel Missions.
8. Thank you received from the Mission Barn for school kits.
9. The amount of our pledge to the district UMW was decided upon and approved.
10. The Reading Program for 2020 will be undertaken by Ellen Nelson.
11. A donation for \$100.00 will be made to the Salvation Army.
12. Everyone needs to put their thinking caps on for suggestions for money expenditures for 2020. Will be discussed at our February meeting.

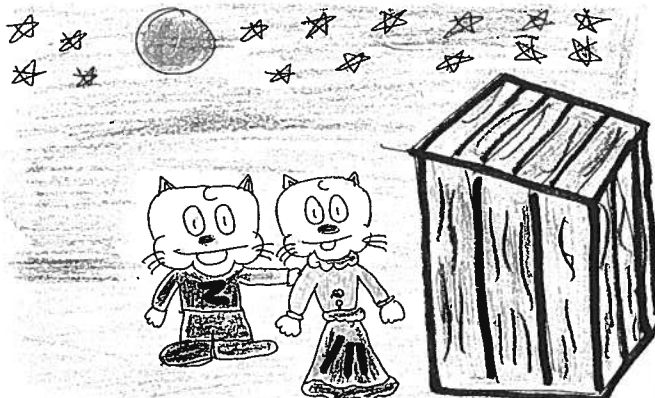
Meeting closed with reading of the UMW's prayer.

And the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Ellen Nelson



At Manorville we have ministered to over 40 children since 2009 from the Prison Ministry. This year we are adopting two children, a girl age 16 and a boy age 18, both still in school and living with their grandmother. We will go shopping in December to buy them presents to include clothes. God has given these children to our church for a reason. Your donations enable us to provide a Christmas for these youth. Checks need to be made out to "MUMC" and on memo line put "Christmas family". They can be mailed to church at P.O. Box 174, Manorville, PA 16238 Thank you all for your giving, Dianna P.S. If we receive enough donations, there is a family of five kids who have no one to sponsor their Christmas for them so maybe we can help them out, too.



Come Let Us Adore Him



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



FIRST CHURCH BIRTHDAYS

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



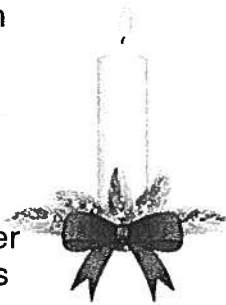
FIRST CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

15 Dan & Linda Cornman-40 years
21 John & Beverly Patton-7 years
23 Greg & Lynn Toth-36 years
31 Franklin & Milly Tarr
31 Jesse & Janess Shriver-3 years




MANORVILLE BIRTHDAYS

2 Michael Alan Czapor
3 Betty Fox
3 Melissa Relich
3 Diana Shaul
3 James Shaul
11 Paige Querry
16 Holly Snyder
17 Ed Gaul
20 Andrew Snyder
21 Jessica Boarts
30 Emily Toy



MANORVILLE ANNIVERSARIES

12 Clarence & Lori Walker
23 Hyatt & Lois Hawk



FORD MEMORIAL BIRTHDAYS

5 Judy Colwell
7 Dorothy Russell
9 Ruth Curry
11 Ed Gerny, III
15 Mark Bryan
22 Ray Weber
27 Jim Say



FORD MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARIES

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



UNION AVENUE BIRTHDAYS

2 Courtney Wolfe
2 Steve Milanak
3 Laura Milanak
11 Amy Wyant
15 Kylie Shaffer
18 Charleen Wyant
20 Bryan Wyant
26 Dana Hough



UNION AVENUE ANNIVERSARIES

22 Dave & Karen Wolfe-50 Years
26 Mike & Sharon Ulisky



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 21, 2019 at 5 PM

First United Methodist Church
301 N. Jefferson Street
Kittanning, Pa 16201



Help your youth attend SPARK: January 24-26, 2020
All youth, 6th-12th grade, are Welcome to attend the cost is \$215.00/person
Contact Melissa Flanders/your pastor



YOUTH CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Mark the number of cookie by the type of cookie. All cookies are sold by the dozen and are \$5.00/dozen

_____ Sugar-snowman trees, stars, stocking

_____ Raisin-filled

_____ Orange

_____ Peanut butter Kiss

_____ Snickerdoodles

_____ TOTAL dozen

Amount Paying _____

Payment method _____

Name: _____

I would like to donate money/supplies: _____

Any questions call Melissa 724-859-2607

Deadline to Order: December 08, 2019

Pick up date: December 22, 2019 @ Covenant

Center, following worship.





LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER

ALL CHARGE LADIES INVITED

Thursday, December 12TH

Crystals Cafe

134 S Grant Ave, Kittanning

6:00 PM

We will be ordering from the menu.

**Bring cookies or sweets for the dessert table, if
you like!**

Deadline: Sunday, December 8th



Please return reservations in the offering plate or church
office. Thank you!

NAME (S): _____

PHONE: _____