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

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Monthly Messenger

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,

I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts

and *new beginnings*.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.

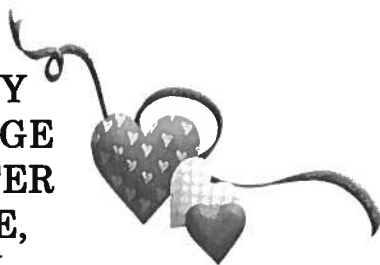
Be glorified in my life this year.

Heather

heathercking.org

JANUARY 2019

**FEBRUARY
NEW CHARGE
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE,
MONDAY,
JANUARY 21, 2019**



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

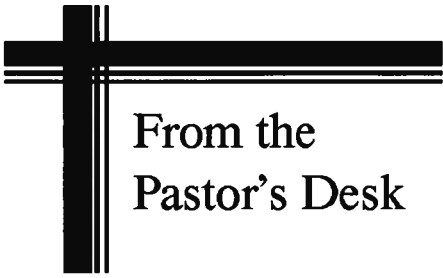
WEB SITE: www.firstchurchkittanning.com

FAX: 724-548-5157

RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 PM



From the
Pastor's Desk

May the grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Philippians 1:2 (CEB)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As I sit writing this, we are still 2 weeks before Christmas and it is difficult for me to wrap my head around the coming New Year. By then the trees and wreaths will be put away, the nativity sets will be carefully boxed for next year, and the houses will become dark again without all the outside lights. Weight Watchers and gyms and diet supplements will be flooding the advertising market as we all contemplate our New Year's resolutions. We will all be left wondering where did 2018 go?

The words of Paul above are most often heard as a benediction spoken at the close of a worship service. But the apostle Paul wrote these words at the beginning of almost all of his letters to the churches. With great wisdom Paul knew that in order for us all to be faithful disciples we must start with the grace and peace of God and Jesus Christ in our hearts and in our lives. For without that precious grace and peace we would have no foothold on which to plant our faith and we would have no room in our souls for our faith to grow.

So as the world moves on to the next holiday, the next self-improvement routine and the next best thing for 2019, let us root ourselves in the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I can think of no better way to begin a new year and no better way to live our lives together.

*Happy New Year,
Pastor Deb*



*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service*

7:00 PM



for Christmas!

**The Church office will be
closed from December 25th
thru January 1st**

JANUARY WORSHIP

Lectionary Readings

January 6, 2019

11:00 AM, Communion,
Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12
Psalm 27:1-7, Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, 2019

11:00 AM,
Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

WELCOME CENTER

6 Sarah Heckert
13 Melissa Flanders
20 Karen Scaife
27 Beverly Patton



READERS

6 Dan Wolfe
13 Natalie Green
20 Michelle Waldenville
27 Jim Ternent



USHERS

6 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski/Communion
13 Epworth/Melissa Flanders
20 Epworth/Melissa Flanders
27 Oxford/Mark Ferguson



SOUND SYSTEM

6 John Yankasky
13 Tim King
20 John Wolfe
27 Bill Lemons



COUNTERS ACOLYTE

6 Williamson
13 Scaife
20 Ternent
27 Yankasky



BELL RINGERS

6 Hallie Hoffman
13 Carlee Beers
20 Chelsea Beers
27 Caden King



On December 30th, Pastor Brenda and Pastor Deb will be exchanging pulpits. Pastor Deb will be preaching at Manorville and Ford Memorial while Pastor Brenda will be preaching at Union Avenue and First.

NEW CHARGE NEWSLETTER

The first ARC Link, the new all charge newsletter will be going out in February. **The deadline for submissions will be January 21st.** Please submit worship opportunities, events, shared ministry opportunities, fund-raisers and anything that is open to all the churches to Audrey at fumchurch@windstream.net or by phone 724-548-4312. **Please note that because of the expected volume of information for the 4 churches the submission deadline is FIRM.**



ALTAR FLOWERS DATES FOR 2019

The following dates are open for Altar flowers for 2019. They are \$25. I will call you the week you have them and then order them for you.

January 6, 13
May 12, 19, 26
August 11, 18
December 1

March 10, 17, 24
June 30
September 22

April 28
July 14
November 3, 10, 24



JANUARY MISSIONS FOCUS

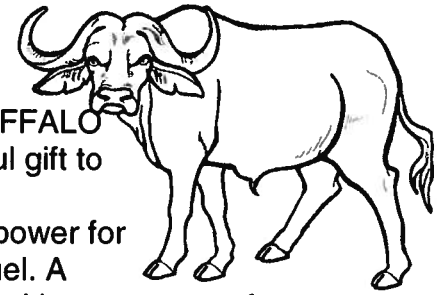
Our church family will contribute money to purchase a WATER BUFFALO from Heifer International. This water buffalo will be a tremendously helpful gift to a family in need.

In poor communities, water buffalo from Heifer are providing draft power for planting rice and potatoes, milk for protein and manure for fertilizer and fuel. A farmer can plant 4x more rice with a buffalo than by hand generating added income to use for clothing, medicine, school and home improvements.

Our gift of a water buffalo costs \$250.00, so let's put our donations together to provide for a family in need. This gift can lead a hungry family out of poverty and give them a chance for a bright future filled with hope and free from hunger.

5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Water Buffalos

- 1) They are aptly named. They often cool off in muddy waters of Asia. They have wide, splayed hooves that enable them to move freely in mud. If food is scarce, they can even dive for plants growing on the beds of rivers and lakes!
- 2) They are the world's largest bovines. The largest ones can weigh about 2,650 pounds with a height of 6" (not including their horns.) Typically they are more petite ranging from 1,500 pounds and up. Their large size has earned water buffalo of both genders the nickname "The Living Tractors of the East."
- 3) They can be fast and furious. Domesticated buffalo are gentle enough to be milked and ridden. Wild ones can be greatly aggressive and face off with tigers and lions. They can run up to 30 mph!
- 4) We have probably consumed their milk. Compared to a standard cow's milk, water buffalo milk contains higher levels of protein, calcium and iron while sporting less cholesterol and lactose. It is not a popular drink in America; however, it is often used to make mozzarella cheeses!
- 5) Water Buffalo have been domesticated for over 2,000 years. Around the world, these large bovines are still giving human beings a helping hoof. Besides cows, they give a significant percentage of the global milk production. In Asia and many other areas of the world, water buffalo are even the principal source of milk!



MISSION UPDATES



~~Our Church family provided 51 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and \$100.00 check. Many thanks, dear church family!



~~A hearty **THANK YOU** to Sarah Heckert, Joe Heckert and Jim Scaife representing our church at our Food Bank. They unloaded boxes from the truck at the Community Action Center...at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, November 13. We have members with **big hearts and servant hearts! Thank you!!**

ATTENTION ALL WRITERS

It is time once again to begin to think about our next Lenten Devotional! We need 40 plus devotions for our 11th edition of this inspirational daily guide for Lent, 2019. Let God lead you as you say "YES" to contributing to this worth-while ministry. All devotions need to be received in the church office no later than February 11th. You can mail, hand deliver or email your devotional. Any questions, contact Sarah Heckert 724-543-1083 or joeheckert@yahoo.com. God Bless



JANUARY LIBRARY NEWS

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

"Winter Solstice" by Rosamunde Pilcher

"Ideals Christmas" published by Ideals

"Mary Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry

"The Christmas Guest" by Any Griffith

"The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg

"When God Whispers Your Name" and "The Cross" both
by Max Lucado and

"Threads Of Truth" by Kristin Eckhardt. (This last book

belongs to the Patchwork Mysteries series.) Also, the Christmas DVD "The Perfect Gift" was donated.

Happiness is...Starting A New Book!



THANK YOU

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$60.00 to the Food Bank at Grace Presbyterian Church.

At a recent Food Bank, we had a new volunteer helping to distribute food. She said her eyes were opened to the need in the community. In the orientation with her, I told her of the support we receive from other churches. She, like we are, was amazed! Thank you for your support-we are grateful.

Sincerely, Kay & Steve Owen

Food Bank Coordinators



OPPORTUNITIES AT OTHER CHARGE CHURCHES

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.

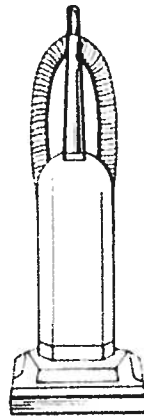
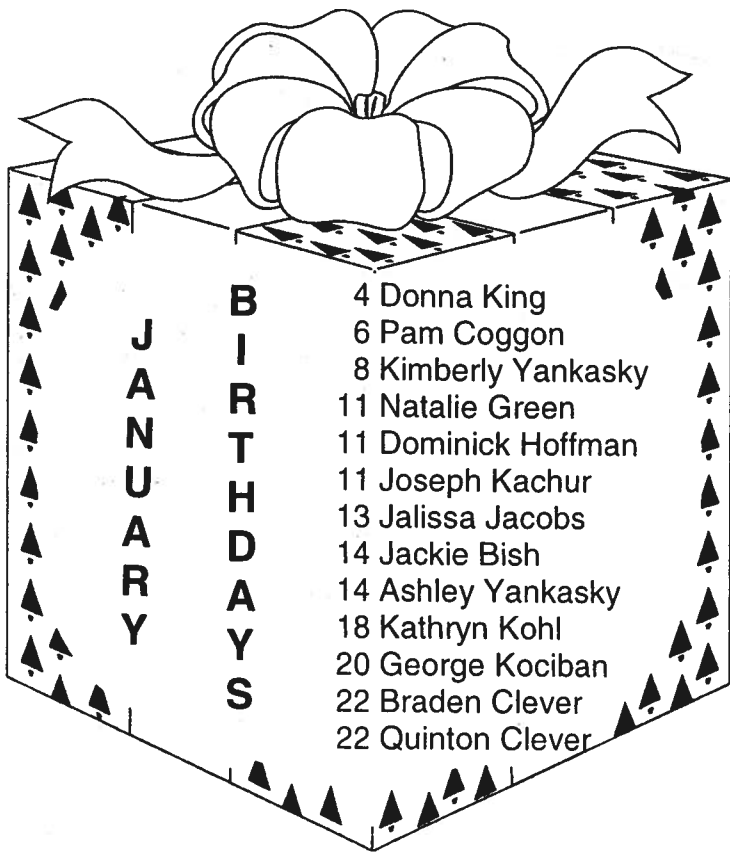
MANORVILLE UMC~ Casual Church will be taking a break in January and February due to unpredictable weather. We hope to be back in March with new and exciting evenings.



WATCH
NIGHT

WATCH NIGHT AT MANORVILLE-On New Year's Eve, December 31st, Manorville UMC is sponsoring a Watch Night meal and movie beginning with pizza and salad supper at 6:00 PM. Then...fresh popped popcorn for watching a "family" friendly movie. And maybe some ice cream thrown in there for good measure! Please register if you plan to attend by calling the church office at 724-763-1254 or 724-525-5115 (Lu). Let's party the "OLD" year out with good food & good fellowship in a Christian setting. Everyone can be home before the "New Year" revelers are out on the roads.

UNION AVENUE UMC~ United Methodist Women, 1st Monday of the month except for months with a holiday falling on Monday and during the summer. The meetings are held at the Kittanning Cottages Community Room at 4:00 PM.



WANTED

The Covenant Center clean team is in need of one or even two used sweepers. An upright would be best. So, if Santa brought you a new sweeper you can make room by donating your old one. Please see Linda Scaife.

RAINBOW ROAD ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Rainbow Road Preschool is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. There are classes two days a week for 3-year-olds (by September 1st) and three days a week for prekindergarten students. To receive an application or more information, contact the First United Methodist Church office at 724-548-4312 or go online at www.firstchurchkittanning.com.



2019 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

Our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity continues:

Cans received (November 15-December 15) 823

Cans received since end of VBS 2018 (June 22) 14,535

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 186 drink cans and to be in Mission with us. *Thank you, The Can Man*

SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 17th

12:00 Noon-Covenant Center

PROGRAM: Glorianna Andreako, Christian Counselor

MENU: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy
Mixed Vegetables, Angel Food Cake & Toppings

Reservations by Monday, January 14th



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2019

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
CHURCH COUNCIL (7:00 PM)	21		18		20		15		16		18	
STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS (7:00 PM)		5		2				6			5	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM (7:00 PM)		26		23				27		22		
NURTURE, OUTREACH, WITNESS (7:00 PM)	14		11		13		8		9		11	
WORSHIP (7:00 PM)		6				5		7		9		
FINANCE COMMITTEE (6:30 PM)	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16
NOMINATIONS TEAM (7:00 PM)							17	21	18			
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (7:00 PM)			26							22		
TRUSTEES (6:30 PM)		4	4			3		5			4	

Other meetings will be called as needed

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (No more than 9 members) **

Chairperson – Pastor, Deb Kociban

Lay Leader – Melissa Flanders

2019

Kathy Coleman

Sue Hankey

Dennis Hoffman

Kim Yankasky

2020

Carolyn Gallaher

2021

Marlene Colville

NURTURE, OUTREACH AND WITNESS TEAM

Chair – Sarah Heckert

Missions –Janet McKelvey

S.I.F.T. - Sally Felton

Membership Secretary—Audrey Green

Fellowship Team –Brenda Beers

At Large: Merissa Smith

Camping-Sally Felton

Rainbow Road--Mert Hellein

Hospitality Team –Cindy Volek

Funeral Coordinator-Karen Scaife

Web Site – Sue Hankey

Caring Friends—Kathy Coleman (temp)

Pastor-Deb Kociban

Caring Friends Team

Sally Felton, Bonnie Ferguson, Janet McKelvey, Kathy Riffer, Kathy Coleman

Fellowship Team

Brenda Beers, Audrey Green, Mert Hellein, Valerie Kachur, Shannon Yanoschick

WORSHIP TEAM

Lay Leader –Melissa Flanders

Communion Stewards –Pam Coggon

Audio/Visual – John Yankasky

Acolytes – Sue Hankey

Accompanist—Emily King

Usher Team – Donna Lazan

Choir Director – Emily King

Nursery – Linda Powell

Children's Choir--Brenda Beers

Communion Stewards

Pam Coggon, Karen Scaife, Melissa Flanders

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chairperson-- Sue Hankey

Children Coordinator – Sue Hankey

Vacation Bible School –Sue Hankey, Audrey Green

Sunday School Teachers – Sue Hankey, Jim Ternent, Kelly Hoffman, Melissa Flanders,

Brad Hellein, Audrey Green

Children's Church—Carolyn Gallaher

Youth Coordinator –

Patton Scholarship—Carolyn Gallaher

At Large Members – Cindy Volek, Mary Jo Lipski

Patton Scholarship Team

Carolyn Gallaher, Janet McKelvey, Kim Yankasky, Pastor

RAINBOW ROAD ADVISORY BOARD

Chair- Mert Hellein

Registrar – Linda Scaife

Treasurer – Melissa Flanders

Members-Brenda Beers, Kelly Hoffman, Suzanne Hogamier, Janine Muir, Merissa Smith, Becky Zelinski, Sally Krozely, Brenda Buzzinotti

Ex-Officio Members –Kim Yankasky, Diane Thomas, Shari Schrecengost

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Chair– Tim Scaife

Members-Sally & Tony Krozely, June Pollard, Tim & Linda Scaife, Dan Wolfe, Terri Crouse, Jim Ternent, Larry Mckelvey, Melissa Flanders, Gabe Smith, Kim Yankasky

ART SHOW COMMITTEE

Chair – Melissa Flanders

Members-Penny Ashley, Sally Felton, Audrey Green, Sue Hankey, Laurie Lemons, Janet McKelvey, June Pollard, Linda Scaife, Lynn Toth, Kim Yankasky, Beverly Patton

CHURCH HISTORIAN

Joe Bowser

CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHER

Lynn Toth

LIBRARIAN








Carol Wolfe

**Passed on November 12, 2017 at Church Conference:

- Members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee may serve a term of three (3) years only. There can be no succession to this team.
- Members of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee may serve a term of three (3) years only. There can be no succession to this team.



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	 1 NEW YEARS DAY 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	2 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	3 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	4 	5 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC	
6 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	7  8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	9 10:00-2:00 PM Clergy Communities-Library 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	10 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle-CC	11 	12 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC	
13 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 AM Camp 43-CC	14 7:00 PM Nurture, Outreach & Witness Team	15 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	16 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	17 12:00 PM SIFT-CC 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	18 	19 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
20 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	21 6:30 PM Finance 7:00 PM Church Council NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	23 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	24 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter	25 	26 6:30 PM We Surrender-CC
27 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28 NEWSLETTER	29 8:30 AM 3R's 6:00 PM Women Fellowship FOOD BANK PICK-UP 7:00 PM New Found Freedom-CC	30 3:45 PM ARC Manor 6:00 PM Adult Choir	31 7:00 PM Heavenly Daughter Robert Dunmire-CC	