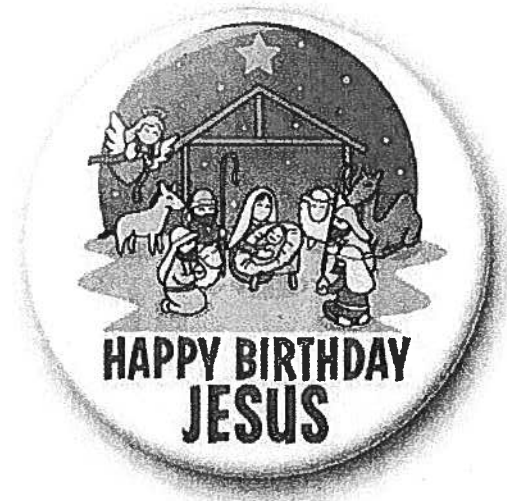
 **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312

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ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE

Senior Pastor: Rev. Deb Kociban

Associate Pastor: Brenda Sommerville Schall



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

Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 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

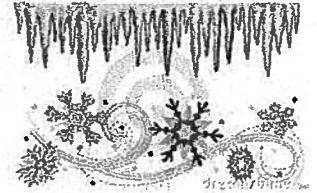
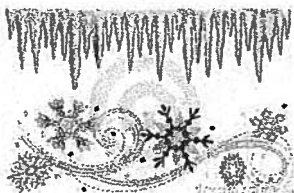
Email: mumc@windstream.net 724-763-1254

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

724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please get articles to Audrey no later than
SUNDAY, December 13, 2020. Thank you





**Pastor Deb's
Message**

"That's enough! Now know that I am God!

Psalm 46: 10 CEB

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm not sure what happened, but somehow, we have managed to begin the Christmas crazy earlier than ever. The experts say that the pandemic has pushed us to want to begin the celebration early. We need something joyful on the horizon so that we can make it through the day. Black Friday deals started immediately after Halloween and will continue until Christmas eve. Online buying is exploding. Neighbors have been decorating their homes since November 1st. There are shortages of turkeys and hams and, of course, toilet paper. Before we even put the Thanksgiving meal on the table, we are stressing about Christmas. What are we doing, church? What are we doing? In David's psalm he is praising his God of refuge and strength. He is proclaiming his God who is always near in times of trouble. While David laments the troubles of the world, noting the raging waters, roaring nations, and the crumbling kingdoms, he rejoices in the knowledge that God is with Israel and that God brings wars to an end.

David quotes God, "Be still and know that I am God." Amid the troubles of the world, the wars of the people, and the struggles of personal circumstances, God wants Israel to stop. Stop all the fighting, stop all the striving after the shadows of the world, stop and know in the depth of their souls that God is the great I AM. Stop and know that God will provide a place of refuge and safety.

Brothers and sisters, as we head into Advent and the Christmas celebration, it's enough now! It's enough stressing and striving. It's enough worrying and anxiousness. It's more than time for us to stop. We need to stop in our tracks and assess if what we are doing is drawing us into the heart of God. The troubles of this world will continue without us wringing our hands over them. Our personal struggles need us to step back and lean into God. Our souls need the deep rest that only God can give. We need to stop and know that God is our place of refuge and safety. Let us allow Christmas to

become our God ordained place of peace and refreshment. Let us remember that the birth of Jesus occurred so that God's salvation would become a reality for the world.

So, I confess, I am burning up the internet with gift purchases and shopping for deals. I have acquired a turkey and ham for the holiday meals. Yes, I have toilet paper. However, I have stopped short of decorating at this point. Please know that I too struggle with being still right now, but it is imperative for us as the people of God, as the church of Jesus Christ to stop, to be still and to find ways throughout the course of our day to welcome Jesus as our Savior. It is imperative to the health of our souls and the health of our communities, that we stop. It is enough stress for this moment. It is enough worry for this one moment. It is enough, for this one moment, to know that God is God and to allow the joy, the peace, the salvation of Christmas to reign in our lives, in my life, for this one moment. Hopefully, those one moments will be strung together by the Holy Spirit and become the days and the weeks of our lives.

Let us prepare for Christmas by being still, by saying, 'That's enough!' and by knowing that God is our salvation, our refuge, and our safety.

Merry Christmas, brothers and sisters!

Blessings,

Pastor Deb



**Pastor
Brenda's
Message**

Shine where you are! As God's people we have been held captive in a darkness of sin for too long. When returning home only to find the darkness of physical destruction. We all need more of God's light that shines through us because of Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and it calls all of us this Advent season to shine as the Holy Spirit repairs our faith and our lives for Advent.

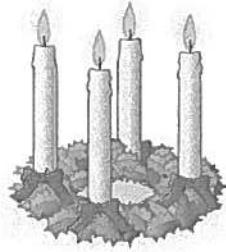
We live in a broken sinful world, but our light comes from Christ. Let's let it shine on all that we come in contact with.

Chester and I wish for you and yours the brightest of Christmas wishes and a blessed New Year.

Pastor Brenda

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

December 6, 2020, BYOB Communion
2nd Sunday of Advent
Joshua 1:7-9, Colossians 3:15-17
Luke 1:26-38



December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent
Exodus 15:1-3, Philippians 4:4-8
Luke 1:39-45

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent
Genesis 28:10-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-6,
Luke 1:5-25

December 27, 2020
Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148,
Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

CHARGE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Union Avenue Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 PM
Manorville Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM
Ford Memorial Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM
First United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 and 7:00 PM--
First Church--you MUST pre-register for which service you plan to attend.



Ministerium Advent Service-
December 17th at 6:00 PM at Ford Memorial UMC.



VIEW FROM THE PEW

I've been thinking of Christmas this year, and how Covid has curtailed many longtime family traditions. With all the travel restrictions, "home for the holidays" has become a thing of the past for many families. All the "hustle and bustle" of the past are no longer a concern. Maybe this is a good time to pause and reflect on what the holidays are all about. Let's take time to sit back and really think about what we are celebrating. This should not be about who gives the biggest and most expensive gift. This should be about celebrating the Birth of the Christ Child, our Savior, our King, the Lord of Lords. This is His Birthday we are celebrating. Let's remember to keep Christ in Christmas. After all, Jesus is the reason for the Season. Prayers for a Blessed Christmas 🎄. God bless you all.
Darla Bernot

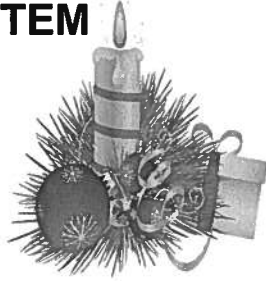




FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES

SOUND SYSTEM

- 6 Tim King
- 13 John Wolfe
- 20 Tim Scaife
- 24 Gabe Smith
- 27 Tim Scaife



COUNTERS

- 6 McKelvey
- 13 Scaife
- 20 Williamson
- 24 Ternent
- 27 Yankasky



READERS 10:00

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27



BELL RINGERS

- 6 Jocelyn King
- 13 Ashley Yankasky
- 20 Madelyn Smith
- 27 Evva Yanoschick



USHERS

- 6 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
- 13 Albright/Dan Wolfe
- 20 Albright/Dan Wolfe
- 27 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski



READERS 11:00

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27



We are having worship at **10:00 AM** and **11:00 AM** with **live stream on Facebook** at the 11:00 AM worship. **Face masks are required at both services.**

Due to limited seating, **you must call to pre-register** your attendance for either service. Monday-Thursday 8:00-12:00. The office is closed on Friday. You may also place a standing registration for the service you will be attending.

Seating for the 10:00 AM service will begin at 9:45 AM and seating for 11:00 AM service begins at 10:50 AM. Only the Ramp Entrance will be open. Please remain vigilant at keeping 6ft. apart. Markers are on the ramp and floor to remind you.

DECEMBER SIFT LUNCHEON

The December SIFT Luncheon will be **Thursday, December 17, 2020**. The meal will be pre-order, take out Christmas Dinner. Pick up between Noon and 1PM at the rear alley entrance of the Covenant Center.

The menu will be baked ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, and Christmas cookies for dessert. Reservations are needed by **Noon, Monday, December 14**. Call the church office 724 548-4312 to place your order



2021 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

For Habitat for Humanity

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity
Cans Received October 15th-November 15th—4,045
Total cans received through November 15th—22,782

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.

Call the church office 724-548-4312 or me 724-548-7124 or 724-859-0819 if you need a can pick-up.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent

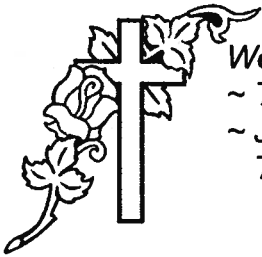
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15 Dan & Linda Cornman-41 years
 21 John & Beverly Patton-8 years
 21 Tim & Melissa Bureau-1 year
 23 Greg & Lynn Toth-37 years
 31 Franklin & Milly Tarr
 31 Jesse & Janessa Shriver-4 years



We extend our Christian compassion and concern to:

~ The family of Melvin Cogley Jr. Melvin passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020.
 ~ Jean Wolfe and her family on the death of her son Mark Walker. Mark passed away on Tuesday, November 4, 2020.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you so very much for the incredible donation to Blessings in a Backpack. In a time when there is so much uncertainty, the kindness and generosity of people in our community is humbling. Thank you, Thank you for thinking of and supporting our program. Thank you for helping to feed children in our community. Take care and thank you so much!
 With Gratitude, Molly Atwood



Dear Church,

Thank you for a memorial church service. Everything was fine from the talented musicians to Pastor Deb's comforting words to the fellowship following the service. Our family is so grateful for the thoughts, prayers, visits, and cards over these challenging times. I am honored to be a member of such a caring church family.

Sincerely, Gale Blaney



Dear church,

Your gift during my time of grief is much appreciated. Thanks so much for all of your compassion and concern for me and my family.

Sincerely, Gail Blaney



MISSIONS FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

Our church family will focus on some of the most vulnerable families of our local Salvation Army during the month of December. Our financial gift will help to pay for food, clothing, children's and families Christmas gifts.

Won't you help brighten Christmas for these families this year with a gift from your heart?

Matthew 25:35-36

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

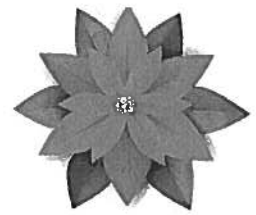
May you be blessed as you give this Christmas.

Meaghan & Janet



POINSETTIAS

Due to a shortage of poinsettias this year Fords Flowers will not be able to have poinsettias available for churches this Christmas season.



ORGAN NEWS



The organ in First church was installed in the mid 1950's when the church had a major renovation and has served us well. Our organist Nick Snow (1964 until his death in 2010) was instrumental in keeping it in good working condition and in having several improvements made.

Since 2010 we have had a succession of several organists and times when no organist until Emily King became our accompanist and decided to learn to play the organ.

Over the years and especially during the past 10 years, age has resulted in the need for some major repair work. This work had been put off due to having no prospects of an organist in sight until Emily undertook the challenge.

In the past five months, the first two projects took place:

1. the original electric motor which drives the blowers to provide air to the organ pipes was replaced.
2. The organ pipes fit into wooden windchests which contain all of the valves, electric contacts, and wires to activate each sound. Four of the windchests which contained the largest pipes (for the deep notes from the foot pedals) had many problems. These four chests and pipes were removed and taken to an organ company in Erie to have new chests built. These new chests and refurbished pipes were put back in on Thursday and Friday, November 12 & 13th.



During the reinstalation some more problems were discovered which will be corrected.

Our organ contains approximately 1100 pipes mounted on 7 windchests plus a rack of 21 chimes. The pipes average from 6 inches long to about 20 feet long.

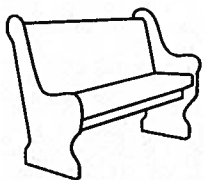
This repair work was done in memory of Alice Ternent who took lessons on this organ from Nick for 25 years and who dearly loved and enjoyed our organ. Practicing on it every morning before going to her kindergarten class and children was her music therapy.

SNOW SHOVELING

The big question! How much snow will we have this winter? Unfortunately no one knows the answer (maybe the caterpillars)! We need some volunteers to scrape or shovel the North Jefferson Street and Vine Street sidewalks. Would you be willing to help? Please call the church office.



PEWS



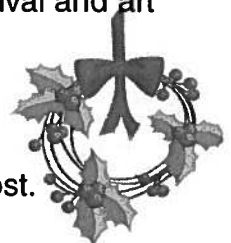
As we have changed seating in the sanctuary, a few pews have been removed. Two 12-foot pews remain in the Covenant Center. Make your best offer and the cushion will be included! Remember, you can own a piece of First Church history. These pews can be cut down for attractive porch or entryway seating.

COVENANT CENTER REMODELING

It is a time for Thanksgiving! Phase II of the Covenant Center remodeling is complete. While Rainbow Road and the Christian Counselor moved into new accommodations in September, the stage area is now converted into two-story storage for all our supplies related to dinners, folk festival and art show. The doors were made from original woodwork from the Jewish synagogue.

A big thank you is extended to those who made this construction possible.

John Yankasky, Tim Scaife, Joe Bowser, Joe Heckert, Diane Thomas, Michael Thomas, Kim Yankasky, Gabe Smith, John Wolfe, Dave Yanoschick, George Kociban, Jim Ternent, Dan Wolfe, Bob Wolfe, Bonnie Bowser, Herb Coggon, Pam Coggon and Shari Schrecengost.





UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The November 2, 2020 meeting of the UAUMW was held at 2:00 PM at the church with 10 in attendance. The meeting opened with the reading of the "Purpose of the United Methodist Women" led by President Karen Wolfe. The hostesses were Patty Bowser, Ruth Gallaher and Carolyn Ingram. The devotions were presented by Pastor Deb. Minute Missions by Donna Shaffer, Prayer calendar by Donna Titus.

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



Women's Missions and Programs:

We have received a family for Christmas from the Community Action Agency. Karen Wolfe and her daughter Courtney will be buying gifts for them.

We have made \$200 selling hoagie coupons and another 15 books of coupons were obtained to sell.

Menu for the Christmas dinner was chosen and members selected what they wanted. The dinner will be catered by the Adrian Store again. Members will be in charge of games and entertainment, decorations, cold drinks and desserts.

Blessings in a Back Pack is not accepting food this year but is accepting money. \$130 will feed a child for a year- a motion was made to send \$260.00 to them and the motion was passed.

Membership forms and reports were sent in to the UMW district.

The Reading Program for 2021-2022 will be done by Ellen Nelson. Books from the Reading Program, present and past, will be put in the library in the church office so anyone else wishing to read them may do so.

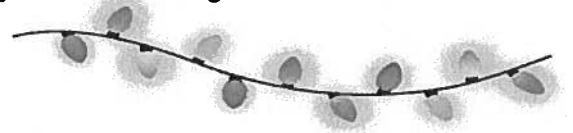
Climate justice and Racial justice will be the focus in 2021 for the UMW.

A \$75.00 donation was sent to the Salvation Army for Feeding the Hungry program.

A monetary donation was sent to the Community Action Agency for the Turkey Fund.

The meeting closed with the reading of the UMW's prayer. No meeting in December as we will have our Christmas Dinner on December 7, 2020 at 2:00 PM.

Secretary, Ellen Nelson



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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





MANORVILLE LINK PAGES



FINANCIAL COUNTERS

- 6 Jack Bennett & Jim Boarts
- 13 Mike Snyder & Luella Bennett
- 20 Bob & Dianna Brocius
- 27 Sandy McKee & Lynn Sibley



Hand sanitizer and face masks continue to be available inside the doors for your use and safety.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

DECEMBER 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 Congregational Turkey on Saturday, November 14, was a challenge because of evolving circumstances but we persevered and had an enjoyable evening. We got 36 take-outs ready, then 18 of us sat down and enjoyed a delicious turkey meal. The fellowship was humming and the three little girls got to know each other to the delight of Pastor Brenda. A **BIG** thank you to Randy, Irene, Logan, and Paige for their help to get everything ready and a **BIG** thank you to Pastor Brenda, Chet and Randy for helping to clean up.

Judie & Luella (and Lisa)

FORD CITY FOOD CUPBOARD

There is a basket in the vestibule in which you can deposit your donations of food. The food items will be taken down to Ford City and added to the supplies to be given out to needy families in the area. Always needed are 1-lb pastas, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, cereals, instant potatoes, etc. Monetary donations are always accepted. **THANK YOU** for your donations of Blessing Bags of food that were given in love for the needy.



POINSETTIAS



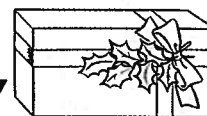
Since Ford Flowers will not have poinsettias available to churches, we will use our silk poinsettias. In addition, Nancy Busch will make arrangements in our altar vases to enjoy during the Christmas season.

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

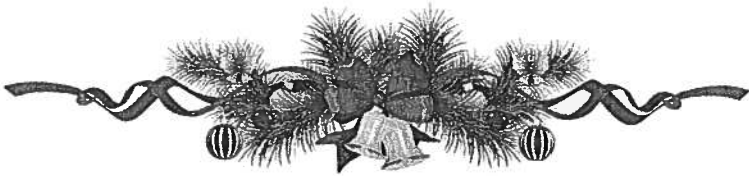
At Manorville we will have a separate tree for this. For every \$10 given for Blessings in a Backpack an angel will be hung on the tree. A separate offering basket will be put out for this. Please consider adding an angel to the tree from your family to help feed mostly elementary children over the weekends. So many families still do not have working parents so this is so appreciated by them to help feed their children.



PRISON MINISTRY



The church will be supporting the Prison Ministry in providing Christmas gifts for children of a family that one or both parents are incarcerated. Please mark on check on remit line, "Christmas Family". Or put your donation in an envelope and mark "Christmas Family" on the outside. Donations are due by December 13th so the shopping can be done and gifts delivered to the family.



MANORVILLE CONTINUED

Our Spirits Lake offering was \$250 that will be sent to Mike & Libby Flowers for their ministry for the Nakota, Dakota, and Lakota nations. **Thank you for your generous giving.**

The Ruth M. Smith Center will receive \$250 from our All Saint's doves. We shared our loved ones' names on that Sunday plus we are able to assist RMS in their service to the community. **THANK YOU!!**

FROM THE MAIL

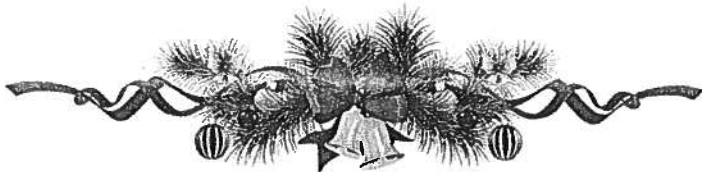
To Manorville UMC,

I am overwhelmed by the love and support you have shown me in this difficult time. Thank you so much for your generous donation! Thank you for all your prayers and support! I can't express how much it means to me!! Chase Anthony



To Manorville UMC,

Thank you so very much for your generous contribution to our Blessings in a Backpack program. There is much uncertainty in the world, but kind and caring people make it possible to continue our mission of feeding children. Take care! Molly Atwood (Blessings in a BackPack)



FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



CARE AND SHARE SHOP

The Care & Share Shop at Ford Memorial Church, 1024 4th Avenue in Ford City will be open Friday, December 11th from 10:00 – 1:00 PM. Gently worn clothing is sold for 20c - \$1.00. Open to the public, ADA compliant, 724-763-1540.





Help your youth attend SPARK: April 17, 2021
 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 and are \$6.50/dozen

_____ Sugar- assortment with or without sprinkles

_____ Raisin-filled

Deadline to Order: December 06, 2020

_____ Orange

Pick up date: December 20, 2020 @ Covenant

_____ Peanut butter Kiss

Center, following 11:00 worship.

_____ Snickerdoodles

_____ TOTAL dozen

Amount Paying _____

Payment method _____

Name: _____

I would like to donate money/supplies: _____

Any questions or to place an order: call Melissa 724-859-2607



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, 2020 at 7 PM

First United Methodist Church

301 N. Jefferson Street

Kittanning, Pa 16201

