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

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JESUS  
DIDN'T SAY,  
"I AM FINISHED."  
HE SAID,  
"IT IS FINISHED."  
HE WAS JUST  
GETTING  
STARTED.



### 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  
Worship 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM **Email:** [fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net](mailto:fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net)  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 – 12:00 PM **Website:** [firstchurchkittanning.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:mumc@windstream.net) 724-763-1254

**Union Avenue United Methodist Church**-421 Union Ave, Kittanning PA 16201  
724-543-5012 Worship 9:00 AM



**APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Please get articles to Audrey no later than  
**SUNDAY, March 21, 2021. Thank you**



# Pastor Deb's Message

**“We don’t see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist.” 1 Corinthians 13: 12**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was in trouble. Our professor had just turned out the lights. Apparently, his classes consisted entirely of slide shows shown throughout the semester. It was my first Art Appreciation class, and it was a mistake. Looking for an easy elective, I chose this class. I should have known better. It was 8 AM on a Tuesday morning. With little sleep and no caffeine, staying awake was going to be a struggle, every Tuesday and Thursday morning for 12 long weeks.

I watched, bleary-eyed, as architecture, statuary, paintings, and art installations were flashed on the screen and his voice droned on. While I have retained little of this class, I discovered that I love impressionism. In particular, Monet’s *Water Lilies Series*, speaks to me. The ponds and lilies are fuzzy around the edges and not well defined. I love their softness and gentleness.

The thirteenth chapter of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians is known as the love chapter. Famously read at weddings, it does not address romantic love. Instead, Paul is speaking about their lack of maturity when it comes to Christian love. Paul lists for the church the qualities of a mature love rooted in Jesus. Yet, Paul offers grace. He understands that we do not have the ability to see what God sees. He understands that the world as we see it is out of focus and without clear form. Because of this fogginess, our expression of love needs guidelines and definition.

But there is hope for us. Paul completes this verse by writing, “But it won’t be long before the weather clears, and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us.” At the completion of time, God will reveal all things to us. We will see ourselves and God clearly. Love will be genuine and will not be clouded by our imperfections and immaturity.

Our journey through Lent is an opportunity for us to push back some of the fog that distorts our relationship with and our sight of God. As we pray, worship, study and repent, clarity will come, and we will know God more fully. In this way, God’s love will become our way of living and our way of relating to God and to one another.

I do love the softness and gentleness of Monet’s *Water Lilies Series*. I like the fact that you don’t necessarily “see” the lilies more so you “feel” their impression. I guess there is a part of me that wishes all the world would be soft and gentle at the edges.

I am thankful, though, that God will clear up the fogginess that sometimes surrounds my ability to see God clearly and impedes my ability to love in the way of Jesus. As we make our way to the cross of Jesus, let us endeavor to allow our spiritual disciplines to push away the foggy edges of our understanding so that we may know God more fully, just as we are fully known. Let us learn to love in the way of Jesus.

Lesson learned. Never again register for an 8 AM class of any kind. May we claim the same about Jesus and his love. Lesson learned.

Blessings, Pastor Deb



First Church Sunday School will start up again on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> for all ages.  
9:45- 10:45 AM

# MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS

**March 7, 2021, BYOB Communion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

*Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19,  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22*



**March 21, 2021,  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12,  
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33*

**March 14, 2021,  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

*Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22,  
Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21*

**March 28, 2021  
Palm Sunday**

*Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16,  
Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47*



## VIEW FROM THE PEW “HEART TO HEART”

As a lot of you know, I had major heart surgery at the end of September. Quadruple bypass was in store for me. I had some issues with small symptoms in late summer. I would get some chest pain if I was doing something and it was hot out. If I would stay and rest for a while the pain would go away. I went for a physical and told my Dr. at the VA about it; he said I don't like this, scheduled me for a Nuclear Stress Test at the VA in Pittsburgh. Something showed up; I went back two weeks later for a Cardiac Cath. Doctor did not like what he saw. They admitted me the same day, a Thursday, I had surgery on Monday.

When I was told about the surgery it felt like I got kicked in the gut by a mule. I knew they would take good care of me plus I had God in my corner. I had so many prayers and support from people coming my way. I thank everyone for their concern. God is good.

I have been recovering for four months now. Did three months of Cardiac Rehab at the Butler VA, was taken good care of again.

I went back to work at Sprankles two weeks ago delivering groceries one day a week. It is going very well.

God has a plan for all of us no matter what is in our lives. I thank God everyday for a new lease on life.

James B Boarts, Manorville UMC

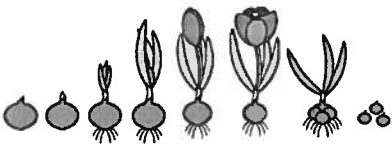


## RAMPS OF HOPE RECEIVES GRANTS

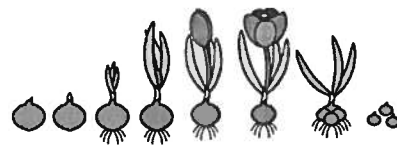
The Ramps of Hope ministry of the UMC in Armstrong County is pleased to announce that we have received a Medical Staff grant from the Armstrong County Memorial Hospital Foundation in the amount of \$5500. Our team from the Allegheny River Charge has built 114 ramps since they began in October 2013. With all the work being done by volunteers, materials for ramps generally cost anywhere from \$200 to \$2000. Many recipients do not have the financial means to afford a ramp but most of them try to give a donation toward a ramp's cost. This grant will help us to ensure that everyone who needs and requests a ramp will get one.

In addition, the Ramps of Hope ministry of Indiana District has received a \$3735 grant from the UMC's Global Ministries Mission Support. This is a very competitive grant throughout the WPAUMC and we are pleased to have received an award. This will be used by ramps teams in all counties of Indiana District. With funding from both of these grants, our ministry will be better able to meet our mission of enhancing the lives of those with limited mobility by providing ramps at their homes. We also always welcome donations from community organizations and individuals who feel moved to support this ministry.

Lynn Sibley and Tim Scaife

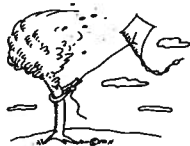


# FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



## SOUND SYSTEM

- 7 John Wolfe
- 14 Gabe Smith
- 21 Tim Scaife
- 28 Dave Yanoschick



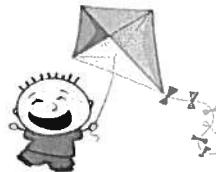
## COUNTERS

- 7 Williamson
- 14 Ternent
- 21 Yankasky
- 28 Bureau



## USHERS

- 7 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
- 14 Epworth/Melissa Bureau
- 21 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
- 28 Oxford/Mark Ferguson



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 indoor 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.

## MARCH SIFT LUNCHEON



The March SIFT Luncheon will be **Thursday, March 18, 2021.** The meal will be pre-order, take out Dinner. Pick up between Noon and 1PM at the rear alley entrance of the Covenant Center. The menu will be Chicken Noodle Soup, Jello Salad, Italian Bread, Crackers & Brownies. Reservations are needed by **Noon, Monday, March 15th** and are limited to 100. Call the church office 724 548-4312 to place your order. Thank you



## 2021 VBS ALUMINUM CANS

For Habitat for Humanity

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity  
Cans Received January 15th-February 15<sup>th</sup>—5,052  
Total cans received through February 15<sup>th</sup>—35,047

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



## ALTAR FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE FOR 2021

We have the following dates open for altar flowers. The flower arrangements are \$25.00. If you would like any of these dates please let Audrey know. Thank you

- March 28
- July 18 & 25
- October 31

- April 18 & 25
- August 8 & 15
- November 21

- June 13
- September 5



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Brenda Sommerville Schall  
4 Thomas Hicks  
4 Glenn Krozely  
6 Trenton Podvorec  
7 Dan Cornman  
10 Tom Hicks  
12 Linda Cornman



20 Franklin Tarr  
21 Janessa Shriver  
21 Gabi Zielinski  
22 Larry McKelvey  
25 Lora Williamson  
27 Bob Buzzinotti  
27 Tim Scaife

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

17 Thomas & Tara Hicks-8 years  
27 Tony & Robyn Green-10 years



## MISSIONS FOCUS FOR MARCH-RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Our church will again participate in the RISE AGAINST HUNGER project. This exciting and meaningful event will be Saturday, September 11th from 9:00am – Noon, in Apollo as the New Beginnings UMC will be the host. This month and in the next couple months, our focus will be to gather money toward our church's goal of \$1100. Remember, other churches will join us in this endeavor. Won't you give generously as we share our blessings so that others will have nourishing food? In a few months we will be looking for about 20 assembly line volunteers (a very fun job!). Would you like to be one of them? Let us know. May God encourage us to be blessings for others.

Meaghan & Jane

## MISSION THANK YOU

*On behalf of the Kittanning Salvation Army, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,085.00 for the year 2020. We truly appreciate your gift.*

*God Bless, Captain Luke Barney*



## VBS MEETING

VBS is scheduled for the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have a planning meeting on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. We will need to do VBS different and need ideas.

## YOUTH NEWS

Time is running out to register for **SPARK 2021**

Attention all youth, grades 6-12. The cost is \$95.00/youth. This one day event happens: April 17, 2021. Brenda and I invite any youth grades 6-12 that wish to join us in a day of Fun and Fellowship to contact Melissa at 724-859-2607 or the church office. Guest speaker: Shanterra McBride, Worship Leader: Catie Hurst. Deadline to register is March 26<sup>th</sup>, space is limited.



## ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

The 2021 Fort Armstrong Folk Festival has been scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. **The Covenant Center Art Show is on for 2021.** Tentative information for this event is: Applications available March 31, 2021. Details will be released at that time on the church's website, in the newsletter and in the office. Get your cameras and brushes busy. This is going to be the best show ever.



## RAINBOW ROAD

Rainbow Road Preschool will be holding an Open House for anyone interested in our program on Monday, March 1, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 PM at our school. We are located in the Covenant Center. Registrations for the 2021-2022 school year are being accepted with programs for 3 and 4 year-old children. If you have any questions call the church office at 724-548-4312 or go to our website at [www.firstchurchkittanning.com](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com) then go to the link for Rainbow Road Preschool.





## UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE



### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Joyce Martin
- 21 Anita Fine
- 21 Hap Cornish
- 25 Gretchen Painter
- Earl Wissinger



### **MARCH ANNIVERSARY**

- 8 Bruce & Donna Shaffer



## MANORVILLE LINK PAGE



### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 John Welch
- 11 Sheelagh Bonomo
- 12 Nicholas Shaul
- 14 James Warren Snyder
- 15 Luella Bennett



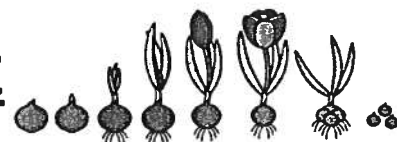
- 20 Taylor Relich
- 21 Doris Schmela
- 25 Ashley Zolocsik
- 27 Leia Maria Wolfe
- 30 Lois Hawk
- 31 Elly Lucia Russelburg

### **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Andrew & Pam Snyder
- 20 Ed & Lorraine Zielinski



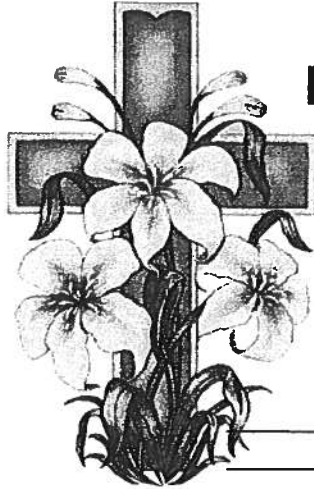
## FORD MEMORIAL LINK PAGE



### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Grace Kamer
- 17 Jill Strong
- 21 Eva Say
- 22 Abby Skillen
- 27 Beulah Mitchell





**FIRST CHURCH**  
**EASTER FLOWERS 2021**  
**(ALL ORDERS DUE BY**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 21st**  
**NO LATE ORDERS)**

ORDER FORM

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Easter Lily (1 stem, 4-6 blooms)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$7.00 Hyacinth (Assorted colors 3 blooms)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$7.00 Tulips (Assorted Colors, 6 Blooms)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$7.00 Miniature Daffodils

I Wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Order

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

OR (AND)

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Last day to order—

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

**NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED!**

**PAYMENT IS NEEDED AT TIME OF ORDER**

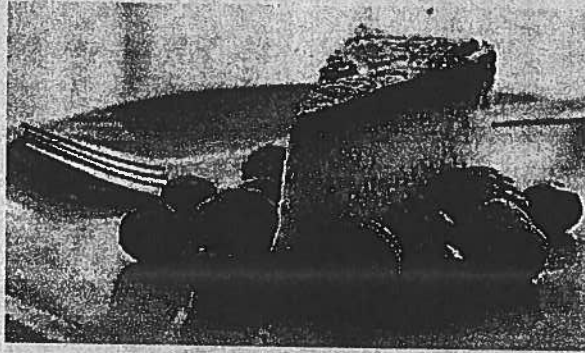


# Women's Prayer Dessert

West Kittanning Grace Brethren Church  
at 215 Arthur Street

Saturday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of  
desserts, fellowship and prayer.



R.S.V.P. by March 8 to

Kathy Stewart 724-297-5044

Limited to the first twenty R.S.V.P.s

Masks required/social distancing