



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

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**ARC LINK
 NEWSLETTER
 JANUARY 2022**



ALLEGHENY RIVER CHARGE



Senior Pastor: Rev. Deb Kociban



Lay Minister: Terri Wells

First United Methodist Church-301 N Jefferson Street, Kittanning PA 16201 724-548-4312
 Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 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



FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 Please get articles to Audrey no later than
SUNDAY, January 16, 2022. Thank you



Pastor Deb's Message

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." John 10:10

The Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My brother has always been a swimmer. He is like a fish. Even now, at the age of 60, he is up at the Y pool at 6 am most mornings doing lap after lap. Since he retired 4 years ago that is his morning routine. I admire that. But lately, he has done something kind of crazy. He just recently passed his lifeguard certification class. I guess the Y needed lifeguards and they made an offer he couldn't refuse. So, he took the class along with 6 other young men. I mean young, all under the age of 21.

Jesus is talking to his disciples, explaining to them how he is the Gate. Anyone who goes through him will be cared for and loved. They will find pasture for rest and refreshment and nurture. In fact, it will be a life they have never dreamed of. It will be beyond imagination, and it will be eternal. This is the amazing promise that Jesus fulfills every time we call him Lord and Savior. It is our inheritance as children of God. What an incredible reality! The promise is for our lives now and our lives in the coming kingdom of God. Our lives are better when we believe in Jesus.

As we enter a new year, we are uncertain as to what it may hold. Will we be happy? Will we be financially secure? Will we be healthy? Will there be challenges along the way? Earthly life comes only day by day. Yet, we can look into the new year with joyful anticipation because Jesus has promised that when we believe in him our lives will be full, full of his power, full of his abiding presence, full of his love and grace. The new year and our eternal life are waiting for us to embrace them.

I think my brother is trying to complete his bucket list. He always wanted to be a lifeguard but could not seem to find the time. I look up to him for his ability to dream and to actually bring his dreams to reality. He inspires me to never lose my dreams and to live life to the fullest each and every day.

As we enter 2022, let us dream big, God-sized dreams for our churches. For the promises of Jesus for our church communities is to be better than we ever imagined. Our dreams can be a reality when we believe in the power of Jesus and when we work for our kingdom dreams to come to fruition. There is no better time to work on our churches' bucket lists than now. Jesus' fulfilled promise of an abundant church life awaits our faith-filled dreams and actions.

Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



Terri's Message

Happy New Year! What a wonderful time of the year. The snow falls on the ground and makes everything white, clean, sparkly. You evaluate your life and make new resolutions to make it better. Maybe clean out that cubby hole that is in the basement that you have not looked at for five years. Or take time to make that project that has been sitting on your shelf for the last two years. It is a time of new beginnings, starting with a clean slate, erasing the old. We, as

Christians, know that God's promise is true: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). So what better time, than New Years, to remember the old is gone, stop carrying the baggage that he removed. Lay your old burdens down at the foot of the cross and leave them there. We are promised a new life, a life that has an end, that is filled with glory, at God's side. Start the NewYear, refreshed, rejuvenated, without the old burdens, the old worries. Be happy in your New Year!

Terri Wells



JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

January 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

*Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14,
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12*

January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

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



EPIPHANY

January 16, 2022, Human Relations Day

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

*Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10,
1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11*

January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30
Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11,
John 2:1-11*



January 30, 2022

4th Sunday after Epiphany

*Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6,
1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30*



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



FIRST CHURCH- We will have 2 candlelight Christmas Eve services. 5:30 PM with the children's bell choir & candlelight and 7:00 PM Candlelight service. You will need to register for the service you wish to attend.

FORD MEMORIAL AND MANORVILLE- Will hold Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 PM at Ford Memorial
UNION AVENUE-4:00 PM

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS



As the saying goes, "Time Flies". And as hard as it is to believe, it is once again time to think about The Lenten Devotional. For the fifteenth year First Church will compile a devotional to be used Mondays through Saturdays during the season of Lent as an addition to your spiritual walk beginning on Ash Wednesday. **WE NEED YOU** to contribute a short devotion to be included in the booklet. You don't have to be a professional writer or submit a three-page masterpiece. Prayerfully consider participating in this meaningful ministry. These devotionals are shared with residents at ARC manor, attendees at SIFT, and other churches in the charge. All devotions must be received in the church office no later than **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST** and can be hand delivered, e-mailed, or sent by snail mail. Any questions, call the church office or Sarah Heckert at 724-543-1083.



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



SOUND SYSTEM

2 Tim Scaife
9 Dave Yanoschick
16 John Yankasky
23 Tim King
30 Gabe Smith



COUNTERS

2 Yankasky
9 Bureau
16 McKelvey
23 Scaife
30 Ferguson

USHERS

2 Oxford/Mark Ferguson
9 Albright/Dan Wolfe
16 Albright/Can Wolfe
23 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
30 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski





FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



SCRIPTURE READERS

- 2
- 9 Sarah Heckert
- 16
- 23
- 30



BELL RINGERS

- 2 Frankie Mauger
- 9 Dakota Mauger
- 16 Billy Mauger
- 23 Logan Green
- 30 Wyatt Green



WELCOME CENTER

- 2 Sarah Heckert
- 9 Melissa Bureau
- 16 Karen Scaife
- 23 Beverly Patton
- 30 Mary Jo Lipski



JANUARY MISSIONS REPORT



Hidey-Ho from Walter and Wilma. We wanted to let you know that we will be returning for a visit to First Church in January. We hope that you will continue to support Heifer International. (That ark is almost full.) Watch the bulletin and the First Church Facebook page for more information and updates. See you next month!!

Missions Team, Meaghan & Janet

2022 ALTAR FLOWER DATES

We have the following dates available for altar flowers next year. They are \$25.00 each. I will call you the week before you are signed up to remind you so I can get them ordered for you. If you would like any of these dates, please let the office know.

- JANUARY 2, 9 & 30
- March 6 & 20
- April 10 & 24
- May 8
- July 17 & 24
- August 7 & 28
- October 30
- November 27



JANUARY SIFT LUNCHEON THURSDAY, January 20, 2022

PROGRAM: "Keeping Safe" with Police Chief Bruce Mathews

MENU: Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, mixed vegetables, angel food cake with strawberries

Reservations by Monday, January 17th by calling the church 724-548-4312 or emailing at fumchurchkittanning@comcast.net. Masks are encouraged and all CDC guidelines will be followed. This is Dine-in only. Please use the alley entrance only.



THANK YOU

The FUMC Staffing Team thanks you for your generous donations for Clergy Appreciation Month as well as the Christmas gifts for our paid staff. Your donations reflect your love and appreciation for Pastor Deb, Terri and our staff. Thank you once again

2022 VBS ALUMINUM CANS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We continue our aluminum can collection for Habitat for Humanity
Cans Received November 15th-December 15th—3478
Total cans received through December 15th—24,822



Thanks to ARC Manor for 245 cans. 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.

Thank you, The Can Man, Jim Ternent



FIRST CHURCH LINK PAGES



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Donna King
 6 Pam Coggon
 8 Kimberly Yankasky
 11 Natalie Green
 11 Joseph Kachur



13 Jalissa Jacobs
 14 Ashley Yankasky
 19 Jeff Shaffer
 20 George Kociban



MANDATORY VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES

So that we will be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy, all volunteers of First need to update their Act 33 and Act 34 clearances. Leadership in the church is highly encouraged to obtain their clearances as well since they hold perceived positions of authority for our children. Update clearances need to be on file in the church office **ASAP**. There are direct links to the clearance applications on the conference website www.wpaumc.org (Resources-Safe Sanctuaries-Direct Links.) If you need assistance in obtaining the clearances, please call the church office so that Audrey may assist you. (forms are in the office for volunteers who want to mail in your clearances.)

NEW MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP MEETING



The first meeting of the new men's group will be Saturday, January 22nd at 9:00 AM at the Covenant Center. There will be coffee and donuts to enhance our informal gathering for the men of the church. As a whole, men's ministry works to invite and initiate spiritual growth opportunities for all men of the church. Because of our varied gifts, graces and areas of interest, opportunities for participation will be many. There will be a time of fellowship, devotion and prayer, sharing of interest and skills, and opinions (including what the Steelers need to do to return to the glory days.) As a group we will seek to strengthen our relationships with our Christian brothers through both inward and outward focuses to enhance our spiritual growth. If you have any questions, please contact George Kociban or Joe Heckert. Please keep in mind, we are a work in progress. We look forward to seeing you in January.



FORD MEMORIAL LINK

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Vicki Shaeffer
 7 Tom Frantz
 17 Amanda Dingey
 20 Natalie Kamer
 25 Joan Russell



UNION AVENUE LINK PAGE

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Donna Shaffer
 22 Braden Clever
 22 Quinton Clever
 24 Mallori Goepfert





MANORVILLE LINK PAGE



FINANCIAL COUNTERS



- 2 JB & Jack
- 9 Mike & Lu
- 16 Nancy Busch & Nancy Gaul
- 23 Steve & Lu
- 30 Nancy Busch & nancy Gaul



Christmas Eve service will be at Ford Memorial UMC this year on Dec. 24th at 7pm.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cheryl Anderson
- 1 Steve Arblaster-son
- 3 Nathan Czapor
- 8 Jim Boarts
- 10 Robert Conklin, Jr.
- 10 Adley Ray Russelburg
- 14 Erika Olenchek
- 22 Romy Josephine Welch Russelburg
- 23 Jerilyn Lloyd
- 26 Brooke Adalyn Arblaster
- 28 Sean Arblaster



CHRISTMAS DINNER UPDATE

Christmas Dinner on Dec. 12th was the usual "unusual". Sandy & Lynn had games for the "families" to play. Oh, the laughter was non-stop. Sandy, you are SO good at getting these "mind blowers" for us!! Everyone was enjoying the day with the promise of a delicious meal and Nancy Busch and Nancy Gaul did not disappoint us! And there were some tasty desserts brought in by the families. All hands pitched in for the clean up so no one was overwhelmed by what needed done.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

We truly are a "family of God"



NURTURE NEWS

Hello Friends, it's been awhile for Nurture but we are back in 2022. Manorville is having our yearly Souper Soup Sunday with delicious homemade soups (that YOU are making for us to enjoy!!) on January 16th (same Sunday as our Council meeting.)

We are inviting everyone to make their favorite soup and bring it to church for a nice after church soup luncheon at 11:15am. We already have ham, bean & potato coming. Please let me know what you will be bringing. (Don't wait for me to come get you!!!) Many thanks, Lisa Czapor, or Judie Reesman, Nurture
P.S. We will have crackers and sandwiches to go with ALL of our soups.

OUTREACH

Souper Bowl Sunday will be Feb. 6th so the Sundays of January we are asking you to bring in any containers of soup (cans, packets, bowls, etc.) for the Food Bank, and put them in our BIG soup pot. Of course, if you would prefer to bring in some other type of staple, that would be all right, also. Or the Food Bank always needs paper towels and toilet paper for their clients. We will celebrate your generosity on Feb. 6th.

