

# ***The First Forecast of First United Methodist Church***

200 East Third Street, Lewistown, PA 717-248-4618

**Volume 26 No. 3**

***'Christian Unity'***

**March 2018**

## **What Happens When We Live Wesleyan?**

John Wesley, who based his theology around the Holy Scriptures and self labeled himself a “man of one book” was a strong proponent of teaching two major concepts in the Methodist Church.

† Christian living (personal holiness)

† Spreading scriptural holiness (Transformation of the world)

No better definition of that could be described than what occurred at Mifflin County Middle School on January 21, 2018. The gathering of Christian believers from various denominations and UM churches demonstrated the notion that joining together around a common theme of faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit is not only possible but a defining part of God’s plan for humanity (See John 17).

What joy was seen on faces young and old as the 25+ kids marched on stage to sing three dear songs of the faith. They set the tone for the entire service of Christian Unity and moved us beyond denominational lines and doctrinal differences. We, for even an hour and a half on that Sunday morning, were one in the Spirit. Wesley would have beamed with satisfaction...Jesus too! Here are a few images of Christian unity for your



heart and mind to savor (Wesley loved connecting hearts and minds).

May I invite you to entertain opportunities over the next few months in how we at First UMC might lead the way in growing our personal holiness and find ways to spread scriptural holiness outward?

Lenten breakfasts and Lenten luncheons will begin soon. Later in the summer our Mifflin County Week of Caring will launch on July 30 through August 3.

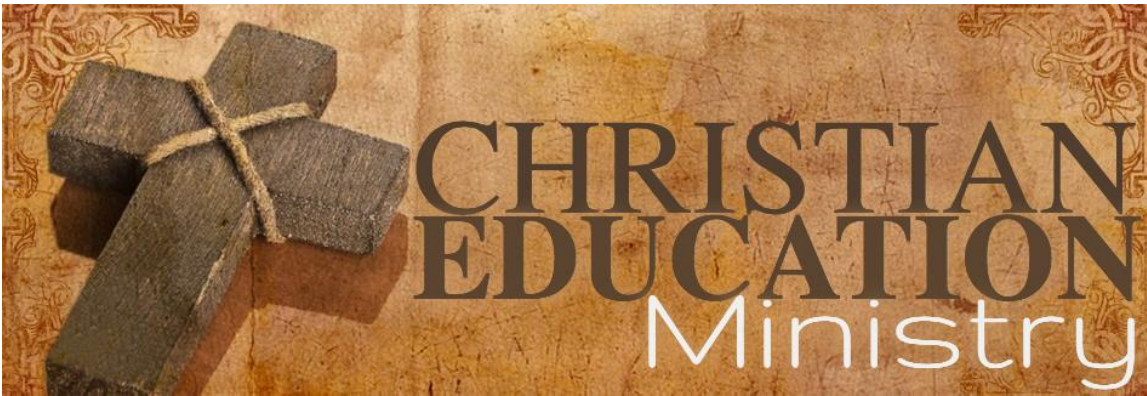


Our work within Wesleyan theology drives us forward to unite a divided world and promote Christ and His redemptive nature. God offers grace through Christ, and we are commanded to share the same with one another. Unity!

Love,

PR





Dear fellow Disciples,

I am so excited about the work and ministry-taking place at and through our church!!!

\*Monday evenings Eddie Snook and I have enjoyed taking our teens to help with a children's Tennis club (Eddie extends the love of Jesus and ministry through teaching kids tennis.)

\*Wednesday evenings our Teens and now our children meet for a meal, teaching, fellowship and fun.

\*Thursday evening I lead a Non-Traditional Bible Study at Brisco's Coffee Shop for our community and members.

\*Starting Sunday, February 18, we will have a Non-Traditional Church Service in the basement of our church during the 10:30 service.

\*We will be holding Youth Sundays every other month.

\*I am attending ministerial meetings and Mifflin County Youth Leaders meetings looking for ways for FUMC to serve our community and the Youth in our community.

\*Jen Lynch and I are discussing and planning outreach ministries in hopes to give our church ministry opportunities to interact with our surrounding community.

There are many opportunities to have our faith demonstrated by works in ministry at First United Methodist Church and in our communities. Which ministry or ministries is the Holy Spirit nudging you to join? Please prayerfully consider joining the work of the Christian Education/Youth Program. Prayer is the most important work on earth.

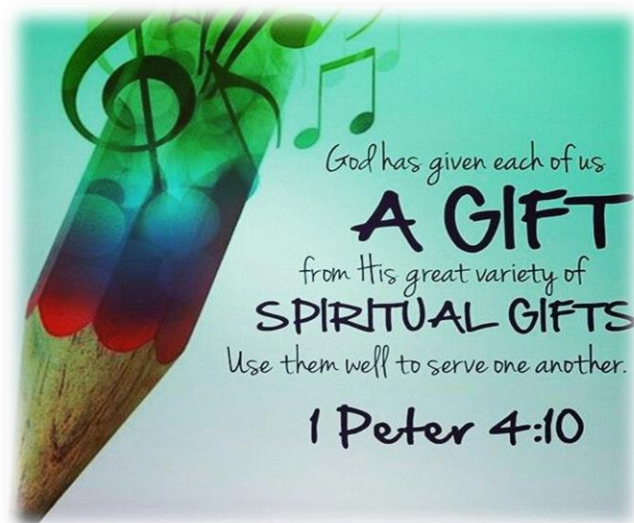
There will be opportunities to:

- go on Mission trips,
- serve at events,
- donate needed materials, participate in activities, and take part in services or Sunday school and many other opportunities to do the work of the Lord.

I encourage each one of you to pray and seek God's calling for you. God has given each one of us gifts and talents. Perhaps your gift is the gift of being a prayer warrior, or making meals or EGGS, or helping at VBS or teaching Sunday School or helping with the Youth or children's program or visiting shut-ins', or packing supplies to be sent to people in need, or passing out coats to those in need, or providing the financial means for the work and ministry of the Lord. Whatever your gift is it is valued and needed. Someone is in need of love today. Display it by Christian service. Love will find a way. Indifference will find an excuse.

In Christ's love,

*Heidi Bracken (Christian Education/Youth Director)*





*We will hold regular worship services, 8 AM and 10:30 AM, on Palm Sunday (March 25<sup>th</sup>) and Easter Sunday (April 1<sup>st</sup>). We will meet @ 6:30 AM @ Lind Cemetery for a Sunrise service Easter morning which will be followed by a special Easter breakfast prepared by Don Stimely and the men back at FUMC before the 8 AM service. We are planning a Seder meal for 6 PM on March 29<sup>th</sup> to be followed by a Maundy Thursday service. Good Friday gets underway @ 11 AM with Stations of the Cross @ Sacred Heart followed by a Cross Walk through town. We will hold a Good Friday service @ FUMC @ 7 PM.*

***Lenten Breakfasts continue through Lent @ 7:30 AM.***

*3/3 @ Grace UMC, 3/10 @ Rhodes, 3/17 @ Lake Park, 3/24 @ Granville UMC, 3/31 Women's Appreciation Breakfast @ Trinity UMC.*

***Lenten Lunches continue @ noon.***

*3/7 @ Salvation Army, 3/14 @ Grace UMC, 3/21 @ Sacred Heart.*



***Koinonia Women's Fellowship*** meets Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, @ 7 PM for Easter Egg Hunt planning. All women are invited to join us!

***'Come to the Banquet,'*** our free monthly luncheon, is slated for Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, @ noon. ***Everyone is invited!***



***Good Eggs going fast! Last day making eggs March 16<sup>th</sup>. Last day selling eggs March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 717-242-1539!***

*Dear Rev. McCachren,  
Thank you so much for your service and support during our Uncle Harvey Eby's funeral. Please accept this donation toward your food pantry or where needed.*

*My sisters and I wanted to tell you how we appreciated the wonderful meal after the service and to thank you for your caring comforts to our family and Aunt.*

*Sincerely,  
Linda Hudson*



*Dear FUMC,  
Thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts from my church family.  
Savilla Smith*

*Dear FUMC family,  
I want to thank everyone for the Christmas cards and birthday cards for my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. All were greatly appreciated.  
Prayers and best wishes,  
Beverly Miller*

*To all the wonderful people of First Church,  
I have a good excuse for not sending a thank you until now. I didn't receive the packet mailed in December until January 5<sup>th</sup>. Apparently someone wrote on it that I was deceased. My building manager took care of it so I was able to receive it.  
I want to thank each and every one at First Church who remembered me during the holiday season. It meant a lot to me.  
Though I have been away eight years I still miss Lewistown and often wish I was back.  
My heartfelt thanks,  
Florence Hartley*





### March 4

8:00/10:30 AM Worship  
 9:10 Sunday School  
 8:00 Liturgist: Karen  
 10:30 Liturgist: Karen

### March 11

8:00/10:30 AM Worship  
 9:10 Sunday School  
 8:00 Liturgist: TBS  
 10:30 Liturgist: Tom Heckman

### March 18

8:00/10:30 AM Worship  
 9:10 Sunday School  
 8:00 Liturgist: TBS  
 10:30 Liturgist: Tom Heckman

### March 25 – Palm Sunday

8:00/10:30 AM Worship  
 9:10 Sunday School  
 8:00 Liturgist: Karen  
 10:30 Liturgist: Karen

### March S.S. Teachers

**Nursery – TBS**

**Pre-School – K** *Aleta Harpster*

**Grades 1-2** *Bonnie Zannino*

**Grades 3-5** *Tina Stoner*

**Grades 6-9** *Tracie Hughes*

**Grades 10-12** *TBS*



## greeters

8 AM **Roger & Helen Searer**

10:30 AM **To be scheduled**





## Nursery Attendants

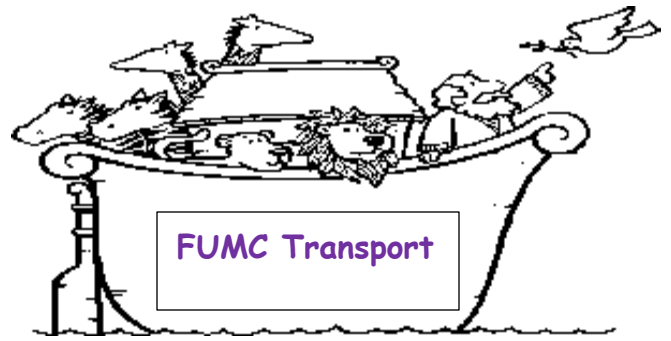
Wendy Barton



Junior Church  
To be scheduled



Kangaroo Kids  
Wendy Barton



Transportation is available to  
the Sunday Worship Service.



*"Let the  
little children  
come to me ...."*

MATTHEW 19:14

## Children's Message March

March 4	Bruce
March 11	Pastor Randy
March 18	Pastor Randy
March 25	Bonnie/Julie

March  
Acolytes -  
To be  
scheduled



**Acolytes**

## Making Disciples: Stay Focused



I often wonder if others, like me, allow their minds to go in different directions during our Worship service. So much is going on in everyone's life that our focus is not where it should be. Of course, there are days that I am able to shut the world outside our church doors. On these days, I truly believe the Scriptures and Sermon speak to me and that allows me to realize that God loves me and His grace is all I need.

I often reflect back upon St. Paul. Romans chapter 8 is one of the foundations of my faith. If you have not read Romans 8, I would encourage you to do so. God loves us so much that He did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us so that we will always have Christ Jesus to intercede for us. As Paul states, If God is for us, who can be against us? Paul ends chapter 8 with an important question for us to think about. Paul asks who shall separate us from the love of Christ. Paul states that NOTHING, absolutely NOTHING can separate us from God's love and His grace.

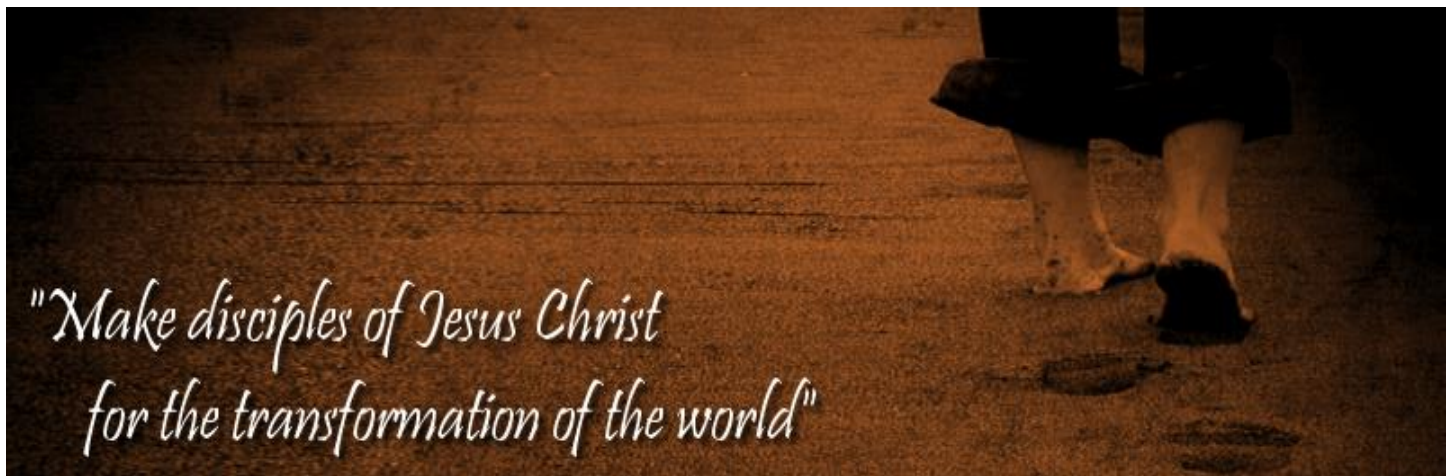
This love is found in our faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Paul states that because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us ALIVE with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions, (allowing our minds to wander somewhere else during church), it is by God's grace we have been saved. What a great gift from God - His grace and love is all that we need. This is what Paul was telling the Philippians when he said, Rejoice in the Lord always. If we learn to rejoice in what God has provided to us, the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard our hearts and minds

in Christ Jesus. As we begin to bring people to Christ, and hopefully to First Church, know that God goes before us to help us make disciples for Christ. He will guide our words, thoughts, and deeds bringing the Good News, the Gospel, to everyone we meet. Will it be easy, not always!! Paul states in Romans 5, we should rejoice in our suffering or struggles because that builds perseverance, character, and hope. Let us begin today to tell someone about Jesus and what He means to us and what He has done for us.

Pastor Randy often states that we should have a huge smile on our faces - Jesus put it there!! Now go out and make disciples. Make sure people see the light of Christ burning within us. This may be a struggle for some, but the Trinity goes before us making the journey of faith easier. We can make disciples for Christ; our faith will smooth the road ahead of us. We need to make that first step, leave our comfort zone.

Are we ready to tell others about the Awesome God we love and serve? Take that first step and do not look back, follow God who is always ahead of us and beside us. My prayer is that God will lead you this week to someone who is eager to hear that Good News and experience the love of Christ for themselves. Jesus often says that we should not be afraid, He will always be with us!!

*Randy Fluke*  
SPRC Chair





**In accordance with privacy policy @ Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital you need to inform Rev. Karen McCachren (717-248-1011 or 717-437-6023) or the church office if you are hospitalized and desire a visit.**

**Prayer Chain Line:**

Call 717-248-8459 or  
717-242-1655

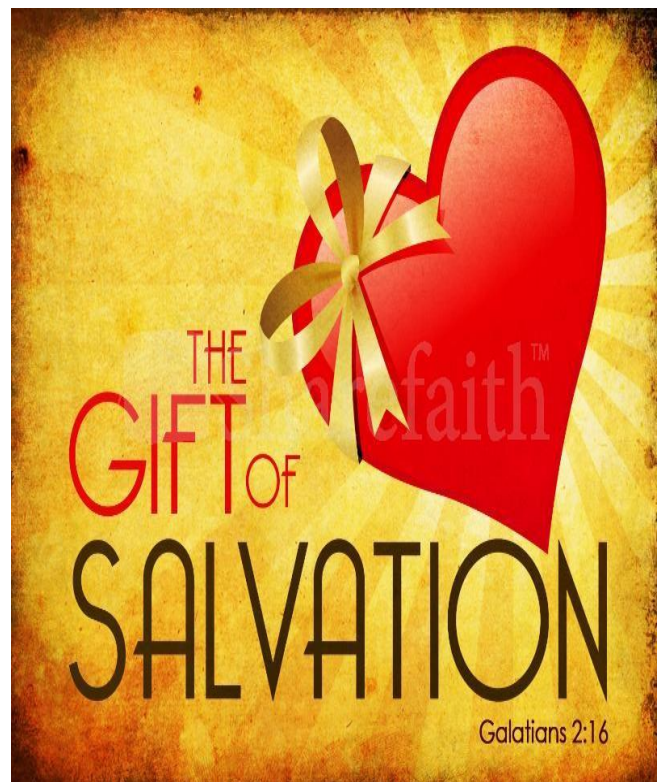
Open to anyone with a prayer request or anyone willing to pray for requests.

Purpose The prayer chain provides confidential intercessory prayer.

To request prayer or to become a praying member call:

Dave or Karen McCachren at  
717-248-8459,  
([kmccachren@comcast.net](mailto:kmccachren@comcast.net)) or  
Laura or Bruce Buffington @  
717-242-1655,  
([lkbuff122@gmail.com](mailto:lkbuff122@gmail.com))

*Our prayers for health and wholeness are shared with:  
Kiera Shuttlesworth, Nadine Bryan, Marilyn Lohman, Lantz Heckman, Heidi Cunningham, Lynn Griffith, the Florida shooting families, all the people with the flu.*



## FUMC Finance and Attendance

### Regular Offerings

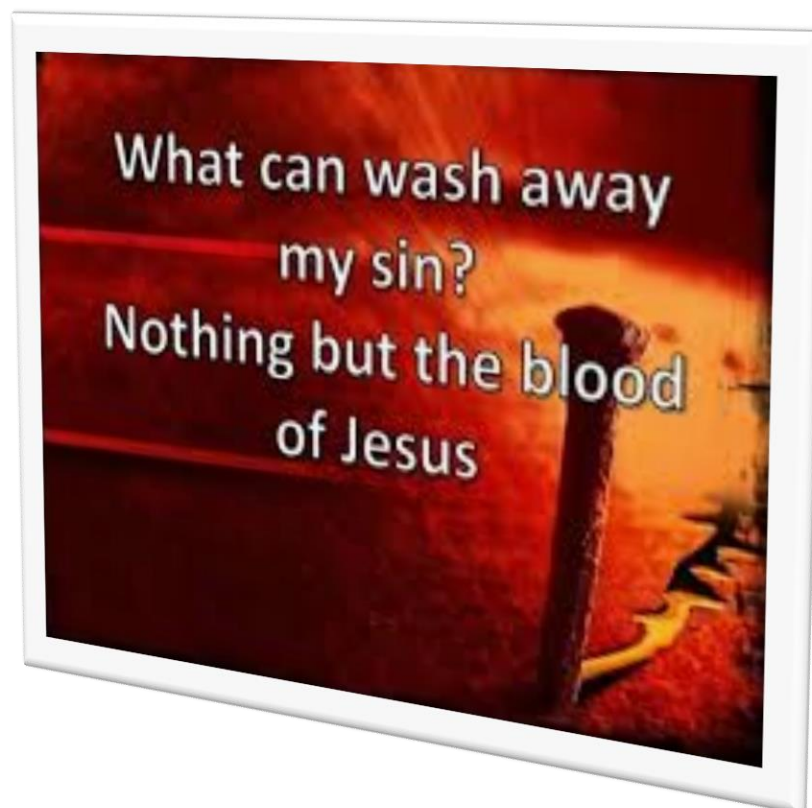
Feb 4	\$4,367
Feb 11	\$4,148
Feb 18	\$5,931

Unpaid Bills - **\$0.00**

### Attendance

Feb 4	85
Feb 11	155
Feb 18	132

*Our sincere thanks go out to Bill Herbertson for auditing our financial records again this year. This painstaking process takes untold numbers of hours and meticulous attention to detail. Thank you!*  
*The Finance Committee meets Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, @ 7 PM.*





## **Being His Hands and Feet**

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he*

*said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (NIV) Matthew 9:36-38*

I often remind our teens that we are to be the Hands, Feet, Mouths, Eyes, and ears of Jesus as we serve in the name of Jesus by the way we live our lives, by helping those in need, by being the shoulder for someone to cry on and the genuine listening ear as someone needs to talk. I frequently challenge the teens to be that kind voice and the bright smile to the kid being bullied or out casted. You are the hands and feet of Jesus when you support the youth ministry. You take part in our Youth Ministry Program when you give monetary support, cook a meal, spend time with our youth, help on Wednesday, pray for the work or just smile at a child or teen and attend Youth Sunday. You are serving Christ in the larger world as our program reaches out to non-churched kids. Together we offer hope and light to a dark world and forming relationships that will extend the love of God in Jesus Christ.

There is major ministry going on in our Youth Program.



- Sunday school and Wednesday evenings Youth and Children program - Bonnie has been graciously providing an opportunity for children's ministry on Wednesday evenings because the need arose through parents contacting us about their children coming to church. This is a separate program from our Youth Program. If you feel led to volunteer with the children's ministry in any way, please see Bonnie.
- Individual meetings of leaders with youth for talk over ice cream, sporting events, etc.
- Helping families in difficult times through their children.

Lives are being changed as our teens come to know Jesus in a very real and personal way. We pray for one another, we read and discuss the Word of God, we have open discussions about the real struggles that they as individuals and as a group encounter daily.

**We are in need of people:**

- to cook and serve and clean up meals on Wednesday Evenings,

- a few more adults to help as Youth Leaders,
- people to provide transportation to Youth group and home from Youth Group for some of the kids
- drivers or people to ride along for two adult coverage.

Please Pray and ask God if he is calling you to help with one of the above needs maybe you could give one Wednesday a month or maybe you can come biweekly, we will definitely welcome you every week if you feel led. Please talk to Heidi or Jen if you are interested. We are also in need of meal/food donations will also accept monetary donations towards purchasing meals.



**Leaders Needed!**  
**No experience necessary**

LOL  
LOL

XP3

**We are finishing up our lessons on Stress.**

Week 1: Stress can weigh you down so give it to God (1Peter 5:7).

Week 2: Don't allow others to control you.  
Break free from the chain that holds you back.  
The example we gave this week was about an elephant being chained to a wood stake.

WEEK 3: God knows your future, so you can find joy in Him.



While learning about stress we celebrated a birthday with brownies and had ice cream a day late for the “National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day”.



**In March, we will start Great Expectations:**

WEEK 1: God's design for sex is better than the world's design for sex.

WEEK 2: Control your obsessions or they will control you.

WEEK 3: Value what God values.

WEEK 4: Focus on you before you focus on who.

March 25 and April 1 we will talk about “Jesus matters” in your story and Jesus makes your faith matter.



## Matthew 25 – 2017     *Article from last month with corrected entries*

**In the last year** through the generosity of the people of First, Grace, Lake Park, the Valley Parish churches and others there have been over 550 times families have been helped financially. I thank God for you and your gifts that made this help possible.

**Through these encounters** there were also opportunities to share in the important situations of the lives of our neighbors. In hard times many are open to sharing deeply of spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial concerns. Prayer has been offered often and invitations have been extended for growth in faith.

**There were many others** who called, I responded by leaving messages that were not returned. Other times messages contained insufficient information to return calls.

**In all, over \$17,500 were dispersed** to meet needs for shelter, food, medicine, diapers and personal items, transportation for medical appointments and work, and a myriad of miscellaneous needs.

### Shelter

Rent	\$ 2751	43
Utilities	\$ 6454	66
(Natural Gas, Electricity, Water, Sewage, Refuse, Phone)		
Fuel Oil		
Food	\$ 1498	94
+many pantry visits		59+
Medicine	\$ 677	18
Diapers and Personal items	\$ 805	49
Transportation (Gasoline)		
Medical appointments	\$ 3362	163
Work related	\$ 1678	81
Other (Bus, train, gas, repairs, etc)	\$ 505	24
Miscellaneous		
(Work clothes, Photo ID, etc.)	\$ 756	15

Total	\$17,486	553
		59+

**One of those who has been helped** on a number of occasions through the years called several days before Christmas. In her message she said, "I don't need anything. I'm just calling to wish you and everyone at the church a Merry Christmas. I appreciate what you have done for me so many times."

May God Bless the giver and receiver as we love one another in the name of Jesus.

In Christ's love,  
*Karen McCachren*





## March

1. Tim Thompson
2. Phyllis Dickson
5. Abb Dalby
8. Lynne Westlin
9. Sam Caldwell
13. Barry Bargo
18. Stu Ellis
18. Michelle Snyder
20. Dave Bowers
20. Pam Kennedy
22. Paula Pierce
25. Rose Baumgardner
26. Cindy Seaholtz
28. Doug Lynch
29. Sue Fluke



## The Altar Flowers

### March 4

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God.

### March 11

The altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Merle McClure by wife and daughters.

### March 18

Flowers are presented to the glory of God.

### March 25

The flowers are presented to the glory of God.

*Please use the enclosed Lily/World Hunger Order form to order Easter flowers.*



# EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Deadline for ordering is March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cost per lily is \$8.50.



In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to the First United Methodist Church. Place in offering plate or mail to First U.M. Church, 200 E. Third St., Lewistown, PA 17044. On your memo line please write Lily or World Hunger.

**In lieu of a lily I would like my contribution to go to the World Hunger Project.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**      \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Only contributions made in memory of or in honor of a loved one and filling out this form will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

**How Many?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Persons ordering lilies are requested to pick them up following the 10:30 service on Easter and deliver them to your special persons. The altar guild will not be making deliveries of Easter lilies.**

***First U.M. Church Staff***  
***Ministry Staff:***

Pastor: **Rev. Randy Hughes**

Pastor E-Mail: [rhughes@susumc.org](mailto:rhughes@susumc.org)

Deacon of Caring Ministries: **Rev. Karen McCachren**

Deacon of Caring Ministries E-Mail: [kmccachren@comcast.net](mailto:kmccachren@comcast.net)

Education Director/Youth Leader: **Heidi Bracken**

Education Director E-Mail: [heidi.bracken@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.bracken@gmail.com) 724-516-5527

Outreach Coordinator: **Jen Lynch** [responder1824@msn.com](mailto:responder1824@msn.com)



***Music Staff:***

**Choirs Director:** Katie Becker

**Organists:** Dr. Fred Benner, Lauri Dulis, Richard Hamler

***Support Staff:***

**Custodians:** Joe Lingle, Cassie Shank

**Office Manager:** Rob Hagenberger

Church Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday 7AM - Noon**

**Phone: 717-248-4618 Fax: 717-242-4757**

**Email:** [fumc200@outlook.com](mailto:fumc200@outlook.com)

**Website:** <http://fumclewistown.org>

**Facebook:** *First United Methodist Church of Lewistown*



**FUMC Worship Services** Sunday morning @ 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

**Sunday School** @ 9:10 AM, Nursery Provided, Safe Sanctuaries


Compliant

***The Newsletter Deadline***  
***is always the 15<sup>th</sup>***  
***of each month!***



# March 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:30 AM Lenten Breakfast @ Grace
4 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 Sunday School	5 6:30 PM Bible Study 7 PM Ray of Hope	6 7 PM <b>Koinonia</b> <b>Easter Egg Party Planning</b>	7 10:30/7 Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch @ Salvation Army	8 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir 8 PM AA	9	10 7:30 AM Lenten Breakfast @ Rhodes
11 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:10 Sunday School	12 6:30 PM Bible Study 7 PM Ray of Hope	13 7 PM <b>Finance</b>	14 10:30/7 Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch @ Grace UMC	15 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir 8 PM AA	16 <b>Good Eggs Last Day Making Eggs</b>	17 7:30 AM Lenten Breakfast @ Lake Park
18 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 Sunday School	19 6:30 PM Bible Study 7 PM Ray of Hope	20 7 PM <b>Trustees</b>	21 10:30/7 Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch @ Sacred Heart	22 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir 8 PM AA	23 <b>Good Eggs Final Sales Day if needed</b>	24 TBS <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> 7:30 Lenten Breakfast @ Granville 
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 Sunday School	26 6:30 PM Bible Study 7 PM Ray of Hope	27 1-3 PM Knitting	28 10:30/7 Bible Study Noon <b>'Come to the Banquet'</b>	29 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6 PM Seder Meal/Service 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir 8 PM AA	30 <b>Good Friday</b> 11 AM Stations of the Cross @ Sacred Heart Noon <b>Cross Walk</b> 7 PM Good Friday Service @ FUMC	31 7:30 AM Women's Appreciation B-fast @ Trinity